



THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL CLUB

DESIGNED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN

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OUR CLUB IS ALMOST 20 YEARS OLD. 2011 TRIPS ARE NEW!

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India with the National Crafts Fair
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Try Your Own Hand



Letter from Phyllis Stoller

Phyllis, the founder of The Club is back, at a critical time for women's travel. Tours offered by

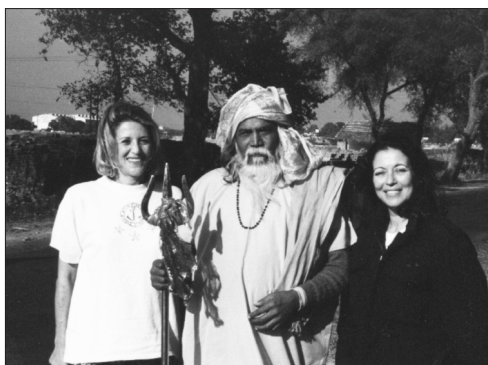
others have changed. Some groups downgraded to 3 star hotels or offer only US trips. Small companies hiked prices - \$7500 for a trip to Tuscany-puleese? Saddest, many traveling groups have just disappeared. WTC is fortunate to have found its 'sister' organization in 2006, Club ABC Tours. We are the only women's travel group with backing of a substantial organization. Our tours remain varied, international, affordable, with 4/5 star hotels and low airfares. Real people answer our phone 6 days a week.

In 2011 WTC tours will include festivals (see India), new places (see Colombia and Nice with the Impressionists), and more extensions. Some trips cater to our brains (Nice + the Impressionists); some to adventure (Galapagos + Ecuador). Some are just plain good for you (Ixtapan Spa in Mexico)! We upgraded old favorites (Morocco by adding time more authentic places). We repeat favorites (Egypt, China, Tuscany Paris and Portugal). These are just a few of our 2011 adventures.

Delighted to be back in touch with all of you,

Phyllis Stoller

NEW & UPCOMING TOURS



WTC with Holy Man In India

India Jan 25 - Feb 2, 2011

Elizabeth Gilbert did it solo; Julia Roberts acted as if she did. The truth is most women prefer India in a group. Besides sightseeing of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, we added dinner with a family in their historic home, regional meals, 2 shopping stints and the gala National Crafts Fair. We fly via Newark Airport, where Virgin Atlantic gave us the deal. Members who live elsewhere overnight at the airport. (We recommend the Marriott). *From \$2299+ taxes (air/land).*

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/trips/India01-2011.html>

Some tips from past WTC trips to India:

- *Keep eyes peeled on the road. We sighted a painted Holy man who blessed us.*
- *Prepare questions for our host family. One of our Club members asked the wife, what is it like living with your mother-in-law?*
- *Read The Raj Quartet, May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons, The Last Mughal.*
- *Check out Indian goods at US stores so you recognize a bargain once there.*
- *Make sure your passport has empty pages for your visa.*

Book by Mail, Telephone or Fax

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/WTC-Form.pdf>

Colombia and the Andes January 14-21 2011

Some new destinations are so exciting; we must go before the crowds. Colombia is an Andean country, new for tourists yet featured frequently in both major press like The NYTimes and on the web. Our itinerary includes: colonial Bogota, the capital, 16c intact Villa de Leyva, and Cartagena, the most extensive walled town, built by the Spanish military. Cartagena is often rated as their top visit by many cruisers. Club trips often include an unusual bonus: here it is Villa de Leyva declared a 'National Monument', considered the finest colonial village in the country. Villa de Leyva is used in movies for its authentic streets and facades. Flights leave from JFK, MIA, and LAX. *From \$2149+taxes (air/land).*

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/trips/Colombia01-2011.html>



Compliments of ©Colombia Official Tourism

Join or Rejoin at www.womenstravelclub.com
<https://res.womenstravelclub.com/Membership-Join.html>

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ADMIN, ANNOUNCEMENTS & AVAILABILITY

We have been updating our website. You will notice a new Booking Form, new trips and new links to Twitter. You will see more gateways for some trips and extensions for others. If your email is registered with us, you will get an occasional fun email with news flashes. One email was so successful, it filled the trips mentioned!

Phyllis recently re-met Arthur Frommer, who has been a booster of women's travel in general, for years. Considered the national expert on affordable travel, Frommer then wrote about us in his blog. He pointed out that our club benefits from the buying power of Club ABC Tours, whom he also knows. By using ABC's power, we can offer the best priced women's tours out there, with top hotels, group airfares and inside information only available to travel powerhouses. Thank you Arthur Frommer and daughter, Pauline, always informed and impressive.

Another kudu, TravelSmart Newsletter named us top in travel opportunities for solo women. If you wish to tell your local paper about us, or to blog about us, go for it.

Upcoming trips are posted on our calendar. link here for more information:

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/travelcal-2011.html>

Colombia and the Andes - Jan 14-21

Northern India with National Crafts Fair - Jan 25-Feb 2

Lisbon City Splurge - Feb 17-22

Ecuador and the Galapagos: including the Otavalo Market Feb 17-25

Ixtapan Spa Hotel & Golf Resort - Date TBD

Egypt Deluxe with Jordan & Israel Extensions - Mar 5-14

Rome & Florence during Carnival - Mar 5-12

Nice & Cote d'Azur, Palette of the Impressions - Mar 10-16 +Optional Paris extension - Mar 16-18

Flavors of Tuscany - Apr 3-11

Highlights of China - Apr 21-29

Paris for the Paris II Visitor - Date TBD

Discover Morocco with the Deep Desert - Apr 23-May 1

Jordan and Petra - May 8-17

China Highlights - Coming Soon

NEW & UPCOMING TOURS

Continued from page 1

Some tips for Colombia:

- *Weather in the Andes is cool not cold but tropical in Cartagena: layering, a must.*
- *We visit the Gold Museum and Fernando Botero's Museum (Latin America's most famous artist): try to glimpse his work in your local museum first.*
- *Colombian crafts are of the highest quality; so be prepared to bring home a treasure not a tee shirt.*
- *Follow the excellent articles by New York Times staffers on this area. Serious Eats website tells us: Colombian food is a cross between that of a monkey and that of a fair-goer: tropical fruits, nuts and seeds or everything you can fry in oil! (paraphrased).*
- *Read Love in the Time of Cholera, Goldwork and Shamanism (a hefty book about the fabulous gold collection in Bogota), Killing Pablo (history about the drug trade which is eradicated in this area)*



First Group at Ixtapan Spa Hotel

The Club and Ixtapan Spa Hotel Dec 12-19, 2010

Back in 1995 a member asked about this Mexican resort. She and 10 friends went for a 50th birthday fitness trip. They loved it so much, the birthday girl wrote a feature in The NY Times: "A Spa that Doesn't Trim Wallets." This is our favorite fitness trip, and NY1 Television Travel expert, Val D'Elia recently featured it. Prices include everything: no extras for spa treatments (21 are included), or for classes (a mix of aerobics, stretch, zumba, pool aquatics, yoga, walks) or for bottled water or internet if you bring your own computer! Weather is spring like all year around in these flower

covered mountains. Optional excursions take you to archaeological ruins, silver centers like Taxco, caves or gardens in Cuernavaca. But a short walk also brings you into small town colonial life in the village next door.



Ixtapan Holistico

The menu is continental, with a local slant. Salads and fruit are safe and plentiful. Personal favorites are daily servings of home made fruit sherbet, organic eggs with grilled white cheese and the pool side lunch of bbq'd shrimp and fish brochettes. Muse while you lose. **From: \$1276 land only group discount all inclusive.**

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/trips/Ixtapan.html>

Tips for Ixtapan Spa

- *Do the morning walk; the sun rising over the Sierra Madres is worth it. (Coffee and fruit served pre walk)*
- *Join other guests at meals; this resort has a high repeat rate. Guests like to share insider tips.*
- *Walk into town for the colonial church and Rossi's, the quaint pharmacy. Great cheap products for face, hair and nails. Also check out the pure vanilla and plastic Frida Kahlo shopping bags in the charming street market. Single dollars work best.*
- *Take a single room; this is about you and single supplements are low at Ixtapan Spa!*
- *Read Frida (her home was in Mexico City but this gives the feel of the country), La Llacuna, History of the Conquest of Mexico.*

Other upcoming trips are posted on our site or will be shortly. See the iguanas in The Galapagos or Matisse in Nice and Paris. Either way, you will 'get your feet wet' in a new experience.



Galapagos Turtle

Ecuador and The Galapagos Feb 17-25, 2011

As most of you know, The Women's Travel Club also offers some small group trips with our affiliate, Club ABC Tours. We cannot cover everyone's travel dreams, but when some of you ask for a particular experience, like Galapagos and Ecuador, we turn to our affiliate and join them. The Ecuador and Galapagos trip for February 2011 includes airfare from JFK (ask for other gateways), Quito a colonial capital at the foot of snow capped volcanoes, a scenic drive via Otavala Indian Market, a night in a countryside hacienda, then a 3 night Galapagos cruise in the MV Galapagos Legend. Our Galapagos cruise will stop on a number of islands, which are famous for diversified wildlife; you will be exposed to a mix of birds, reptiles and sea life, both in dry and wet conditions. (By wet, we do not mean you are swimming ;merely that you will be stepping off into some water from the launch to shore).

A word about Otavalo and other Indian markets (by the way, this is the largest one in South America). Markets are not just for shopping. Markets give the visitor a venue to communicate with local people over the handicrafts or farm goods they are selling, and of which they are proud. Markets provide an acceptable way of photographing indigenous people and their children. Whereas a native woman might shun your camera if you just stopped her on the way; she equally might agree to a photograph if you include what she is selling. And if you bring photos of children in your family, she might introduce you to her family. In either case, you must ask for permission before taking photographs of anyone. **From: \$2999+ taxes** (air/land).

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/trips/Galapagos02-2011.html>

Tips for Ecuador & The Galapagos

- *Be prepared to get wet; that means the right shoes and socks*
- *Practice with your binoculars first; some people find it hard to focus quickly. You do not want to miss an unusual bird or reptile because your eyes are scanning the horizon.*
- *For meeting up with indigenous people, bring photos of your own family and show them as part of communication.*
- *In Otavalo, look out for knitted goods (in the 19c Scots taught knitting here). The sweaters will need to be washed at home in cold water as the wool might have a lot of sheep lanolin in it. Make sure the dimensions work for you.*
- *Read: Indians, Oil and Politics, Voyage of the Beagle, any good book on Magellan will give you the picture of South American exploration in the Age of Discovery.*

Nice and the Impressionists Mar 10-16, 2011

If you ever wanted to step into the feet of famous artists and to see colors that dazzled them then changed the palette of 19c art, this is the trip. We are based in Nice, on the Cote d'Azur ('Blue' from the Mediterranean), and we travel daily to visit with Renoir, Matisse, Chagall, Picasso and their friends. Nice itself has a charming old town, but our time is mainly spent "visiting". We include ancient Antibes with the provencal market and the Picasso Museum, fortified hill town of St. Paul de Vence, The Chagall chapel, and The Maeght Foundation. We have a free day in San Remo, Italy and an option to Monaco/Monte Carlo and Eze high in the mountains.

For new museum-goers, The Maeght Foundation is considered one of the great museums of modern art. The museum was inspired by the Barnes and other US institutions, and its location on pine covered hillside is special for two reasons. First the views, second the fact that many of the artists collected here actually lived in the area!

Air France carries us, the Radisson Blu houses us, and the sights change us. Hate museums? This trip is going to alter how you feel. In a way it, this is Art 101, but in a great hotel, with gourmet French food, chatty classmates and no test. Well, take that back, everyone gets a box of crayons and can enter the "Best and Worst WTC Impressionist Drawing" contest. **From \$2399+taxes** (air/land).

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/trips/Nice03-2011.html>

Additional Innovations UnderStudy

- On line forums to connect with others . Once implemented, you will be able to chat with other members and 'meet' them before a trip.
- New York City hotel/theater extensions for trips, when the best airfare is from NY or Newark.
- Twitter coupons for discounts
- Facebook Page for Women's Travel Club on which we put articles mentioning us.
- Cruises from our affiliate partner on affordable to deluxe ships.

Phyllis is again available to meet with your NY area travel, garden, book, or other women's groups.

WOMEN'S TRAVEL MYTHS AND THE TRUTH

Since the publication of Eat Pray Love, the internet is full about why women like to travel solo. No professional study has been done on the women's group travel market for years. But this is what our members say about why they travel with us and why they prefer a group to solo travel. 1- For the Friendships they make, 2- Safety and Ease of travel 3-More Economic – group travel saves you \$\$ 4-Solo dining stigma is gone 5-The guide is at your disposal 6-Someone else does the work and planning and takes over, when there is a glitch! It is the friendliness of Women's Travel Club tours which members always mention first. Julia Roberts should have gone with us.

Some comments from members from fun times on the road:

"I made a good friend and sold her house for her years later", a Miami real estate agent.

" I found someone else to jog with me, early mornings. This was no small feat as we were in India , between the cows", a judge from Palm Beach.

"The American women taught me how to shop on our Turkey trip", a London psychologist.

" We found out we had been married to the same man", 3 not 2 anonymous women.

" My mom found buddies on the trip so we never felt tied together and I could wander more than her energy allowed", a banker from NY.

"I never would have found friends to join me on overseas travel, living in a small town in Idaho", an accountant from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"We had a reunion in Manhattan for our trip to Italy friends", several times from several women.

*New trips added frequently
[womenstravelclub.com](http://www.womenstravelclub.com)*

Women's Travel Club: News Flashes

Follow us on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/toursforwomen>

Arthur Frommer about The Women's Travel Club trip to India (January 25-February 2, 2011): "Considerably less than such tours normally cost". Join us for a January adventure.

TravelSmart Newsletter votes us again best for solo women travelers.

Welcome back to Phyllis Stoller, with a personal invitation to members to travel with us this coming year.

NEW TOURS



Colombia and The Andes
India and The National Crafts Fair

NEW EVENTS

Galapagos and Ecuador NEW TRIP
Nice and the Impressionists NEW TRIP

Refer a Friend, Earn \$100!

Here's how to get a double reward when you refer a new member: Simply have them provide your name and address when they enroll in WTC. You earn a FREE 1-year membership extension. When that new member travels with WTC within the first year, you earn a \$100 travel voucher reward. Your support of the Women's Travel Club is greatly appreciated. Spread the word!

THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL CLUB

— DESIGNED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN —

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To keep prices fair quality high, we do not maintain a mailing list for non-members.

- 1 yr join for \$39
- 1 yr renewal for \$39
- 2 yr renewal for \$49
- 2 yr join for \$59
- 3 yr join for \$79
- 3 yr renewal for \$69
- 5 yr renewal for \$99
- 5 yr join for \$129

Membership is non-refundable.

Join or Renew Online

www.womenstravelclub.com

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Book by Mail, Telephone or Fax

<http://www.womenstravelclub.com/WTC-Form.pdf>