



Springdale Traveler

Dear Springdale Traveler,

On October 15, 2011 Carnival Cruise Line's Elation set sail from the Port of Mobile for the last time. This was a sad day for the Mobile community, especially so for those of us with businesses that directly benefited from a ship home ported in Mobile. As you might imagine, this was a huge event for our company. In 2010, Springdale Travel alone booked over 8,000 passengers sailing on Carnival Cruise Lines.

You can also imagine how many friends and clients have asked if Mobile is going to be able to attract another ship? Our short answer is that we are hopeful. That said we clearly must look elsewhere, at least in the near term, for our cruise customers searching for the value and convenience of purchasing a cruise vacation without the expense of air travel. For those of us living along the Gulf Coast the answer is obvious, New Orleans.

Although no one can be happy about the Elation moving to New Orleans, we can all be grateful that we have another great cruise port nearby. In fact, during 2012, Carnival, Norwegian Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International will all three sail from New Orleans. This equates to 4 ships and 7 different itineraries. Royal Caribbean's ship, The Voyager of the Seas, is the largest ship to ever home port in New Orleans. The Norwegian Spirit will offer Freestyle Cruising and an exciting itinerary that includes Belize and Roatan. And the Carnival Elation will offer a short and easy itinerary to Cozumel and Progresso while the Carnival Conquest will offer a variety of longer, 7-night itineraries.

So, while we are sad to see the ship leave our own home port, the opportunities when sailing from New Orleans are vast, and we hope that you will have the chance to take advantage of them.

Bob

The 10 Commandments of Travel



1. Thou shalt not expect to find things precisely as they are at home, for thou hast left home to find things different.
2. Thou shalt not take anything too seriously, for a carefree mind is the basis for a great vacation.
3. Thou shalt not let other tour members get on thy nerves, for thou art paying good money to enjoy thyself.
4. Thou shalt not worry. The person who worrieth hath little joy, few things are fatal.
5. Thou shalt not judge all the people of a country by one person with whom thou had a problem.
6. Thou shalt in Rome, do somewhat as the Romans do.
7. Thou shalt be on time, for if thou art late thou shalt make thy own way to the next hotel. Thou shalt carry thy passport at all times, for a traveler without a passport is one without a country.
8. Thou shalt learn to say "Thank You" in any language. Verily, it is worth more than gold.
9. Thou shalt acquaint thyself with any currency and thou shalt not be cheated.
10. Thou art welcome in every land. Treat thy hosts with respect and thou shalt be an honored guest.

Beautiful St. Lucia



After spending 10 days in beautiful St. Lucia, it was hard to return. We traveled to Sandals La Toc for our wedding moon and it was beyond any of our expectations. The resort catered to our every need and was very accommodating to any issue that came up. Even though there were many other weddings taking place on our wedding day we felt like ours was the only one. The wedding staff went above and beyond not only for us but for everyone who was getting married at the resort.

The resort was truly amazing. Everything has a very open and spacious feeling, not to mention the food and drinks were great! With several activities to do during the day we always had something to do or we could just relax by the pool or on the beautiful beach.

While there we were able to see the island through Serenity Vacation and Tours. A special thanks to Acacia, our tour guide who not only showed us the sights but taught us about the rich history of the island and the culture. They went well out of their way for us.

We want to thank Rebecca Lytle and Springdale Travel for all the hard work! They made our vacation and wedding truly amazing!

- Michael and Kristy Mitchum



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Are You A Gutsy Woman?



Trafalgar has entered into a partnership to operate guided vacations for Gutsy Women Travel. Founded in 2001, Gutsy Women Travel was created to provide exceptional guided vacation experiences for women travelers who prefer to travel with groups of other like-minded women.

The new programs operated in conjunction with Trafalgar will start in January 2012, and will offer itineraries in Europe, the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, South America, Africa and Asia. Group sizes will be limited to 28 guests, and female tour directors will be on hand to provide insight and assistance throughout the guided vacations.

Paul Wiseman, president of Trafalgar says "Joining forces with Gutsy Women Travel allows both of our companies to expand our presence with this target audience and attract new groups of women travelers looking for a unique guided vacation experience."

If you're interested in joining a tour with Gutsy Women Travel, please contact Carolyn Utsey at 251-414-4613.

Cruising to Make Lifelong Friends



Galyna Henry recently planned the cruise of a lifetime for Tracey and Wesley McClure. They sailed on the fabulous Carnival Elation this October and had the time of their lives. You can enjoy their story here:

Greetings Galyna!

We had the best time ever on our cruise!! I know that Tracey is going to send some special thanks to Carnival for some of the individuals that took really great care of us for that week...It, more than ever breaks my heart that Mobile lost the ship! We would go back on that one just because of the staff members that we had the pleasure of meeting, in fact we will drive to New Orleans to catch that one again, and are planning on going over just to see some of the crew if they get a few hours off in port! They will be talking to Tracey on Facebook.

Galyna, the treats you had delivered to our room were amazing!!! Thanks so much for being so thoughtful, it really started our vacation off in the best way, and it made us think of you every day, Thanks Again!

You are the Greatest! If you need anything feel free to call on us.

*All the Best,
Wesley W. McClure, Jr.*

Welcome Back Marty Harris!



After several years apart, the folks at Springdale Travel are pleased to announce that as of December 1 Marty Harris will be rejoining our team.

Marty is a personal travel concierge specializing in destination honeymoons, cruises and vacation packages.

In addition to being able to reach Marty at Springdale Travel by calling 251-414-4603 or by e-mailing him at marty@springdaletravel.com you can also follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/marty.harris2.

We are so pleased to have Marty returning as a valuable member of our team and we hope that you will join us in welcoming him home!

Alaska Cruise



Mendy Tanner's clients Steve and Nancy Walker recently returned from a fabulous Alaska cruise.

Upon return, they called Mendy to let her know that everything was absolutely perfect. They had an aft cabin that they definitely preferred to the side balconies because they felt protected from the wind. While glacier-watching, the Walkers were able to enjoy a luxurious champagne breakfast on their private balcony. Photos of their champagne breakfast and Nancy Walker taking in their balcony views can be seen above.

The Walkers were so pleased with their trip and they truly felt that they had just experienced the "trip of a lifetime".



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Stories from an Alaskan Adventure



Our favorite of the three ports was the capital city of Juneau. We walked the town and saw the capital.

While in port we enjoyed a 1/2 day whale watching trip where we spotted a humpback whale swimming with a group of killer whales.

In Skagway we took a mule trip up a mountain trail. We did not see any wildlife but had a very good fried halibut lunch.

We traveled into Glacier Bay and it was an awesome site! A small piece of the glacier broke off as we watched. We saw it splash, then there was a delay and then the thundering sound came. We also sailed through College Fjord which was equally breathtaking.

When we disembarked in Whittier we had a fantastic tour bus driver. He told us a lot about the route we were on. Outside of Anchorage he showed us the quick sand. Although warnings are posted people go out and sink and cannot dig themselves out before the 35 foot tidal surge comes back in and they drown. Our train trip from Denali to Fairbanks was more than we expected. We loved it. Scenery was fantastic and we saw two moose while on the train.

We were told early on that if we put our name on a list at the front desk in each destination that they would wake us up if the Northern Lights came out. We had been told the best chance was in Fairbanks. We checked in at Fairbanks that night and put our name on the list although we had heard that it was going to be a slim chance we would see them. At 1 a.m. they called our room that the NORTHERN LIGHTS WERE OUT! What a perfect ending to a fantastic trip!

Visit NYC over 4th Of July



Springdale Travel agent, Carolyn Utsey, spent last Independence Day in The Big Apple. She reported that it was a terrific time to visit as crowds were minimal and there was much going on in the city.

It was a great time to visit area restaurants and shows that are usually packed and difficult to visit.

She is interested in putting together a group trip to New York City for the Fourth of July Celebration in 2012 but would like to know if you're interested.

If you think that you might be interested in this trip and would like more information once a package is put together, please e-mail Carolyn at Carolyn@springdaletravel.com or call 251-414-4613.

There is no requirement to book just for expressing interest so please let us know!

Derby and Masters



There is no doubt that sporting events like the Super Bowl and World Series can boast rich and colorful histories, but neither can match the Kentucky Derby! And what about the Masters Tournament? It's one of the four major championships in men's professional golf!

Both are events that no true sportsman should miss. At the Derby, join in the excitement of one of the oldest running sporting events in the country. Or be on site at the Augusta National Golf Club as a select group of professional golfers vie for that coveted "green jacket".

Springdale Travel has a selection of package options available and would love for your to join in as we attend two of the nation's most historic sporting events.

World Horticultural Expo, Venlo - The Netherlands



Nothing shows a love of all things floral quite like Floriade, the World Horticultural Expo in The Netherlands.

This once a decade event has more than 100 exhibitors that will together pay tribute to horticulture. The park comprises five unique worlds, themed zones connected by wooded areas and worlds in which you will see, feel and experience nature in a constantly changing way.

The Floriade is a global spectacle in which many dozens of countries participate. You will find yourself immersed in a melting pot of cultures where you will be introduced to different customs and rituals. And of course there will also be plenty of attention for the regional culture of the province of Limburg. Each day features a cultural program of music, dance, literature, theatre and visual art from all over the world.

[Join Springdale Travel as we experience The Floriade on one of three great trips.](#)



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Need a Company Incentive Program?



Springdale Travel offers a terrific incentive program exclusively for enrolled companies, and it doesn't cost a dime!

Springdale Travel has worked exclusively with our travel partners to create a terrific incentive promotion that offers a new special offer or discount once a month. Each month features a different supplier and each offer is exclusive only to enrolled companies.

These offers range from \$100 on board credit for your next Royal Caribbean cruise to up to \$1000 off per person for a luxury travel package.

Give us a call if you would like to enroll your company and we will get you set up in just a few easy steps.

There's no cost and no risk to you, so why not offer your team the ability to travel for less!

Interested in Group Travel?



Springdale Travel has just announced an exciting new newsletter just for those interested in joining some of our Springdale Travel groups. This newsletter comes out once a month and features our exclusive group departures available to you.

These trips range from our Mardi Gras Ski Trip to announcements about BCS Championship packages to day trips to New Orleans for Broadway Plays and more!

If you're interested in receiving this great monthly e-mail, please let us know by sending an e-mail to Maggie@springdaletravel.com. Just mention our groups newsletter and we will be sure that you're on the list!

Make YOUR Next Vacation EPIC!



Mendy Tanner and Jamie Sims recently returned from a 7-night cruise aboard the Norwegian Epic which they greatly enjoyed!

Jamie and Mendy agree that this ship is terrific for younger cruisers as they replace the standard Broadway-Style shows with Vegas impersonators that include shows by stars like Lady Gaga and Steven Tyler. The Blue Man Group also performs on board 3 times during a 7-night cruise! Mendy and Jamie were even given the opportunity to meet one of the "stars"!

It was agreed by both that the many dining venues were terrific, including the main dining areas and the specialty dining options. The Cirque Dreams Dinner Theatre is an absolute must and they recommend purchasing the premium seating that puts you right near the action.

Mendy and Jamie felt that this cruise would be terrific for families and young couples or friends traveling together. The new Wave style staterooms can be a little tight so be prepared to "know" your cabin mate.

Otherwise the cruise was thoroughly enjoyed by both and provided a whole new cruise experience.

Happy Holidays from Springdale Travel



From our family to yours, Springdale Travel would like to extend a warm and jolly Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our valued clients.

We've made many changes over the years but for those of you who've stuck with us, we thank you and appreciate your loyal business.

We look forward to helping make your next vacation or travel arrangements memorable and we hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you!

Merry Christmas!

Happy Holidays!