



Travel On A Dream

March 2013



This time last year I had just returned from the Christening of the Disney Fantasy and prepared to leave for a short cruise on her at the end of March. We were having a very early spring with temperatures well above normal. This year is not quite the same. In February, we had snow all but just a handful of days. Temperatures below normal and we can't wait for spring to get here!

We are preparing for our Oasis of the Seas cruise for next month with a small but mighty group of ToAD fans. Following the cruise, we will be heading up to Walt Disney World for the Expedition Everest Challenge. This is a 5k with a twist – obstacles and scavenger hunt, followed by an afterparty in Animal Kingdom. We have been enjoying participating in 5k races but more importantly following many of you in your races. It is for this reason that we have decided to form a Travel On A Dream running team. Of course, walkers are welcome (they have to or I couldn't be a member!). Our team will work on getting team entries for various runDisney events. This will help those of you who don't get your individual entry in before the races fill up.

To kick off this group, we have started a Facebook group and have our very own logo for the team. What do you think?



Initially, membership in the group will be complimentary. Any group events however may have an entry fee. The Facebook group is a closed group, but anyone is welcome to join and all members can add other members too. Check it out <http://www.facebook.com/groups/ToADRunners/>.

We also have had a number of people asking about a Facebook group for our friends and fans to get to know each other and share travel information, tips, trip reports, ask questions, you name it! You do need to join the group to post, but it is an open group to those who just want to read. It can be found here <http://www.facebook.com/groups/4ToAD/>.

Thanks Tiffany Schilling for the name!

Our next big announcement is about our group cruises, with the addition of one more. Last fall we had a great gathering on the Disney Fantasy as our first group cruise. We have two cruises planned for 2013 and now two for 2014 as well! This year we will cruise on the Oasis of the Seas on April 27 to the Western Caribbean and then on the Disney Magic following her dry dock on October 20, 2013 on a 5-night sailing to the Bahamas, which includes two stops at Castaway Cay.

In 2014, we will sail to the Southern Caribbean on the Disney Magic from San Juan, Puerto Rico with stops in Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada and St. Kitts. Pricing and availability is still fantastic for this October 4, 2014 sailing. Additionally, we are announcing today a sailing on the Celebrity Millennium from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seward, Alaska on August 1, 2014!

Group space is available for this sailing with deposits at \$500 per stateroom for non-suites. Inside rooms start at \$899 per person, ocean view at \$1199 per person and balcony rooms at \$1749 per person, plus

applicable tax. Because this is a one way sailing, there will be options to add land tours before and after the cruise. We hope you'll join us! For more information on any of these sailings, please email info@travelonadream.com.



In light of our group cruise to Alaska, we are going to be featuring some blogs in the near future about Alaska from a new blogger so I wanted to introduce you to her. Keira Alkema is a through and through Pacific Northwest gal. After her adolescence in both



Oregon and Washington, she set her sights farther north to the Last Frontier. Combining the need for a summer job and a desire to see Alaska, she took a job with a tourism company in the capital city of Juneau, allowing her to spend her summers hiking, wildlife watching, and rubbing elbows with the Governor of Alaska. During the rest of the year, Keira studies Political Science and Economics at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

Finally, I wanted to introduce you to our newest agent, Toni D'Agostino. Here is a little bit of information from her.

I have had many years' experience in the travel industry booking leisure and corporate travel.

I have been in outside sales since 1981 and I love the adventure and planning of new trips. I love the

excitement I get from other people as I assist making their dream vacation become a reality. I get personally excited when I talk about different destinations as if I am traveling there myself. I plan every vacation as it is my own. I know that every day we look forward to our leisure time and that our vacationing is part of our lives that we look forward towards to making our lives fuller and richer. Whether we are relaxing on a lounge chair or trekking up a mountain the adventure is yours. You can contact Toni at Toni@travelonadream.com.



It's Break Time!

By Debbie Higgins

Well my friends, it's definitely time for a break.....it can be any kind of break you need, like a break from the cold weather, or work, or kids or whatever! What do you think about a nice little getaway to Turks and Caicos?

The Turks and Caicos Islands are made up of 40 islands and cays, but only eight of them are inhabited. These islands are located about 550 miles southeast of Miami, just below the Bahamas chain and just east of Cuba and the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti.) Technically, the Turks and Caicos Islands are located in the Atlantic Ocean, not the Caribbean Sea.

The islands are home to about 30,000 full time residents, and over more than 200,000 tourists visit every year. Everyone speaks English and the currency is the U.S. dollar, which makes everything easier. Most of the hotels, restaurants and taxi services accept traveler's cheques, which can also be cashed at local banks. Most credit cards are accepted and banks offer ATM's as well as cash advances on credit cards.

The average temperature ranges between 85 and 90 degrees from June to October, sometimes getting to the mid 90's, especially in the late summer months. In an average year the Turks and Caicos has 350 days of sunshine. Speaking of sunshine, there's a lot of it right now!



There's a lot to do – like bird watching (170 species of birds). You might get lucky and site the West Indian Whistling Duck – a rare bird that got its name from the whistling call it makes. For those that prefer ocean and marine life, humpback whales are common around the Grand Turk and Salt Cay during the months of January through April. They pass through during their migration, while offering onlookers the opportunity to witness their magnificence and to hear their songs.

Turks and Caicos also offer island tours, a cruise center and an island tram for you to explore on your own. Doesn't it sound just wonderful?

Clients' Corner **Wandering About Old San Juan?**

By Sherri Savchuk

Old San Juan, Puerto Rico is a vibrant mixture of old and new... of colors, scents and flavors, all safely packaged in a 7 square block area. Separated by modern San Juan by only a short bridge crossing, Old San Juan is like a self-contained world, a true “get-away”, and whether stepping off of a plane or a cruise

ship one is immediately immersed in a different culture, and transported to a different time.

First settled in 1508, *Viejo San Juan* (Old San Juan) is not a recreation of historical sites, it is the real deal. Along with the ancient forts of *El Morro* and *Castillo San Cristobal*, authentic blue cobblestone streets and glittering Spanish churches, all dating from the 16th and 17th century, you will find a plethora of shops, museums, art galleries, jewelry designers, open air cafes, and plazas. Near the piers visit the famous *Senior Frog* or *Don Q Rum*, or mosey up to the trendy “*So Fo*” area at South Fortaleza Street, just south of *Plaza de Colon*. Here you will find your ideal destination for nightlife, and some of the nicer outdoor dining options.

Spanish roots are strong in Old San Juan and if traveling to this area it would be wise to learn a bit of “travel necessary” Spanish before arriving. In the shops expect prices to be similar to other tourist areas in the Caribbean... but expect shopping options to be exceptional! The west side of the island contains some particularly impressive art galleries, and scattered throughout the entire island are incredibly talented furniture and jewelry designers. Coach and Polo Ralph Lauren have a presence in Old San Juan, and if shopping is your thing the largest shopping mall in the entire Caribbean is located not too far away, across the bridge to modern San Juan.

Many businesses in Old San Juan close on Mondays, restaurants as well, and most shops on any day are closed by 6:00 or 7:00 PM if no cruise ships are in port. If coming from a cruise ship, you can access just about anywhere on the island by hopping on one of the free open-air trolleys which run every 15 minutes or so. For a nice walk, turn left when exiting the piers and enjoy the *Paseo de la Princesa*, a smooth seaside walkway where artisans gather on weekends to sell their handiwork. This promenade of sorts will provide you with a ground level view of the towering city walls, the Atlantic Ocean, and will take you right through the city gate into the highly prized west side. Once through the gate stunning panoramic ocean views (and photo opportunities!) are easy to locate on the north, south and west side of the island... and

have no fear if you linger until after dark. Old San Juan, with a little travel sense, is a very safe place, even at night.

Old San Juan is filled with shady plazas. These parks are a favorite gathering place and none more visited than *Plaza de Armas*, which on weekends becomes a huge party for all ages when the live musicians arrive. All plazas light up at night, their trees shimmering with moving and stationary lights, all helping to make Old San Juan seem so alive, so vibrant, just like the people who reside there. Every day is worthy of celebration in their minds, and they do so without reservation. Despite the many tourists who invade their streets they live their lives peacefully and with respect. The young men feel no need to be obscene, and the cleverly concealed and frequent trash bins are used more often than not. People from Old San Juan know how to enjoy life and their sense of ease, community, and consideration for others is refreshing to experience... and frankly, contagious.

For some hidden gems in Old San Juan stop by *St. Germain*, located on Calle del Sol, for lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch. They offer excellent food at very reasonable prices and stay open late. For free souvenirs visit Old San Juan's "Hidden" beach, just across from the Capitol Building. This often missed and normally deserted beach is not ideal for swimming but is covered with sea glass! All shapes, sizes and colors are free for the taking! And for the perfect ending to your adventure stop in at *Anam Spa*, just across from *Pigeon Park* on Calle del Cristo. Their 15 minute foot soak and massage, while sipping a free sangria, is sheer bliss for tired feet. Along with a Fudge Brownie Ala Mode and a prized cup Puerto Rican coffee at *St. Germain's*, there is no better way to end a day of sightseeing in captivating Old San Juan.

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Over the next couple months we will have information not only about cruising on Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas, but also the new ports of call for us - Labadee, Haiti and Falmouth, Jamaica. We'll also have information from Walt Disney World where we'll be experiencing the food at Epcot's

Flower & Garden Festival plus Expedition Everest Challenge. We'll also bring you more information on the Alaska Cruise for 2014 with Travel On A Dream. We'll also be making a trip to Disneyland in May.

We always welcome your ideas for newsletter articles and blogs as well as your writings too! Remember if you write a blog or newsletter article for us, you will receive a cool Travel On A Dream gift!

Until next month, you can follow us on a variety of social networks.

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/TravelOnADream>

ToaD Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4ToaD/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TravelOnADream>

Pinterest - <https://pinterest.com/travelonadream/>

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Photo courtesy of Nicole Riley  
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