

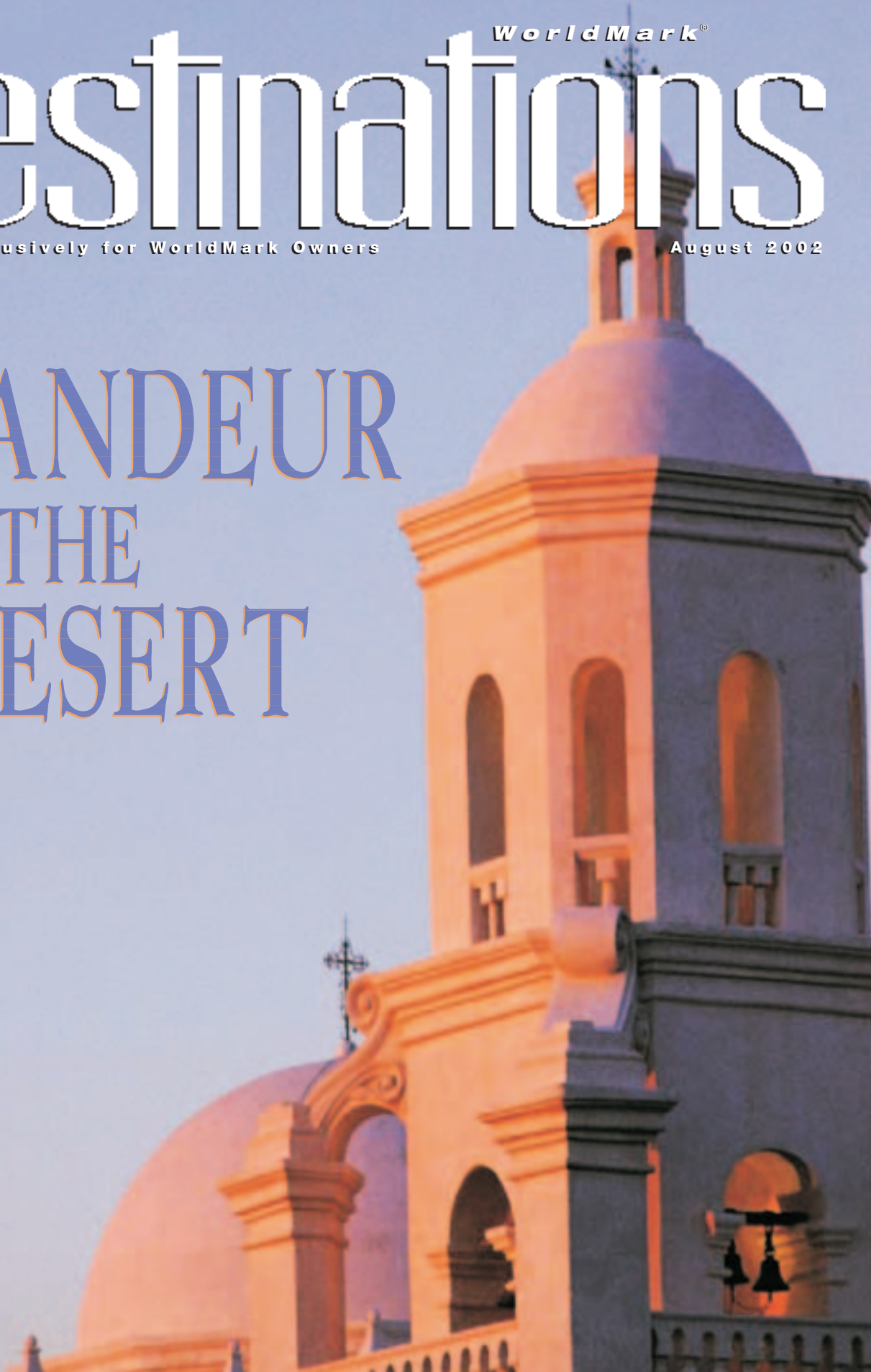
Destinations

WorldMark®

Published Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

August 2002

GRANDEUR IN THE DESERT



Diversity, Anyone?

Southern Arizona's WorldMark Rancho Vistoso and an Inside Passage cruise to Alaska—talk about diversity! But these seemingly disparate vacation opportunities have one very important thing in common—each can be enjoyed through your WorldMark credits.

The beautiful Rancho Vistoso resort, 20 miles outside Tucson, regales the traveler with fairway-studded desert, grand old missions and soulful cheap eats. Turn to our cover story on page eight to accompany staff writer Doug Hampton as he wanders Tucson's funky Fourth Street, tools through red-rock desert and sits with saguaro cacti watching the sunset.

On page 10, a Royal Caribbean cruise to Alaska highlights the 49th state's wildlife, glaciers and historic gold rush towns as ship employees cater to assistant editor Leah Clark's every whim. This seven-night voyage is just one of many cruising options available to you through our popular Cruise for Credits Program. If you count yourself among the uninitiated, this story will give you an idea of what to expect from cruising.

Looking for even more diversity? You'll find a Footloose outing to Lake Tahoe, a Mexican Riviera cruise and Alaska hotel exchanges all tucked within this issue. Welcome to the WorldMark of 2002, where nearly the only thing limiting your vacations is your imagination. Why not let it run wild?

Christie R. Keister



RADIANCE OF THE SEAS SOLARIUM / PHOTO COURTESY OF CREATIVE SERVICES, ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL



DESTINATIONS / August 2002

8 Grandeur in the Desert
Vibrant city life, magnificent arid landscapes and rich history—Rancho Vistoso is central to it all.

**10 Cruising With WorldMark
Alaska**
Embark on the journey of a lifetime—the Great Land's wildness perfectly complements the civilized nature of cruising.

5 Annual Owners Meeting
13 Footloose fun in Lake Tahoe
13 Mexican Riviera cruise

coverphoto



Mission San Xavier del Bac glows in the desert south of Tucson.

PHOTO COURTESY EYEWIRE

Cruise for Credits

Baja Cruise

November 1 – 4

Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* departs Los Angeles for Ensenada
Inside cabin: 12,500 credits for two
Inside deluxe cabin: 13,500 credits for two
Outside cabin: 15,500 credits for two
Outside deluxe cabin: 18,000 credits for two
Balcony cabin: 19,000 credits for two

Western Caribbean Cruises

November 18 – 23

Carnival's *Celebration* departs Galveston and stops in Cozumel and Calica/Playa del Carmen
Inside cabin: 12,500 credits for two
Outside cabin: 13,000 credits for two
Inside quad cabin: 21,000 credits for four
Outside quad cabin: 21,500 credits for four

December 2 – 7

Carnival's *Holiday* departs New Orleans and stops in Playa del Carmen and Cozumel
Outside cabin: 12,000 credits for two

December 7 – 14

Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* departs New Orleans and stops in Progresso, Cozumel and Key West
Inside cabin: 23,000 credits for two
Outside cabin: 25,500 credits for two
Balcony cabin: 34,500 credits for two
Outside quad cabin: 32,000 credits for four

Adventure Club

European Tours

Rome

November 2 – 9

45,500 credits for two

Paris

November 8 – 15

38,000 credits for two

Paris and London

November 8 – 21

31,500 credits per person

London

November 14 – 21

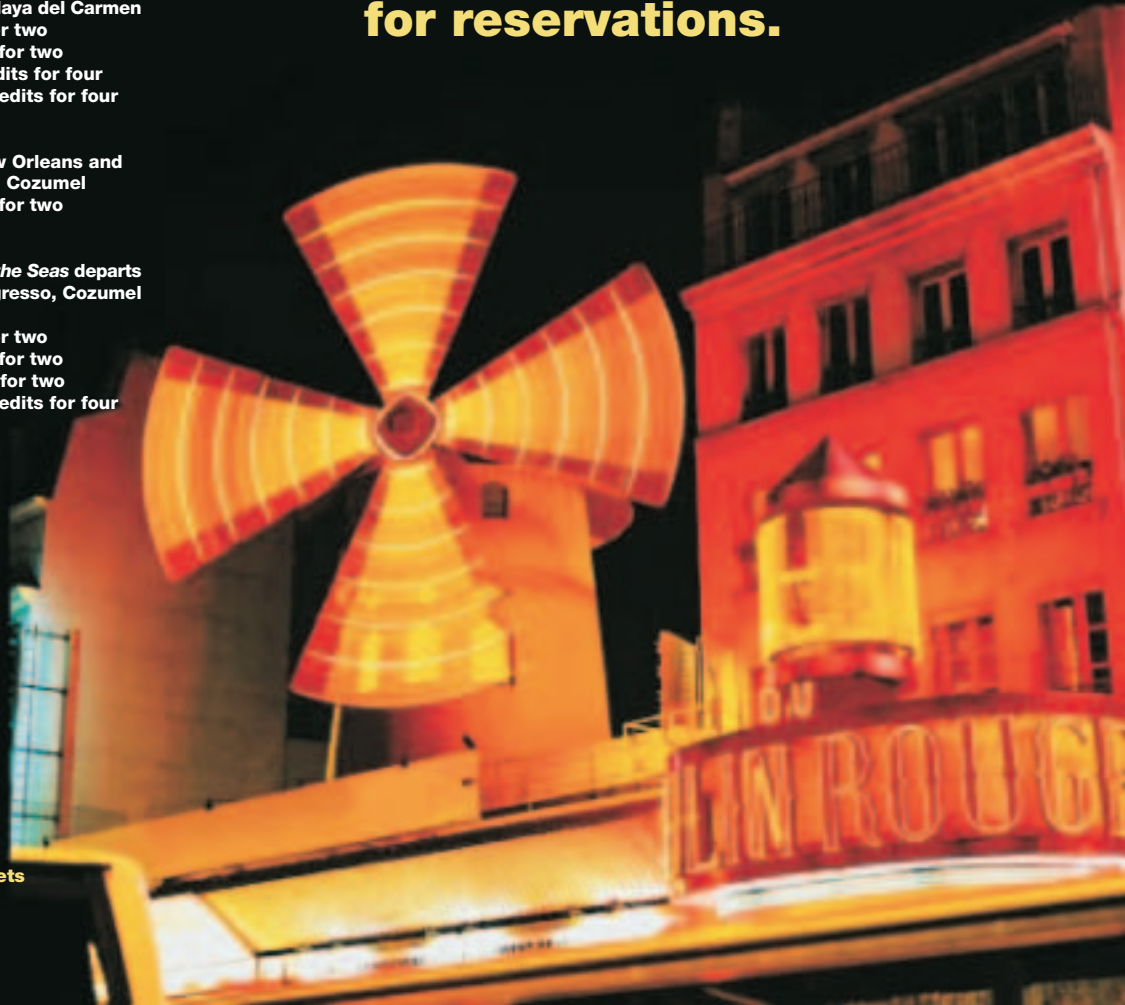
36,500 credits for two

Discounted Theme Park Tickets

SeaWorld, Universal Studios, Six Flags and many more!

STILL Hot

Call 1-800-457-0103
for reservations.



MOULIN ROUGE, PARIS

Destinations

Published Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

VICE PRESIDENT OF RESORT OPERATIONS

Dave Herrick

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ric Rosa

EDITOR

Christine Rorabeck Koester

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leah Clark

LEAD WRITER

Doug Hampton

SENIOR DESIGNER

Terry Dickens

CONTRIBUTORS

Beáta Jachulski Baker, Rosie Gray,
Maggie Kolter, Patty Daly

COMMENTS ARE APPRECIATED

Destinations Editor

9805 Willows Road
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 498-2500

TRENDWEST TRAVEL

1-800-953-5511
Mon. – Fri., 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. PT
Sat., 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Wed., 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. PT)

VACATION PLANNING CENTER

1-800-457-0103
Mon. – Fri., 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. PT
Sat. & Sun., 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Tues., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

OWNER SERVICES

1-888-648-7363
ownersupport@worldmarktheclub.com
Mon. – Fri., 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. PT
(Closed Tues., 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. PT)

INTERVAL INTERNATIONAL

Service line: 1-877-678-4400
Flexchange recording: 1-800-722-1747

RESORT CONDOMINIUMS INTERNATIONAL

1-800-585-4833

WORLDMARK WEB SITE

www.worldmarktheclub.com

© 2002, WorldMark, The Club. All rights reserved. *Destinations* and its respective logos and the design of this publication are trademarks, service marks and/or trade dress of WorldMark, The Club. WorldMark® is a registered trademark and service mark of WorldMark, The Club. Trendwest® is a registered trademark and service mark of Trendwest Resorts, Inc. Other marks, names and logos may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. No affiliation with such companies should be assumed.

We Have a Winner!

comment card drawing

Lucky Viviana Castro of San Mateo, California, has won a three-night stay at a WorldMark resort. Fill out the comment card after your next WorldMark stay and you could be a winner, too!

Correction: it's no picnic

We goofed in the July issue when our cover story, "Kona Dreams," recommended picnicking near the active lava flow on Hawaii's Big Island. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park says sharp rocks and volcanic gas make the flow area a bad spot for lunch. According to park representatives, picnickers should use the tables at the end of Chain of Craters Road, and people who want to hike to the flow area should first check with rangers about the ever-changing conditions, heed any area closure signs, and take water and snacks for the trek.

what's new

Lagoon Amusement Park Tickets

Tame the heat of August with a day at Lagoon, Utah's premier amusement park. Passes are only 400 credits, and include entrance to the Lagoon-A-Beach Water Park, Pioneer Village and, of course, the various thrill rides.

Call the Vacation Planning Center to order your discounted tickets today!

Please allow 5 - 10 days for delivery. Children under four years of age get in free. Tickets are also available at many other parks throughout the country.

inventory specials

Fiji, Baja!

During the month of September, you can vacation at the following resorts for just four cents per credit. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 to make your reservations.

MIDWEEK & LIMITED WEEKENDS

Bison Ranch, AZ
Branson, MO
Coral Baja, MX
Denarau Island, Fiji
Lake of the Ozarks, MO
Rancho Vistoso, AZ

MIDWEEK ONLY

Bear Lake, UT
McCall, ID
Pinetop, AZ

Midweek stays must take place Sunday through Thursday. Reservations at the above resorts not subject to 14-day booking window. You may book multiple units. Holidays are excluded.

Annual Owners Meeting

Please join us for WorldMark's Annual Owners Meeting on Thursday, October 17. The meeting will be held at DoubleTree Hotel Bellevue (300 112th Avenue S.E., Bellevue, Washington). Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the presentation will commence at 7:00 p.m.

The evening will include audiovisual presentations by WorldMark and Trendwest management on new resorts, programs and services. You will have a chance to meet WorldMark board nominees before marking your ballot and, as always, the meeting will conclude with an open-mike question session. WorldMark and Trendwest executives will answer the questions you've been eager to ask.

You will receive your packet of voting materials in September. If you won't be able to attend the meeting, please be sure to vote online at www.proxyvoting.com/worldmark or send in your proxy ballot. (Check next month's issue of *Destinations* for more information.) We hope to see you in October!

Vacation Memories Photo Contest



There's still time! The deadline for the 2002 Vacation Memories Photo Contest is almost here. If you haven't already sent us your favorite WorldMark and exchange vacation photos, better dust off your camera lens and get out there! You could be one of 16 owners to win a WorldMark vacation or gift certificate to Cameraworld.com. Your entries must be postmarked by September 15.

Mail entries to: *Destinations* Photo Contest
Trendwest Resorts, Inc.
9805 Willows Road
Redmond, WA 98052

Contest Rules: All entries must have been taken on a WorldMark or exchange vacation during 2001 or 2002. Each owner account may submit up to four prints, transparencies and/or slides. (If slides, please include prints of the images, as well.) Printouts of digital images must also be accompanied by original files. Sorry, we cannot accept images electronically. Please mail your entries in one envelope and label each print, slide and transparency with your name, owner number, address and phone number. To protect your images, write on the backs with a permanent marker and safely package in cardboard. Each entry should include a description of where the photograph was taken. *Images will not be returned to you.* Only one winning entry per person, per year. By entering the contest, participants agree to free use of their photographs by WorldMark and Trendwest Resorts, including publication in future issues of *Destinations*.



Labor Day

WorldMark Reservations will be open Monday, September 2—Labor Day. Owner Services and Trendwest Travel will be closed to celebrate the holiday.



**Need
Help?**

WorldMark Web Site

If you're having trouble navigating the WorldMark Web site, please check the site's on-line help page. You can view it by clicking "Help" in the upper right part of any page on the site, or by pointing your browser to:

www.worldmarktheclub.com/help-wm.shtml

The Frequently Asked Questions address such topics as how to gain access to the Owners Only area, what to do if you've forgotten your PIN, how to get the colors on the Availability Calendar to print out using Internet Explorer, how to clear your cache, and many others. While you're on-line, you can also check out a separate set of FAQs about our Web-based vacation planning system. Just go to the WorldMark site, sign in as an owner, and click Vacation Planning Help on the left side of the page.

Pinetop and Bison Ranch are Open for Business

As you may have heard on the national news, the area around Show Low, Arizona, was the site of a voracious forest fire in late June/early July. Although the fire wreaked much havoc, WorldMark Pinetop and WorldMark Bison Ranch were left unharmed. We are happy to report that both resorts are open for your vacationing pleasure.



WORLDMARK BRANSON / PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

Resort Managers Meeting

Each year, WorldMark holds a meeting for all of your resort managers, giving them the tools they need to continually improve your vacation experiences. This year's meeting, themed "Stepping up to the Plate," was hosted by WorldMark Branson, and took place May 7 through 9.

Speakers from Marketing Communications, Product Enhancement and Accounting gave

informative presentations; Interval International, the Vacation Planning Center and Product Development offered valuable seminars, as well. Tribute was paid to the Premier Club award recipients—those resorts with outstanding comment card scores for 2001. WorldMark Valley Isle received a plaque for the highest increase in scores for the year. Congratulations!



■ c o n s t r u c t i o n z o n e

Las Vegas, NV

Our second resort in the Entertainment Capital of the World is sure to be a long-running hit. The 25,000-square-foot clubhouse is complete, buildings 1 and 6 are being loaded with furnishings and work on buildings 2 and 5 is finishing up. The courtyard, approximately 90% complete, will include two large spas (a grotto spa with waterfalls and a larger spa with a palm tree in the center), a 140-foot-long pool, a 120-foot-long “lazy river,” a children’s play area and a 100-kid wading pool! The resort’s first 210 units—plus these courtyard amenities—will be open for vacationing in early fall.

Sonoma County, CA

Surrounded by California wine country and just 65 miles north of lively, sophisticated San Francisco, this resort will be hard to top. The groundbreaking ceremony took place June 12, and off-site work and on-site grading and utilities are now underway. Phase I, consisting of 150 units, is scheduled for completion Summer 2003.



Ongoing Projects

Destination	No. Units	Estimated Completion	Status
Big Bear, CA – Phase II	50	Summer 2002	Furniture installation
South Shore, NV – Phase I	43	Summer 2002	Punchlist corrections
South Shore, NV – Phase II	8	Spring 2003	Structural/interior framing
Victoria, BC	92	Spring 2003	Structural framing
Angels Camp, CA – Phase II	88	Summer 2003	Mobilization/grading
Seaside, OR	283	Summer 2003	Interior framing/sheetrocking
Solvang, CA	90	Winter 2003	Design/planning approvals

Information as of July 1, 2002.

■ i n y o u r o w n w o r d s

Whistler Watercolor

BY BURT STUTZ, OWNER

“This is a watercolor I painted while staying in Whistler, British Columbia, during the off-season. There are many beautiful scenes around WorldMark resorts. I take my paints with me wherever my wife, Barbara, and I go—it helps me remember the trip.”



“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

—Marcel Proust

in brief

Your every wish ...

WorldMark's 46 resorts are staffed by 930 employees, and each and every one of them is eager to serve you.



LAKE CHELAN, WASHINGTON / PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

in the know

Get Involved—It's *Your* Club

BY GENE HENSLEY, WORLDMARK PRESIDENT



As we all know, there are many advantages to being a WorldMark owner—flexibility, variety and fun, to name just a few. There are also inherent responsibilities, such as treating your units with care and respecting resort guidelines so that *all* owners can have a good time. Your cooperation makes a difference, and so do your opinions.

We want to know what you think. We want to know how we can serve you better.

We want you to take an active part in The Club by making your voice heard. Next month you will have an opportunity to do so when you receive voting materials in the mail. Please vote online or send in your proxy ballot so that WorldMark will have the required number of votes to create a quorum. (And keep in mind that if you attend the Annual Owners Meeting and choose to vote, your proxy will automatically be cancelled.)

WorldMark is a self-governing Club. That means it is you, the Board of Directors—five individuals whom you elect—and fellow

owners who govern the organization and have the power to enact change within it. Did you know that in the original Club Guidelines there was no Bonus Time? But because Bonus Time was in the best interest of both you, the owners, and The Club, it was created. As WorldMark continues to grow, your input will be especially important. It takes a majority vote of owners to change a Club bylaw, without exception. Remember that every vote counts. Thanks in advance for your active involvement.

Desert

open-air ramada. The taco is earthy, gently spicy and good.

I motor into Tucson and admire more handsome buildings, especially the striking mosaic tile dome and arcaded fountain of the Pima County Courthouse and the white stucco compound of the Santa Cruz church and school. Homely century-old adobe dignifies the poor Barrio Historico south of downtown, where lean, shirtless young men joke in the streets outside traditional flat-roofed houses, many with enclosed back yards and shared walls, some with cracked tile sidewalks and round drainpipes



COURTESY OF MTCVB

below the roofline. I encounter a lively mix of people on funky Fourth Avenue just outside downtown: sporty Anglos speaking Spanish, an adolescent Latina speaking Valley Girl, a smiling Asian woman buying exotic Indian beans. An electric trolley disgorges tourists in the middle of the street. The musky smell of patchouli issues from the Hippie Gypsy. Kids race around couples pushing baby strollers. I duck into La Indita for a refreshing limeade and the tasty chile rellenos dinner special.



▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
Inside, the Mission San Xavier del Bac is hushed and intimate, rich with dramatic murals, the smell of incense ...

A few doors down at noisy Brooklyn Pizza, I get a lemon ice to go and walk to admire the unfussy old, low buildings: 1920s squarish brick and adobe-style stucco painted brightly or subtly, some with Spanish detailing, tile roofs or a fanciful mural.

After dessert, I drive 20 miles north to air-conditioned Rancho Vistoso, check in and make straight for the patio to enjoy an excellent local Dave's Electric Beer under brilliant stars. A full night

out for less than \$10 USD, including a nightcap! This is my kind of place.

Romantic Desert Sunset

Saturday finds me in the desert. The rising sun draws sharp shadows on the deep clefts and jagged walls of the irregular Santa Catalina Mountains, shining pink and gray outside my back door. Orange flowers bloom amid the cacti scattered around the resort units. A family of four walks to the pool in flip-flops, the three-year-old girl rolling a beach ball two-thirds her size. Golf carts patrolling the premises make me think of the challenging Sun City Vistoso golf course right on Rancho Vistoso Boulevard.

The heat is relentless, so I pack plenty of water and head about 10 miles south to Tohono Chul Park, 49 acres of natural desert and landscaped gardens, where I learn the names of the plants I've been seeing. A four-foot-tall saguaro grows in the protective shade of a mesquite tree, and others with thick arms reaching up to 20 feet scatter across a small hill nearby. Barrel cacti with sharp red or white stickers put forth yellow blooms. Little brown rabbits scurry around black-bark creosote bushes, bristly cholla cacti and aloes. Earth- and cream-colored birds sing and nest among the thorns of green-bark palo verde trees. The desert is alive.

Last night's fun on Fourth Avenue pulls me back into town. By luck, I park outside one of Tucson's more famous and inventive restaurants, Café Poca Casa. The lunch special—a combination of *three* Southwestern entrees, chosen by the chef—is so delicious that I linger long enough to discover some stunning art on the wall: beautifully

continued on page 15

LEFT: Stately saguaro cacti and city murals typify Tucson. BELOW: WorldMark Rancho Vistoso.



BY
DOUG HAMPTON

Grandeur in the

Tucson is hot—not just because of its hundred-degree temperatures and majestic deserts, but also for its vibrant cultural mix, indigenous architecture, wide-ranging art and delicious regional cooking. All of which make WorldMark Rancho Vistoso pretty cool—with easy access to the area's charms away from the hubbub of the city.

Flying out from Seattle Friday morning Arizona bound, we pass close to the stupendous white and blue-black dome of Mount Rainier, then lose it in the clouds—the last big clouds I'll see for days. When the ground reappears an hour or so later, we are high above a fascinating red-brown desert. Barren hills give way to pancake-flat expanses cut by steep ravines, then rugged canyonlands with green-topped buttes, deep gorges and gray pinnacles. My window-seat view makes me itch to start exploring.

A Lively Mix

Once on terra firma, I drive southwest into the vast desert of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation to adjust my eyes to the land. The temperature is rising toward a sweltering 109 degrees, the few scrubby trees are twisted and black in the cloudless glare. Only cactus appears to thrive.

I find relief from the heat just south of the city at the 1797 Mission San Xavier del Bac, "The White Dove of the Desert" and perhaps the most beautiful Spanish mission in the United States. Its Spanish Baroque walls, towers and domes are blindingly white. Inside, the church is hushed and intimate, rich with dramatic murals, the smell of incense and a gilded altarpiece stacked with statues. In the cool quiet of a separate white-walled chapel, a small, round window lights a meditative old marble statue with gray patina and reddish dust in a niche adorned with devotional offerings: a photo of a deceased loved one, a colored-pencil drawing on lined school paper, lots of figurines.

Outside, I crunch across the gravel to a corner of the parking lot where two dark Tohono O'odham women are heating black iron pots on black iron stoves. They've just started serving lunch. I ask for a taco and a smiling matron expertly slaps an egg-sized piece of white dough into an eight-inch disk and flips the tortilla into the pot, where it puffs quickly in the hot fat. Her daughter tops it with beans, cheese, lettuce and tomato and offers me a Ziploc bag of half-frozen red salsa. I eat standing in the partial shade of a twig-roofed





OPPOSITE PAGE: Sea days, native art, wildlife and dinners in the Cascade Dining Room are all part of the cruise experience. **THIS PAGE:** Three ways of looking at Alaska—by train (White Pass and Yukon Route), kayak and float plane. (Photos courtesy of Creative Services, Royal Caribbean International.)



dining companions and wait staff remained the same. And for us, that was a very good thing. Not only did we regularly enjoy the cuisine, our waiters' humorous antics and their ask-and-you-shall-definitely-receive service, but more importantly, we had the good fortune of being seated with truly delightful people, some of whom were WorldMark owners. No matter how my husband and I had spent our day, we always looked forward to dinnertime, when we'd swap stories with Barbara and Iris, David and Moneta. They made a good time better.

Formal nights were fun and surprisingly romantic. There's just something about getting dressed up, sharing an elevator with other similarly glamorous ladies and gentlemen, holding hands with your husband on the way to the dining room, eating a five-course meal, queuing for formal portraits and watching other couples smile, then smiling yourself; something about the live music, dancing, the incredible sunset and later (much later in Alaska), the enveloping darkness; just something about wandering the deck aimlessly with his jacket draped over your shoulders ...

NATURE CALLS

But no matter how great a time can be had on board, when Alaska is your domain, you've got to get off the boat—and explore. Juneau was our first port of call. Though the flightseeing tour had sounded incredible, it was a bit too expensive for our budget, so we opted for the rain forest walk instead. (All shore excursions cost extra. Book in advance to get your first choice.)

It wasn't a long drive to our destination. After a brief detour to view Mendenhall Glacier, our driver pulled over and parked on the side of the road. It didn't seem like we were anywhere special. But just as Alice in Wonderland steps through a door into a world she never knew existed, within a few paces, we found ourselves suddenly in the magical rain forest. The air was different there—thick, moist, lush with life. As we wandered by western hemlock and Sitka spruce, past babbling brooks, giant ferns and enormous skunk cabbage, our guide would periodically stop to point out this flower or that tree. I was particularly fascinated by the web-like branches reaching toward the sky, fighting for light. Our trail led to an evocative beach, where we sat for a while and took in the surrounding mountains, lake and islands. It was quiet, save a bald eagle perched in a nearby tree, screeching at harassing ravens. Another eagle swooped down to the water and expertly snatched a fish from beneath the surface. Later, as we were re-boarding the bus, a black-tailed deer darted by.

HISTORY LIVES IN SKAGWAY

Many of Alaska's most rough and rowdy tales are centered in Skagway. No wonder—the northernmost point on the Inside Passage, Skagway was the gateway to the Klondike (where gold was discovered in 1896), and pieces of its colorful past still exist today. Riding the 1890s-style parlor cars of the White Pass and Yukon Route train, we snaked up 2,865 feet on the rickety narrow-gauge rails. On our way to the summit, views of perilously steep mountains, lovely waterfalls, thundering rivers, old bridges and tunnels were absolutely flabbergasting. But to me, it was the history of this dramatic landscape that was most intriguing—imagining the intrepid railway workers who hung by rope off sheer cliffs to blast away portions of this mountain;

continued on page 15

BY
LEAH PARMAN CLARK

CRUISING WITH WORLD MARK



ALASKA

It was the Alaska part of “Alaska cruise” that lured me in. I couldn’t resist the opportunity to visit this remarkable place, with rich native culture, prolific and rare wildlife and astonishing wilderness. In a land so vast, the spirit runs large. Or so I wanted to find out—and with Alaska’s geography, I knew cruising was the ideal way to make my discovery.

Through WorldMark, my husband and I booked a seven-night cruise with Royal Caribbean. Departing Vancouver June 8, we would travel the protected waterway known as the Inside Passage with stops in Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and at Hubbard Glacier. We had never been on a cruise before

and had no idea what to expect. Our home-away-from-home would be the 210-passenger *Radiance of the Seas*, complete with marble floors and brass fixtures, as well as more novel amenities like self-leveling pool tables and a rock-climbing wall. We would not, in other words, be roughing it. But what I could not gather from the guidebooks—yet would soon learn—is that it’s not just the *what* but the *how* that makes cruising so unique; a supremely civilized way to travel. On a cruise ship, the staff’s goal isn’t merely to serve you, but to make you happy. New relationships form and old



MAP BY CHRIS CLARK

relationships deepen. It is a journey of the body, heart and mind.

CRUISING FROM A – Z

What is life on a cruise really like? Well, it’s different for everyone, as the experience is truly what you make of it. Our daily *Compass*, listing all activities, was a reminder that there’s always something going on, but—at least on our ship—a relaxed, carefree atmosphere prevailed. (Even on formal nights, the ambiance was dressy, not stuffy.) Indeed, on any given day, some people would swim, while others gambled. As a few got serious pampering in the full-service spa, many played bingo for big money. One of my favorite afternoons was spent curled up in a chair beside a large window, alternately gazing at the endless ocean scanning

for whales (I saw two orcas!) and glancing down to read John Muir’s rapturous *Travels in Alaska*.

But without a doubt, eating was the most prevalent activity on the ship. In general, drinks cost extra, but food—unless dining at the reservations-only restaurants—was free. Both were available 24 hours a day at a variety of venues, but the classy Cascades Dining Room served up a social scene not found anywhere else. Dinner there was, in fact, an experience. The menu and suggested attire (formal, smart casual, casual) changed, but our seating time, table,

Solos Take to the Powder at Heavenly

January 10 and 11

Footloose, Lake Tahoe and powder — it's a hard combination to beat. Join us in January when Footloose solos take to the mountains above Lake Tahoe for some first-class skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling.

Ski/Snowboard Package:
4,425 credits per person,
dbl. occup.

Snowmobile Package:
4,575 credits per person,
dbl. occup.

Your home for the weekend will be the Embassy Suites Hotel — Lake Tahoe Resort, a four-diamond facility just steps from Heavenly's high-speed gondola. Hit the slopes with like-minded solos for

the day. When evening falls, treat your tired muscles to an in-room massage, or hop a complimentary shuttle to court Lady Luck in one of Tahoe's lively casinos.

Packages include two nights' accommodations, daily breakfast and a full day of skiing, snowboarding or snowmobiling. You don't want to miss this one. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 today and you'll frolic in the snow this winter.

Subject to change and availability. Cash 'n' Credits options available. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare. Roundtrip airport shuttle available from Reno/Lake Tahoe International Airport to Embassy Suites Hotel.

Come Savor the Mexican Riviera

Warm up your December with a seven-night cruise along the Mexican Riviera. You'll board Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* December 1 in Los Angeles and head south to the tip of Baja California, the world's longest peninsula, to enjoy the spirited town of Cabo San Lucas, renowned for its nightlife and golf. Drift on a catamaran or sailing yacht along the rugged and beautiful coast to the dramatic rock formations of Los Arcos, or board a charter boat and try to hook a fighting marlin, sailfish or dorado.

The next stop is Mazatlan, the "Pearl of the Pacific" and the largest port between L.A. and the Panama Canal. This destination is another sport-fishing and nightlife mecca where you can ride horses along the beach, go deep-sea diving, or paddle a kayak on El Verde Comacho Ecological Lagoon.

Then you'll coast past gorgeous beaches and majestic mountains to historic Puerto Vallarta. Bargain for crafts at the bustling municipal market, snorkel the southern Bay of Banderas amid colorful fish and coral, or take a water taxi to the isolated village of Yelapa for lunch by a waterfall. You'll return to Los Angeles on December 8 with the warmth of Mexico in your heart.

December 1 - 8

Inside cabin: 24,000 credits for two
Outside cabin: 32,000 credits for two
Balcony cabin: 38,000 credits for two
Quad cabin: 37,000 credits for four

Subject to change and availability. Tax and port fees included. Air and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. For your cruise reservations, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare to Los Angeles.

SPECIAL OFFER
 For Interval International Members Only

This Month's Featured Getaways

One-Week Accommodations	
Orlando, Florida	\$399
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	\$299
Vail or Breckenridge, Colorado	\$299
Hilton Head, South Carolina	\$559
Cancun*	\$639

*See all the details and restrictions in the Terms and Conditions of Interval Membership and Exchange available in the current Interval International Member Directory. Hotels and highly seasonal resorts are generally not available on this promotion. Offer valid through 12/31/03. Some restrictions apply. Prices are subject to change. © 2003 Interval International. All rights reserved.

INTERVAL INTERNATIONAL
 The Global Vacation Exchange Specialist

888-353-3021
 Outside N. America +305-684-1884 ext. 7750

A Site to Behold

If you aren't checking our Web site travel specials, you may be missing the vacation of your dreams. Be sure to visit www.worldmarktheclub.com and click "What's New" on the left side of the page. Here you'll find last-minute bargains on cruises and vacation packages, as well as our latest tour and Cruise for Credits options.

Sounds Like Vacation 2003 Hawaii Airfares

Don't just think "Hawaii," say it out loud. It's fun. Say the name of an island: Oahu — "o-AH-hoo." Sounds relaxing, right? Say the name of a beach: Napoopoo — "nah-PO-oh-PO-oh." Sounds exotic. Say the Hawaiian word for pineapple: halakahiki — "hah-lah-kah-HEE-kee." Sounds like a lot of fun — lounging on the black sands of Napoopoo, eating halakahiki in musical Hawaii. Say you could lock in excellent airfare now for a Hawaiian vacation next year. That sounds like a bargain. Call Trendwest Travel today to take advantage of contracted rates on Hawaiian Airlines during 2003. Here's a sample of what's available:

ROUNDRIP BETWEEN ...	MIDWEEK	WEEKEND
Seattle — Honolulu	\$410 USD	\$456 USD
Portland — outer island	\$513 USD	\$559 USD
Los Angeles — Honolulu	\$367 USD	\$413 USD
San Francisco — outer island	\$472 USD	\$518 USD
Sacramento — Honolulu	\$426 USD	\$472 USD
Las Vegas — outer island	\$585 USD	\$585 USD
San Diego — Honolulu	\$402 USD	\$448 USD
Phoenix — outer island	\$529 USD	\$576 USD
Ontario — Honolulu	\$402 USD	\$448 USD

For additional airfares and information, please call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511.

Outer islands include the Big Island, Maui, Kauai, Molokai and Lanai. Sample fares are based on low season travel; higher fares apply during peak periods. Tax and surcharges included. Fares are subject to availability and to change without notice.

Alaska exchanges

Your Place in the

Midnight Sun

Now is a great time to visit Alaska, thanks to a continuing exclusive exchange agreement with Princess Lodges. From Fairbanks to Kenai, Denali National Park to the Copper River, use your WorldMark credits to reserve your place in the midnight sun.

All five hotels have a tour desk, so you can book excursions and get assistance seeing the spectacular scenery. For the adventurous, try backcountry horseback riding or rafting the Gulkana River. If you are seeking inner peace, hike through old-growth forests that go on for miles. Finish the evening in the lodge by a crackling fire while enjoying a meal of fresh halibut or salmon. And if your muscles are worn out from the day's activities, retreat to a hot tub under the stars.

Kenai Princess Wilderness Lodge ● Just two hours south of Anchorage, overlooking the turquoise Kenai River, this lodge successfully combines the serenity of a wilderness retreat with the thrill of Alaskan adventure. In the summer, enjoy fishing, river rafting and hiking; winter activities include snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and sleigh rides.

Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge ● This brand-new lodge is set upon the edge of the Klutina and Copper Rivers. Designed to showcase the beauty of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park—the largest national park in the United States—the lodge is considered one of Alaska's most incredible destinations. While here, explore abandoned Kennicott copper mines and watch the famed Copper River salmon swim by.

Fairbanks Princess Hotel ● Fairbanks is Alaska's second largest city. It offers dozens of restaurants, tours and attractions, such as the Alaska Riverboat Discovery Cruise, during which you can visit an Athabascan Indian village and meet Susan Butcher's famous Iditarod sled dog team. The hotel is situated alongside the Chena River, with rooms that are elegant and inviting.

Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge ● Built on the banks of the Nenana River, this lodge is located at the entrance of Denali National Park, an amazing reserve the size of Massachusetts. Complimentary shuttle service is provided between the lodge and the park's visitors center. The hotel has its own dinner show, "The Music of Denali"—a musical comedy recounting the first ascent of Mt. McKinley.

Mt. McKinley Princess Wilderness Lodge ● Experience the beauty of Alaska without even leaving the property. From your oversized chair by the fire, enjoy breathtaking views of 20,320-foot Mt. McKinley, North America's highest peak. The on-site Grizzly Bar, Mountain View Restaurant and Cub Café will satisfy your taste buds.

Credit rates vary, and three of the hotels—Mt. McKinley, Kenai and Copper River—are seasonal, open May through September as weather allows. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 for more information.

Cash 'n' Credits options available. Bonus Time not available. These are hotel accommodations—not condominiums—that sleep up to four adults (two double beds in one room).

Desert

continued from page 9

rendered, almost macabre mystical oil paintings by Daniel Martin Diaz; thrilling and disturbing, the deep dark side of the faith of Xavier del Bac. Another \$10 well spent!

On a tip from my waiter, I hurry just west of town to Gates Pass for the sunset. Children and adults are scattered along the steep hillsides as I scramble onto a rocky overlook amid tall saguaros and scrubby trees twisting right out of the rock. Stately cacti fill the broad valley. A hot wind kicks up, the sky yellows and the distant mountains turn purple in front of the disappearing sun. A teenage couple sits close and a pair in their 20s hug shoulders. A crescent moon rises overhead as the sky darkens to blue.

Cool Mountain Air

The majesty of the Santa Catalinas beckons Sunday morning. Fire danger has closed Mount Lemon to hiking and biking, but cars are allowed to drive the 25 miles to the 9,000-foot peak, and it's lovely. Massive, tilting walls of wind-sculpted rock rise over hilly saguaro desert that gradually gives way to brush and then to scented forests of pine and fir. Scenic turnouts overlook ravines, broad vistas and patches of ground blackened by forest fires. Near the top, I catch a chair lift to the summit to feel the cool breeze.

Back at the resort, couples lounge at the edge of the pool as darkness falls, a trio soaks in one of the three spas and a boy lines up a shot at the clubhouse pool table. Preparing for tomorrow's flight home, I reflect on the area's striking sense of place. History, peoples and landscape seem woven into the colorful fabric of a single vibrant community. I feel lucky to have been here. ♡

A L A S K A *continued from page 11*

picturing the thousands of hitherto unadventurous men who, sometimes in -65 degree temperatures and 35 feet of snow, attempted to traverse this route by foot—all in the frantic search for gold.

The Red Onion Saloon, built in 1898, provided yet another glimpse into Skagway's raucous past. Previously the town's most exclusive brothel, it's still rollicking (sans, of course, sin). When we stopped in, the combination of live music, a big crowd, 19th-century erotic art, and waitresses in provocative dresses serving sandwiches with saucy names made it festive, to say the least.



KETCHIKAN, THE SALMON CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

ONLY AT SEA

Excitement was in the air as we slowly approached Alaska's longest glacier. We couldn't have hoped for more glorious weather—yes, it was cold, but the sun was shining. Despite the briskness, there was an ice-carving demonstration and poolside barbecue. To ensure optimum views, many people had staked their claim early on lounge chairs, while others casually leaned against the ship's rails with blankets draped around their shoulders, warming themselves with a hot-chocolate-and-liqueur concoction that was for sale. Everyone carried binoculars, a still camera or video camera.

As we got closer, Hubbard Glacier loomed larger. Another cruise ship was in front of us, and it was amazing to see how the snow-capped sentinels and thick river of ice dwarfed the vessel. The icy blue hue of the ancient mass seemed to shimmer in the magnificently clean air, and we were lucky enough to see the glacier calving, giving clue to the origin of ice chunks that our ship glided through. My husband noticed harbor seals basking on one of the small icebergs and, through his binoculars, could tell that it was actually a female and her pup. After

spotting the pair, we soon noticed many more resting on the makeshift rafts. All of them did the same thing, as though it were a well-rehearsed act: The baby crawled behind mother for protection, and then, as the ship got closer, both would slip effortlessly into the sea. Needless to say, we were thrilled by the performance.

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST

At every port, we enjoyed viewing the native art—baskets, carvings, jewelry—in both shops and museums. But Ketchikan was a standout for its numerous totem poles, and I especially liked how early totems were made not for commercial purposes, but instead to commemorate a significant event, to remember.

On the last day of our trip, we folded money into envelopes (gratuities are customary for your stateroom attendant and wait staff). We reviewed the charges on our SuperCharge account (the card we used, instead of cash, to purchase most items during the cruise), and decided which photos to buy (ship photographers take pictures of everyone throughout the cruise; all are put on display in the gallery). As we began to pack our bags, I felt both anxious to get off the boat and sad to be leaving it. I thought back to the evening we departed Ketchikan, when my husband and I had wandered out onto the ship's bow, just as we were pulling away. A lone woman, a family with teenagers and a few other couples were gathered there. Together we surveyed the scene: The way the light hit this picturesque Alaskan town just so, infusing the colorful buildings, fishing boats and mountains with an otherworldly glow. A band was giving an acoustic performance on the dock, and though I could not see the singer, his disembodied voice rose up gorgeously through the air, surrounding us all. It was a marvelous send-off, and like so many other lovely memories of our cruise, it could not fit in my suitcase, but I would still be taking it with me. ♡

Editor's note: The Alaska cruise season generally runs May through September. Watch December's Destinations for the announcement of our 2003 Alaska lineup. Year-round cruises to other destinations are available through WorldMark's Cruise for Credits Program and Trendwest Travel.

travel report



AMSTERDAM'S FLORIADE / PHOTO BY CAROLANN STUCKY

Noses in the Air

smelling the flowers in Amsterdam and London

BY CAROLANN STUCKY,
OWNER ED. INFORMATION MANAGER

In May, I accompanied a group of owners on an adventure to see the two largest flower shows in the world. (Well, one flower show and one horticultural show.) First stop: Amsterdam, an extraordinary city offering a mixture of history, culture and the dynamics of a trendy metropolis. Amsterdam boasts 90 islands, 160 canals and 1,281 bridges—more canals than Venice and more bridges than Paris!

We tackled the city on foot with enthusiasm, and when we tired of walking the uneven streets, we simply hopped on one of the many canal boats, trams or—for those who liked living dangerously—bicycles. With well over 400,000 two-wheelers citywide and their own three-story parking garage near Centraal Station, bicycles claim the right of way as people pedal to market, work or theater. We even saw couples cycling to a prom, dressed in formals and tuxes!

Visiting the Anne Frank House, where the young Jewish girl hid from the Nazis with her

family during World War II, was an emotional experience for us all. The pages of her diary came to life as we walked through the tiny rooms that formed her world and saw objects that belonged to those in hiding.

The Netherlands was the home of Vincent Van Gogh before he moved to Paris, and the Van Gogh Museum impressed us with the world's largest, most beautiful collection of the painter's works. The earlier Dutch master Rembrandt lived and died in Amsterdam. At the height of his career, he worked from an elegant home that has since been restored as a museum housing a major collection of his etchings and (when we were there) an exhibition of his early paintings.

Amsterdam has no lack of charming restaurants with satisfying cuisines. It seemed every street had half a dozen side by side—most with sidewalk dining, making Amsterdam an ideal city for watching the world go by. As one owner put it, "It's like an outdoor living room where you meet friends, get together, people watch or just enjoy the sun."

Ah, Floriade—our purpose for visiting. The Netherlands hosts this major scientific and horticultural event once every 10 years. More than 300 displays from around the world covered a 160-acre park with everything from

vegetables, trees and shrubs to fruit and, of course, flowers. A few fit owners made the 122-stair climb to the top of Spotters Hill for a breathtaking view of the surrounding area.

On to London. A bright, sunny day greeted us as we headed for the renowned Chelsea Flower Show, held for three days each May. The floral pavilions and gardens were a cultivated delight and an extraordinary display of creativity. I'd never seen so many flowers so exquisitely done. The fragrance, color, variety and immensity of the displays were stunning, with ideas to inspire even the most ardent non-gardener. It wouldn't truly have been London without a downpour, so we didn't let the rain dampen our spirits: Instead, we bought umbrellas and enjoyed the show.

Our last day was a whirlwind, jam-packed with such sights as Kensington, Buckingham, London Eye, Big Ben and Westminster, with a show or two thrown in for good measure. And then it was time to say goodbye to new friends, double-decker buses, Bobbies, the Tube and all the pageantry of the British culture. There was so much to see, we'll just have to go back!

Are you ready to see London? Our next tour departs November 14. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 for reservations.

direct **exchange**

mountains,
sea & sun

Carlsbad, CA
Grand Cayman Island, Caribbean
Maui, HI
Mazatlan, MX
Newport, OR
Oahu, HI
Orlando, FL
Puerto Vallarta, MX
Santa Fe, NM
Scottsdale, AZ
Sun Valley, ID

Exchange fees apply. For more information on these popular exchange destinations, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR WORLDMARK OWNERS

Get up and go with Interval!

Exciting Exchange Opportunities

With nearly 1,900 member resorts in over 75 countries, there's no need to take "the same old vacation." Exchange opportunities are available for you in fabulous destinations - close to home and far away.

Inexpensive Getaways Get away throughout the year at incredibly low rates - without giving up the vacation time you own. You can even book Getaways for family and friends.

Golf Resort Program Enjoy discounts on greens fees, advance tee-off times, and more. *Interval's Resort Directory* lists participating resorts.

Informative Publications Receive a customized annual *Resort Directory* exclusively for WorldMark owners. Plus, keep up-to-date with *Interval World*® magazines and *Interval Explorer* newsletters.

Online Convenience Log on to our Web site at www.IntervalWorld.com and check out our exciting benefits. Plus view our online *Resort Directory* and take a virtual tour of select member resorts. Members can search for - and confirm - an exchange, book Getaways, and much more.

Quality Standards Count on Interval to provide you with consistent, quality resort accommodations!

2 Years
Of Membership
For The Price
Of 1 - \$79^{U.S.}

REFER TO SOURCE CODE 92748

Call Now Toll-Free:
1-888-353-3021
or 305-666-1884 ext. 7759
(outside toll-free limits)

**INTERVAL
INTERNATIONAL**

The Quality Vacation Exchange Network