



Custom Travel Concepts 2009 Travel Opportunities

Custom Travel Concepts
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September 2008

Thank You for a Memorable 2008

What a wonderful year this has been! I've had the opportunity to travel and reconnect with many of you—seeing friends I've not seen for some years. It's also been a bittersweet time as we approach the final month for the beloved Delta Queen to sail. This National Historic Landmark has been a mainstay in my group tour business for nearly two decades but she is now facing possible retirement as the Congressional exemption she has been sailing under expires.

In May NY Times best-selling author, Robert Hicks joined us for our Civil War cruise that

focused on his book *The Widow of the South*. I am happy to say that he was such a tremendous hit with all of you that you will have an opportunity to travel with him in 2009 to the UK. Dennis and Sylvia Frye also joined us and Dennis and I are working on plans for the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War that will begin in 2009 with John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry and continue to the final year in 2015.

In August my final group cruise on the Delta Queen was titled "A Grand Farewell to a Legendary Lady" and featured historian Stan Garvey who chronicled



and Delta Queen. Their story is unique and for us nostalgic. In light of the possible retirement of the Delta Queen (or brief hiatus as we hope) I have a wonderful opportunity for you to stay aboard the Delta Queen in Sacramento, CA with a cruise on the Sacramento River and lots of wonderful historical sites.

Thank you all for making this a special year and I think you will find that 2009 has some exceptional travel options!

Why Use an Agent?

Experience—More than 20 years have provided me with the resources and knowledge to match clients to products.

Trust—I know the pitfalls of the industry and how to avoid disaster for you.

One Stop Shopping I provide all aspects of your travel experience ~ one call is all you need to make.

Range of options A tour operator sells one kind of product or regional destination. I sell everything! Don't book directly with the tour operator. You might be missing an essential element in your travel planning.

Client Feedback I have the advantage of vicariously traveling through you. Your experience helps me to offer information and suggestions to others.

Everyone benefits!

Celebrations and Anniversaries

Exciting opportunities abound in 2009.

It is the 200th birthday of our 16th President Abraham Lincoln. To commemorate this historian John C. "Jack" Waugh has designed a *first-ever* tour that will

follow Lincoln's journey from Springfield, IL to Washington, DC.

It is the 50th anniversary of the statehood of Hawaii and Alaska.

It is the 65th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion in Normandy.

It is the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's discovery of the Hudson River and New York.

And, it 's the 10th anniversary of my company—Custom Travel



on the Tracks— May 1—10, 2009

Centennial of Abraham Lincoln we will follow his inaugural journey from Washington, DC. We meet in Springfield where we'll visit Lincoln's home, office, and his tomb. Mary Lincoln will join us to discuss her feelings about her and moving the family to Washington. We depart from the depot by the same route as Lincoln did by train stopping along the way at the same towns as our host providing the historical background of the Lincoln journey that was happening with Jefferson Davis on those same days. We will visit the museum, OH and Albany, NY, stay in Niagara Falls one of Lincoln's favorite places, visit Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and finally meet President Lincoln at the Willard Hotel where we will celebrate his inaugural as he did in 1861.

A first-ever tour designed by celebrated author, **Jack Waugh** whose latest book **Not Enough: Abraham Lincoln's Road to Civil War** is the basis of our journey.

Reserve your place early on this very special

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Grand Southern Ladies Charleston & Savannah Featuring Spoleto Festival May 31—June 6, 2009

Director of the Springfield History Museums, is a popular lecturer on music history and great the Museum School and Springfield College. Guy has escorted several overseas and domestic on valuable information and expertise in the areas of art, history and music."

at the historic **Mills House Hotel** in Charleston and 2 nights at the historic **Mulberry Inn** in Savannah. Highlights include a tour and lunch at Middleton Place, a carefully preserved 18th-century plantation near Charleston; guided walking tours of Charleston and Savannah; a welcome reception and orientation at the Mills House; a private visit to the Gibbes Art Museum in Charleston; and a tour and lunch in historic Beaufort, North Carolina, en route to Savannah.

The Very English Roots of our American Garden Featuring the Chelsea Flower Show May 16—24, 2009

Join **Justin Stelter**, Head Gardener at Historic Carnton Plantation and **Robert Hicks**, New York Times bestselling author of **The Widow of the South**



The ancestry of America is tied as closely to Britain as the English roots of our plants and gardens. We journey across the ocean to visit our English heritage as spring breathes itself into the palette of the English gardens and the warmth of the British culture. Highlighting our visit is the magnificent **Chelsea Flower Show**, the yearly flagship event of the Royal Horticultural Society, the cultural and historic city of Bath, and of course, a stay in London. Our knowledgeable tour leaders will weave the historical roots of these gardens into the story of our own with visits to Sissinghurst, Stourhead, and Kew Gardens, Scotney Castle and Snowhill Manor and the World Heritage Site Stonehenge, and London.

Sailing on the River

15%

Group Discount

New

Page 3 **The Arch and the Pyramid** Memphis to St. Louis

April 29—May 5, 2009

Sail aboard America's only passenger barge the **River Explorer** on this unique itinerary as you see how the three main tributaries of the Mighty Mississippi meet—the Ohio adds blue, the Missouri adds its muddy color and the Illinois adds Great Lakes commerce. Overnight in St. Louis and enjoy included passes to the Civil Rights Museum and the Rock & Soul Museum in Memphis.

All meals, shore excursions, open seating dining, gratuities and “raid the fridge” goodies are included.

Make your reservation by October 15 and receive a \$100 discount.
Don't wait—this new itinerary will be gone!

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Diplomacy and American Presidents at Sea

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insignia

With Guest Historian **Robert Dallek**, author of **The Making and UnMaking of American Presidents**

Professor Dallek will feature talks on FDR and WWII and JFK: The Man and the President as you sail in luxury on this mid-sized ship offering indulgences not found on larger vessels. Unique itineraries, country club casual, open seating dining with unparalleled cuisine guided by the prodigious talent of legendary Chef Jacques Pepin and a blending of boutique ports.

Ports: Dubrovnik, Corfu, Sorrento, Amalfi, Rome, Cinque Terre, Monte Carlo, Provence, Mallorca

“2-for 1 fares and Free Airfare”

Stay Aboard the Delta King & See Sacramento

April 2—6, 2009

He is the other part of the couple built in 1926. After years of neglect he is now a beautiful hotel on the river and a perfect mate to our Delta Queen. Stay in one of the converted hotel rooms, eat in the pilot house restaurant and learn about the history of the Delta King from the owner who has lovingly restored him. I'm looking forward to a reunion of past Delta Queen passengers. In the heart of Old Sacramento we'll experience a cruise, the railroad museum, the State Capitol, and Gold Rush country.



See America

Chesapeake Bay Cruise on **American Cruise Lines**

November 1, 8, 2009

Pre-cruise highlight John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry with Dennis Frye

Celebrate the 400th Anniversary of New York on the Hudson River during fall foliage

New **Pearl Seas Cruises** operates itineraries in the Great Lakes, Newfoundland, St. Lawrence Seaway and Thousand Island, Gulf of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, Canada/New England and the Caribbean

Celebrate Hawaii and Alaska— Call for travel options for cruises and land vacations

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*Customized travel planning for
individuals and groups since
1999*

Visit our website
www.customtravelconcepts.net
for updated information and
newly added specials.

Dear Travelers:

I've tried to provide you with some very exclusive and customized travel opportunities. As a travel consultant, tour planner, family reunion planner, honeymoon planner, I work with individuals on whatever trip or event they need to plan. I also work with organizations and clubs who use travel as a member benefit. No need is too small and as of yet, none has been too large.

My background in travel began in 1985 when my first son went to college and I returned to school and took a travel course. It was based on a Liberal Arts program in which I had already earned an Associate degree. After completing the two year course I continued as a Frances Perkins Scholar at Mount Holyoke College and majored in International Relations. My love of history and cultures have influenced the travel programs I create today. Please don't think that it excludes you from asking me to help plan a trip to Disney, a Caribbean cruise, or put together a family reunion at a resort. It's all a part of my job and I get the most satisfaction in helping to ensure that whatever you need to do and wherever you go you will have my service to plan and execute your travel plans. And, I'm here if something goes wrong!

I thank you for providing me with this opportunity over the years and I look forward to celebrating my tenth year in my own business with you!

Charlene Corris

A Few More Ideas

Commemorate the **65th Anniversary of D-Day**

Operation Overlord ~ June 1—9, 2009 Begins in London and visits the landing beaches
D-Day to the Rhine ~ June 1—13, 2009 Continues to Paris, Arnhem, Ardennes, to Frankfurt

Visit Croatia There is no better way to explore the magnificent Dalmatian Archipelago and Adriatic Coastline than on the 62 passenger ship **Monet**. We are offering a group rate on the Venice to Dubrovnik route allowing stays in each embarkation city to extend your spectacular week cruise.

Celebrity Cruise Lines will inaugurate the new **Solstice** ship this fall.

I just became certified as a *Niche Cruise Specialist* which has introduced me to many new products sailing in Europe, the Amazon & Galapagos, Indochina, Antarctica, and the Arctic. All ships are small and offer destinations unrivaled by the larger cruise vessels. There is great added value with these products.

River Cruising in Europe will provide opportunities to visit the historical sites and port cities and cruises include all sightseeing, meals and often wine with dinner. Cruises this fall are still available and early booking incentives are offered for 2009. Plan ahead and save.

Please call 866-956-4440 for information and reservations for all tours listed