



January 2013



We made it through the holidays and are now well on our way through what the travel industry calls "The Wave". Many of you either got together at the holidays and started making plans for vacations in the new year or winter is just getting the best of you and it is now time to plan a vacation. Whatever the reason, we are here to help you.

We have a number of different agents all with their own strengths. A few of our agents have a sole focus on Disney vacations. We have a couple that don't usually work on Disney but instead are great putting together a seamless package for your needs. When your request for a quote comes in via email at info@travelonadream.com or using our request form online here <http://travelonadream.com/quote.html>, I personally review the request and either forward on the request to the agent you requested or forward it on to the agent I feel would be the best fit for your specific needs.

With most tours, packages and cruises, we do not have to charge service fees, but if we put together a custom package just for you, there will be times we have to charge a service fee. Our agents will disclose any fees to you before we charge them however.

With the New Year we also have expanded the suppliers we use, now able to offer you independent travel insurance to take care of those needs.

I wanted to take a moment to remind you of our referral program. The highest compliment you can pay us is to tell your friends and families about us, what we have done for you and what we can do for them. Many people don't even know that most of the work we do is at no extra cost to you, either in terms of service fees or higher rates with the various

suppliers. We continue to reward our friends who refer their friends and families. At the end of 2012 we had a bonus referral promotion and paid out hundreds of dollars in bonus referrals to you! We plan to offer more promotions like that in the future. Regardless of which agent you work with and which agent works with your friends or family, you will get rewarded when they tell us you sent them our way (and they book and travel on their vacation). We look forward to taking care of more of your friends in 2013 and beyond!



One of the things that I enjoy most about being a travel agent is meeting all different people with their unique travel plans. We never treat any of our clients' vacations as routine and use a "cookie cutter" to put your vacation together. Your vacation is as unique as you are and you deserve for us to treat you that way and we do. We do work with preferred suppliers but our preference isn't always the best for you. Let us know what you are looking for and we will tailor your vacation to fit your needs. While we are an online agency, we want you to think of us as your hometown agent – someone you can drop a note to anytime and get an answer or someone you can call on the phone to discuss your plans and concerns. The choice is always yours!

We have a number of exciting promotions coming up in the next few months, with our first one starting February 1. Watch our blog and Facebook wall for more information.

A New Year, A New Destination

By Debbie Higgins

Ah.....the Caribbean, with its warm temperatures, sunny skies and crystal blue waters; it was the most popular choice of destinations amongst our readers. Speaking of popular choices, most of us flock to the islands we know like St. Thomas, Cozumel, St. Marteen, etc. How about venturing out to a less traveled place? There are a few places that come to mind – how about Guadeloupe, Montserrat, or even Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

Guadeloupe



Guadeloupe, located in the Eastern Caribbean Sea, between Antigua and Dominica, mixes the best of France with local culture. Grande-Terre, the eastern wing of the island has a string of beach towns that offer visitors a variety of fun in the sun experiences. There's everything from surfing schools, to beach bars, to long stretches of beautiful sand and crystal blue water.

Montserrat

On November 11, 1493, Columbus came to Montserrat and named it after Santa Maria de Montserrat, the Mountain Abbey outside Barcelona in Spain that it reminded him of. Traveling to Montserrat is a special experience. It is one of the few Caribbean islands that have not been discovered by mass tourism. A visit here would not be complete

without exploring the Soufrière Hills volcano, from a safe distance, to witness its activity. Montserrat is also blessed with lovely beaches and interesting hikes and dive sites. Wouldn't it be great to rent this private villa?



Tortola, Land of the Turtle Dove, British Virgin Islands (Fort Recovery)

Ok, Disney fans, this is not a fort in the wilderness! Fort Recovery was built around an original 17th Century Dutch Fort, and is possibly one of the last standing and oldest, completely intact forts in the entire Caribbean.

This site is one of the most famous historical landmarks in the Caribbean. Accented with oleander, hibiscus flowers, & swaying palm trees, Fort Recovery is a hub of nature and intimacy. Jean Lafitte, a renowned pirate landed on Fort Recovery in the 1600's. Somewhere between 1623-1630, Fort Recovery was used as a Barracks for the wounded and ill Soldiers, thus where the name Fort Recovery was derived, according to historical evidence.

Today, Fort Recovery is a highly accredited and successful, villa style hotel. As demand grew and more exposure for the BVI was made, the hotel expanded itself by building an additional six penthouse rooms, with a breathtaking view of the Sir Francis Drake channel.

In 2005 Fort Recovery once again made it's great leap into expansion and added an additional 24 villas (both ground and penthouse), all with the same renowned view right on the beach. Not only did Fort Recovery add on more villas during its expansion, but it also has added a Bar & Restaurant and Wi-Fi internet access now available for all of our guests who just have to keep in touch with their friends and families back home! Fort Recovery is in fact one of

the only hotels in the BVI that has been operating since the 1960's with the same ownership.



Can you tell what's missing from this picture? It's you with a cocktail! Let us know when you are ready to venture out to new lands and we will get you there! Email me at dj@travelonadream.com for more information on these or other island paradises.

Walt Disney World in a Scooter: A Newbie's Tale

By Debbie Lasher

I've learned a lot of tips and tricks within Walt Disney World during my 50 or so vacations there. I can tell you where the closest public restroom is to any place in any theme park, I can tell you the fastest route from Point A to Point B, and I can tell you which attractions to ride in which order in order to minimize your wait time. I even can rattle off the most useless of Walt Disney World trivia, including the fact that it is Michael Eisner who is hitting the golf ball in the golfing scene in Soarin'. However, ask me for tips for traveling with someone with a disability, and I'm stumped. I'm very lucky in that sense; this is never a situation I've found myself in.

That all changed during my December vacation. Every December, I make a mother/daughter trip to Walt Disney World with my mother. Within the last 10 years or so, she's developed some back problems, which have worsened over time. She began receiving pain management treatments, and when those stopped working, she went in for major back surgery. She had rods and screws put in, bones fused, arthritis cleaned up, and a few other things done that only a doctor can pronounce. It was a 5 hour surgery that resulted in a combined 3 week stay in the hospital and in-patient physical therapy rehab center. The

surgery was done on October 31, and the surgeon told her she could only travel to Walt Disney World in December if she promised to take it easy. That meant not a lot of walking, stay from all major attractions (Space Mountain and the like were off limits), and rest when she got tired. She was up for the challenge. A slow-paced vacation was better than no vacation at all.

The first issue that needed to be addressed was scooter rental. Walking short distances in Walt Disney World is not an option, and Disney's scooter (or ECV, as they call them) rental prices are very high. A quick Google search produced what seems like hundreds of choices. What was overwhelming at first now seemed even more overwhelming. So, rather than wade through all of these companies, trying to separate the good from the bad, I called a friend of mine that works for Disney and asked for her recommendations. She recommends Apple or Buena Vista Scooter Rentals. Either will deliver and pick up right at Bell Services of your resort, and are competitively priced. Both have good working relationships with Walt Disney World, and have very high positive customer service scores. After doing some research on our own, we decided on Buena Vista Scooter Rental. They will deliver your scooter to your resort by 9AM, and you must return it to Bell Services by 8:30AM the day your reservation ends.

That decided, we didn't do too much research in terms of handicap accessibility, as my mom is mobile, and can transfer in and out of the wheelchair, as well as walk short distances. With our needs met, we decided to let things happen as they may and play things by ear.

Buena Vista Scooters delivered, and sure enough, our scooter was there before we were. My mom picked up her scooter and got the 'tour' as I was checking in (if you rent from a Disney approved scooter rental company, bell services can give you user instructions on your scooter). During the week, we had absolutely no problems with the scooter itself, so we were very lucky in that sense.

With our vacation now begun, we felt the easy stuff was ahead of us. My mom handled the scooter like a champ, and was able to get off and on of all of the attractions she wanted to without problems (Gran Fiesta Tour in Epcot, It's A Small World, Soarin'), and scooter parking was very easy. Getting off and on with back problems was not a problem either. Keep in mind that we could only do the 'easy' stuff and had to stay away from attractions with warnings for people with back injuries. Walt Disney World gets an A for attraction accessibility.

Since the focus of this trip was not attractions, our bigger focus was just enjoying the sights and sounds of each park. Zipping around Epcot and the Hollywood Studios in a scooter was very easy, as most of those walkways are wide and easy to maneuver. We never made it to the Animal Kingdom this trip, so I can't comment on accessibility in that park. The Magic Kingdom was definitely the most difficult to maneuver in with a scooter. Being Christmastime, the Magic Kingdom got crowded quickly, and trying to maneuver around Main Street in the crowds was such a challenge that we were frustrated by the time we got to other sections of the park. Going from Adventureland to Tomorrowland, for example, was very challenging, as that required crossing Main Street. Not easy when there are crowds and sidewalks involved. Again, attraction accessibility in the Magic Kingdom was excellent, but overall maneuverability here was a challenge. My opinion might be different if it weren't so crowded, but that part was out of our control.

Overall, I wouldn't hesitate to go back to Walt Disney World again when renting a scooter. Disney makes everything so disability friendly that it's hard to not have fun. During the trip, I noticed just how much Disney does to accommodate all kinds of disabilities; they are nothing short of amazing! It does require a little advanced planning, but this was much easier to do than even I was planning. If you have any disability at all, please don't hesitate to plan your vacation. Disney really does a great job of accommodating! Feel free to contact me for more

information and to help you plan your vacation. Debbie@travelonadream.com.

Clients' Corner
Wyndham Bonnet Creek Orlando
By Gary Durand

On December 6, 2012, my wife and I checked into the Wyndham Bonnet Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. This is our second visit and we were not disappointed! For those that have never been, Bonnet Creek is connected to the Waldorf Astoria, which allows guests to utilize both onsite restaurants and the golf course at the Waldorf.

The Italian restaurant at Bonnet Creek has great food and awesome service. We found the restaurant at the Waldorf to be a little pricey, but on the upside, being able to walk through the hotel to get to play golf is a real plus.

The golf rates are good, even better after 2 pm. The course staff is very accommodating, with club and cart rentals. It's the second time we've played this course and it's just as good as we remembered it the first time.

There's a great pool, with a good bar, menu and food service outside. We especially liked tubing in the lazy river, while listening to good music. And for the kids, there's movies poolside at night.

If you're looking for a little relaxing exercise, there's a great walking track around the hotel and golf course, with really nice views. This property is very well kept but with one disappointing feature – no bathtub in the room!

The Disney bus service at hotel was very good, we always got to where we wanted to go, with a coffee to go from the coffee shop in the lobby. We would recommend this hotel and plan to visit again.

Contact your Travel On A Dream agent to plan your trip to Bonnet Creek!