

Connecting...

solo travel news

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Index:

Combining musical events with sightseeing is a fine way to enjoy a holiday on your own. Lucy Schneck reports on her getaway weekend in Chicago.
Chicago is My Kind of Town . . . 1-3

In the News
Singles Cruising Calendar . . . 4-5
Singles Touring Calendar . . . 6-10
News for Single & Solo Travel 11-12

Cuba is a terrific destination for solo travel, but many CSTNers have been unable to enjoy its attractions. With signs that US/Cuba relations may soon change for the better, Diane Redfern prepared a mini-guide to the country.
Cuba On Your Own 13-15

Ads & Ends
Mail, Friends, Companions . . 16-17

Connecting Globally
KIVA Update 18



Lucy Schneck and Buddy Guy at Legends Night Club, Chicago.

Chicago is My Kind of Town

Entertaining Summer Getaway for One

Text & Photos By Lucy Schneck _____

Buddy Guy shook his head and looked right past me toward the door of his dimly lit nightclub. I realized I'd have to buy something to get my picture taken with the musician who is a pioneer of Chicago's fabled "West Side" sound. But I didn't mind; after all, "legends" don't spring from stupidity. That picture and the CD I picked are priceless souvenirs of a very special day I spent in the Windy City.

I'll never forget my visit to Buddy Guy's Legends, the landmark blues club on Chicago's South Side. It was July 2007, the eve of the *Crossroads Guitar Festival*. Buddy's performance would

figure prominently in the star-studded lineup of this day-long musical extravaganza co-hosted by Eric Clapton and Chicago's own Bill Murray.

Chicago has always been a crossroads for legendary musicians. This city hosts so many special events and annual festivals, it's easy to create a sight and sound combo getaway all summer long.

Determined to be a part of the one-time-only Crossroads Festival, I scratched up a cheap flight through Travel Zoo and planned to see as much of the city as I could in a weekend.

The venue for the Crossroads Festival was Toyota Park (formerly Bridgeview Stadium) on the South Side, a jumping off distance from Midway Airport.

Continued . . . 2-4

CURRENCY WATCH

\$1 Cdn or \$1 US buys the following sums in world currencies: Mar 24, 2009.

	\$1 Cdn	\$1 U S
Australia: Dollar	1.17	1.44
Denmark: Kroner	4.50	5.54
Euro	.60	.74
Hong Kong: Dollar	6.29	7.75
Japan: Yen	79.49	97.77
Mexico: Peso	11.66	14.37
Switzerland: Franc	.92	1.13
Turkey: New Lira	1.34	1.65
UK: Pound	.55	.68
US / Cdn: Dollar	.81	1.23

Mission Statement

The **First** purpose of *Connecting* is to encourage hospitality and networking, among people who travel alone.

The **Second** purpose of *Connecting* is to report, without bias, any holiday that can be designated sensitive towards the needs of people who travel alone.

Examples

Going Solo Trips: Any journey that might comfortably be undertaken alone.

Lodging: Friendly establishments, close to public transport, dining and entertainment facilities.

Resorts: Beach, ski, spa, golf, tennis or any activity-oriented vacation premise, providing its pricing helps avoid single supplement* surcharges.

Tours & Cruises: Any packaged holiday arrangement priced to avoid single supplement* surcharges.

Clubs & Organizations: Social, sports, adventure, arts, crafts, or any group that includes travel in its activities and welcomes single participants.

Explanation of Terms

* Single Supplement: Most packaged holidays are priced so that each of two people pays a per-person rate for shared accommodation. A single participant who either cannot find a roommate or wants to occupy a room alone normally must pay a "single supplement" surcharge.

Guarantee Share Option: Some tour organizers and cruise lines pair-up individuals and guarantee that a single who is willing to share accommodation pays no more than the per person, double occupancy rate, even if no roommate is found.

Any travel or vacation company that offers "guarantee share" options or otherwise avoids single surcharges is considered Single-Friendly and qualifies to have its holidays publicized in *Connecting*.

The **Third** purpose of *Connecting* is to foster the above concepts within the ideals of responsible tourism.



The Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Frank Gehry's conch-shaped band shell.

Although Midway is about 16 km from downtown attractions, staying in the area worked fine both for sightseeing and for getting to and from Toyota Park. I was happy with my digs at the Sleep Inn. As a woman traveling alone, I appreciated the 24-hour shuttle to the airport.

I had a *Fodor's Chicago* guidebook that contained Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) schedules and contacts for the PACE bus, which regularly shuttles fans back and forth between Midway Airport and the Stadium. No car needed!

The CTA's Orange Line goes directly between Midway and the "Loop," Chicago's downtown core, close to many of the city's famous landmarks. Chicago is renowned as much for its central role in the development of American architecture as it is for its place in musical lore.

Music, Art, and Architecture

Soon after arriving on Friday morning I headed, by subway, for **Navy Pier**. This lively gathering spot is a summer favorite on Lake Michigan filled with restaurants, shops, and rides, including a Ferris wheel commemorating one built when Chicago hosted the World's Columbia Exposition in 1893.

Architecture tours by boat depart from the Pier and cruise the Chicago River into the heart of the city. More inspiring than I expected, the hour-long

tour provided fascinating insights into many landmark buildings at their various stages of construction.

Meanwhile, a cloudy morning had morphed into sun-soaked clarity, perfect for strolling **Millennium Park**, a haven for jugglers, public entertainments, and more spectacular art and architecture. **Cloud Gate**, a fascinating elliptical sculpture, reflects the city skyline and compels visitors to venture underneath where they can look up



Cloud Gate.

and see themselves mirrored in its gleaming chrome curves.

Chicago's tallest building, the **Sears Tower** looms high overall, but I was most impressed with the sharpened angles of the **Smurfit Stone** building and the revolutionary **Pritzker Pavilion**. Designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, the pavilion is a unique band shell of curved steel with a framework spray of audio speakers hovering strategically above the audience area.

Next, I came across a free bus tour and hitched a ride along the **Magnificent Mile**, eight blocks of exclusive stores, boutiques, and hotels lining North Michigan Avenue.



Pritzker Pavilion's revolutionary outdoor sound system mimics indoor acoustics.

After spending the day touring, wandering, and admiring Chicago's skyline, I was duly impressed with this city's grand design but footsore and ready to call it a day. I grabbed a bite to eat and made my way back to my hotel room to rest up for the main event, my first reason for coming to Chi Town.

Solo-Friendly Festival

The next day, I hitched a ride to the Toyota Park with fans I met at my hotel. The atmosphere among audience members was warm and convivial. Beers flowed freely, bought by anybody for anybody throughout the surprisingly orderly 12-hour affair that began at noon sharp.

Eric Clapton had personally invited performers like BB King, Willie Nelson, Albert Lee, Sheryl Crowe, Vince Gill, John Mayer, Stevie Winwood, and many others. At midnight Buddy Guy led the show's stupendous closing act, and an after-party followed at his club.

As I made for my hotel on one of the procession of free busses that transported concert-goers to key subway stops and downtown landmarks, I mused upon how satisfying these few days had been. It seemed to me that all the good forces of man and nature had cooperated on my behalf. No doubt about it. Chicago in summer is my kind of town.

~LS

Summer in Chicago

Following is a sample of annual summer events that combine nicely with sightseeing excursions and help make Chicago a best bet for an entertaining, activity-filled, solo getaway.

➤ **Concerts in the Parks.** Loop. Jun 1-Sep 1/09. A variety of musical genres performed in city parks. Free.

➤ **Tuesdays on the Terrace.** Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Streeterville. Jun 2-Sep 29/09. Live jazz music with a scenic Lake Michigan backdrop. Free.

➤ **World Music Wednesdays.** Lincoln Square Ravenswood. Jan-Dec/09. Focused on African, European, Asian, Middle Eastern, and American music, dance, and culture. Free.

➤ **Gospel Music Festival.** Millennium Park. Jun 6-7/09. Free.

➤ **Chicago Blues Festival,** Grant Park Lakefront. Jun 12-14/09. The largest blues festival in the world. Free.

➤ **Chicago Jazz Festival,** multiple venues. Sep 4-6/09. A celebration of the city's rich jazz heritage with national and international musicians.

➤ **Chicago Summerfest,** Lincoln Park Cultural Center. Jun 20-21/09. Music, art, food. Donation.

➤ **"I Hear the Music in the Air" Festival,** Moore Park. Jul 11/09. Dance troops, choirs, instrumentals, comedy, and the spoken word. Free.

➤ **Rock Around the Block Festival,** Lakeview. Jul 11-12/09. Thirty of the Windy City's best bands continuously performing on three stages and four full blocks of interactive fun. Donation.

➤ **Close Up 2 Smooth Jazz Festival,** Pritzker Park. Jun 19-21/09. Local and national smooth jazz bands. Free

➤ **Chicago Outdoor Film Festival,** Grant Park. Tuesdays at sunset, Jul 14-Aug 25/09. Recapture the fun of the Drive-In movie with Chicago's magnificent skyline as your backdrop. Free.

➤ **Lollapalooza.** Grant Park. Aug 7-9/09. Over 100 bands, foods, an interactive "green" area showcasing environmentally conscious tips and trends.

➤ **Gardens of the Magnificent Mile.** Jun-Sep/09. Experience "One of the Great Avenues of the World" in peak form.

If You Go

Information:

Tourist Info: www.explorechicago.org.

Chicago Transit Authority: sightseeing guide, trip tools. www.transitchicago.com.

Lodging:

Sleep Inn, 6650 S Cicero Ave. Bedford Park IL 60638. Tel. 1-773 594-0001. **Rate:** From \$100 www.sleepin.com.

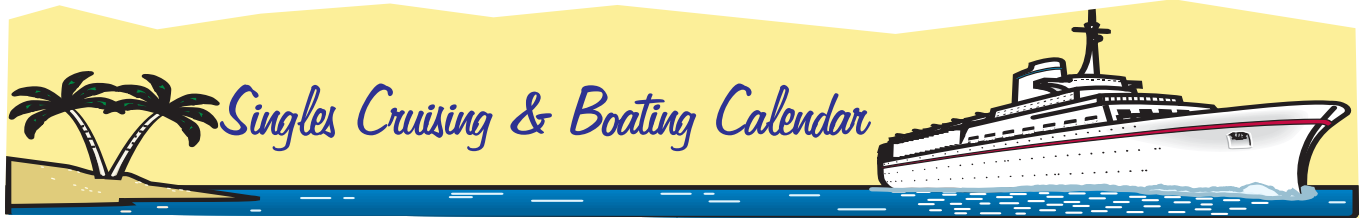
Sightseeing:

Chicago Greeter: Chicago Office of Tourism that matches visitors with a friendly, enthusiastic, and city-savvy local for an informal insider's orientation to the city. Free. www.chicagogreeter.com.

Chicago Architecture Foundation: Walking, bus, and boat cruises. www.architecture.org.

Shoreline Sightseeing: Architectural cruise, tour: Tickets. \$24-28; www.shorelinesightseeing.com.

Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60605. www.buddyguys.com.



May 1/09. 3 Nights. *Bahamas Getaway Singles Cruise*. Sail on board *Majesty of the Seas* round-trip from Miami Florida to Coco Cay Bahamas. From US\$697.20, sharing, includes port charges, fees, taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com**. Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

May 17/09. 16 Days. *Ancient Civilizations Cruise/Tour*. Itinerary: 3 nights Athens, 12 nights sailing on board the *Royal Princess*. Ports of call: Delphi, Santorini in Greece, Ephesus Turkey, Jerusalem, Cairo, Alexandria in Egypt, Venice Italy. From US\$4,887, sharing. **Contact: Seven Wonders Solos**. Tel. 1-866-280-3995, 1-408-856-6130. www.singleandsolotravel.com.

May 17-24/09. *Mexican Riviera Cruise for Boomers, 40+ MATURE SINGLES*. Sail on board *Carnival Splendor* round-trip from Long Beach California. Ports of call: Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, Puerto Vallarta. From US\$1,078, sharing, including travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service**. Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 18-25/09. *Cruise Greek Islands and the Adriatic Sea*. Sail on board *Costa Fortuna* round-trip from Venice Italy. Ports of call: Bari Italy, Katakolon, Santorini, Mykonos, Rhodes Greece, Dubrovnik Croatia. From US\$969, sharing, cruise only, including taxes and fees. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

May 24/09. 7 Nights. *Mediterranean Singles Cruise*. Sail from Barcelona Spain on *Voyager of the Seas* visiting the Amalfi Coast, Rome, and Florence/Pisa in Italy, Nice and Marseilles France. From \$1,126, sharing. **Contact: Vacations To Go**. Tel. 1-800-419-5179, +1-832-252-2265.

Jun 2/09. 8 Days. *Pyramids and Nile Cruise*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY**. £1,299 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, internal flights, single occupancy accommodations, some meals, sightseeing, taxes and fees. **Contact: Just You**. Tel. +44(0)870-252-8008 (UK charge call), +44(0)1858-581-950.

Jun 6-11/09. *Murder Mystery Cruise*. Sail on board *Explorer of the Seas* round-trip from Cape Liberty New Jersey to Kings Wharf Bermuda. From US\$729, sharing, plus taxes, cruise only. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Jun 7-14/09. *Start of Summer Fun Cruise, Ages 20s and 30s*. Sail on board *Carnival Legend* round-trip from Tampa Florida. Ports of call: Grand Cayman Cayman Islands, Cozumel Mexico, Belize City Belize, Roatan Honduras. From US\$1,259, sharing, including travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service**. Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Jun 11-15/09. *Western Caribbean Singles Cruise*. Visit Key West Florida and Cozumel Mexico. From US\$483.17. **Contact: Cruising for Love**. Tel. 1-866-451-5027, 1-561-204-5481.

Jun 13/09. 7 Nights. *Western Caribbean Singles Cruise*. Sail on board *Carnival Pride* round-trip from Miami Florida. Ports of call: Ocho Rios Jamaica, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands, Cozumel Mexico. From US\$986, sharing, cruise only, includes port charges, government fees and taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com**. Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Jun 14-20/09. *Western Caribbean Singles Cruise*. Visit Key West Florida, Cayman Islands, Ocho Rios Jamaica. From US\$821.89, sharing. **Contact: Cruising for Love**. Tel. 1-866-451-5027, 1-561-204-5481.

Jun 14-21/09. *Alaska Cruise, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+*. Sail on board *Celebrity Mercury* round-trip from Vancouver British Columbia. Itinerary: Sitka, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Ketchikan. From US\$1,149, sharing. **Contact: Singles Travel International**. Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.

Jun 14/09. 10 Nights. *White Nights of St Petersburg and Baltic Cruise*. Sail on board *Emerald Princess* round-trip from Copenhagen Denmark. Ports of call: Stockholm Sweden, Helsinki Finland, St Petersburg Russia, Tallinn Estonia, Gdansk Poland, Oslo Norway. From US\$3,999, sharing. **Contact: Seven Wonders Solos**. Tel. 1-866-280-3995, 1-408-856-6130. www.singleandsolotravel.com.

Jun 28-Jul 9/0. *Russian River Cruise*. Group assembles in St Petersburg. Sail on board *MS Konstantin Korotkov* on the Volga River, Lake Ladoga, Lake Onega to Moscow. From US\$1,899, land only, sharing. **Contact: Travelin' Singles, Inc**. Tel. 1-800-748-6662, +1-949-454-8333.

Jun 30/09. 13 Days. *Alaskan Cruise With Napa Valley Tour*. Itinerary: San Francisco California, Napa Valley. Sail on board *Sea Princess* from San Francisco to Ketchikan, Haines, Juneau, Tracy Arm Alaska, Victoria British Columbia, San Francisco. From US\$3,668, sharing. **Contact: Seven Wonders Solos**. Tel. 1-866-280-3995, 1-408-856-6130. www.singleandsolotravel.com.

Jul 6-12/09. *Transatlantic Dance Cruise, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+*. Sail on board *Queen Mary 2* from Brooklyn New York to Southampton England. From US\$1,799, sharing including taxes. **Contact: Singles Travel International**. Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.

Jul 7-20/09. *Geysers and Glaciers Cruise, Norway, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+*. Sail on board *Queen Victoria* round-trip from South Hampton England. Ports of call: Reykjavik Iceland, Grundarfjordur Iceland, Akureyri Iceland, Aalesund Norway, Geiranger Norway, Hellesylt Norway, Flaam Norway, Stavanger Norway, Bergen Norway. From US\$3,789, cruise only, sharing. **Contact: Singles Travel International**. Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.

Jul 9/09. 12 Nights. *Best of Mediterranean Singles Cruise from Barcelona*. Sail on board *Brilliance of the Seas* from Barcelona Spain and visit Cannes France (Monte Carlo), Livorno, Civitavecchia, Naples, Capri, Venice Italy, Dubrovnik Croatia, Corfu Greece. From US\$2,230, sharing. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com**. Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

GUARANTEE SHARE: TOUR PARTICIPANTS WILLING TO SHARE ROOM PAY NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. TOUR OPERATOR FINDS ROOM MATE AND ABSORBS SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IF A PARTNER CAN'T BE FOUND.

Singles Group Cruises Continued . . .

Jul 10-17/09. *Alaska Cruise, Ages 30s, 40s, 50s. JEWISH SINGLES.* Sail on board *Celebrity Millennium* round-trip from Vancouver British Columbia. From US\$1,399, sharing. **Contact: Amazing Journeys.** Tel. 1-800-734-0493, 1-412-571-0220.

Jul 11/09. *7 Nights. Caribbean Singles Cruise, Ages 40+.* Sail from Miami Florida on *Liberty of the Seas*, visiting Labadee, Ocho Rios Jamaica, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands, Cozumel Mexico. From US\$1,325, sharing. **Contact: Vacations To Go.** Tel. 1-800-419-5179, +1-832-252-2265.

Jul 16/09. *4 Nights. Singles Cruise from Galveston Texas.* Sail on board *Carnival Ecstasy* round-trip from Galveston Texas to Cozumel Mexico. From US\$711, sharing, cruise only, including port charges, fees, and taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com.** Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Jul 20/09. *5 Nights. Mexican Escape Singles Cruise from New Orleans.* Sail on board *Carnival Fantasy* from New Orleans to Progreso and Cozumel Mexico. From US\$743, sharing, cruise only, including shared cabin, port charges, government fees and taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com.** Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Jul 26-Aug 2/09. *Alaska Sightseer Singles Cruise.* Sail on board *Celebrity Mercury* round-trip from Vancouver British Columbia. Itinerary: Sitka, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Ketchikan Alaska. From US\$1,429, sharing, including port charges, taxes, and travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Aug 9/09. *8 Days. Pyramids and Nile Cruise. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* £1,344 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, internal flights, single occupancy accommodations, some meals, sightseeing, taxes and fees. **Contact: Just You.** Tel. +44(0)870-252-8008 (UK charge call), +44(0)1858-581-950.

Aug 9/09. *7 Nights. Sizzling Summer Mexican Riviera Singles Cruise.* Sail on board *Carnival Splendor* from Long Beach California. Ports of call: Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas Mexico. From US\$1,031, sharing, including port charges and fees. Single occupancy add-ons available. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com.** Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Aug 22/09. *7 Nights. Caribbean Singles Cruise.* Sail from Port Canaveral Florida on *Carnival Glory*, visiting Cozumel Mexico, Belize, Costa Maya, and Nassau Bahamas. From US\$625, sharing. **Contact: Vacations To Go.** Tel. 1-800-419-5179, +1-832-252-2265.

Aug 22-30/09. *Alaska Cruise for Senior Singles. MATURE SINGLES.* Sail on board *Star Princess* round-trip from Seattle Washington. Ports of call: Ketchikan, Tracy Arm Fjord, Juneau, Skagway Alaska, Victoria British Columbia. From US\$769, sharing, plus US\$411 port charges and taxes. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Aug 28-Sep 4/09. *Singles Cruise to Alaska.* Sail on board *Celebrity Millennium* from Vancouver, British Columbia to Seward Alaska. Itinerary: Inside passage, Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Icy Strait Point, Hubbard Glacier. From US\$330 plus US\$338 port charges and taxes, sharing. **Contact: Travel Time for Singles.** Tel. 1-800-469-0091, +1-678-574-4006.

Aug 30-Sep 6/09. *Alaska Singles Cruise.* Sail aboard *Norwegian Pearl* round-trip from Seattle Washington. Ports of call: Juneau, Skagway, and Ketchikan Alaska, Victoria British Columbia. From US\$1,114.30, sharing. **Contact: Cruising for Love.** Tel. 1-866-451-5027, 1-561-204-5481.

Sep 3-7/09. *Western Caribbean Labor Day Singles Cruise* Sail on board *Carnival Destiny* round-trip from Miami Florida. Ports of call: Key West Florida and Cozumel Mexico. From US\$393.17, sharing. **Contact: Cruising for Love.** Tel. 1-866-451-5027, 1-561-204-5481.

Sep 3-11/09. *Galapagos Islands Cruise and Ecuador Rainforest Escape.* 4 days in the amazing Galapagos islands, 3 nights at a tropical resort and spa in the Ecuador rainforest and 2 nights in Quito. From US\$3,399 includes round-trip airfare from Atlanta Georgia, shared accommodations, airfare Quito to Galapagos, 4-day cruise, most meals, lectures, excursions. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Sep 3-12/09. *Cruise New England to Nova Scotia.* Cruise round-trip from Port Liberty New Jersey on board *Explorer of the Seas*. Ports of call: Portland Maine, Bar Harbor Maine, Saint John New Brunswick, Halifax Nova Scotia, Boston Massachusetts. From US\$589, sharing, plus port charges and taxes. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Sep 5/09. *7 Nights. Labor Day Caribbean Singles Cruise.* Sail round-trip from Miami on board *Carnival Liberty* to Half Moon Cay Bahamas, St Thomas USVI, San Juan Puerto Rico, Grand Turk. From US\$659, sharing, including port charges, government fees and taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com.** Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Sep 19-26/09. *Mediterranean Cruise, Italy and Greece.* Sail on board *Splendour of the Seas* round-trip from Venice Italy. Itinerary: Split Croatia, Corfu Greece, Piraeus (Athens), Mykonos Katakolon Greece. From US\$1,313, sharing, including travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Sep 23/09. *30 Days. Cruise San Francisco to Sydney Australia.* Sail from San Francisco to Sydney Australia. Ports of call: Hawaii, Bora Bora, Tahiti, Moorea, Pago Pago, Fiji, New Zealand. From \$4,220, sharing. Land tour option available. **Contact: Travel Buddies Singles Travel Club.** Tel. 1-800-998-9099, +1-604-534-5602. www.travelbuddiesworldwide.com.

Sep 24/09. *4 Nights. Bahamas Get-Away Singles Cruise.* Sail on board *Carnival Sensation* from Jacksonville Florida to Freeport and Nassau Bahamas. From US\$330, sharing, including port charges, fees, and taxes. **Contact: SinglesCruise.com.** Tel. 1-800-393-5000, 1-954-489-3200. www.singlescruise.com.

Oct 10-17/09. *Greek Island Cruise, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+.* Sail on board *Splendour of the Seas* from Venice Italy. Itinerary: Athens, Mykonos, and Rhodes Greece, Dubrovnik Croatia. From US\$1,239 including tax, sharing, cruise only. Single occupancy add-ons available. **Contact: Singles Travel International.** Tel. 1-877-765-6874, www.singlestravelintl.com.

Oct 11/09. *7 Nights. Western Mediterranean Singles Cruise.* Sail on board *Voyager of the Seas*. Ports of call: Nice France, Florence Italy, Rome Italy, Naples Italy, Capri Italy, Sicily Italy. From US\$955.31, sharing, including taxes and fees. **Contact: Cruising for Love.** Tel. 1-866-451-5027, 1-561-204-5481.

Oct 15-23/09. *British Isles Cruise, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+.* Sail on board *Queen Mary 2*. Visit London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cork, Liverpool and Cherbourg (Paris). From US\$2,179, sharing. **Contact: Singles Travel International.** Tel. 1-877-765-6874, www.singlestravelintl.com.

Oct 24-Nov 1/09. *Halloween Cruise for Singles.* Sail on board *Carnival Freedom* round-trip from Fort Lauderdale Florida. Ports of call: Cozumel Mexico, Limon Costa Rica, Colon Panama. From US\$984, sharing, including travel insurance, port charges, and taxes. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

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Singles & Solos – Group Tours, Getaways

Unless otherwise specified prices are based on sharing accommodations.

May 3-23/09. *Singles Only Southern Star Tour of Africa.*

Itinerary: Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Cedarberg Wilderness Area, Namib Naukluft Park, Etosha National Park, Okavango Delta, Victoria Falls. C\$1,445, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.



May 5/09. *7/14 Nights. Walking Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$960 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, all walks and excursions off the beaten track. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.

May 7; 14/09. *7/14 Nights. Majorca Spain. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* £579 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(00)207-392-8988.

May 8-15/09. *Singles Week at Ocean Blue Resort, Dominican Republic.* Parties, games, activities. US\$952, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.

May 9-16/09. *Singles Beach Week, Club Med Turks and Caicos.* All-inclusive holiday. From US\$1,492 includes meals, drinks, activities, sports galore with instruction, Latin dance classes, cooking demonstrations, entertainment, tips, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 9/09. *7 Nights. Kerry Gems for Solo Travelers.* One-center walking tour of Kerry, Southwest Ireland. €870, land only, includes transfers, shared guesthouse lodging, most meals, guided walks. Single occupancy room, add €189. **Contact: Go Ireland Activity Holidays.** Tel. 1-800-721-4672, +353-66-9762094.

May 10-17/09. *Ireland, Singles Cultural Tour.* Itinerary: Dublin, Galway, Killarney, Lahinch/Doolin. US\$1,589 includes shared accommodations, sightseeing, breakfast daily, live music, touring, sightseeing, hotel taxes and service charges, travel insurance. Single occupancy room, add US\$495. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 11/09. *11 Days. Discover Croatia, Dalmatian Coast, Italy, and Slovenia.* Itinerary: Zagreb Croatia, Bled Slovenia, Opatija Croatia, Plitvice Lakes Croatia, Split Slovenia, Dubrovnik Croatia. From US\$2,144, including shared accommodations, some meals, sightseeing. **Contact: Travel Buddies Singles Travel Club.** Tel. 1-800-998-9099, +1-604-534-5602. www.travelbuddiesworldwide.com.

May 11; 18/09. *7/14 Nights. Funchal Madeira. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* From £649 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(00)207-392-8988.

May 12/09. *7/14 Nights. Cycling Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$960 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, all cycling trips and excursions off the beaten track. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.

May 19/09. *7/14 Nights. Painting Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$960 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, welcome meeting and live Greek music. Huge choice of sightseeing trips around the island. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.

May 22-26/09. *Memorial Day Weekend, Yosemite.* US\$899 includes 4 nights' shared accommodation in chalets and tour of Yosemite park. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

May 22-25/09. *Memorial Weekend Camp, Berkshires.* Group assembles in Kent Connecticut for a chance to relive childhood. US\$541 includes shared cabins, meals, activities, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 22-30/09. *Tuscany and Cinque Terre, Italy.* Itinerary: Florence, Pisa, Lucca, Montecatini, Cinque Terre, Siena, San Gimignano. US\$1,899, land only, sharing. **Contact: Singles Travel Company.** Tel. 1-888-286-8687, 1-408-354-6531.

May 24-29/09. *Canyonlands-Arches Multi-Sport, Camping.* Bike, hike, raft, rock climb, and canyoneer in Arches National Park, and Canyonlands National Park. Rated moderate to challenging. Group assembles in Moab, Utah. US\$1,598 includes shared accommodations, meals, guides, van support. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

May 26-Jun 2/09. *Island of Crete, Ages 30s, 40s.* Stay at the Mistral Hotel, a singles-only property located along the coast across from the beach in the small hamlet of Maleme, in western Crete. US\$1,489 includes airport transfers, single occupancy room, some meals, a tour of Chania, Greek night with live entertainment. **Contact: Singles Travel International.** Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.

May 27-Jun 3/09. *Archaeology and Mayan Culture, Singles Tour Mexico.* Itinerary: Mexico City, Villahermosa, Palenque, San Cristobal de las Casas, Tuxtla Gutierrez. US\$1,870 includes shared accommodations, most meals, transport, excursions, insurance. Single occupancy room, add US\$360. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 31-Jun 5/09. *Grand Canyon Classic Hiker.* Hike Grand and Havasu Canyons. Rated moderate. Rendezvous in Flagstaff Arizona. US\$2,298 includes shared inn lodging, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Look!
Over 400 trips listed in the
Singles Cruises and Singles Tours
online calendars: **Look!**

GUARANTEE SHARE: TOUR PARTICIPANTS WILLING TO SHARE ROOM PAY NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. TOUR OPERATOR FINDS ROOM MATE AND ABSORBS SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IF A PARTNER CAN'T BE FOUND.

Singles Group Tours & Getaways Continued . . .

May 31-Jun 6/09. *Dude Ranch Vacation*. Meet at Durango Colorado dude ranch. US\$2,090 includes transfers, shared accommodations, daily riding, excursions, parties, taxes, gratuities, insurance. Single occupancy, add US\$650. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

May 31-Jun 8/09. *Journey to Japan, Ages 30s, 40s, 50s. JEWISH SINGLES.* Information TBA. **Contact: Amazing Journeys.** Tel. 1-800-734-0493, 1-412-571-0220.

Jun 1; 15; 22; 29/09. *7/14 Nights. Dalyan Turkey. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* Choice of hotels. From £539 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board, airport taxes. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.

Jun 2; 9; 16; 23; 30/09. *7/14 Nights. Sea and Sun in Crete Exclusively for Singles. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$970 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, live Greek music, sightseeing trips around the island. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.

Jun 6-13/09. *Singles Only Grand Canyon Camping Tour.* Hike, bike, canoe, and explore the best national parks and monuments in the southwestern United States. Meet in Salt Lake City Utah. US\$1,048, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.

Jun 6-16/09. *Three Great Cities of Italy.* Rome, Florence, Venice. US\$2,795, land only, includes transfers, shared 3-star accommodations, some meals, sightseeing, excursions, applicable taxes. **Contact: O Solo Mio Tours.** Tel. 1-800-959-8568, +1-650-917-0817 ex 117.

Jun 8; 15/09. *7/14 Nights. Funchal Madeira. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* From £659 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.

Jun 11/09. *8 Days. Classic Cities of Italy. SINGLE OCCUPANCY.* £1,010 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, single occupancy room, half-board, sightseeing. **Contact: Just You.** Tel. +44(0)870-252-8008 (UK charge call), +44(0)1858-581-950.

Jun 11/09. *7 Nights. Almerimar Golf, Spain, All Ages. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* From £929 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, single occupancy room, half-board, 5 rounds of competition golf, golf club carriage. **Contact: Solo's Holidays Ltd.** Tel. +44(0)208-951-2800.

Jun 12-20/09. *Prague and Poland, Affordable Europe.* Itinerary: 3 nights Prague Czech Republic, 4 nights Krakow Poland. US\$1,398 includes transfers, shared accommodations, some meals, sightseeing. **Contact: Adventures for Singles, Inc.** Tel. 1-877-813-9421, +1-770-432-8225. www.adventuresforsingles.com.

Jun 13-20/09. *Mountain Madness Multi-sport Camper.* Meet in Salt Lake City. Itinerary: Grand Canyon, Zion, Arches, Bryce, Monument, Moab. US\$1,350 includes transport by specially converted bus, camping equipment and fees, most meals, excursions, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Jun 13/09. *7 Nights. Kerry Gems for Solo Travelers.* One-center walking tour of Kerry, Southwest Ireland. €870, land only, includes transfers, shared guesthouse lodging, most meals, guided walks. Single occupancy room, add €189. **Contact: Go Ireland Activity Holidays.** Tel. 1-800-721-4672, +353-66-9762094.

Jun 14-21/09. *Taste of Austria and Germany, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+.* Itinerary: Munich, Neuschwanstein, Innsbruck, Salzburg, St Gilgen, Vienna. From US\$2,269 includes shared accommodations, some meals, walks and sightseeing. **Contact: Singles Travel International.** Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.

Jun 17/09. *7 Nights. Golf in Tuscany, Italy, All Ages. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* £899 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, single occupancy room, activities. **Contact: Solo's Holidays Ltd.** Tel. +44(0)208-951-2800.

Jun 18-28/09. *Best of South Africa with Victoria Falls Option.* Itinerary: Johannesburg, Pilgrim's Rest, Sabi Game Reserve, Cape Town. US\$4,795, land only, includes shared accommodations, some meals, guided game drives, ground transport, sightseeing, flight Elephant Plains to Johannesburg. **Contact: Singles in Paradise.** Tel. 1-800-954-5453, +1-808-662-1212. www.singlesinparadise.com.

Jun 18/09. *7 Nights. Almerimar Golf, Spain, All Ages. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.* £959 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, single occupancy room, activities. **Contact: Solo's Holidays Ltd.** Tel. +44(0)208-951-2800.

Jun 19-28/09. *Galapagos Adventure Vacation.* 3 nights Galapagos, 3 nights Quito Ecuador. Mountain biking, horseback riding, snorkeling. US\$2,995 includes airfare from Los Angeles, shared accommodations, some meals, transport, excursions. **Contact: Singles in Paradise.** Tel. 1-800-954-5453, +1-808-662-1212. www.singlesinparadise.com.

Jun 19-29/09. *Croatia and the Dalmatian Coast.* Itinerary: Dubrovnik, Split Croatia, Plitvice Lakes, Bled Slovenia, Zagreb Croatia. US\$3,399 plus taxes includes airfare from New York, share accommodations, some meals, tours. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Jun 20-27/09. *Grand Canyon Camper and Multi-Sport.* Hike, bike, canoe, explore national parks: Grand Canyon, Zion, Arches, Bryce, Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. US\$1,350 includes shared accommodations, most meals, transport, entrance and camping fees, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Jun 21-25/09. *San Juan Island Biking.* Explore Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan islands. Moderate to challenging. US\$1,998 includes shared inn lodging, bike rental, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.

Jun 21-26/09. *Grand Canyon-Bryce-Zion Hiker.* Hike the southwest's premier national parks. Meet in St George Utah. Rated moderately easy to moderate. US\$2,298 includes shared inn, meals, fees, guides, van support. Single room, add US\$575. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Jun 28-Jul 3/09. *Yosemite Sierra Hiker.* Hike California's Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks. Meet in Fresno California. Rated moderately easy with moderate options. US\$2,598 includes shared inn accommodation, most meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. Single occupancy room, add US\$675. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Jun 28-Jul 3/09. *Grand Teton-Yellowstone Multi-Sport Camping.* Bike, hike, rock-climb, and raft. Meet in Jackson Wyoming. Rated moderate. US\$1,698 includes camp lodging, meals, guides, van support. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Jul 1-5/09. *4th of July Holiday, Mount Rushmore.* Itinerary: Custer State Park, Black Hills, Badlands National Park, Deadwood South Dakota. US\$599 includes transfers, shared accommodations, sightseeing. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

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Singles Group Tours & Getaways Continued . . .

- Jul 1-11/09. *Safari, Kenya and Tanzania*. Itinerary: Nairobi Kenya, Arusha, Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Arusha Tanzania. US\$4,199 plus tax includes airfare from Washington DC, shared accommodations, meals, and daily tours. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Jul 2-5/09. *July 4th Summer Camp for Singles*. Meet, party, and play. Berkshire Mountains, southern Connecticut. US\$564 includes shared accommodations, meals, sports, activities, insurance. Transport from New York City, add US\$45. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Jul 2-12/09. *Italy Tour for Singles*. Itinerary: Rome, Florence, Venice. US\$2,701 includes shared accommodations, most meals, transport, sightseeing. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Jul 2/09. *7 Nights. Almerimar Golf Clinic, Spain, All Ages*. **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.** £929 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, single occupancy room, activities. **Contact: Solo's Holidays Ltd.** Tel. +44(0)208-951-2800.
- Jul 2/09. *7 Nights. Majorca Spain*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** £689 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.
- Jul 5-12/09. *Quintessential Camper Multi-sport*. Camping tour round-trip from Las Vegas. Itinerary: Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Arches/Moab, Zion National Park. US\$1,200 includes camping, touring, meals, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Jul 6-11/09. *Singles Only Alaska Wilderness Multi-Sport*. Hike, bike, sea kayak, raft, and ice-climb in Alaska's wilderness. Meet in Anchorage Alaska. US\$2,898 includes shared inn accommodation. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.
- Jul 6; 13, 20/09. *7/14 Nights. Dalyan Turkey*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** Choice of hotels. From £589 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board, airport taxes. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.
- Jul 7; 14; 21; 28/09. *7/14 Nights. Sea and Sun in Crete Exclusively for Singles*. **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.** Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$990 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, live Greek music, sightseeing trips around the island. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.
- Jul 9/09. *5 Days. Treasures of Rome*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** £815 includes airfare from the UK, transfers, some meals, single occupancy room, city tour, get-together, airport taxes and security charge. **Contact: Just You.** Tel. +44(0)870-252-8008 (UK charge call), +44(0)1858-581-950.
- Jul 10-18/09. *Turkey Tour for Singles*. Itinerary: Istanbul, Cannakkale, Troy, Izmir, Ephesus, Pamukkale, Bursa, Istanbul. US\$1,299, land only, sharing. Single occupancy room, add US\$350. **Contact: Travel Time for Singles.** Tel. 1-800-469-0091, +1-678-574-4006.
- Jul 11/09. *7 Nights. Kerry Gems for Solo Travelers*. One-center walking tour of Kerry, Southwest Ireland. €870, land only, includes transfers, shared guesthouse lodging, most meals, guided walks. Single occupancy room, add €189. **Contact: Go Ireland Activity Holidays.** Tel. 1-800-721-4672, +353-66-9762094.
- Jul 12-17/09. *Grand Teton-Yellowstone Multi-Sport*. Bike, hike, rock-climb, and raft. Meet in Jackson Wyoming. Rated moderately easy to moderate. US\$2,898 includes shared inns, meals, guides, van support. Single occupancy, add US\$775. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.
- Jul 16-26/09. *London, Paris, Amsterdam By Train*. US\$2,495 includes shared accommodations, some meals, transport, guided tours and admissions. **Contact: Best Single Travel.** Tel. 1-877 848-7477.
- Jul 18-25/09. *Summer Skiing Chile*. Meet in Santiago Chile. Resorts: Valle Nevado, La Parva, El Colorado, Termas de Chillan. US\$2,999 includes transfers, shared accommodations, some meals, lift tickets, excursions, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Jul 19-25/09. *Glacier National Park Hiker and Camper*. Meet in Spokane Washington. US\$1,299 includes shared lodging, hikes, most meals, fees, insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Jul 19-24/09. *Yellowstone Hiker*. Hike and ride horseback. Rated easy with moderately easy options. Meet in Jackson Wyoming. US\$2,198 includes shared inn lodging, meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. Single occupancy room, add US\$525. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.
- Jul 19-29/09. *Best of France*. Itinerary: 1 night French Riviera, 3 nights Provence, 3 nights Paris, 2 nights Normandy. Cost: US\$2,299 includes shared accommodations, tours, D-Day Beach. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Jul 20; 27/09. *7/14 Nights. Funchal Madeira*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** From £689 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.
- Jul 21-26/09. *Czech Republic and Austria Biking*. From Prague to Vienna. Meet in Prague Czech Republic. Easy to moderately challenging options. US\$3,198 includes shared casual inn lodging, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.
- Jul 23-30/09. *Taste of Italy, Ages 30s to 50s*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** Assemble in Rome. Itinerary: Rome, Pisa, Florence, Venice. From US\$2,199 includes single occupancy room, some meals, excursions. **Contact: Singles Travel International.** Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.
- Jul 26-31/09. *Glacier-Waterton Hiker*. Hike in Glacier and Waterton National Parks. Rated moderate with moderately easy options. Meet in Whitefish Montana. US\$2,998 includes shared inn lodging, meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. Single occupancy room, add US\$850. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.
- Jul 26-31/09. *Colorado Backcountry Multi-Sport*. Hike, bike, and raft Colorado's back country. Meet in Vail Colorado. Rated moderately easy with moderately challenging options. US\$1,598 includes shared chalet lodging, meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.
- Jul 27/09. *5 Nights. Yellowstone and Tetons Multisport*. Wyoming's thundering geysers and rugged towering mountains. Meet in Jackson. Easy to moderate. US\$2,898 includes shared inn accommodations, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.

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Singles Group Tours & Getaways Continued . . .

Jul 28-Aug 4/09. *Suzy's Fertile Turtle Safari, Costa Rica.* Tortuguero National Park for turtles' egg-laying season. Horseback riding, hiking, zip-lining, boating. US\$1,297 includes transfers, shared accommodations, some meals, naturalist guides, entrance fees. **Contact: Adventures for Singles, Inc.** Tel. 1-877-813-9421, +1-770-432-8225. www.adventuresforsingles.com.

Jul 30-Aug 6/09. *Fantastic Ireland.* Visit Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Killarney. US\$1,399, sharing. **Contact: Singles Travel Company.** Tel. 1-888-286-8687, 1-408-354-6531.

Jul 30-Aug 9/09. *Belize Adventure.* Horseback riding, inner-tubing rivers, exploring Mayan ruins, scuba diving, snorkeling. Guanacaste, Tikal Guatemala, Ambergris Cay. US\$1,389, includes airfare, shared lodging, activities. **Contact: Singles in Paradise.** Tel. 1-800-954-5453, +1-808-662-1212. www.singlesinparadise.com.

Aug 2-7/09. *Provence Biking.* Meet in Les Baux. Rated moderate with challenging options. US\$3,398 includes shared casual lodging, most meals, guides. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.

Aug 2-14/09. *Peru with Machu Picchu, Ages 30s, 40s, 50s.* **JEWISH SINGLES.** Information TBA. **Contact: Amazing Journeys.** Tel. 1-800-734-0493, 1-412-571-0220.

Aug 2/09. *4 Nights. Oregon Biking.* Ashland through the Cascade Mountains past Crater Lake to Bend. Meet in Ashland. Moderate to difficult. US\$2198 includes shared inn accommodations, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.

Aug 4; 11; 18; 25/09. *7/14 Nights. Sea and Sun in Crete Exclusively for Singles.* **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT.** Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$1,000 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, live Greek music, sightseeing trips around the island. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete.** Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.

Aug 5-13/09. *Napa Valley Wine Explorer.* Meet in San Francisco. Transfer to the Sonoma Valley. US\$1,086 includes shared accommodations, wine tasting, some meals, transport, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Aug 6-15/09. *London and Paris.* US\$1,899, land only, includes shared accommodations, some meals, transport, hotel taxes and service charges, baggage handling. **Contact: Singles Travel Company.** Tel. 1-888-286-8687, 1-408-354-6531.

Aug 6-16/09. *Singles Safari Kenya Africa.* **LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. US\$2,899** includes shared accommodations, some meals, transport, guided tours and admissions. **Contact: Best Single Travel.** Tel. 1-877 848-7477.

Aug 8-15/09. *Mountain Madness Multi-Sport Camper.* Itinerary: Missoula Montana, Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks. US\$1,225 includes transport by specially converted bus, camping equipment and fees, most meals, excursions, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Aug 9-14/09. *Singles Only British Columbia Multi-Sport.* Hike, bike, ride ziplines, sea kayak, and raft the wild west coast. US\$2,498, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.

Aug 9-16/09. *Alaskan Exploration Week.* Based in Juneau Alaska. US\$1,499 includes transfers, shared accommodations, some meals, excursions, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, zip-lining. Single occupancy room, add US\$469. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Aug 14-23/09. *Eastern Canada, Niagara Falls.* US\$1,779 includes shared accommodations, some meals, transport, guided tours and admissions. **Contact: Best Single Travel.** Tel. 1-877 848-7477.

Aug 16-21/09. *Colorado Backcountry Hiker.* Meet in Vail Colorado. Rated moderate with challenging options. US\$1,498 includes shared hut lodging, meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Aug 16-21/09. *Glacier-Waterton Multi-Sport.* Bike, hike, and raft in Glacier-Waterton Parks. Rated moderate. Meet in Whitefish Montana. US\$2,998 includes shared inn lodging, meals, guides, van support, entrance fees. Single room, add US\$850. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Aug 22-28/09. *Yellowstone and My First Camper.* Meet in Salt Lake City Utah. Itinerary: Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. US\$1,350 includes shared tent and bus camping, park fees, most meals, transport, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Aug 22-29/09. *Canadian Rockies.* **CHRISTIAN SINGLES. Meet in Calgary Alberta.** Itinerary: Banff, Lake Louise, Yoho National Park, Columbia Ice Fields. US\$1,399 includes shared accommodations, excursions, sightseeing. Single occupancy room, add from US\$399. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Aug 23-28/09. *Grand Teton-Yellowstone Multi-Sport.* Bike, hike, rock-climb, and raft. Meet in Jackson Wyoming. Rated moderately easy to moderate. US\$2,198 includes shared lodging, meals, van support. Single occupancy, add US\$400. **Contact: The World Outdoors.** Tel. 1-800-488-8483, +1-303-413-0938.

Aug 23-30/09. *Canadian Rockies.* **JEWISH SINGLES.** Meet in Calgary Alberta. Itinerary: Banff, Lake Louise, Yoho National Park, Columbia Ice Fields. US\$1,299 includes shared accommodations, excursions, sightseeing. Single occupancy room, add from US\$499. **Contact: All Singles Travel.** Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.

Aug 26-Sep 7/09. *Singles Tour Vietnam.* US\$1,699 includes shared accommodations, some meals, transport, guided tours, and admissions. **Contact: Best Single Travel.** Tel. 1-877 848-7477.

Aug 31/09. *5 Nights. Yellowstone and Tetons Multisport.* Wyoming's thundering geysers and rugged towering mountains. Meet in Jackson. Easy to moderate. US\$2,898 includes shared inn accommodations, most meals, guides, van support. **Contact: Backroads.** Tel. 1-800-462-2848, +1-510-527-1555.

Aug 31/09. *7/14 Nights. Funchal Madeira.* **SINGLE OCCUPANCY.** From £699 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited.** Tel. +44(00)207-392-8988.

Sep 4-7/09. *Labor Day Singles Camp.* Meet, party, and play. Berkshire Mountains, Connecticut. US\$564 includes shared accommodations, meals, sports, activities, travel insurance. Transport arranged from New York City, add US\$45. **Contact: Singles Travel Service.** Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.

Sep 4-16/09. *Singles Week at Ocean Blue Resort, Dominican Republic.* Parties, games, activities. US\$952, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures.** Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.

GUARANTEE SHARE: TOUR PARTICIPANTS WILLING TO SHARE ROOM PAY NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. TOUR OPERATOR FINDS ROOM MATE AND ABSORBS SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IF A PARTNER CAN'T BE FOUND.

Singles Group Tours & Getaways Continued . . .

- Sep 6-13/09. *Quintessential Camper Multi-sport*. Camping tour round-trip from Las Vegas. Itinerary: Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Arches/Moab, Zion National Park. US\$1,225 includes camping, touring, meals, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service**. Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Sep 7; 14; 21; 28/09. *7/14 Nights. Dalyan Turkey*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY**. Choice of hotels. From £529 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board, airport taxes. **Contact: Travel One Limited**. Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.
- Sep 9-20/09. *Annual Greek Islands Odyssey*. Itinerary: 3 nights Athens, 2 nights Mykonos, 3-night cruise of Greek islands, 2 nights Santorini. Cost: TBA, includes airfare from Atlanta Georgia, transfers, shared accommodations, some meals, sightseeing. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Sep 16-24/09. *WAITLIST. "Eat, Pray, Love" Luxury in Bali*. Balinese culture, scenery, rituals, beaches, and markets. Stay at Le Meridien Nirvana Golf & Spa. US\$995, land only, includes transfers, shared deluxe accommodations, 3 guided tours. **Contact: Adventures for Singles, Inc.** Tel. 1-877-813-9421, +1-770-432-8225. www.adventuresforsingles.com.
- Sep 20/09. *12 Nights. French Wine and Culinary Tour*. Tour Bordeaux, Champagne, and the Loire Valley guided by English speaking master sommelier. Highlights include Moet and Chandon, Chateau Mouton-Rothschild, and private dinner at Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte. **Contact: Seven Wonders Solos**. Tel. 1-866-280-3995, 1-408-856-6130. www.singleandsolotravel.com.
- Sep 22-Oct 2/09. *"Wiener World" Austria's Alps, Germany's Oktoberfest*. Itinerary: Innsbruck Austria, Munich Germany, Salzburg Austria. US\$1,298, land only, includes transfers, shared first-class accommodations, sightseeing, entrance fees. **Contact: Adventures for Singles, Inc.** Tel. 1-877-813-9421, +1-770-432-8225. www.adventuresforsingles.com.
- Sep 25-Oct 3/09. *Singles Trekking Cuzco, Lares, Machu Picchu*. Meet in Lima. Itinerary: Cuzco, Huacawasi, Epsaycocha, Aguas Calientes, Machu Picchu. US\$1,725, land only, sharing, includes some meals, guides. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures**. Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.
- Sep 25-Oct 3/09. *Peru Inca Explorer for Singles*. Assemble in Lima Peru. Hike or train options. From US\$1,965 includes transfers, shared camp accommodation, ground transport, fees, most meals, guided hikes, travel insurance. **Contact: Singles Travel Service**. Tel. 1-212-752-2429. www.singlestravelservice.com.
- Sept 28-Oct 11/09. *Branson, Memphis & Nashville*. Enjoy a 2-day rail ride aboard Amtrak from Seattle to Minneapolis and a 2-day return from Chicago to Seattle. C\$3,495 includes transport, shared accommodations, 23 meals, sightseeing, 5 musical shows, admission to Graceland, Country Music Hall of Fame, Opryland Hotel and Laser show, and Dollywood Theme Park. **Contact: Arriva Classic Travel, Singles Travel Club**. Tel. +1-888-552-1552, +1-604-552-1552.
- Sep 29-Oct 8/09. *Thailand Volunteer Vacation, Ages 30s, 40s, 50+*. Itinerary: Bangkok, Phuket, Khao Lak, stay at Briza Beach Resort while helping out at local orphanage, Bangkok. US\$1,999, land only, includes shared accommodations. Airfare and optional add-ons available. **Contact: Singles Travel International**. Tel. 1-877-765-6874. www.singlestravelintl.com.
- Sep/09. *2 Nights. Florida Beach Getaway*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY**. Stay in Clearwater Florida. \$499 includes single occupancy room, transport, speedboat excursion. **Contact: Club1 Travel**. Tel. 1-866-722-5281, 1-816-407-1864.
- Oct 2-12/09. *Grand Tour of China*. Itinerary: Los Angeles, Shanghai, Suzhou, Xi'an, Beijing. US\$2,199 includes airfare from Los Angeles, flights in China, shared 4-star accommodations, transport, guided sightseeing. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Oct 5-15/09. *Mt Kilimanjaro Climb with Ngorongoro Option*. Tanzania. Follow the Marangu route to the roof of Africa. US\$1,695 includes transfers, shared accommodations, 16 meals, and guided trek. **Contact: Adventures for Singles, Inc.** Tel. 1-877-813-9421, +1-770-432-8225. www.adventuresforsingles.com.
- Oct 5; 12/09. *7/14 Nights. Funchal Madeira*. **SINGLE OCCUPANCY**. From £669 includes airfare from the UK, single occupancy room, half-board. **Contact: Travel One Limited**. Tel. +44(0)207-392-8988.
- Oct 6/09. *14 Nights. Creative Writing Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles*. **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**. Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From \$1,540 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, writing seminars. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete**. Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.
- Oct 9-16/09. *Singles Week at Ocean Blue Resort, Dominican Republic*. Parties, games, activities. US\$952, land only, sharing. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures**. Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.
- Oct 12-18/09. *Singles Only Fijian Multi-Sport*. Biking, hiking, kayaking, rafting, snorkeling, diving. Rated moderate. Meet in Nadi Fiji. US\$1,998, land only, includes transfers, shared rooms, most meals, excursions. **Contact: Meet Market Adventures**. Tel. 1-800-239-0542. www.meetmarketadventures.com.
- Oct 13/09. *7 Nights. Song and Dance Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles*. **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**. Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From \$1,080 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, special activities. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete**. Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.
- Oct 16-24/09. *Singles Adventure in Peru*. Itinerary includes Machu Picchu, Cuzco, and the Amazon River Valley. US\$2,399, land only, includes shared accommodation, transport, sightseeing. Appropriate airfare add-ons arranged. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Oct 17-26/08. *Spectacular Spain*. Group assembles in New York City. Itinerary: Madrid, Seville, Marbella Spain, Tangiers Morocco, Barcelona Spain. Cost: TBA includes airfare from New York, shared accommodations, breakfast daily, transport, sightseeing. **Contact: All Singles Travel**. Tel. 1-800-717-3231, +1-770-664-7437. www.allsinglestravel.com.
- Oct 20/09. *7/14 Nights. Walking Optional in Crete Exclusively for Singles*. **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**. Stay-put holiday based at the Mistral Hotel. From US\$970 includes airport transfers, single occupancy in double room, evening meals with wine, all walks and excursions off the beaten track. **Contact: Mistral Hotel / Singles in Crete**. Tel. +30-28210-62062. www.singlesincrete.com.
- Oct 24/09. *20 Days. Australia Tour*. Meet in Sydney Australia for 3-night stay followed by Tasmania, Melbourne, Cairns Queensland, Airlee Beach, Brisbane, Fraser Island. Cost: TBA, land only, includes transfers, shared accommodations, some meals. **Contact: Travel Buddies Singles Travel Club**. Tel. 1-800-998-9099, +1-604-534-5602. www.travelbuddiesworldwide.com.

GUARANTEE SHARE: TOUR PARTICIPANTS WILLING TO SHARE ROOM PAY NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. TOUR OPERATOR FINDS ROOM MATE AND ABSORBS SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IF A PARTNER CAN'T BE FOUND.

News for Single & Solo Travel

Singles Travel Club Expands

Port Coquitlam, BC. With the expansion of the Singles Travel Club, travelers living in the “Lower Mainland” of British Columbia (as well as visitors to the Vancouver area) now have more chances of finding a travel partner.

Val Liddle, a consultant with Port Coquitlam-based Arriva Classic Travel, started monthly group meetings in that district several years ago. Now, with hard work and persistence, her contacts have increased to the point that she finds it worthwhile to meet three times a month in different areas.

➤ Abbotsford: 3rd Monday of every month.

➤ Coquitlam: 3rd Wednesday of every month.

➤ Vancouver: 4th Thursday of every month.

Meeting locations and upcoming trips are posted on Liddle’s website.

Details: Singles Travel Club.

Tel. 1-888-552-1552;

www.singlestravelclub.ca.

Singles Weeks Dominican Republic

May 8-15; Sep 4-11; Oct 9-16, 2009
From US\$896, sharing.

Toronto, ON. Meet Market Adventures has teamed up with Pennsylvania-based Apple Vacations in promoting three special “Singles Weeks.” These sun and fun getaways will be hosted by Ocean Blue Golf & Beach Resort, a three-star, all-inclusive property in Punta Cana Dominican Republic. Besides enjoying the white sand beach, multiple restaurants, and resort facilities, a number of young-at-heart entertainments will be featured: Ms/Mr Ocean Contest, Pool and Beach Olympics, Cocktail Contest, Toga Dinner Party, Disco Tours, Beach Parties, Karaoke, and various other beach and pool activities.

Details: Meet Market Adventures.

www.meetmarketadventures.com.

Singles Weeks, Mexico

6 Nights, From US\$550, sharing

Cave Creek, AZ. Best Single Travel is promoting three upcoming “Singles Weeks” hosted by two different Temptation Resorts located in two different parts of Mexico. One resort is in the tropical forest region of Cancun, and the other is in Los Cabos, a town on the arid Baja Peninsula. Dates are as follows:

➤ Cancun: Apr 20-26/09, from US\$650; Nov 9-15/09, from US\$550.

➤ Los Cabos: Jul 15-19/09, from US\$678.

Prices include transfers, shared accommodations, meals, alcoholic drinks, nightly entertainment, water sports, hotel taxes, and gratuities.

Details: Best Single Travel.

www.bestsingletravel.com.

Painting Holiday South Africa

8 or 12 days (US\$2,900 or US\$3,500)
through October 2009

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Cave Creek, AZ. Sheryl Weinberger of Best Single Travel is doing a great job pulling together a remarkable array of travel opportunities for singles. One of her contacts is Sally Wilkinson, a teacher who has moved to South Africa and has opened her “lovely new home” for painting workshops in partnership with a local artist and “the best tour guide in the province.”

Arrangements can be made through October for stays of 8 or 12 days. Prices quoted include transfers, accommodation, meals, tuition, excursions, art supplies, administration, guide services, entrance fees, and taxes.

Details: Best Single Travel.

www.bestsingletravel.com.

Singles Save In Switzerland

Sep 8, One/Two Weeks, From US\$1,719

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Media, PA. Untours is a Pennsylvania-based company that has been

running its version of the “untour” concept for over 30 years. Basically, this company arranges for independent travelers to stay in apartments in popular European and North American locales. Additionally, Untours provides local support and information about events, attractions, and public transport, but clients go sightseeing on their own.

In most destinations, single supplements apply, but a new Swiss Untour for single travelers is a little different in that instead of having to cover the cost of an entire apartment, singles can lodge at the 3-star Hotel Rebstock located in Meiringen, a town in the Canton of Bern.

Pricing for the Sep 8 departure represents a savings of US\$160 over the normal one-week price for singles or US\$200 for two weeks. The cost includes an escorted transfer from Zürich airport, orientation, some optional activities, a Swiss pass, and daily breakfast.

Details: Untours. www.untours.com.

Guru Getaway, Mexico

May 17-21/09

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Los Cabos, Mexico. Marquis Los Cabos Resort recently announced a “Guru Getaway Series” to be conducted by wellness instructor Kent Burden. The five-day holistic wellness program incorporates Yoga, Qi Gong, Pilates, and Tai Chi methods. Additionally, there will be lectures on topics such as Real Food, Aztec Calendar, and Modern Day Hunter/Gatherer techniques. Planned excursions feature a cooking lesson at an organic farm, an art walk, a waterfall hike, a progressive dinner in San Jose del Cabo, and a meditation ride on horseback.

The cost for this activity-packed schedule is US\$2,550, including transfers, single occupancy accommodation at the Marquis Los Cabos, lectures, breakfast, box lunches, service charges, and taxes.

Details: Marquis Los Cabos Resort.

www.marquisloscabos.com.

News for Single & Solo Travel Continued

Mozart, Merlot, and Gourmet Cuisine

4/5-days, May to Sep/09, From US\$845

Bolinas, CA. These rafting and camping vacations will appeal to anyone who appreciates wilderness settings, classical music, and good food.

James Henry River Journeys explore the “lush and frothy” Rogue River on rafts, traveling through the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon, alternating quiet stretches with challenging yet safe whitewater rapids. Rafters spend four or five days on the water and bed down for the night at peaceful, scenic riverside campsites. Accompanying musicians provide the entertaining element, and a chef promises “gourmet” meals served with fine wine.

The price includes all on-river meals, guides, equipment, and transportation from Galice Oregon.

Details: James Henry River Journeys.
www.riverjourneys.com.

Trippler Bus Unveils New Routes: From \$1

Brooklyn, NY. Trippler Bus recently announced a new, first-class bus service with routes between Washington DC and New York City. And get this: “for as little as \$1 each way.” These promotional fares start at only a dollar, and additional seats are available at \$5, \$10, and the standard price of \$25 each way.

Trippler Bus connects to convenient pick-up and drop-off locations near Metro and train stations, and the first-class coaches provide free wireless service and electrical outlets en route, allowing travelers to stay connected while on the road.

As Betty Unger, the company’s CEO says, “Trippler Bus offers the most cost-effective, timely, and relaxing mode of transportation between NYC and Washington DC. It certainly beats the hassle of flying or driving yourself.”

Details: TripplerBus.
www.tripplerbus.com.

Elegant Hotels Group Savings 30 - 45%

Book Before May 31, 2009

St James, Barbados. Travelers who book now through May, for arrivals through December 2009, may save up to 45% on five Caribbean beachfront hotels managed by Elegant Hotels Group.

Additionally, families may benefit by the Group’s “first child stays free policy” at their family-oriented properties.

Dotted along the west and south coasts of Barbados, the hotels include:

➤ Turtle Beach Resort: Special rates start at US\$242.

➤ Tamarind Cove Hotel: Special rates start at \$200. Also, a \$100 in-resort credit if booking for five nights or more.

➤ Colony Club Hotel: Special rates start at US\$241.

➤ Crystal Cove Hotel: Special rates start at US\$295.

➤ The House (adults only): Special rates start at US\$465.

These prices are based on rates per night, per room. They are valid only for new bookings and are subject to availability. A three-night minimum stay is required (five nights at the Colony Club Hotel). Various blackout periods may apply at some resorts, and offers are non-combinable with other promotions.

Details: Elegant Hotels.
www.elegant-hotels.com.

Divi Resorts Cuts Rates By Up To 60-Percent

Chapel Hill, NC. Divi Resorts manages nine resorts on six Caribbean islands that have cut rates by up to 60% for travel now through December 23, 2009. Sample prices are as follows:

➤ Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort, Aruba, studio suite from US\$139. Also, an all-inclusive option permits kids 17 and under to stay and eat free, and adults get unlimited golf after 3pm.

➤ Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, studio suite from US\$179.

➤ Divi Dutch Village Resort, Aruba, studio suite from US\$125.

➤ Divi Southwinds Beach Resort, Barbados, studio suite from US\$153.

➤ Divi Heritage Beach Resort, Barbados, studio suite from US\$99.

➤ Divi Flamingo Beach Resort, Bonaire, hotel rooms from US\$127.

➤ Divi Little Bay Beach Resort, St Maarten, hotel rooms from US\$148.

These prices are based on rates per night, per room.

Details: Divi Resorts
www.diviresorts.com.

Cruise Lines Sales Deal? or No Deal?

Discount! Discount! Discount! Airlines, hotels, tour operators, and especially cruise lines are fending off the global economic downturn with all sorts of schemes aimed at enticing reluctant consumers to forget about money worries and get back into vacation planning. Whenever hard times hit, even we singles get a better break from the travel industry. But not every so-called bargain is the real deal, comparatively speaking.

Take for instance this news that came my way about Regent Seven Seas Cruises: “Regent Waives Single Supplements! Now, for a limited time and on very limited sailings, Regent is offering NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT . . .”

Good news? Well, maybe. It depends upon your viewpoint. As an example, I checked prices for an Aug 5th Alaska sailing on board *Seven Seas Mariner* and found a price of US\$4,050 for single occupancy of a category H cabin.

On a different website, I noticed a “Two for One” offer for the same sailing, same category priced at US\$3,295 for each of two people sharing. That equals a per cabin total income of US\$6,590, or a \$2,540 loss to Seven Seas if one person buys the cabin at the single occupancy price. Yet, arguably, the single is still paying US\$755 more than each of the sharing pair. Is that single supplement waived, or not? Good deal, or not?

Details: All-Travel.
www.regent-seven-seas-cruises-discount.com



By Diane Redfern

I have long hesitated to cover solo travel in Cuba as too many CSTN readers – that is to say, Americans – would have little use for the information, they having been denied easy access to that little Caribbean nation. While it is still not as easy for the folks in the land of the free to vacation in Cuba as it is for everyone else in the western world, there is hope that change is nigh. According to [Time.com](http://www.time.com), a February 2009 report of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, “concludes that Washington’s unilateral embargo on [Cuba] has been ineffective and should be reevaluated.”

In that positive light, let’s take a closer look at Cuba as a solo travel destination. What do solo tourists want from a vacation? Variety, choice, opportunity, comfort, friendliness, beaches, activities. Really, just the same things as any two or more traveling together desire, only with heightened concerns about cost, safety, and loneliness. Cuba answers every solo travel need, whether it’s as one in a group or going independently.

Solo in a Group

Compared to other Caribbean islands, Cuba is generally lower priced and offers more opportunities to avoid single supplement fees. Currently, any Canadian travel agent can help with brochures and pricing, or one can check online for packages using the following resort hotels that waive single supplement fees, if not year-round, then at least during off-season:

In Varadero: Arenas Blancas, Blau Varadero, Gran Caribe Club Barlovento, Club Puntarena, Club Villa Cuba, Sol Sirenis Coral Resort, Sol Palmeras, Sirenis La Salina.

In Cayo Coco: Blau Colonial, Iberostar Daiquiri, Melia Cayo Coco, NH Krystal Laguna Villas and Resort, Club Villa Cojimar, Sol Cayo Guillermo.

In Holguin: Paradisus Rio de Oro, Sol Rio de Luna y Mares.

In Santa Maria: Melia Cayo Santa Maria.

Online resources:

- ✓ Air Canada Vacations. www.aircanadavacations.com.
- ✓ Air Transat Vacations. www.airtransat.ca.
- ✓ Signature Vacations. www.signaturevacations.com.

Purposeful Holidays

Sun resorts and singles are not mutually exclusive, but it is easy to fall into a singled-out, lonesome frame of mind after sitting alone on a beach surrounded by twos and threesomes, which is further aggravated by dining, sightseeing, and shopping all by oneself. Many solos avoid that danger by seeking out activity-oriented options such as language classes, or by joining a biking, hiking, kayaking, diving, or even a volunteering group. These companies arrange active vacations in Cuba:

- ✓ Gap Adventures. www.gapadventures.com.
- ✓ Cuba Education Tours. www.canadacuba.ca.
- ✓ Trek Escapes. www.trekescapes.com.
- ✓ Elder Treks. www.eldertreks.com.

Independent Travel

Solos who prefer a do-it-yourself approach to travel ignore packaged holidays with their requisite single supplement fees. Instead, they themselves arrange transportation and lodging to fit budget, either beforehand or as they go using online resources, guidebooks, and on-the-go inquiries. For independent individuals, Cuba is more than just another beach resort.

Online Resources:

- ✓ Cuba.com. www.cuba.com.
- ✓ Cuba Travel. www.cubatravel.cu.
- ✓ Havana Journal. www.havanajournal.com.
- ✓ SuperCubaTravel. www.supercubatravel.com.

Getting there: Flights operate from London, Mexico City, Montego Bay, Paris, Santo Domingo Dominican Republic, and most Canadian gateway cities.

Getting around:

Bus. Viazul operates dependable, air-conditioned coaches to destinations of interest to travelers.

Contact: Viazul. www.viazul.cu.

Car rental. Possible but chancy for repairs given the age of most vehicles.

Train travel. Possible but not recommended.

Bicycle. Cycling is popular for getting around the countryside, but repairs can be a problem. Most tourists bring their own bike and equipment, especially a solid locking system.

Continued . . . 14-15

Cuba On Your Own

Necessary to Know

Documents: Tourists require a valid passport, onward ticket, and a tourist card/visa issued by a Cuban consulate, or obtained via a travel agent or airline carrier.

Money: Foreign currencies do not circulate freely in Cuba and must be exchanged at banks or CADECA offices for Cuban convertible pesos (CUC\$).

Official Exchange Rate (March/09):

CUC\$1 = C\$.72; US\$.92; €1.17; UK £1.29

CUC\$1 = 24 Cuban Pesos (useful only for small purchases such as at markets).

Credit cards: VISA, MC accepted, excepting those drawn on American Banks.

Departure Tax: CUC\$25 in cash.

Climate: Tropical. Humid and hot May through October, subject to hurricanes. Drier and cooler November through April when average daytime temperature is 21Celsius (70 F).

Go Safely On Your Own

By all accounts, Cubans are among the friendliest people on earth, but carelessness should not replace awareness when you have no one to rely on but yourself. Tourists are targets for petty theft, prostitution (*jineteras*), and assorted scams no matter where in the world they travel, so it's smart to minimize vulnerability with proper consideration of valuables. Leave unnecessary jewelry, camera equipment, credit cards at home. Carry no more cash than is needed for a day or two's expenses. Use an under-clothing money belt, and sense its presence at all times. For emergency reference and reporting purposes, photocopy passport, airfare, credit card, insurance, or any important travel document. Leave one copy at home with a reachable friend or relative, and take along another copy stored separately from originals. Take approved hotel taxis at night. Rendezvous with on-the-road acquaintances only in public places. Beforehand, review appropriate chapters in [Going Solo Tips](#).

Casa Particular – Live With Cubans

A *casa particular* is a private residence converted and licensed to allow paid lodging. This is an increasingly popular choice for independent tourists, although quality varies considerably. Prices range between CUC\$20 and CUC\$40 per night. Travel guides will provide recommendations. Try:

✓ *Cuba Travel Guide* by Lonely Planet. www.lonelyplanet.com.

Online resource:

✓ Cuba Particular. www.cubaparticular.com.



[Casa Particular](#), Havana

Language and Culture Study

A great way for independent singles to ease into the country is to participate in a language and culture study course.

The [University of Havana](#), offers Spanish immersion and Cuban culture study programs with lodging and visas arranged by [UniversiTUR](#) Agency.

- ✓ **Spanish language:** Beginner, intermediate, and advanced classes are available. Tuition ranges from CUC\$100 for 20 hours to CUC\$1,798 for 512 hours.
- ✓ **Cuban culture:** Tuition for courses is priced at CUC\$360 for 60 hours, CUC\$980 for 320 hours, or CUC\$1,392 for 480 hours.

Languages Abroad. www.languagesabroad.com. This international language specialist arranges 2 to 32-week Spanish classes in Miramar, a leafy suburb about 15 minutes from Havana airport. Costs begin at US\$1,630 with hotel accommodation included. Extracurricular activities and excursions may be arranged.

Health and Wellness Tourism

Many tourists travel to Cuba to combine its vacation setting with high quality facilities and medical treatments, including, for example, eye or cosmetic surgery, and joint replacement.

Online Resource:

- ✓ Cubanacan Tourism & Health. www.servimedcuba.com.

Cuba – Briefly

It's a definite plus when solos have something else to think about besides getting hold of the best tanning spot on the beach. As the largest of the Caribbean islands, Cuba has an edge simply because its 1,200-kilometer length (750 miles) provides more terrain to cover and several large towns to explore. The landscape ranges from coastal flats and semi-arid desert to mountainous tropical rainforests.

Biking and Hiking: Much of the country is flat, making for easy biking, yet keen cyclists and hikers may look to its four mountain ranges for a more challenging experience.

Historic Interest: Christopher Columbus discovered Cuba during his 1492 voyage across the Atlantic. Spanish colonization began in 1511, and fortifications were subsequently built to fend off English, French, and Dutch attacks. Slave rebellions and independence conflicts marked the 19th century. Spanish dominion ended in 1898 with the sinking of the US battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor, resulting in the Spanish-American War. In 1902, a "neocolonial republic" was created.

Like other Caribbean islands, Cuba has a fascinating history steeped in buccaneering and slave trade exploits, but the country differs from other islands in its ongoing struggles for independence. Twentieth century politics favored strong-arm tacticians; first, Gerarda Machado during the years 1925 to 1933, followed by Fulgencio Batista. Fidel Castro et al took up arms in 1953, and subsequent events have shaped a uniquely Cuban culture.

Cuba On Your Own *continued*

Tip to Tip Heritage and Great Beaches

With a population of over 11 million, Cuba supports several sizable cities and designated UNESCO World Heritage sites:

Havana (*Ciudad de la Habana*), founded between 1514 and 1519, is the capital of the republic and the largest city in the Caribbean. For centuries, Old Havana served as trade center between the old and new worlds, and the city grew in opulent palaces, plazas, and parks. Because of the deprivations of the embargo years, much of the city's elegant architecture exists in a deteriorated state, despite ongoing restoration projects.

In 1982 Old Havana (*Havana Vieja*) and its fortifications were designated world cultural heritage sites. Built from 1538 to 1544, **Castillo de la Fuerza** (Castle of the Royal Army) is Cuba's oldest building. **Fortaleza de la Cabaña** (1763-1774) fronts the harbor; **Castillo del Morro** (1589-1630) guards the entrance to Havana Bay and **Castilla de la Punta** (1590-1629) sits opposite.

Today, Havana dominates Cuba's political, scientific, and cultural life with over fifty museums, theaters, concert halls, art galleries, and cultural institutions.

Varadero. As Cuba's premier resort destination, with 20 km of white sand beach edging the Hicacos Peninsula, Varadero has its own airport. It's a scenic 134-km drive east from Havana. **Hicacos Point Natural Park** is home to the Patriarch (*El Patriarca*), a 600-year-old cactus, Ambrosio's Cave, Mangón Lake, and the ruins of the Skull (*La Calavera*) Salt Works.

Matanzas, 34 km east of Varadero, is known as "the city of bridges." No less than seventeen cross the three rivers that traverse the city, which was founded in 1693 as a center for sugar plantations, and as such was the scene of slave insurrections. Here, the 19th century **Sauto Theater**, a national monument, and the Pharmaceutical Museum at **Dr Triolet's French Drugstore** are worthy attractions, as is the **Bellamar Cave** located about 5 km from Matanzas.

Cienfuegos, on the southern coast about 250 km from Havana, is known as "the pearl of the south." In 2005 UNESCO declared its 19th century Urban Centre to be a part of world cultural heritage. A **Botanical Garden**, with over 2,000 species of native and exotic plants, is about 14 km from city center.

Villa Clara Province has two 16th century heritage cities: **Santa Clara**, with its Ernesto Che Guevara Monument, and **Remedios**. The popular Remedios Revels are an annual street party and carnival culminating on Christmas Eve.

Trinidad, 133 km south of Santa Clara, has retained its authentic 16th century character. Founded in 1514, the city and nearby **Valley of Sugar Mills** (*Valle de los Ingenios*) have been

UNESCO world heritage sites since 1988. About 30 km from town, **Playa Ancon** is a renowned white sand beach.

Camagüey, Cuba's third largest city, was founded in 1515 and moved inland in 1528 as protection from pirate attacks. Its hilly, maze-like layout of winding streets and dead-end ways made it confusing for attackers but delightful for today's tourists. It's been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1988.

Holguin, 760 km southeast of Havana, is mainly noted for its proximity to the white sand beaches of Guardalavaca.

Bayamo, 819 km east of Havana, was founded in 1513. Rich in national pride, Bayamo is noted as the cradle of Cuban revolution and the site of 19th century uprisings.

Santiago de Cuba, Cuba's second largest city, is located 869 km (540 miles) southeast of Havana in mountainous terrain. Founded in 1515, it was Cuba's first capital and was the scene of important patriotic events. Among other historic places, it contains the oldest house in the country and its first museum. **San Pedro de la Roca del Morro Castle** is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Baracoa is secluded at the northeastern tip of the island in view of a tabletop hill called *El Yunque*. Founded in 1511, it was the first Spanish settlement in Cuba and its museum preserves the **Parra Cross**, which is the only one to survive of 29 crosses that Columbus brought to the new world.



Castillo del Morro, Havana

Americans and Cuba

Currently, Americans may travel to Cuba legally if they qualify either for a "general" or a "specific" licence to go – maybe on a religious mission, journalistic assignment, academic or research studies, conferences, athletic clinics and competitions, cultural events and workshops, or to visit family.

Travelers wishing to try for a specific license need to compose a letter specifying reasons and qualifications.

Details. [US Department of the Treasury](#).

Online resources:

- ✓ Tico Travel. www.destinationcuba.com.
- ✓ Legal Cuba Travel. www.legalcubatransel.com.

Even without permission, thousands of Americans (see [article](#) by Bret Voegelé) go to Cuba every year without license, leaving from places like the Bahamas, Canada, Mexico, or Jamaica. Cuban Customs officials need not stamp passports. The problem, as I understand it, is not so much the going but the spending of dollars in Cuba, and, if caught, violators may be subject to hefty fines. Diplomatic help is limited if vacationers get sick or into trouble with the law while in Cuba.

With recent changes of heads of state both in Havana and in Washington, many observers are confident that these restrictions will soon retreat into the annals of historic oddities.

Ads & Ends — In the Mail — CSTN Friends

Comments



Tips for Cuba

From Sylvia S. Re question (*Solo Travel News*, Jan/09): “Why is Cuba not listed in the Solo Trips?” [section of CSTN website], I have some tips on single supplements at Caribbean resorts:

➤ Sunquest Vacations has deals for single parents at selected resorts. **Contact:** www.sunquestvacations.ca.

➤ Air Transat [Transat Holidays] has “no single supplement” at some resorts. **Contact:** www.transatholidays.com.

➤ Signature Vacations has selected resorts at four destinations. Cuba: Cayo Coco, Holguin, and Varadero. Mexico: Puerto Vallarta.

Contact: www.signaturevacations.com.

PS: It sure would be nice if more resorts and cruise lines could do this. I for one would like a room to myself. I don’t really feel like sharing.

Group Tour Preferred for Egypt

From Sylvia S. I too have to admit I like the group tour [rather than independent travel]. The [Egypt](#) article by Daniel Otero brought back memories of my trip to Egypt and Jordan in 2005.

I always thought I’d like to plan my own trip, but it can be time consuming and frustrating. I like group tours because there is always someone to have dinner with, or to hang out with during free time. Or, I can go exploring on my own if I want. Maybe one day I’ll try planning everything on my own, but then again I don’t know. I do like the idea of everything arranged.

Singles Travel Club

From Murray G. I am looking for an Egypt tour for the fall and this [\[Egypt article\]](#) will be very useful. One of the options I am looking at is a local [Vancouver] Singles Travel Club that a travel agent is running [Val Liddle]. Membership is \$25 I believe. I wonder if

this is appropriate information for your newsletter? Perhaps it could be useful to CSTN members?

Diane: Yes, I am always glad to let CSTNers know about any travel agent or club that helps solo travelers, even if the club is limited to a specific region. Outsiders may not be able to attend group meetings, but I’m sure travelers from anywhere would be welcome to join the club’s group trips, which, in this case, are posted on the club website.

Contact: www.singlestravelclub.ca.

Questions

Englishtown Spain

From David R. I am interested in finding out more information concerning the English speaking program in Spain that helps natives improve their English. Could you tell me how I go about applying for one of these week-long positions?

Diane: This question refers to a solo travel [report](#) – *Free Room & Board in Spain* posted on the CSTN website in 2005. In the meantime, “Englishtown,” the organization mentioned in the article, changed its name to the Spanish equivalent, “Pueblo Ingles.” The program is still operating, and more information is available online.

Details: www.morethanenglish.com.

Going Solo Tips

From Becky M. Is there a way I can get a copy of your “Getting Started Independently” (40 plus pages) without having to download it?

Diane: I think you are referring to my e-publication *Going Solo Tips*, which is only available via the Member Index at cstn.org. It is in .pdf format, which you can view and/or print directly from your web browser rather than saving it (downloading?) to your own computer.

Scotland Tours

From Janet S. I want to go to Scotland. Do you have any tours to that country?

Diane: Following are some travel companies you might check out that regularly do trips to Scotland, and they will help you find a roommate: Cosmos/Globus, Grand Circle Travel, Elderhostel, Heatherlea Birdwatching, Hebridean Cruises, HF Holidays, Insight Vacations, Ramblers Holidays, Saga Holidays, Trafalgar Tours.

➤ Contacts and websites for these international companies (and others) are alphabetically listed in the *Single-Friendly Travel Directory*, which you can access, view/print by logging into the Member Index at cstn.org.

Additionally, do visit this page: www.cstn.org/news/single.htm and scroll through the trips/companies listed there. I know that Singles Travel International is doing a Scottish trip this year, and it doesn’t hurt to contact any of the others to inquire, as Scotland is sure to be on their agenda at one time or another. Contacts for the trip organizers are given in the “Details” paragraph at the end of each item.

Cruises, What to Wear

4 Messages, 2 Authors

From [CSTN Friend](#) Wanda. I’m going on my first cruise, seven days in the south Caribbean. I’m tormenting myself re clothing to bring. I do not want to take more than I need. Are there “theme nights,” ie Western or such, that I should be prepared for? I’m looking for that perfect wardrobe in a suitcase. If anyone can help, I’d appreciate it. **Posted:** Feb 8/09.

Religious Hostels

2 Messages, 2 Authors

From [CSTN Friend](#) Barbara DeLand. Does anyone have the website that lists clean, inexpensive hostels owned by various religious groups in different countries? **Posted** Feb 24/09.

Ads & Ends — Travel Companions

Africa, Egypt

4 Messages, 3 Authors

From [CSTN Friend](#) Wander. I'm an energetic, 63-year-old female, N/S who loves to travel to faraway places and experience new cultures. I love antiquities, museums, art and architecture, new and different foods, and meeting new people. I'm looking for a travel mate for a trip to Egypt. If this doesn't materialize, I'm open to suggestions. **Posted** Feb 7/09.

Central America, Mexico

8 Messages, 3 Authors

From [CSTN Friend](#) Jeannie. Anyone interested in going to San Miguel de Allende Mexico and perhaps on to an ocean resort area, 1 week in each? I'm a 67-year-old agile female from Calgary Alberta. **Posted:** Feb 2/09.

Europe, Eastern

1 Message, 1 Author

From [CSTN Friend](#) Frank. Seeking a travel companion for a trip through Eastern Europe for three weeks, Sep 24 to Oct 15/09. Will be starting in Warsaw and going to Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia and ending in either Istanbul or Athens. Dates and cities somewhat flexible, but I cannot leave earlier than Sep 23. I plan to spend at least three days/two nights in each city and take overnight trains between cities. Me: 63, male, very independent traveler, love to walk the old cities. I speak some Polish, a little Hungarian, a smattering of Czech, a little Turkish (if that is the final destination) and can read Cyrillic (necessary for Bulgaria), so, language will not be much of a problem. As for any potential companion, age/sex immaterial, and my only requirement is a capability and willingness to walk 4-8 miles each day to see everything we can cram into the days spent in each city. **Posted** Feb 28/09.



Europe, Mediterranean

1 Message, 1 Author

From [CSTN Friend](#) Renee. Looking for female travel companion for 20-day cruise that includes Tunisia, Turkey, Monte Carlo. Want to avoid single supplement. Sails Jun through Oct. \$1,999. Airfare extra. I'm a 65-year-young German lady living in Oklahoma. **Posted** Feb 4/09.

Europe, Russia

1 Message, 1 Author

From [CSTN Friend](#) Yongcha Bryant. I am a Korean-American female, age 65, looking into traveling to Russia. Alltravelrussia.com has a good price, but I need a companion so I don't have to pay the single supplement charge. Dates are Jun 26- Jul 3/09. Cost: \$1,790 per person, including visa, some meals, train ticket, and guide. If anyone has heard of a better deal, please let me know. **Posted** Feb 3/09.

North America, Canada: Queen Charlotte Islands

I'm looking for a travel companion to join me exploring Queen Charlotte Islands and Vancouver Island. It would be nice to find someone (age 55- 69) who has a car, likes driving, and is young at heart. **Contact:** Marielle

Various Destinations

9 Messages, 4 Authors

From [CSTN Friend](#) Stuff. I'm a 63-year-old female, a semi-retired teacher. I am a N/S, I'm energetic, have a good sense of humor, enjoy people, and love traveling to exciting new places, experiencing different culture and foods. I love antiquities, museums, art, etc. I have traveled independently and with tours. I am open to compromise in terms of destinations and cost. **Posted:** Jan 10/09.



TIP! Attorney's Advice No Charge

Forwarded by Joan S. We've all heard horror stories about identity theft. Here are some tips from a corporate attorney who has suffered through the experience.

1. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name printed on them. If someone takes your check-book, he/she will not know if you sign your checks just with your initials or your first name, but your bank will know.

2. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".

3. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the processing channels won't have access to it.

4. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO box, use your work address. Never have your SIN number printed on your checks (DUH!). You can add it if necessary.

5. Photocopy the contents of your wallet. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. In case of loss or theft, you will have a record of all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either within the country or abroad.

Connecting with Kiva — the Power of One to One

January and February 2009 were big pay-back months for our Kiva entrepreneurs. Five more loans were fully repaid, giving us a total of seven payoffs since we began lending money in April 2008. Congratulations to the following successful loan recipients:

- ✓ Awa Sikina Sané, Senegal: \$225 loan
- ✓ Kitimbwa Group, Uganda: \$100 loan
- ✓ Kurmi Group, Bolivia: \$225 loan
- ✓ Maria Mejia Chavez, El Salvador: \$50 loan
- ✓ Mujeres Group, Dominican Republic: \$75 loan
- ✓ Natig Hasanov, Azerbaijan: \$50 loan
- ✓ Rosa Maria Reyes, Mexico: \$150 loan

From time to time field partners submit updates on how our mutual “clients” are doing. Here is a report from GHAPE (Grounded and Holistic Approach for People’s Empowerment), a field partner in Cameroon West Africa. GHAPE works with our loan recipient Neh Bertha:

“Bertha was going to the farm every day and selling her vegetables in the market until about three months ago when she broke her arm. She went to the hospital, and paid 10,000 CFA (\$20 USD) to have her arm treated. Three of Bertha’s six children are living with her now, as well as two grandchildren.

“Since she joined GHAPE she says she wears nice clothes, makes her house, pays her children’s school fees, and easily takes care of her family.

“GHAPE clients are required to join groups of five for support and as a cross guarantee for one another’s loans. Clients undergo training throughout their time with GHAPE. The first sessions focus on business management, finance skills, starting an income-generating activity, health practices, and gender main-streaming.

“A second session of training occurs after a client has successfully repaid their first loan. This session focuses on understanding different possibilities, marketing and management techniques, expansion and growth, profit and loss accounting, and gender issues.

“Ideas and experiences are exchanged between entrepreneurs while GHAPE credit assistants offer suggestions and direct the sessions. GHAPE also requires clients to make small payments towards their personal savings. Clients then have access to this savings account in case of emergency. Clients also have access to a revolving “Emergency Fund.” GHAPE allows the clients one month to pay it back with no interest.

“GHAPE tries to instill a sense of community within its centers; upon entering a room, one must say “If we are together,” to which all clients reply, “We are one.”

The clients of GHAPE are always very grateful for their loans; however it is the training sessions, center meetings, and group support that allows them to invest their loans profitably and improve their living standards.

New Loan Recipients

Ahmad Shabaz Mohammad Smail lives in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has six children, and he works in a shoe store. He needs a loan to expand his business.



CSTN portion: \$100.

8 de Septiembre Village Bank is a group of 19 members who live in a farming community located 90 minutes outside Ayacucho Peru.



Members have a variety of businesses: some sell firewood, dry goods, grains, shoes, meat, clothing, and animals; others work as carpenters or bake bread.

CSTN portion: \$225.

Maria Salome Balan Tomas sells food, soft drinks, and sundry items out of her home in Chimaltenango Guatemala. She wants a loan to increase the variety of products. CSTN portion: \$100.



Esther Ebeghiaye sells second-hand clothing in Benin City Nigeria. She needs to purchase more stock and expand her business. CSTN portion: \$100.



What is Kiva?

Kiva lets us lend to small entrepreneurs in developing countries, empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty.

- 1) Lenders like us browse profiles of entrepreneurs in need, choose recipients, and send money via PayPal or credit card.
- 2) One of Kiva’s micro-finance partners distributes the loan funds to the selected entrepreneur.
- 3) Over time, the entrepreneur repays the loan.
- 4) When lenders get their money back, they can re-lend or withdraw their funds.

Loans to date (Apr/08-Feb/09): 32

Total CSTN portion to date: \$3,550

Total repaid to date: \$1,591

Loans repaid to date: 7

Total Loans Fully Repaid. \$875