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HAPPY NEW YEAR . . .

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends, good food & fun! Our Fall season was so busy with trips that we coordinated & accompanied - Asheville, Caroline Dorman Preserve, Beijing, Ohio, Natchitoches & New York. We took 106 happy people to see the fabulous Rockettes. I organized some trips for churches & several schools. And, in the middle of it all, we sold our house, bought a townhouse & moved. I only now found the time to put together some new trips for this January newsletter. We hope you are ready to do some traveling. I have tried to offer a wide variety of trips from one-day to more lengthy ones to cruises. Also, in light of the economic downturn, I have made a real effort to keep the prices down while continuing to offer interesting, organized, researched & unique trips that make it fun to travel with a group. Hope to hear from you soon.

Nancy & Lou

TERRA COTTA WARRIORS

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 26-27

China's First Emperor, the boy king who united the country in 221 BC & began construction of the first Great Wall, was not only obsessed with building but also a fanatic about death. Beginning at age 13 & for the next 38 years, he assigned over 700,000 workers to build an enormous mausoleum with 7000 life-size terra cotta warriors to protect him throughout eternity. This army of soldiers, servants, musicians, acrobats & animals silently remained underground for 2000 years until 1974 when Chinese farmers made the startling discovery. Now is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this Eighth Wonder of the Ancient World, hosted by the Houston Museum.



Visit Discovery Green, Houston's newest park with natural gardens, water gardens, sculptures, Kinder Lake, Jones lawn and a promenade. You'll have time at Old Town Spring with its unique shops and restaurants & The Woodlands.

Motorcoach, hotel, breakfast, museum, tour, driver's gratuity

\$210 per person, double occupancy

\$280 per person, single occupancy

\$80 per person deposit to hold your space

Shangri La



Botanical Gardens
 & Nature Center

Orange, Texas
 Tuesday, April 14

Along with the amazing Botanical Gardens, Shangri La includes a world-class Nature Center. Great diversity of plants found throughout the world. Five garden rooms and 4 sculpture rooms allow you to see more than 300 plant species. Pontoon boat ride on Adams Bayou, boardwalks, bird blinds, cypress/tupelo swamp.

In 2008, Shangri La became the first project in Texas & the 50th project in the world to earn the U.S. Green Building Council's Platinum Certification. Even after the hurricanes, it is more beautiful than ever! Gardens were designed by local landscape architect Jeffrey Carbo.

STARK MUSEUM OF ART -or- W. H. STARK HOUSE -or- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It's dome is the only opalescent glass dome in the U.S.
 (each person will have time to visit one venue before lunch)

Luncheon at **OLD ORANGE CAFÉ**

Motorcoach, Shangri La, tour, lunch, supper,
 refreshments, driver's gratuity

Depart Alexandria with a pick up scheduled in Oakdale.
 This is Spring Break - children over age 6 are welcomed!

\$95 per person \$45 per person deposit

PAULA DEEN

Jackson, Mississippi
 Saturday, March 28



See Paula live with her stories, chats & maybe even a little cooking!

Paula took control of her life when she thought it could not have gotten worse. She embraced both heartache & joy as she & 2 sons started The Bag Lady Catering in Savannah with only \$200. Paula now has 2 restaurants, The Lady & Sons & Uncle Bubba's Oyster House, & has appeared on Oprah & the Food Network. She has numerous cookbooks & her latest memoir, *It Ain't All About the Cookin'*.

RAOUL DUFY: A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

Artwork includes 200+ drawings, paintings & textile designs, plus dresses created from Dufy fabric by famous designers

- or -

OLD STATE CAPITOL

Newly restored since Katrina to its original 1839 design

Motorcoach, show, breakfast, exhibit, driver's gratuity

\$150 per person \$50 per person deposit



OHIO AMISH COUNTRY Sunday, April 26 - Sunday, May 2

Graceland in Memphis - Derby Dinner Theatre in Louisville, Amish dinner & music in farmhouse - Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center - Wendell August Forge Walnut Creek ice cream - Breitenbach Winery Trumpet in the Land Outdoor Drama ? Heinis Cheese & Kauffman Country Bakery - Lehman's General Store & Old Fashioned Hardware - Livestock auction day - Yoder Farm Tour & Buggy Ride Candlelight dinner & tour of Warther Carvings, Gardens & Knife Shop - Amish farm breakfast - City tour of Cincinnati - Country Music Hall of Fame & Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, lunch & tour of Chaney's Dairy Barn

- 6 Deluxe Continental Breakfasts & 1 farmhouse breakfast
- 7 Dinners
- 1 Lunch
- Gratuity for all included meals
- 7 nights hotel (3 nights in Amish country at Carlisle Inn)
- Baggage handling in Amish country
- Four Seasons motor coach with restroom
- Accompanied & coordinated by Nancy Richards
- Driver's gratuity
- Step-on tour guide in Amish country
- Tour guide gratuity
- Admission to all places listed
- Bottled water throughout trip

\$1950 per person, single occupancy
\$1500 per person, double occupancy
\$1350 per person, triple occupancy
\$1300 per person, quad occupancy
\$500 deposit



ISLANDS OF NEW ENGLAND Friday, October 9 - Friday, October 16

Providence - Newport - Boston - Cranberry Bog
Plymouth Rock - Plimoth Plantation - Cape Cod
Cape Cod Dinner Train - Martha's Vineyard -
Nantucket Lobster Feast - Hyannis - Provincetown

3 nights in Providence - 4 nights in Hyannis

Roundtrip air from Alexandria, hotels, transfers,
tours, 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners

\$2349/person, double occupancy
\$2949/person, single occupancy
\$100 deposit

LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY AT ANGOLA Thursday, February 26

Tour the museum, gift shop & all around the penitentiary. See Red Hat where the electric chair was once used, a cellblock or dormitory, the lethal injection table, horse & dog pens & an agricultural operation that has returned to the horse-drawn 18th century farming. Angola raises the beautiful Percheron white horses. We'll meet an inmate & have lunch in Camp F (cooked from scratch with homemade bread & desserts).

Friends tell me this is one of the most interesting tours ever taken.

Motorcoach, tour, lunch, driver's gratuity

\$50 per person

GEORGE RODRIGUE: LEGENDS & LIVES OF ACADIANA



Thursday, March 19

The Acadiana Center for the Arts hosts a special exhibition as all of Lafayette honors its own Blue Dog & Cajun artist George Rodrigue with the largest collection of his paintings ever assembled.

We'll spend time in vibrant downtown Lafayette with many restaurants, art & craft galleries, museums & unique shops, including one of Southern Living's 50 top shops in America, Sans Souci.

Visit Martin Accordions to meet Clarence "Junior" Martin, Master Craftsman & see (and hear) how they craft fine Diatonic Accordions (Cajun Squeezeboxes) used by musicians around the world.

Motorcoach, tours, driver's gratuity

\$55 per person

\$25 per person deposit

GOOD NEWS . . . Marking another major milestone in New Orleans' revival, the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts opens in January after a \$27 million restoration. N.O. City Council hopes this jump-starts restoration of other venues, starting with the Saenger. Since word spread about Mahalia Jackson opening, their management company has been getting calls from traveling companies that want to put New Orleans back on their calendars.

WASHINGTON DC & WILLIAMSBURG during Cherry Blossom Season Friday, April 3 - Thursday, April 9

National WW II Memorial - US Capitol - Washington Monument - Lincoln & Jefferson Memorials
Korean War, Vietnam Veterans, Iwo Jima & FDR Memorials
Arlington National Cemetery - Tomb of the Unknowns
Changing of the Guards - John F. Kennedy Memorial
Smithsonian's American Indian and Air & Space Museums
Newseum, new interactive museum of news
Monuments Illumination Tour - Powhatan Village
Mount Vernon & Jamestown Settlement - Williamsburg
Colonial Tavern Dinner - Cherry Blossom Parade

4 nights in Arlington VA & 2 nights in Williamsburg
4 dinners & 3 breakfasts

Airport transfers

Professional tour manager

\$1987 land only (single occupancy)

\$1398 land only (double occupancy)

Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria



CANADIAN ROCKIES BY RAIL Monday, May 25 - Wednesday, June 3

Vancouver, Kamloops, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff & Calgary
Rocky Mountaineer Train
8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners

Join a group of Louisiana folks already booked on this trip

\$2,999 per person, double occupancy, land only

Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria

RODIN: A MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION
SHAW CENTER FOR THE ARTS
LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM
OLD STATE CAPITOL
HURRICANE ON THE BAYOU
OLD HEIDELBERG & CAPITOL HOUSE HOTEL
LUNCH IN DOWNTOWN BATON ROUGE

Tuesday, February 3

Rodin: A Magnificent Obsession is a complete retrospective of his career & includes more than 60 bronzes from small studies to monumental works. The exhibition spans Rodin's career from the earliest bust of his father to later dancing figures. There are works on paper, photographs, self-portraits & an educational model demonstrating complexities of the lost-wax casting process.

Louisiana's newest museum features the diversity of our history, environment, culture & people that make a beautiful & fascinating state. Topics range from the Louisiana Purchase to Sportsmen's Paradise to Mardi Gras traditions. There's a 48 foot wooden shrimp trawler, Civil War submarine, record breaking Marlin, Krewe of lawnmowers, New Orleans Lucky Dog cart & musical artifacts from Fats Domino, Buddy Guy, Clarence Gatemouth Brown, Aaron Neville & much more.

Hurricane on the Bayou takes audiences on a journey deep into the soul-stirring heart of Louisiana before, during & after the unprecedented devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Motorcoach, museums, show, driver's gratuity

\$65 per person

NORWEGIAN SPIRIT

Sunday, March 29 - Sunday, April 5, 2009

Port of New Orleans to Costa Maya, Santo Tomas de Castilla, Belize City, Cozumel, Mexico

Interior cabin	\$459
Oceanview cabin	\$559
Balcony cabin	\$799

These are special group prices with limited availability. Call now to reserve your cabin for this terrific cruise. Hurry and join the fun!

AUSTRALIA

Collette Vacations is offering discounts of \$200 off per person for any departure to Australia in 2009 for bookings now through March 31. Of Collette's 8 Australia & New Zealand journeys, 2 are from their Explorations by Collette brand which offers just 16-24 passengers; 1 is from Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventures & several include a visit to a Collette Foundation site. Call for details.



You get personalized attention by reserving your cruise or riverboat through Cenla Travel. Internet booking may be tempting, but when something goes wrong or changes need to be made, you don't have a person to talk with directly. It costs you nothing to use an agent. Consider getting a group together . . . there can be some good savings and you might get your trip free.

TRAINS OF THE COLORADO ROCKIES

Saturday, May 30 - Sunday, June 7

Experience the majesty of the Colorado Rockies from 4 trains that celebrate the can-do spirit of the Old West. Scale Pike's Peak on a working 1881 steam train for a journey through San Juan Mountains. Travel Trail Ridge Road & reclaim Anasazi Indian culture at Mesa Verde National Park. Relish cowboy culture in an evening of authentic dining & entertainment.

Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Georgetown Loop Railroad, Vail, Grand Junction, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Durango, Mesa Verde, Colorado Springs, Pike's Peak Cog Railway, Garden of the Gods, Royal Gorge Railroad

Four 2-night hotel stays, 8 breakfasts, 4 dinners

\$1799 land only

Call for roundtrip air from Alexandria

TEXAS BLUEBONNETS

Monday, March 30 - Thursday, April 2

AUSTIN - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Texas State Capitol, LBJ Library, Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, University of Texas & its

Tower, Tour of Austin with a step-on guide

BREHAM - Washington-on-the-Brazas, Quaint downtown

Motorcoach, 3 nights Austin hotel, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, tours, driver's gratuity, refreshments

\$465 per person, double occupancy

\$635 per person, single occupancy

\$100 per person deposit

ALASKA CRUISETOUR

Wednesday, August 5 - Sunday, August 16
Diamond Princess

3-night Land Tour featuring 1-night Anchorage, 1-night Mt. McKinley Princess Lodge, 1-night Denali Princess Lodge & a 7-night Voyage of the Glaciers Cruise that includes stops in Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan & Vancouver

We have group rates that include a very special rate for balcony cabins (limited space)

Balcony cabin	\$2849 per person
Oceanview cabin	\$2849 per person
Interior cabin	\$1999 per person

Price does not include air, tax, transfers or insurance

Call to discuss details

If I planned a motorcoach trip to the Big Bend area, would you be interested? Please let me know!

If you don't travel and/or don't want to receive our mailed newsletter, please call or e-mail. We'll use the postage to send to someone else.

The best way to travel is in a group with a professional tour guide, especially if you haven't been to an area. We can book your trip with any company - Tauck, Globus, Perillo, Collette, etc.

We can help you with individual reservations for cruises & river boat trips. Also packages for Disney, Sandals & Beaches.

Call for reservations, even if you don't see the trip in this newsletter.

If you're planning to travel **anywhere** outside the U.S. via **any** mode of travel, we recommend that you have a valid passport.

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Send your e-mail address to nancy@cenlatravel.com & receive the most current information about upcoming events. We do not give your e-mail to anyone else.

Please add our e-mail address to your safe senders list

Do you belong to an organization . . . krewe, garden club, investment club, luncheon group, church, school, civic club . . . or have a bunch of friends or family who want to get away together & have some fun. Join us on a trip, & leave the work to us. If you have enough members, let us plan a trip just for your group. We'll be glad to meet with your members to discuss value, safety, enjoyment & ease of group travel.

PICK UP LOCATIONS

When we travel south on I-49, we pick up at Sammy's Truck Stop. When we travel west on Highway 28, we pick up at Holloway's Store. Out Highway 28 West, we pick up in Leesville. We can pick up in Oakdale when going that direction.

Cenla Travel reserves the right to cancel a tour for any reason, including, but not limited to, insufficient participation, strike, government action & acts of God. In such case, the sole obligation of Cenla Travel will be a full refund of all money paid by the travelers.

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