



THE WOMEN'S TRAVEL CLUB®

DESIGNED BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 3

Dear Members and Fellow Travelers,

Women are everywhere: it is Women's History Month, Mother's Day approaches and, let's face it, from the magazines, June is bride not wedding month. On a global scale women sit as Prime Ministers, heads of political parties and Presidents—i.e., Chile, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Finland, Philippines, Israel, Liberia. Closer to home, we are head of the house (of Representatives, that is!). Pats on the back all around. I have just been on our London trip with the added pleasure of meeting and re-meeting a dozen members, women again, of course! So you meet them also:

Elayne and Gail both from South FL who met on a prior Club trip.

Joy, a contractor from Westchester NY, who buddied with them at Canyon Ranch a year or two ago and joined in again with her Club friends.

Ageless **Rosalie** from NY City in her red beret and sunglasses who regaled us with stories of the rich and famous.

Karen from FL who wins the prize of ten (?) Club trips.

Roberta and Suzanne from C. Florida who loved the church concert we directed them to so much, we will include it in future London trips.

Barbara, who came with her adorable 11 year-old granddaughter, **Helaina**—P.S., we showed her Madonna's London townhouse.

Margaret from AL who came alone for her first trip—*yes, many women do come alone.*

Rose, from California; she won the distance prize—another ageless beauty.

Mary, whose PHD in French Literature impressed us all; another Club returnee.

They saw the Queen from our bus (not the Helen Mirren version) and enjoyed a fun-filled 5-day trip terminating with dinner at my overseas home. *Stay tuned for our next London jaunt. Next city weekend is Paris, then Lisbon, followed by New York City!*

Can't wait to sign myself up for another trip for my vacation also. It will be Oman and Dubai for sure.

Phyllis Stiller



Noteworthy Tours

Red Mountain Spa, Utah May 3-7 discount deal

Shangri La: Thailand/China and Hong Kong May 11-25 (one share left)

Danube Cruise+Munich May 24-June 3 (with our affiliate)

Lisbon Weekend June 14-19 (with our affiliate)

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico June 30-July 7 (see page 2)

The Baltics, Russia & a whisper of Finland (see page 3)

Total Italy, from Rome to Venice, including Ravenna (see insert)

Kenya/Tanzania Safari Jul 30-Aug 13

Perfect Peru in boutique hotels (see insert)

The Greenbrier Resort in W. VA

Waitlist yourself on any trip by faxing in a booking form and writing on it "Waitlist Me".

Fuel surcharges included in all prices. Prices increase as we approach departure dates.

Long but Lean—Long Distance Trips at Value Prices

We offer city weekends, European jaunts, spa discounts, river cruises and Long But Lean trips. Upcoming lengthier trips are Shangri La in Asia, African Safari, The Baltics with Russia, Total Italy and Perfect Peru. Autumn brings Oman and Dubai, Turkey and India.

What you are afraid to ask...

- ♦ **Will I be comfortable?** We use 4/5 star hotels, with nice bathrooms and excellent amenities.
- ♦ **Will I be tired?** We pace trips; on Shangri La with a long flight, rooms are available at 7 a.m. on arrival in Hong Kong.
- ♦ **May I arrive early for extra rest?** Yes. We notify you if others do the same.
- ♦ **Will I die from local food?** We eat in clean places. In outlying areas, we sometimes stick to hotel dining. Eat off a street cart? Yes, you might die.
- ♦ **Who is in charge?** Our excellent representatives, who join at the destination and travel with us. They are experienced guides we know well.
- ♦ **Is everyone a big traveler?** No, but some are. We learn from each other as we travel.
- ♦ **Will I be ever left alone?** Quote: Joan after her Australia trip: "I always found someone in the group to do what I wanted, during optional time".
- ♦ **Is everyone long and lean?** NO!

So book a remaining place for Shangri La (Thailand, Hong Kong, mysterious W China)

Booking now:

African Safari, Total Italy from Rome to Venice, The Baltics & Russia, Perfect Peru, and all Autumn trips.

The newest part of our site:

Members' area has new trips and coupons!

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Checks payable to:
The Women's Travel Club

www.womenstravelclub.com • info@womenstravelclub.com



Take a breath...and then book...

May 24-June 3 Deluxe Danube River Cruise with 2 nights in Munich. Deal price. From \$2891 with air, 2 nights in Munich, 7-night cruise, meals and more.

June 14-19 Lisbon Weekend \$1049.

July 12-23 The Baltics and Russia. From \$3947 with air, land, much sightseeing, concert, 4-star hotels, train, some meals and 3 nights in Russia. (See page 3)

July 21-August 1 Total Italy: Rome Florence, Siena, San Marino, Ravenna, Venice and Venetian Palladian villas. From \$2999: land with hotels, sightseeing, some meals.

July 30-August 13 Kenya and Tanzania with option to Zanzibar, from \$3999 plus airfare based on your hometown: from \$1200 East Coast.

August 1-5 Group deal at Canyon Ranch Health Resort, MA.

August 3-14 Perfect Peru: Lima, Arequipa, Colca, Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, 4/5-star boutique hotels. (See insert)

August 9-12 World-famous Greenbrier Resort in W. Virginia: \$1445 includes hotel, half-board and either golf or spa, plus use of this marvelous classic resort.

August 19-26 & Aug 26-Sept 2 Ixtapan de la Sal Summer discount group.

August 31-September 3 Labor Day Weekend in Manhattan, followed by:

September 3-5 a historic trip up the Hudson River Valley: Rockefeller estate, Culinary Institute, Dia and Storm King Sculpture Center. New York City, from \$1299, and Hudson River Valley \$899

September 27-October 2 Iceland

October 5-19 Turkey

October 12-18 Guatemala Deluxe

November 2-16 India

San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

June 30-July 7 \$1749 twin, limited singles at \$475 supplement. Includes: lovely hotels, 14 meals, portage, airport transfers, our great guide, all admissions, tips and taxes at meals. Due to the size of our hotels, limited group and size. Deposit: \$500 not due *mañana*.

Day 1 Arrive Leon Airport—5PM, transfer to San Miguel de Allende. Hotel Casa Morada, a unique boutique hotel. Welcome dinner at local restaurant. D. Private transfers available. **Day 2** AM walking tour of the historic center. This colonial gem retained its charm as the government preserved it in 1926. We return to the beautiful main plaza for the Home and Garden tour. Enjoy a peek behind the walls of San Miguel's beautiful homes, usually hidden from public view. BL **Day 3** Today we are treated to a Mexican cooking class, then enjoy the fruits of our labor along with wine pairing. PM We visit the market. BL. **Day 4** Travel to Queretaro for a tour of this colonial city with its famous aqueduct, convents and main plaza lined with shops. Return to San Miguel for dinner at a local restaurant. BD. **Day 5** One final view of San Miguel. Continue to Dolores Hidalgo and a tour of ceramic factories where Talavera ceramics are made and sold at factory prices. Then visit local hot springs to enjoy a soak. On to Guanajuato where its tunnels and narrow cobbled streets add to the intrigue of this colonial city. Hotel Mision. BL. **Day 6** Today, enjoy Guanajuato's highlights, including: Diego Rivera Museum, Teatro Juarez and colorful markets. We lunch at one of the restaurants along the Plaza de Armas, PM free. BL. **Day 7** Back to Leon—shop for fine leather for which this city is famous. Tonight farewell dinner and overnight at Fiesta Inn Leon. BD.

Day 8 AM Transfer to Leon airport. B.

Group Special for any traveling group:

BRING A GROUP AND YOU GO FREE IN A SINGLE ROOM.

\$2499 + taxes for a group of 15 of your best pals. Departure Oct. 21-29, 2007 **Deluxe 9-Day Italian Riviera and France.**

Air inclusive from JFK, with 7 nights at 5-star Royal Hotel in San Remo and Excelsior Palace Hotel in Rapallo, 5 dinners with wine, guided tours of San Remo, Dolceacqua, Monte Carlo, Nice & Cannes, plus an olive oil and perfume factory in Provence's Grasse, full day Cinque Terre boat tour in Italy, full day boat to Portofino, tour guide throughout, round-trip airport transfers.

Only for 15 or more passengers who come together. One trip is free for the 16th lucky person or divide it up for group savings. Deposits due no later than June 15, \$500 per person x 15 going. 3-day Rome extension available from \$549 per person.

Planned already:

Canyon Ranch; two **Thanksgiving trips:** Popular Tuscany and new Ireland. **Nov 30-Dec. 10** Oman, Muscat and Dubai. **Dec. 7-13** Christmas markets and museums to Berlin, **2 Christmas Trips as Holiday Trips** sold out immediately. Variety of city weekends, member only specials.

April 21-26 Paris-eentsy possibility.
May 3-7 Red Mtn. Spa teensy possibility deal.
May 11-25 Shangri La—maybe.

Travel Tips:

When you travel to far flung places, the CDC recommends medical advice. As much as we like to regale you with tales of personal injections, we are not allowed by law to dispense medical info. Some general guidelines for exotic travel:

- ✓ Do not eat unpeeled raw items, shell fish, drink tap water or crunch on hotel ice unless purified.
- ✓ Close your mouth when you shower; in the extreme, use bottled water for tooth brushing. Cheap like some of us? Buy water purification tablets from a camping store and use them to make your own purified water for brushing and other 'out of body' experiences.
- ✓ Finally, if you do feel ill, see the hotel doctor ASAP and tell someone in our group so we can TLC you and help out.

THE BALTICS & RUSSIA

NEW EUROPE: With a day in Helsinki, July 12-23, 2007:
\$3947 until April 25, then add \$250. Deposit: \$500
VALUE price air inclusive with 4-star hotels, 6 meals and
buffet breakfast daily, fully escorted.

Besides the capitals of new—since 1991—republics, we included countryside, in-depth sightseeing, a concert in the ancient Guild Hall in Riga, and extras. The three are different in language, ethnicity, history, religion. Lithuania is linked to Polish history. Lithuania and Latvia are closer to Nordic and Teutonic. Estonia and Latvia were subject to Danish and Swedish rule, and Lithuania was influenced by not only Poland but by Jewish history and Central Europe. St. Petersburg is Russian Imperial. Helsinki, different again.

July 12 Depart for Vilnius at 5:55 p.m. on Finnair via Helsinki.

July 13 Arrive Vilnius. Meet our guide and continue to the hotel. Welcome dinner. D

July 14 Proceed on a tour of Vilnius by coach. Highlights include 17th century Cathedral of Peter & Paul, University and Gothic Church of St. Anna. Stop by the Gates of Dawn, former Jewish ghetto, and Old Town. Lunch is in the countryside. Visit Trakai, medieval capital, and picturesque 15th century castle. Overnight: Vilnius. BL

July 15 Tour of Kaunas, 2nd largest city of Lithuania, then visit the Cathedral, Consul Sugihara Museum & Pazaislis Monastery. Overnight: Vilnius. B

July 16 Depart for Latvia. En route visit Siauliai to see the Hill of Crosses, a symbol of Lithuanian nationalism. Travel to the 18th century Baroque Palace Rundale. Overnight: Riga, capital of Latvia. B

July 17 Tour of Riga with highlights: the 13th century St. Peter's Church, Power Tower and Dome Cathedral, with one of the biggest organs in Europe. A concert in the Great Guild Hall included. Dinner in Old Town. Overnight: Riga. BD

July 18 Depart for Estonian capital, Tallinn. En route visit fascinating Ethnographical Museum with traditional buildings. Brief tour of the resort town, Paernu. Arrive Tallinn. Overnight: Tallinn. B

July 19 Tour of Tallinn, first by bus then on foot. Our tour includes Song Festival Amphitheater in Piritas and medieval Upper and Lower Tallinn. PM free. Farewell dinner in Gothic Old Town. Overnight: Tallinn. BD

July 20 Breakfast boxes provided. Ferry to Helsinki, Finland's capital. Enjoy a city tour. Drive by the neo-classical Senate Square with Engel's Cathedral and its domes. Visit Temppeleaukio Rock Church. Free time for lunch then board Repin Express train for St. Petersburg arriving PM. Overnight: St. Petersburg. B

July 21 AM tour of St. Petersburg by private bus, including the grounds of St. Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral. Lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch drive to Pushkin, Tsarskoye Selo for the 18th century Catherine's Palace. Overnight: St. Petersburg. BL

July 22 AM is for the world famous Hermitage Museum. Lunch at a local restaurant. PM at leisure. Overnight: St. Petersburg. BL

July 23 Transfer for flights to the U.S. on Finnair. Flight arrives JFK at 4 PM. B.

5 countries in one compact trip!

New Stuff



Phyllis Stoller, WTC founder

Into Africa with the Club
 We are thrilled to invite you on safari during the cool months in E. Africa. Top Lodges. Excellent guides. All window seats. Balanced for wildlife.

Special welcome with African women. \$3999 plus air from your hometown. Deposit: \$500
Limited space left.

July 30 Depart via Europe

Aug 1 Arrival in Nairobi and transfer to 5-star Stanley Hotel.

Aug 2 Full day touring of women's craft projects, Cheetah Conservation Fund, lunch with local women, Karen Blixen Museum and Giraffe Project. Overnight: Stanley Hotel. BL

Aug 3 Heading north, pass high Mt Kenya and breathtaking scenery to Sarova Shaba Lodge. PM Game drive of rare indigenous game. Overnight: Sarova Shaba Lodge, Full-board (FB)

Aug 4 AM and PM drives, seeking gerenuk, grevy zebra, reticulated giraffe, Beisa Oryx. A women's craft project is at our lodge. Sarova Shaba Lodge FB

Aug 5 SW to Nyahururu (Thomson's Falls) then Lake Nakuru, flamingo pink from thousands of birds. Lunch, then PM game drive. Bird and wildlife are abundant—waterbuck, warthog, impala, buffalo, plains game, cheetah, rhino. Lion Hill Lodge. FB

Aug 6 South to Maasai Mara and Mara Sarova Camp or Sekanani. Both comfortable camps, noted for lions, elephants, leopard, cheetah, rhino, buffalo. FB

Aug 7 Full day: The Mara—AM and PM drives. FB

Aug 8 Depart. Travel thru the Rift Valley. Arrive Nairobi. Fly to Arusha and Mountain Village Serena Hotel. BD

Aug 9 Tarangire Park has black rhino, elephant and buffalo, giraffe, waterbuck, impala, reedbuck, wildebeest, klipspringer, tree climbing pythons. Tarangire Sopa Lodge. BD

Aug 10 AM game drive in Tarangire—PM drive to Ngorongoro Crater. Ngorongoro Sopa or Serena Lodge. FB

Aug 11 We descend the crater as the mist clears to show thousands of animals. PM at leisure. Ngorongoro Sopa or Serena Lodge. FB

Aug 12 Back to Arusha. Return to Nairobi for PM flights home arriving **Aug 13**, or, fly to Zanzibar for an exotic extension. BL



Top 10 Reasons to Join:

- 40 trips a year
- First-class/superior first-class hotels, unless noted
- Group airfares (flights from many cities), including transfers
- Room shares on first-come, first-served basis for non-smokers
- All sightseeing
- English-speaking guides
- Meals as noted
- Private deluxe buses
- Complete pre-trip packages
- Travel Companion Bulletin Board!

Ask about airfare from your hometown, we are a national group with different time zones and hometowns.

A growing list of deals in your 'members only' section...

Lisbon City Weekend in June
 Guatemala 5-star deluxe in October
 Queen Mary 2 various dates
 Beijing Blowout! coming again shortly
 ...and coupon discounts and savings hidden in our members' section.

Register your email with us now to receive more e-specials.

All trips are subject to the terms and conditions of The Women's Travel Club. Penalties for cancellations, changes, deviations apply. A deposit indicates agreement with terms and conditions on our website or sent with your written confirmation. You may book a trip by phone, fax, or online. If by phone, we will read our policies to you, if you require. Fewer than 20 women a surcharge can, but does not usually apply 30 days pre-departure. Travel insurance protects if you need to cancel for a specific reason! Membership Non-refundable.

The Club was founded in 1992 by Phyllis Stoller, a then banker with a non-traveling husband. We are nationally known and an affiliate of ABC Destinations, a major tour operator. To keep prices fair quality high, we do not maintain a mailing list for non-members. \$35 for 1-year • \$65 for 2-years. Members of less than 3 months pay a surcharge. Membership is non-refundable. Need help with email specials or a password? info@womenstravelclub.com

MEMBERSHIP STATUS
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As reprinted from our site>The Women's Travel Club and **Total Italy**

Price: \$2999 Single: \$650 Deposit due: \$500

Includes: 4-star hotels, all sightseeing noted, services of our Club escort, private bus. B daily, 2 L and 5 D some with wine. One group transfer on arrival and departure. Not included: airfare—ask us for a quote from your hometown; portage payable only at the hotels.

This trip is designed for both the returnee and newcomer to Italy. No rushing. Ample free time. Centrally located and hand-picked hotels. Full time escort to assist with any request. Specials on our trip include: Rome, Assisi, Florence, Siena, San Marino, Ravenna, Venice and a tour of the Palladian villas outside Venice. 3 nights Rome, 3 nights Florence, 1 night near Ravenna, 3 in Venice. *Our hotels are centrally located so you do not wear out your new Italian shoes.*

July 21 Depart on flights from the U.S. D B on board flights.

July 22 Arrive in Rome and transfer to our centrally located Hotel Quirinale. Welcome D with wine. *There is one airport transfer for the majority of flights. Individual transfers available optionally.*

July 23 Full day sightseeing of ancient and modern Rome. B L at a local restaurant.

July 24 Half-day tour of Borghese Gallery, with a talk on how to look at Renaissance art. This afternoon free for additional wandering with Club friends. B

July 25 We drive to Florence through the countryside with a stop in Assisi, later check into the former palace, now 4-star Hotel Baglioni. Dinner in a local restaurant. B D

July 26 Guided half-day walking tour of Florence with admission to the Academia and the Statue of David rooms. PM free. B

July 27 AM tour of the Uffizzi Gallery—we walk there. Afternoon half-day tour to Siena. B D in the Tuscan countryside en route back to Florence.

July 28 Continue our trip by private bus with our guide, stopping in Ravenna near San Marino. Overnight Ravenna, Bizanzio Hotel. BD. Depending on arrival time, we tour the mosaics of Ravenna and spend time in independent San Marino on July 28 and on July 29.

July 29 See above. Today we drive to Venice, stopping outside to view 1-2 Palladian villas built by the wealthy traders of this magnificent city. Arrival in Venice where we stay at the charming Sofitel Venezia. BL

July 30 Half-day walking tour of Venice with free time to get lost in every sense of the word! B

July 31 Full free day in Venice. B. Farewell dinner.

August 1 After breakfast, depart for the airport for flights home. Again, one transfer early morning to coordinate with most flights back to the U.S. B

GOING GOING GONE: Check out our site for discount coupons for this and other trips.

A unique view of Perfect Peru

A special trip using 4/5 star boutique hotels
including a night on Machu Picchu

Price: \$3369 Single: \$999 Deposit: \$500

Includes excellent boutique hotels, meals as below, all internal flying, our wonderful guide, unusual visits and a night on Machu Picchu.

The “Kingdom of the Sun” is a country of antique culture, where traditional Indians thrive, colonial towns remain intact. With stunning landscape, Peru is one of the most spectacular countries on earth.

August 3 Arrive Lima, be met and transferred to your hotel. Lima was founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535. We find broken glamour of the colony as well as the vitality of an oriental bazaar. Overnight: **Hotel Swisshotel or Los Delfinos both (****)**.

August 4 PM tour explores old and new Lima. The Plaza de Armas with beautiful Government Palace, Town Hall, Palace of the Archbishop and Cathedral are important. Continue to San Francisco and Santo Domingo Convents and Plaza San Martin. Later, guided visit of the museum of pre-Columbian pottery. Dinner at La Rosa Nautica Restaurant, exclusive restaurant on the shore of a beach in Miraflores. B D

August 5 Lima, Arequipa. Transfer to the airport. Arequipa is known for handsome architecture, delicious food and blue sky at the foot of impressive Misti volcano. This city is full of ancestral mansions, ancient churches and convents built out of pearl-white material. We visit the Valley of the Volcanoes, famous Colca Valley and Colca Canyon, natural areas as Salinas and Aquada Blanca. PM half day city tour and Santa Catalina convent, with beautiful landscape of volcanoes and pre-Incan terraces. Visit old neighborhoods, Arequipa’s Cathedral and Plaza de Armas. We stop at the Company of Jesus, with art of the 17th century and Santa Catalina Convent. Overnight: **Hotel Libertador Arequipa (****)**. B

August 6 Early AM we take the highway, past snow-capped volcanoes towards the habitat of vicuñas. Visit villages and the Condor viewing-point to observe one of the deepest canyons and flight of the Condors. Lunch at Chivay. **Hotel Libertador Arequipa (****)**. B L

August 7 Fly to Cuzco; transfer to hotel. Primitive residents inhabited the valley 3,000 years ago. PM city tour + visit to the nearby ruins of Cuzco. Visit most important landmarks: Korikancha (ancient temple of the Sun), Inca street of Loreto, and Ahuajpinta with remains of outstanding palaces and monuments; Museum of Colonial Art and San Blas, for fine craftsmanship (painting, sculpture, wood carving). We continue to archaeological park Saqsaywaman (the fortress-temple), shrines of Kenqo and Tambomachay (cleansing water rituals), and ancient storage place and inn. The Cathedral and Temple of the Sun are spectacular. Show-Dinner at restaurant Tunupa. Overnight: **Libertador Cuzco (****)**. B D

August 8 Full day Pisac Market, ruins, and Ollantaytambo tour. Pisac: a special traditional market where Indians sell fine crafts. Next, Pisac ruins in the higher part of the mountain. Finally, visit Ollantaytambo, a typical Inca community. One of its best-preserved areas, Hanan Huacaypata, contains 15 estates built with elegantly crafted walls. Lunch at Tunupa Valley Restaurant. B L



Machu Picchu, Peru

August 9 Early transfer to the Vistadome coach. Travel into Urubamba valley: barren, then jungle-like. Continue by train through the valley to Aguas Calientes. Small buses drive up to Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas”, built without cement, with impressive delicacy, and detail. Guided visit of the ruins. Lunch at Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge. Dinner at Hotel. Overnight at **Machu Picchu Hotel or Hotel Machu Picchu Pueblo (**only SUP)**. B L D

August 10 AM free in the lost area of the Incas—guide’s assistance; climb Wayna Picchu, watch the sunrise or take the old trail to the Gate of the Sun. PM train to Cuzco. Arrival and transfer to your hotel. **Libertador Cuzco (****)**. B

August 11 Today, full day Andean Explorer train (Orient Express) to Puno, located on Lake Titicaca. The train passes snow-covered peaks up to 4,300 meters. Lunch served on board. We begin beside Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. This is a landscape of indescribable beauty, cradle of pre-Hispanic civilization. Arrival and transfer to your hotel. Overnight: **Hotel Libertador Esteves (****)**. B L

August 12 Full day boat ride to the floating islands of Uros Indians, in Lake Titicaca. Proceed to Taquile island, where visitors share food, homes, customs and traditions. Lunch in the Islands. **Hotel Libertador Esteves (****)**. B L

August 13 Puno, Juliaca, Lima. Early departure for the airport. En route visit the archaeological site, Sillustani, the Necropolis, one of the largest, bordered by Lake Umayo. Afterwards, flight to Lima. Arrival, transfer to hotel. Overnight at **Los Delfinos or Hotel Swissotel (****)**. B

August 14 Transfer to the airport for flights to the U.S. B