

TRAVELIN'...

Community Education Travel Newsletter

September-December 2014

Get Ready for Next Travel Talks! on Sept. 16

It's time for another Community Education Travel's (CET) Travel Talks! scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The session will be held at Forest View Educational Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights. Attendees should enter Door 2 at the front of the building by the flagpole (park in Lots A or B). There will be several breakout sessions providing more in-depth information on several CET destinations (see box).

CET staff, volunteers and travel partners will be on hand to answer questions on all upcoming tours, day trips and motorcoach tours, as well as supply informational brochures. Special travel discounts will be offered throughout the day. For questions or further details call 847-718-7709 or email cetravel@d214.org.

Your 2015 Winter Getaway

Remember last year's brutal winter? Now's the time to plan your escape on a CET Tour. Here's a brief description:

JAN 29-FEB 5 SUNSHINE STATE—Fly to Orlando, Florida to spend a day at Disney World's EPCOT, designed to combine Disney fun and imagination with real world wonders. Next visit nearby Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center. Travel to Fort Myers to Seminole Lodge, the home of Thomas Edison and Mangoes, the home of Henry Ford. An airboat ride through the Everglades National Park is next followed by a journey across the Florida Keys Scenic Highway to Key West. Take a trolley tour to see Ernest Hemingway's home, the Audobon House and Gardens and the Southernmost Point Marker. The trip ends in Miami with a city tour and farewell dinner.

FEB 1-7 PALM SPRINGS ESCAPE—Fly to Los Angeles and transfer to the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel for five nights. See the homes of the stars and the playground of the elite. Tour the Palm Springs Air Museum housing the largest collection of WWII flying aircraft. Experience the Living Desert aboard a tram tour and watch the desert animals come alive in the early morning. Take the world's longest double-reversible single span aerial tramway up Mt. San Jacinto to view spectacular vistas of the desert 8,516 feet below. Enter a Hopi-inspired pueblo measuring 5,000 sq ft at Cabot's Pueblo Museum. A Desert Adventures jeep tour of the desert along the San Andreas Fault, a tour of Joshua Tree National Park, a chuck wagon dinner and a tour of Los Angeles round out the trip.

Also CUBS SPRING TRAINING, Mesa Mar 7-12.

September 16 Travel Talks! Breakout Sessions:

- 1:45-2:15 p.m. Southwest Canyon Country
Switzerland & Italy
- 2:30-3:00 p.m. CET 2015 Day Trips
- 3:15-3:45 p.m. New Orleans/Chesapeake Bay Getaway
New York City Spring
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. Southern England
France
- 4:45-5:15 p.m. Berlin & Prague
East Coast Islands & Hamptons

Poland



CET travelers strike a regal pose in front of Malbork's Marienburg Fortress, the largest castle in the world, on last April's trip to Poland.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA



I'd like to introduce you to our newest member of the CET team, **Bob Ramian**. Bob comes to us from Mid-America Tours, where he spent over 20 years designing tours from one-day and longer motorcoach/train tours to air tours throughout North America to cruises in the Caribbean and Alaska. In fact, he has been behind the development of all CET's Day Trips from the start! Bob also arranges tours for organizations such as park districts, senior centers, various workplaces and clubs.

With Bob and his expertise on board, CET can now offer a **new benefit to CET clients**. If you belong to an organization that would be interested in going on a trip (one day or longer) to explore the interests of your group (such as the Amish Quilt Gardens for a garden club or a quilting club for example), Bob's your "go-to guy." Just give him a call at 847-718-7751.

On a personal note, Bob and his family hail from Schaumburg. The interesting fact here is that his son's name is also Bob and the family's three dogs are also named Bob—I bet "Bob" gets blamed for everything in their household!

Other members of the CET staff include my assistant, **Marilyn Emigh**, who worked 29 years for District 214 and joined CET in 2007. She works part-time from September through May handling trip registration, confirmation letters, day trip brochures, mailing list and much, much more. She and her husband Mike live in Mount Prospect and also volunteer as tour leaders on many of our tours. **Pat Davidson**, who started volunteering for us in 2010, has now also joined us on a part-time basis, primarily handling the Day Trip registrations. She also volunteers as a tour leader on both Day Trips and our longer tours. She just sold the home she raised her family in for over 40 years and now settles in a condo in Palatine.

Last, but certainly not least, are our volunteers—**Pat Kiel, Marilyn Daleburn, Ellie Nesbitt, Cynthia Groneman and Tony De Salvo**. They help in the office with mailings, answering phones, preparing packets for Day Trips and helping out at the Reunions, Afternoon Teas and Travel Talks! I am very appreciative for all our staff and volunteers. Without them CET is nothing and with them we are one mighty team!

SPOTLIGHT: Costa Rica

Costa Rica, meaning "rich coast" in Spanish, is a country in Central America bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Costa Rica was sparsely inhabited by indigenous people before it came under Spanish rule in the 16th century. Once a backwater colony, since attaining independence in the 19th century, Costa Rica has become one of the most stable, prosperous, and progressive nations in Latin America. It permanently abolished its army in 1949, becoming the first of a few sovereign nations without a standing army. Costa Rica has consistently been among the top-ranking Latin American countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), placing 62nd in the world as of 2012.

And it's a beautiful place to visit! Join CET's tour to Costa Rica, January 22-30, 2015 and discover a tropical paradise. Start in the colorful capital city of San Jose to see evidence of the country's investment in education and the arts, on display with the vibrant, friendly people and grand National Theatre. Then it's off to the verdant countryside and the Doka Coffee Estate to learn the history and cultivation of the country's largest economic crop. Afterward settle in Guanacaste, known for its breathtaking beauty, fine sandy beaches and mesmerizing ocean views.

You won't believe your eyes as you travel into the Monteverde Cloud Forest, where trees grow to heights of 100 feet! A Nature Walk shows the beauty and the incredible species of flora and fauna unique to the area—keep your eyes peeled for the endangered quetzal, known for its colorful plumage. In Selvatura Park, explore the world's largest butterfly gardens with over 30 species, as well as more than 100 hummingbirds. You'll also take a leisurely "Hanging Bridges" walking tour to view the Cloud Forest's mysteries up close.

You'll visit the Arenal Volcano, which has been generating lava for the past 30 years. A highlight is a guided Cano Negro riverboat trip in a panga (covered canoe) with frequent stops to photograph wildlife such as crocodiles, river otters, sloths, turtles and exotic birds. The volcano area is also known as the land of spas and hot springs, so optional spa packages are available to help you rest and relax. There are many more amazing things to see, as well as an optional three-night Jungle Adventure Extension to visit Tortuguero National Park, home to a Green Turtle Research Center, howler monkeys, toucans, jaguars, tapirs, ocelots, cougars, caimans and exotic flora. Join us—you'll be amazed!



Hanging Bridge in Costa Rica

See the Monteverde Cloud Forest up close on a Hanging Bridge walking tour during CET's trip to Costa Rica in January.



Community Education
TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 214

Community Education Travel

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Visit us at www.ce214.org



CET Choral Group

CET travelers test their vocal chords (yes, Patty, seated at the piano, can play!) in Oslo, Norway on the June trip to Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle.

Testimonials

"I can be especially proud of my heritage and the country." Pat B., April Poland

"If you have any doubts about going to Poland you need not hesitate, the trip was fascinating and well worth the price--Very educational as well." Carol P., April Poland

"Take the trip. It focuses on the beautiful tulips and Dutch culture that are the pride of Holland. You really need a category other than 'very good'. Much of the trip was excellent!" Kathy V., May Holland, MI Tulip Festival

"I felt pampered with having everything done for me. I didn't really need to do anything but enjoy. I also felt I could do these trips solo if I couldn't find a buddy." Nancy B, June Wisconsin River Wanderings

Travel Tip

Next time you fly make sure all the electronic gadgets (cell phone, computer, Ipad, Kindle, etc.) are fully charged. Some agents may ask you to "power-up" these items when you pass through security. If you cannot, the items may be confiscated.

Community Education News

2014 Online Auction starts Sunday, November 23 - Tuesday, December 2. Support lifelong learning! Bid on exciting items at www.ce214.org.

Gold Card Club—programs and discounts for those over 62 who live in District 214—free membership. Gold Card members receive \$50 off CET multi-day tours over \$2500, \$25 off multi-day trips \$750-\$2499 and \$10 off multi-day trips under \$750 (not to be combined with CET Rewards).

TRAVEL CALENDAR

2014 Day Trips (include lunch)

- Oct 9 American Icons & Dixon, IL
- Oct 21 Fun With Food—A Culinary Adventure
- Nov 4 Sold out—new date Nov 6 Little Italy & Eataly
- Nov 18 "Tribute to the Silver Screen" at Starved Rock
- Nov 21 Morton Arboretum's "Illumination" & MSI's Holiday Trees
- Dec 5, 8 sold out—new date Dec 9 Chicago Christmas Light's & Lawry's

2015 Day Trips to be announced at Sep 16 Travel Talks!

2014-15 Theatre/Opera Trips (now include lunch)

- Oct 8 Don Giovanni at the Lyric Opera
- Nov 5 Il Trovatore at the Lyric Opera
- Nov 26 Porgy and Bess at the Lyric Opera
- Dec 11 Newsies at the Oriental Theatre
- Jan 30 Tosca at the Lyric Opera
- Apr 16 Carousel at the Lyric Opera

Theatre and/or Opera Buff? Call to be placed on our Theatre List.

2014-15 Motorcoach Tours

- Oct 6-8 Door County
- Oct 21-23 Brown County, IN & Covered Bridges
- Nov 13-17 Branson Holiday
- Jul 8-10 Amish Quilt Gardens, IN
- Aug 4-6 Mini Mystery Tour to ?
- Sep 29-Oct 3 Agawa Canyon

Also Coming in 2015:

- Mississippi River
- Lake Michigan Ferry/Blueberry Harvest
- Cranberry Autumn Harvest
- Nashville Holiday at Opryland
- Smoky Mountain Holiday

2014-15 Extended Air Tours

- Dec 1-5 Washington, D.C. & Williamsburg Christmas
- Dec 2-7 New England Christmas-Newport, Stockbridge & New York
- Dec 30-Jan 4 Rose Parade New Year's
- Jan 22-30 Costa Rica
- Jan 29-Feb 5 Florida from Orlando to the Keys
- Feb 1-7 Palm Springs, CA
- Feb 19-28 Ecuador & Galapagos
- Mar 7-12 Cubs Spring Training, Mesa
- Mar 10-15 Death Valley, Zion, Las Vegas
- Mar 12-20 Panama & the Canal
- Mar 17-24 Savannah, Charleston, Hilton Head
- Apr 6-10 Washington, D.C.
- Apr 13-17 New Orleans
- Apr 28-May 5 Berlin & Prague
- Apr 28-May 8 Danube River Cruise
- Apr 30-May 6 Dallas, Houston & San Antonio
- May 9-25 China, Yangtze Cruise & Tibet
- May 11-16 East Coast Islands & The Hamptons
- May 11-18 Chesapeake Bay Getaway
- May 14-17 New York City Spring
- June Colorado Trains (call for date)
- Jun 11-16 Pacific Northwest Explorer
- Aug 22-Sep 3 South Africa & Victoria Falls
- Sep 11-20 Switzerland & Italy
- Sep 15-27 Rhine River Cruise
- Sep 20-27 Southern England
- Sep 24-Oct 2 Southwest Canyon Country
- Oct 2-9 Autumn in the Adirondacks
- Oct 3-18 France
- Oct 4-10 Autumn in Maine
- Nov 2-9 Disney for Adults



Township High School District 214
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CET Tours are hassle-free! We provide parking in our lot during the tour and take you to/from the airport. We have a meeting before the tour to discuss money, temperature, packing, etc. We help you through airport check-in and explain security procedures. We obtain seat assignments and pay the fees to check your bag. If the place you visit requires a Visa, we obtain the Visa for you. You just have to book early, relax and enjoy the trip!