



Date: February 2010
To: Utterly Sophisticated and Savvy Travelers
From: Teresa Beall Expeditions

With airports in Washington and New York closed and road travel disrupted through much of the country, the country is in a state of travel standstill. More than 2,000 flights were cancelled on Sunday and thousands of people in the states of Maryland and New Jersey were left without power from the recent record-breaking storms. My crystal ball is suggesting that once power is restored and all of the massive snow melts, you'll all be itching to get out and dry out. Short winter days, single-digit temperatures, below-zero wind chills often lead to fantasies of escape. That being said, we hope these ideas start your traveling juices flowing and prompt you to call us to help you orchestrate any or all of your travel arrangements for 2010. We do sincerely appreciate your business!

Getting the word out on recent travel specials, our uber special organized group expeditions, and scheduled day trips is important to us. If you find the information in this e-newsletter helpful, please let a friend know and encourage them to call our office (or log onto our website – www.teresabeall.com) if we can be of service. After all, sooner or later everyone needs a vacation. And, don't forget us for your simple vacations too – we serve up some delicious independent journeys for you and your family.

THE KING AND KING KAMEHAMEHA

The Elvis-in-Hawaii movies have little in the way of plots, but those helicopter shots of Diamond Head, kitschy luaus, and adorably impish children just make me want to jump a plane to the islands and a time machine to 1965. Aston Resorts and United Airlines can't change the date, but they can help scratch your itch for hip-shaking and sarongs. They've teamed up to offer some great vacations this spring and summer. Call us to help plan your flight to Hawaii with ocean-view accommodations, airport ground transfers (or a car rental), and all of our "don't miss" and restaurant recommendations. Prices are as hard to believe as Elvis's lip-synching. Finding the crooning helicopter pilot, speedboat racer, or surf instructor of your dreams is up to you.

TOSS YOUR "RING" AROUND THIS ONE

Although, I have not seen any of the Lord of the Ring movies, I know most were shot in New Zealand. Surely the cost of visiting that wonderland of snow-capped mountains, underground rivers, and lush valleys must be monumental, you say. Guess again, Bilbo. We have some outrageous packages available. In addition to the flight and accommodations, let us help you plan jet-boat rides, a ride on the Transalpine train and all sorts of optional extras. Whether your kids opt to see the glowworms in the river caves of Waitomo or sheep-shearing on a farm near Christchurch, they'll still remember this vacation when the Lord of the Rings movies are in reruns on TNT.

THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR STROLLING

Even if you don't think you know the Cotswolds, you do. Picture gently rolling hills, low stone walls, villages of thatched cottages, and pubs with quirky names. Now picture yourself walking through the glorious midst of it all, opening gates, sipping tea, tucking into a ploughman's lunch at a limestone pub. Let us help you plan a self-guided weeklong walking tour of the Cotswolds with daily breakfast and luggage transfers between inns. At the onset of your trip, we'll provide you with a packet of maps and detailed notes about your daily routes and a list of



local contacts along the way. From then on, you're blissfully on your own to forget cell phones and newscasts and the worries of the world beyond those hills.

FRANCE IN YOUR BIKEPANTS

How about a unique view of France? Sure, you'll be snacking on Camembert and touring the chateaux, but you'll be navigating those French country roads and villages on bikes. Bikes mean a leisurely morning coasting past vineyards followed by a café lunch on some cobbled town square, then a sunny afternoon on the road before rolling to a stop in front of the restored chateau where you'll be staying the night. There are many adventures through Provence, Bordeaux or Burgundy. There are also yoga-themed trips or a special tour along the route of the Tour de France (either before or after the actual race). Then again, maybe you prefer a simple and leisure journey past the castles of the Loire. Call us and let us help you plan something special.

OFF TO A ROCKIES START

Spring's warmer temperatures make it the perfect time to introduce newcomers to skiing. And this year's record-breaking snowfalls in the Canadian Rockies promise a snow base that will likely keep the slopes open until mid-May, allowing plenty of time to win over a new skier. After the Winter Olympics come and go, why not spend a week at Whistler/Blackcomb this spring. It's also a pretty cool place to possibly see the Northern Lights.

MILES AND JACK'S WINE TOUR (SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, USA)

Santa Barbara County's thriving wine country (the area where I grew up until moving up north to Chico) set the stage for the critically acclaimed and multi-Golden Globe and Academy Award winner and nominated film, *Sideways*. If you have not yet seen this flick, head immediately to your local video store and rent it. Fans of the film (and wine, and, of course, the good life!) can taste their way through the Santa Barbara/Central Coast Wine Country on the same path forged by Miles and Jack on their wine tasting road trip salute to Jack's final days as a bachelor. If you are really industrious, you can take a bicycle tour through the valley, peddling from winery to winery. I know the area well and have taken the same roads, tasted at the same wineries, and eaten at many of the same restaurants time and time again. I can't get enough each time I visit. But, the best part is I have a copy of the exact map of Miles and Jack's course – including each and every one of their stops. It's free for the asking. In addition to Foxen, Andrew Murray, Fess Parker, Firestone, Kalyra and Sanford wineries featured in the movie, I'll also throw in a few of my personal favorites – like Beckman, Gainey, Fiddlehead, Lane Tanner and Qupe. And, for central coast grub after the wineries have closed up, there is a myriad of great choices: AJ Spurs, Hitching Post (although my personal favorite is its sister restaurant by the same name in Casmalia, about an hour away) and Los Olivos Café were all mentioned in the movie. But, there is this other little gem of a restaurant, Brother's (the old Mattie's Tavern, where brothers, Jeff and Matt Nichols have fine-tuned with originality this little historic eatery into a sparkling "must try!"). If you would rather pack your own gourmet picnic lunch along the way, stop in for the goods at one of the best neighborhood grocers in California (in my opinion) - the El Rancho Marketplace. Another great choice is the Los Olivos Grocery. Call me and I'll set you up for flights into Santa Barbara or Santa Maria with a car rental to do this gourmet wine and food road rally right!

Happy Traveling, Teresa

NOTE – Each month (sometimes more or less often than that) we send out an e-newsletter containing timely announcements, notices and tips intended as useful, up-to-the-minute information for discriminating domestic and international travelers - you, our clients. The intent is NOT to send unwanted information to anyone. If you are not interested, please let us know and we will promptly remove you from our database!