

WorldMark® Destinations

Published Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

September 2002

The Call of the Wild

Northern Utah's Outdoor Charm



True
Luxury

Now that I'm a parent, travel is supposed to be a thing of the past ... at least for a few years. My husband and I are expected to stay close to home, tucked away with our little one among the knowns and givens of our friendly Seattle neighborhood, venturing no farther than the diaper bag will allow. But I've never been one for stereotypes. My son's first night out came at the tender age of five days, his first road trip at four weeks, and his first airplane flight at five-and-a-half months (to northern Utah, as I researched this month's cover story). He seems to love seeing the world, with all its new faces, bright colors and intriguing noises, and my husband and I appreciate the freedom of travel more than ever.

Indeed, in this new stage of my life, my appreciation for vacationing has been renewed—especially vacationing at WorldMark destinations. Being away from home allows me to escape the workaday world's obligations and bask in uninterrupted time with my family. Nothing competes for our attention. We are free to sleep in, sprawled across a comfortable king-size bed, my husband and I laughing with our baby when he wakes beaming simply because it is a new day and the three of us are together. Additional WorldMark pluses include being able to travel light, thanks to the condominiums' washers, dryers and other like-home amenities, and saving money by taking advantage of the fully equipped kitchens to fix simple meals.

As a working mom, a stay at a WorldMark resort is a true luxury for me. Now I understand why many of you decided to become WorldMark owners—it was an investment in your family.

Christina R. Keester



A BUSTLING PLAZA IN PUERTO VALLARTA / COURTESY PUERTO VALLARTA TOURISM BOARD

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The Call of the Wild

Northern Utah's outdoor charm

The mountains, lakes and canyons of Wolf Creek and Bear Lake are calling recreation enthusiasts for top-notch outdoor fun.

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The Feeling of Mañana

Puerto Vallarta

Live the lush life, then leap into warm oceans, pulsing nightlife and gracious culture for an unforgettable exchange vacation.

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Ladies-only health holiday

coverphoto

The Wasatch Range rises behind
the Wolf Creek Golf Course.



PHOTO BY DAN STEARNS

STILL Hot

Cruise for Credits

Western Caribbean Cruises

December 7 – 14

Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas* departs New Orleans and stops at Progreso, Cozumel and Grand Cayman

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

December 15 – 22

Carnival's *Conquest* departs New Orleans and stops at Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel

Inside cabin: 24,500 credits for two
Outside cabin: 29,000 credits for two
Outside quad cabin: 46,500 credits for four

December 16 – 21

Carnival's *Celebration* departs Galveston, Texas, and stops at Cozumel and Playa del Carmen

Inside cabin: 11,750 credits for two
Outside cabin: 12,000 credits for two
Inside quad cabin: 23,000 credits for four
Outside quad cabin: 24,000 credits for four

Trendwest
TravelOnline

Book your airfare, car
rentals and hotel accommodations online
at www.worldmarktheclub.com
(click on "Trendwest Travel")

Adventure Club

Footloose in Lake Tahoe

January 10 – 11

Ski package: 4,425 credits per person
Snowmobile package: 4,575 credits per person

Old Town San Diego

November 1 – 2

5,575 credits for two

Indian Wells for Seniors

December 6 – 7

7,600 credits for two

Call 1-800-457-0103 for reservations.

COZUMEL, MEXICO

Destinations

Published Exclusively for WorldMark Owners

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what's **new**

Grounds for Celebration

From your comment cards, we learned that some of you are interested in trying a new blend of coffee. Well, just ask and you shall receive ...

WorldMark has obtained a new distributor for your in-unit coffee. Coffee Reserve, based out of Scottsdale, Arizona, will be supplying you with a classic Guatemalan blend of Arabica coffees. Selected from some of the finest coffees available and roasted to perfection, this blend is a celebration of both its land of origin and the artisan who created it.

Drink up, and let us know what you think!

We Have a Winner!

comment card drawing

Congratulations to Joelle Nadle of Oakland, California, who won a three-night WorldMark stay when we pulled her completed comment card from the hat. You could be next!



Wedding Bells

Remember George Trupp and Sherry Carter, the couple who met during last year's WorldMark tour of Sydney, Australia? The happy pair recently tied the knot at Cape Foulweather on the beautiful Oregon Coast. Here's to a lifetime of WorldMark vacations together!

Meet the Reservations Collections Department



That's right ... there isn't one! On occasion, vacation counselors are asked, "Why does WorldMark collect taxes, Bonus Time and housekeeping fees when I book my reservation rather than when I travel?" The answer is simple ... to save you money. Collecting outstanding fees would cost postage and considerable staff time—possibly even requiring a new department—to track down the same funds that today you pay during the reservation transaction. Let's minimize your dues by keeping those desks empty!

Club Classic Down to the Wire

The Club Classic golf tournament is wrapping up, but there's still time for motivated players to make a run at it! Open to WorldMark golfers of all abilities, the Club Classic offers wonderful prizes. For instance, you can win a three-night resort stay simply by hitting the greens at any five WorldMark locations. The entry fee is only \$5 USD, and the board of governors will accept your scores through October 31. For more information, inquire at the resorts or call Owner Services at 1-888-648-7363.

WorldMark Board Notes

During meetings on April 24 and June 11, the WorldMark Board of Directors took the following actions:

- Elected John C. McConnell as a director to replace resigning J. Michael Moyer and voted to retain the current officers.
- Amended two parts of paragraph C(18) of the Guidelines regarding the Cancellation and Revision of Reservations policy:

(1) As changed, once an owner checks in, there will be no refund of vacation credits and/or Bonus Time fees in the event of an early checkout—regardless of whether another owner occupies the remaining reserved period.

(2) As changed, if an owner wishes to revise an existing reservation, the new reservation date must be within the same required 13-month window as the original date of booking. Otherwise, the owner must wait 48 hours between canceling or revising the reservation and making a new reservation.

- Amended paragraph C(15) of the Guidelines regarding the Housekeeping Fee to clarify that it must be prepaid at the time the reservation is made.

inventory specials

Made in the Shade

This October, you can stay at any of these resorts for a mere four cents per credit. For reservations, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103.

MIDWEEK ONLY:

- Angels Camp, CA
- Bass Lake, CA
- Bear Lake, UT
- Birch Bay, WA
- Cascade Lodge, BC
- McCall, ID
- Sundance, BC
- Wolf Creek, UT

MIDWEEK AND LIMITED WEEKENDS:

- Bison Ranch, AZ
- Branson, MO
- Coral Baja, MX
- Lake of the Ozarks, MO
- Pinetop, AZ
- Rancho Vistoso, AZ

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



Vacation Memories Photo Contest 2002

Last Call for Photos

Somewhere in a dresser drawer, shoebox or album you've got a great vacation photograph: one that makes your memories come alive, one that others want to see—one that could win you a vacation! Your sixth annual Vacation Memories Photo Contest is offering free stays at WorldMark resorts for six lucky owners, plus other prizes. Entries must be postmarked no later than September 15, so sit down with the family tonight, look through your recent vacation pictures, and send us up to four of the best. You could be a winner!

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



TOURIST IN CABO, MEXICO / 2001 PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY BY EDITH SMITH

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*.

Grand Prize: 9-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$50 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

First Prize: 6-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$50 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

Second Prize: 3-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$50 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

Third Prize: 2-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$50 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

Owners Choice Award: 2-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$25 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

Staff Star Award: 2-night stay at the WorldMark resort of your choice, plus a \$25 USD Cameraworld.com certificate

Honorable Mention: \$25 USD Cameraworld.com certificate (10 winners)



Running Y Golf Special

The Running Y Golf Course has a deal for you. Now WorldMark owners vacationing at this scenic resort can play three rounds for just \$100 USD. This offer is good through November 1, 2002. Contact the Running Y Pro Shop at 541-850-5580 for further details.



Victoria, BC

Exciting things are happening in this slice of Britannia. At your 92-unit resort, the west tower concrete framing is complete while the east tower is progressing rapidly. Next summer will find you sipping tea, smelling the flowers in this “City of Gardens,” picnicking in the numerous parks and coming home to your gracious new WorldMark Victoria resort.

Big Bear, CA

How do you make a good thing better? At WorldMark Big Bear, they’ve found a way—50 additional units are available for your vacationing pleasure. Since Phase II construction is now complete, even more of you will be able to partake in fishing, lakeside hiking and basking in the Southern California sunshine. Don’t delay!



Ongoing Projects

Destination	No. Units	Estimated Completion	Status
Las Vegas, NV – Phase I	210	Summer 2002	Loading units
South Shore, NV – Phase I	43	Summer 2002	Loading units
South Shore, NV – Phase II	8	Spring 2003	Structural/interior framing
Angels Camp, CA – Phase II	88	Summer 2003	Excavation/utilities
Seaside, OR	283	Summer 2003	Interior framing/sheetrocking
Sonoma County, CA	150	Summer 2003	Framing
Solvang, CA	90	Winter 2003	Design/planning approvals

Information as of July 31, 2002.

in brief

You’re Cruisin’

Nineteen-hundred owners used WorldMark credits to cruise the seas in 2001. The Club offered 27 cruises last year, and a whopping 54 cruises this year!

■ i n t h e k n o w



W h y W a i t ?

BY
DONNA WILSON,
RESERVATIONS
MANAGER

When you call your Vacation Planning Center, the counselor who assists you has one goal in mind: to book you a fabulous WorldMark vacation. We know that sometimes your first choice of resort may not be available, so we work a little harder to come up with a different vacation that’s still right for you and your family. Your reservation agents are specially trained to provide options when your first vacation request is not available. For example, you may be offered another size unit at the resort you selected. Perhaps there are similar dates with availability that might work just as well. Or your vacation counselor will search

for a nearby resort that has vacant units for the dates you are requesting.

But no matter how hard we try, there are times when we can’t immediately find a fit for your vacation needs. That’s when your vacation counselor will offer to place you on a wait list. Since approximately one out of every three reservations gets canceled at some point, the wait list gives you a pretty good chance of obtaining your first choice of resort. And here’s a tip: I recommend confirming a second-choice vacation along with getting on the wait list for your first choice. That way, you’ll be sure to have a great WorldMark vacation even if your first choice doesn’t become available. And if a unit at your preferred destination does open up, a vacation counselor can simply rebook you into the resort you originally requested.

The Vacation Planning Center receives many calls from owners excited about upcoming WorldMark properties that aren’t in the reservation system yet. Because there are many obstacles when building a new resort, we don’t create a wait list until the property actually opens to vacationers. After all, we don’t want to confirm a reservation unless we can guarantee that the unit you reserved will be available! Unpredictable factors such as construction delays, shipment problems, inclement weather and delays acquiring occupancy permits all affect the date that a resort may open.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you.

Please note: You cannot use Bonus Time for any reservation confirmed from the wait list.

■ o n l o c a t i o n

O n the Way to WorldMark ...

“Lambert’s Thrown Rolls, about 30 miles north of Branson on US 65 at Ozark, is a terrific place to eat. There’s usually a long wait, but it’s worth it. The Friendship House Restaurant, six miles south of Branson at College of the Ozarks, is undoubtedly the best-kept secret around Branson. Great food at great prices, and all the food is made and served by the students.”

—Marilyn Dodson, Orange, CA

“About 10 miles before you reach WorldMark Leavenworth, on the right side of Highway 2 East just prior to the Fish Lake turnoff, you will find a wonderful little spot called the 59er Diner. It takes me back to the days when the King (Elvis Presley) was all the rage. It also sparks my dating memories and makes a trip with just my wife and me that much more fun. I love the signs and posters from the ‘50s, the juke box, and the fact that you can order a song right from your table without getting up (like we did 30 to 40 years ago).

A Cherry Coke with extra ice or one of the fabulous blue plate specials always hits the spot. Of course, an old-fashioned hamburger with extra pickles and cheese, along with a strawberry shake, always tastes great.”

—Cliff Smalley, Monroe, WA

“Our favorite stop for the past three years has been Granzella’s Inn in Williams, California. On our way to and from numerous wonderful WorldMark resorts in California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, we have enjoyed the authentic Italian cuisine of Granzella’s restaurant, pizzeria, deli and bakery.

The inn has comfortable, clean and affordable rooms, with a complimentary self-serve breakfast. (When you leave, you are also encouraged to stop in the bakery and pick up your gift of fresh-baked sourdough.) Perhaps the best part, though, is the large, cool and comfortable lounge, where even locals spend some of their time. Well, that and the friendly innkeeper, Ramona.”

—Larry and Dolores Darnell, Canoga Park, CA

“On the way to WorldMark Rancho Vistoso, we like to stop at Kartchner Caverns, just east of Benson. Though discovered in 1974, the cave



KARTCHNER CAVERNS / COURTESY ARIZONA STATE PARKS

was kept secret until 1988 so that safeguards and proper development techniques would be in place to protect and conserve its pristine condition. It was opened to the public in 1999. It is an amazing ‘living’ cavern with miles of underground wonders.”

—LeRoi and Margaret Heaven, Wasilla, AK

Editor’s note: Due to the high demand for tours of Kartchner Caverns, reservations are accepted up to one year in advance. Call 520-586-2283 for more information.



For an upcoming issue of *Destinations*, please complete the following phrase:

This winter, I plan to ... with WorldMark.

We must receive your response by October 15. If we publish your answer, you’ll receive a WorldMark logo item as thanks for your contribution. E-mail leahc@trendwestresorts.com, or write to: *Destinations*/On Location, Attn: Leah Clark, 9805 Willows Road, Redmond, WA 98052.

of the Wild

It was Snowbasin that shone outside our condominium door, but we elected to explore Pine Mountain, even closer to home. Saturday morning, following a trip to the Eden market for sandwiches and bottled lemonade, we continued five miles up the road to this smaller ski area. Favored by locals, the family-operated resort is a standout for its 1,600 skiable—and boardable—acres, reasonably priced lift tickets and night skiing. But this time of year, the property is open for hiking and mountain biking. Bike rentals and tours are available, but no cushy chair lift rides are offered to the summit. As my family and I relaxed over our simple picnic lunch, we spotted one hardy biker pedaling his way to the top of a run, then bumping and skidding back down. For us, the company of the Wasatch Range and the breezes that played along its ridgelines were enough.

On Sunday, the morning of checkout, I awoke early to take advantage of the warm light prying through our bedroom's venetian blinds. The air was still cool, and wild daisies turned their cheerful heads toward the first sun rays as I composed photos of the golf course and Ogden Valley. By noon we had packed the car and started back down the road, pausing at Pineview Reservoir just a few minutes later so I could take a look around. A windsurfer bobbed

next to her board in the clear water; a man and his daughter fished from the dock; a young couple swam just off the sandy beach. All of these people were part of the landscape, to which I said goodbye.

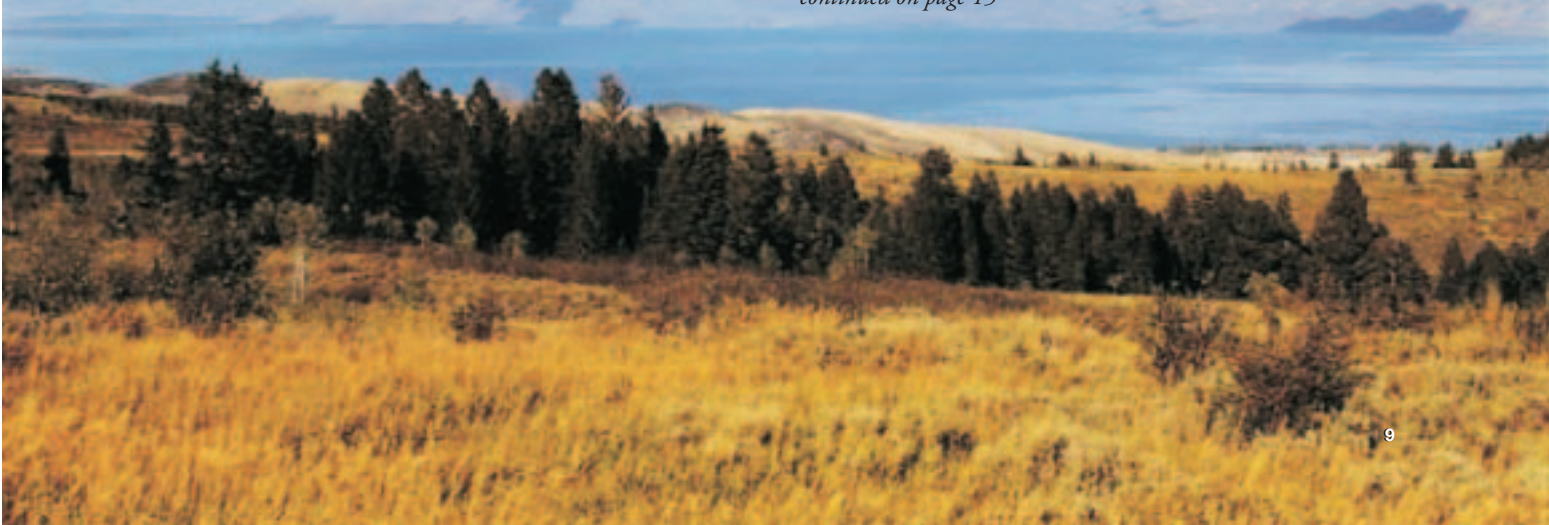
The Heat of Summer

After backtracking to Ogden, we turned north and passed through Brigham City, Logan and lovely Logan Canyon, which stretches 41 glorious miles to Bear Lake. With limestone cliffs, rushing Logan River and pine and quaking aspen forests, the canyon has gained a reputation for spectacular fall color and interesting hikes. (The Old Jardine Juniper Trail features a 3,000-year-old living red cedar; the Wind Cave Trail leads to a natural triple-arch formation.)

With the canyon behind us, we topped out on a ridge overlooking the stunning water of Bear Lake. Garden City was in the midst of a heat wave when we arrived, with temperatures in the 90s, and soon after checking into World-Mark Bear Lake, we found ourselves standing longingly on the shore, looking across the turquoise lake at the waverunners and ski boats darting like waterskippers across its surface. Confined to land, we cooled off as best we could by seeking out decadently oversized raspberry milkshakes, a delicious local specialty.

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The water was glass smooth and nearly free of other craft, and I quickly decided that there was only one speed at which to travel—all out.





The Call

Northern Utah's Outdoor Charm

Geographically speaking, Utah is a wondrous land, brimming with natural, yet surreal, attractions. The whimsical hoodoos of Bryce Canyon and the towering brick-red monoliths of Zion. Erosion-sculpted Arches and remote, three-dimensional Canyonlands. The saline, barren reach of the Great Salt Lake and Class-V-rapid-laced Cataract Canyon. Pinnacle-filled Monument Valley and Colorful Capitol Reef. And the rugged Wasatch Mountains and massive Caribbean-hued Bear Lake, where two WorldMark resorts welcome visitors year-round for what is prized as some of the best outdoor recreation Utah has to offer. (High praise indeed in a state known for its recreation.) This past summer, my husband, baby and I flew into Salt Lake City and journeyed north to explore these resorts.

Right at Home

We approached WorldMark Wolf Creek through the portal of narrow, twisting Ogden Canyon, 40 miles north of Salt Lake. Here the Ogden River tumbles enthusiastically alongside State Route 39, a nationally designated scenic byway.

Tidy homes are built at the river's edge, with angled layers of limestone and shale rising steeply at their backs to stands of spruce, fir and oak. The canyon opens into tranquil, mountain-ringed Ogden Valley. We continued upward past Pineview Reservoir, through tiny Eden to Wolf Creek—home for the next two days.

Our condominium was on the ground floor, facing the resort's golf course. Drawn by views of evergreen- and quaking aspen-clad mountains rising beyond emerald fairways, we made straight for the back door, dropping our bags in the living room. Eighteen holes wind around the resort, and the player who looks up from the game is rewarded with refreshing views of the valley, reservoir and Wasatch Range. Fox, deer, elk and moose sometimes wander its grounds, upping the scenic rating yet another notch. Par-72, 6,845-yard Wolf Creek is known among golfers for its challenging greens.

The next morning, after waking late and enjoying a leisurely breakfast on the patio, our first stop was the pool. While the golf course showcases the resort, Wolf Creek's expansive swimming complex is the property's centerpiece. With beach towels and lounge chairs, we set up camp in a shady corner of the grassy enclosure and took turns dunking in the large pool and sprinkling our five-month-old son with water, smiling at the pure joy of the young children as they splashed in the wading pool and scampered up the water-slide ladder.

Ski and Sea

Although a first-class golf course and large pool are enough to satisfy many vacationers, Wolf Creek's location puts guests within easy reach of numerous outdoor pursuits, both summer and winter. Snowbasin, the recent site of the 2002 Winter Olympic downhill events, is a prime example. A short drive across the valley, this renowned ski area has 3,200 acres, eight lifts, a total vertical drop of 2,940 feet and an average snowfall of 400 inches—much of it light Utah powder.

Above: A moose bugles for his mate.

Opposite: The blue expanse of Bear Lake.



BY DOUG HAMPTON

the toilets—“*los servicios*,” according to my prim pocket dictionary—the attendant looks a little puzzled, shrugs and starts washing my windshield. Flustered, I lapse into French, which doesn’t help, and finally resort to a pathetic pantomime. “*¡Los baños!*” the attendant exclaims in smiling recognition, and points the way. I am doubly relieved.

The jungle opens up higher in the hills, revealing towering crags and narrow valleys with irregular cultivated plots reaching toward the summits. Three hours from the coast, I pull into Compostela, a dusty farm town of about 15,000 people in a grassy dale grazed by bony-hipped cattle. Scattered men in straw cowboy hats ride horses between cars on the brick streets. The arched ceilings of a 16th-century stone church echo with the repetitive prayers of five kneeling, elderly women. Merchants are closing up for the two-hour lunch, taking down dresses and other wares hanging outside. I duck into a nearby family restaurant, point to the third item on the day’s handwritten menu, and am served a chewy red pork stew with rice and a dozen steaming corn tortillas.

Back on the road, a traffic jam blocks the route to the thousand-year-old ruins of Los Toriles, so I return to the coast. I’ll see them another day, another trip, *mañana*.

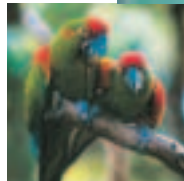
The sun is setting. At the half-acre plaza in Bucerías, food vendors have set up push carts along the streets, cooking on hot plates, grills and griddles. Families walk the brick paths, knots of teenage boys flirt with girls who stroll by, men sprawl on iron benches or under palms and shade trees. The mouth-watering smell of slowly sizzling onions draws me to a stand where a woman is pressing and cooking corn tortillas, and I order my most memorable meal of the trip: three savory beef and bean tacos on a plastic-covered foam plate. I eat at the small counter, sampling homemade sauces, and pay 15 pesos—about \$1.50 USD. Bells in the square tower of the little white church toll the lazy evening hours.

THE VIBRANT CITY

The next morning, energized, I drive south to Puerto Vallarta, bouncing the car to the radio’s Latin hip-hop: “*¡La Boomba! ¡Boomba la casa!*” Everywhere, people are riding in the back of pickup trucks: whole families, the police, tired workers and animated party boys glowing from the sun, hair tousled, bare-chested or with lean, strong shoulders bulging from armless T-shirts.

What a magnificent site for a city! Layered, sheer volcanic mountains covered with green jungle drop onto rough rocks and smooth sand. Gleaming white, modern hotels frame the wide beach or jut horizontally from the foliage. All manner of bodies splash in the waves or lounge on the beach, buying fresh-squeezed orange juice and grilled chunks of fish on a stick. A parasailer rises over the water. Sailboats

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Opposite page: Puerto Vallarta’s Malecón promenade and a Huichol yarn painting. This page: Typical Vallarta scenes include colorful crafts, snorkeling in warm waters, brilliant macaw parrots, the tower of Guadalupe Church and white hotels on the beach. (Courtesy Puerto Vallarta Tourism Board.)

P U E R T O V A L L A R T A

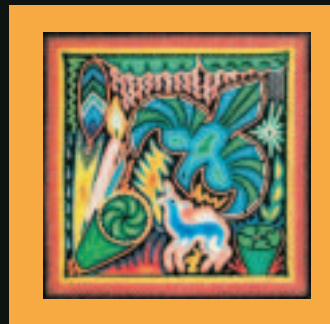
The Feeling of *Mañana*

On the balcony of my villa, eating grapes, smelling the sultry summer air, palm branches licking the parapet, fresh-cut flowers in a lovely blue vase, I feel all my busy vacation plans dissolve into *mañana*—distant “tomorrow,” an eternity away.

An hour ago, I landed in Puerto Vallarta, halfway down the west coast of Mexico, with a gym bag full of books, maps and ideas to fill a five-day excursion. Now, it lies unopened on the kitchen floor. I can't focus enough to plan anything. I won't think about dinner until I'm hungry. The only time that exists is the present. I am completely free.

And that's the way it will be for the next few days: no agenda, seeing but not looking, choosing from what offers itself, like fruits in the wooden banana-leaf bowl that was waiting for me when I arrived at Los Flamingos Villas.

The villas are 20 masonry *casitas* with domed staircase turrets, tile floors and private terraces on a tree-lined golf course a few miles north and inland from hopping Puerto Vallarta. Long golden beaches, thick jungle, laid-back villages and bustling city life are a short drive away. You don't have to check in, you just park on the cobblestones next to your house and walk inside. Ceiling fans are whirling, beer and soft drinks wait in the fridge, air conditioning has already cooled the bedrooms upstairs. The manager will walk over in a few minutes. The maid will do the dishes, laundry as requested and even ironing while you're out. You'll return to made beds and fresh flowers.



No rush, no worries, everything is taken care of on this WorldMark exchange vacation.

When I finally stir, it is only to shower and change, drive to the old fishing village of Bucerías just up the road and watch the big orange ball of sun slip into the sea, eat delicious grilled shrimp and tomatoes, and squish soft sand between my toes in the warm, moonlit surf.

ROLLING OUT, ROLLING BACK

I have never been deep into Mexico before. Vallarta and Los Flamingos have given a gracious introduction, and their English-speaking modernity makes me curious about the less-cosmopolitan countryside behind it all. So on my first morning, at a fork in the road, short on gas, I drift east and upland into the “mother mountains”—the Sierra Madre. Green foliage arches over the highway. Thick vines hang from unfamiliar trees. Soil breaks through the dense undergrowth in rich chili-powder reds, cinnamon browns and turmeric yellows. A five-foot-long snake slithers halfway across the road, then hurls itself back to avoid a truck. Roadside stands sell coconuts, pineapples and exotic spiky fruits.

I pull in to a Pemex station to fuel up. My fourth-grade Spanish is sufficient to get the tank filled. But when I ask for



Ladies-Only Health Holiday

Ladies, unite! The Adventure Club is heading to The Oaks at Ojai, a destination health spa located 20 minutes from downtown Ventura, California, and you don't want to miss out.

After all, a visit to The Oaks is more than just a spa vacation—it is a life-affirming experience. This is a place where you can let your hair down and take in all the positive, nurturing elements of a healthy lifestyle, from nutrition to exercise to attitude. The spa's expertly trained staff educates as well as serves, safely guiding you into the world of well-being. The atmosphere is welcoming, not intimidating. You participate in activities that fit your own abilities. At the end of a busy day, you will be tired but invigorated, feeling a sense of accomplishment that benefits mind, body and spirit.

February 21 – 22 or March 21 – 22

**Standard double with shower:
6,820 credits per person**

**Medium double with full bath:
7,575 credits per person**

**Double cottage with full bath:
8,350 credits per person**

Includes two nights' accommodations at The Oaks at Ojai, six spa cuisine meals consisting mainly of fresh fish, poultry, salads and locally grown produce (vegetarian options available upon request), nature hikes, evening entertainment, daily snacks and beverages and your unlimited choice of fitness classes all day long. (Additional services such as massages and body wraps can be booked upon arrival.)

Please call the Vacation Planning Center to make your reservation. It's sure to be a rejuvenating weekend you won't soon forget.

Subject to change and availability. Cash 'n' Credits options available. All accommodations are based on double occupancy. Standard and medium rooms have two twin beds; double cottages have two double beds.

Celebrate Spring in the Eastern Caribbean

What better way to shake off winter and welcome spring than to cruise the Eastern Caribbean for seven nights aboard Carnival's *Victory*? Explore the historic cities of San Juan, St. Maarten and St. Thomas. Lounge on the beaches and discover the unspoiled beauty of tropical islands.

The world's seas are the inspiration for the *Victory*, one of the newest, largest and most innovative ships in Carnival's renowned fleet. Feel the allure of the deep as you step into the vessel's nine-story atrium, Oceanic Hall, featuring the Seventh

Sea Bar, glass elevators and a sky dome of illuminated Tiffany-type glass.

Outdoors, you can enjoy pools, whirlpools, a spiral water slide, entertainment stages and generous areas for sunning and dancing. Inside, you can unwind at the casino, sports bar, dance club, health spa and three-level state-of-the-art theater.

Celebrate spring in paradise!

February 23 – March 2

**Inside cabin: 22,000 credits for two
Outside cabin: 26,500 credits for two
Balcony cabin: 31,500 credits for two**

Cruise subject to change and availability. Rates include port charges and taxes. \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Cash 'n' Credits options available. Call the Vacation Planning Center to reserve your cruise vacation.

¡MÁS México!

**Come February,
will you want a little Mexico,
or a lot?**

Choose your itinerary accordingly: Carnival's *Ecstasy* will stop at Catalina Island, California, then continue south to Ensenada. Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* is heading for Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Both ships leave from Los Angeles and, since you'll be cruising in cool comfort and high style, you can bet that the journeys will be every bit as delightful as the destinations.

February 16 – 23

Royal Caribbean 7-night Mexican Riviera Cruise
Inside cabin: 24,500 credits for two
Outside cabin: 28,500 credits for two
Balcony cabin: 39,500 credits for two
Outside quad cabin: 42,000 credits for four

February 17 – 21

Carnival 4-night Baja Mexico Cruise
Inside cabin: 11,500 credits for two
Outside cabin: 13,000 credits for two
Outside quad cabin: 23,000 credits for four

For more information, call your Vacation Planning Center.

1-800-457-0103

Cruises subject to change and availability. Tax and port fees included. Air and \$129 USD exchange fee not included. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare to Los Angeles.



PETROGLYPHS IN NEW MEXICO

Solos in the Land of Enchantment

Santa Fe, New Mexico
April 24 - 27

Cliff dwellings, kivas, abandoned cities along ancient trade routes and mysterious symbols etched in rock ... Join fellow solos in experiencing the amazing ruins, petroglyphs and history of New Mexico, the heart and soul of the Anasazi, Navajo, Zuni, Acoma, Hopi and Ute cultures.

Your home-away-from-home will be the Radisson Santa Fe Hotel, located just minutes from the city's renowned plaza, one of America's oldest "shopping centers." Native American jewelers, artists and craftsmen display their wares in front of the Palace of the Governors, as they have since the early 17th century. The surrounding area boasts some of the country's finest shops, galleries, museums and restaurants, and the relaxing accommodations of the Radisson Santa Fe will wrap you in Southwestern comfort. Enjoy dining in the city's only hilltop restaurant and bar, Las Mananitas, as you gaze out over the twinkling lights of Santa Fe.

On Friday, we will tour the historic chapel in the village of Chimayo, 40 miles north of Santa Fe. Our tour will also include San Juan—the largest of the Tewa-speaking pueblos—where we will learn about the history and culture of the Pueblo Indians, who have kept their proud heritage and traditions alive for more than a millennium. Saturday, you will experience the grandeur of Bandelier National Monument as we explore the Anasazi ruins and cave rooms gouged into cliff walls.

6,670 credits per person, double occupancy

This package includes three nights' accommodations and tours of Chimayo, San Juan Pueblo and Bandelier National Monument. Call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103 today to embrace the history and culture of the Southwest.

Subject to change and availability. Cash 'n' Credits options available. Call Trendwest Travel at 1-800-953-5511 for airfare. Round-trip airport shuttle available from Albuquerque International Airport to the Radisson Santa Fe Hotel.

On the Horizon

Need airfare for your WorldMark vacation? Good news! Trendwest Travel has announced their 2003 contracted rates with Horizon Air, so you can go ahead and make vacation plans through next year. Sneak a peek at these fares; Trendwest Travel, at 1-800-953-5511, has many more. (Remember, a minimum two-night WorldMark stay is required.)

Horizon Air Rates for 2003

ROUND-TRIP BETWEEN ...	OFF-PEAK	PEAK
Bellingham and Boise	\$138 USD	\$192 USD
Boise and Los Angeles	\$178 USD	\$224 USD
Spokane and Eugene	\$138 USD	\$189 USD
Seattle and Klamath Falls	\$158 USD	\$200 USD
Portland and Sacramento	\$92 USD	\$164 USD
Vancouver, BC, and Portland	\$158 USD	\$200 USD

Fares are round-trip and include US taxes only; all other charges are extra. Off-peak rates are from January 1 through May 31 and October 1 through December 31. Peak rates are from June 1 through September 30. Travel is not valid at these rates January 1 through 5, November 27 and 30, December 1 through 2, 20 through 22 and 27 through 29.

The Call of the Wild

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But by the next morning, with temperatures climbing steadily, we decided we just had to get out on the water. Bear Lake State Park-North Beach, at the Idaho end of the lake, became our headquarters for the day with the purchase of a \$3 USD pass. We rented a Sea-Doo from an outfitter just east of the park, donned life vests and, at least for a few hours, joined the boating set. The water was glass smooth and nearly free of other craft, and I quickly decided that there was only one speed at which to travel—all out. The lake sprawled before me enticingly, and I couldn't resist. I opened the throttle and skimmed along at 40 m.p.h., turning in ever tighter circles to cross my wake—first to the left, then to the right, reveling in the cool mist. The blue sky and blue lake were all mine.




The rugged beauty of a northern Utah winter.

feet, the snowmobiling season starts in late November and continues into April. Machines can be rented in lakeside communities.

Skiing, both cross-country and downhill, is also a popular winter pastime here. The Bear Lake Golf Course, overlooking the south end of the lake, provides a picturesque setting for cross-country skiing. Fifteen miles west of Garden City, Beaver Mountain Ski Resort treats downhillers, snowboarders and tubing enthusiasts to more of that famed Utah powder.

The Path Not Traveled

On the drive back to Salt Lake City Tuesday afternoon, I spied a small cow moose in Logan Canyon and yelped at my husband to stop the car. The animal nonchalantly picked her way up the steep hillside as I snapped photo after photo like a paparazza, excited by this irrefutable evidence that moose actually do reside in the lower 48 states. We pulled over a couple more times so I could attempt to capture the rugged beauty of the canyon with my camera. Now, as I shuffle through my prints, I can't say that I was successful. The day was overcast, and the light-gray skies diffused the midday sun, dulling the canyon's colors. But I have a clear image in my mind of a well-worn trail leading off across a subalpine field and into the forested mountains beyond. In my memory, this trail continues to beckon with its possibilities, and when I return to northern Utah, I plan to follow it to its end. 

When the Snow Flies

After summer's sunshine and water sports, this region is best known for the heavy snowfall and snowmobiling of winter. Three hundred miles of groomed trails originate in Garden City and climb into the mountains west of the lake. With an average annual snowfall topping five

Mañana

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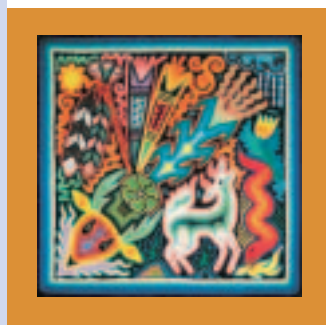
dot the bay. People jam the pier for party boats or water taxis to remote southern beaches.

The cobblestone streets along downtown's whitewashed buildings explode with the colors of crafts and food stalls. Strolling through the south end of town and across a bouncy suspension bridge onto the Isla Río Cuale horticultural park, I admire fine glazed pottery, hand-painted porcelain sinks, primitive wooden masks and painted carvings of iguanas, toucans and snakes. At tiny Milagros de Mexico and upscale Galeria Piramide, I marvel at vibrant yarn paintings of peyote visions by Huichol Indians, and hear the proprietors translate as a Huichol shaman enchantingly tells us how the corn, deer, crosses and flowers in his artwork express the unity of all things and all religions.

At night, Puerto Vallarta's mile-long, brick beachfront promenade of the Malecón throngs with revelers—lines of young men chatting up streams of girls, dancers twirling torches in front of kneeling drummers, women in slinky dresses walking together to dinner, vendors selling watercolors, grilled corn and coconut drinks. The air is full of music—rock-and-roll with pan pipes at a second-story club across the street, a mariachi band serenading a restaurant




Parasailing is popular on Puerto Vallarta beaches.



Deer and corn are central to Huichol mythology.

table a couple doors down, the muddled chords of "Smoke on the Water" reverberating around the corner.

And so it gently goes for the next couple of days: nothing too vigorous—no backcountry tours or diving expeditions—just rolling in the waves off Bucerías, exploring village and city life, hanging out in parks and open-air restaurants, swimming in my villa's blue-tiled pool, finally emptying my wallet of every last peso and dollar to buy the shaman's art. There's no money left for lunch, my credit card is maxed and the plane is delayed, but it's OK. I'll deal with what I can and give the rest to tomorrow. *Mañana*. There's always tomorrow. 

Editor's note: For more information on Los Flamingos Villas, or to book an exchange vacation, call the Vacation Planning Center at 1-800-457-0103.



words to
travel by

Take This! our favorite travel accessories

Little comforts mean a lot on the road: an impromptu picnic with local wine and cheese, finding an art or craft treasure to safely pack away, swinging with Mother Nature's moods through wind, mist and sun. Over the years, we've collected a few items that help us take advantage of the surprises that vacations bring our way. Here are some of our road-tested favorites:

The Tilley Hat It blocks the sun, defies the wind, wards off the rain and even floats! Originally designed for serious sailors and available in a modest variety of unisex styles, the Tilley Hat is perfect for hiking, boating, fishing, casual city strolling or lounging in the sun. The T3 model that we bought five years ago is made of white pre-shrunk, machine-washable cotton duck with a flat cotton chinstrap that we usually tuck away in the crown. It packs flat with only a character-adding rumples or two and keeps rain and sun

off neck and face with a 2.75-inch brim that snaps up Aussie-style if you so desire. It's guaranteed for life and is available for about \$55 USD at outdoor shops and on the Web.

Eddie Bauer Cooler At an Eddie Bauer sale this spring, we paid \$20 USD for an insulated, soft-sided nylon picnic cooler—complete with plastic cutting board—that has become our constant travel companion. As much a picnic basket as a cooler, it comes with comfortable handles, a double-zipper opening and a silver foil plastic interior that is easy to clean and keeps food warm, too. The cooler is big enough to hold a block of ice and lots of drinks, and small enough to carry on the plane (without the ice, please: it's waterproof, not watertight). It's sufficiently sturdy to fill with books and souvenirs and check as luggage. The cooler collapses flat for storage and, best of all, does not squeak like styrofoam as you drive down the road.

Closures

Owner Services and Trendwest Travel will be closed September 2 in honor of Labor Day, but Reservations will be open to serve you from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The entire Vacation Planning Center will close at 4:00 p.m. on September 10 for a company function.

Swiss Army Knife The ultimate folding pocketknife—invented a century ago for Switzerland's soldiers—was dubbed the "Swiss Army Knife" during World War II by American GIs who couldn't pronounce its real name. The Victorinox product line has since evolved into dozens of models, some of which positively bristle with tools—rulers, wrenches, scissors, tweezers, pliers, nail files, etc. We've owned several and are content as long as there's a bottle opener, can opener, knife blade and corkscrew, but admit being intrigued by the new \$70 USD Voyager, with its digital alarm clock and ballpoint pen!


Teva Sandals For the last three years, our sensitive feet have gone weeks at a time wearing nothing but cool, cushy Teva sandals—at the ocean, *in* the ocean and on trails, loose hillside scree and hard city sidewalks. The Terra Fi model, available for around \$75 USD, has a padded heel, tread that grips well wet or dry, adjustable nylon straps anchored to the sole in four places, and an anti-microbe treatment that prevents grody odors. They're not cheap, but they last for years and look good enough for casual restaurants and shopping.

exchange direct

go places

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- Maui, Hawaii
- Mazatlan, Mexico
- Newport, Oregon
- Oahu, Hawaii
- Orlando, Florida
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
- Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Scottsdale, Arizona
- Sun Valley, Idaho

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



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