

Gwalior Fort is one of the stops on Joseph's Madhya Pradesh, India adventures. Watch both Travelscope episodes now on your PBS stations!

Travel is Fatal to Prejudice, Bigotry and Narrow-mindedness.
- Mark Twain

Greetings!

Happy New Year! May all your wishes come true.

We know this year many people are just wishing that the bad economic times would just go away. They will, but just not right away.

Yet, every cloud has a silver lining and if you have the ability to take advantage of the great travel offers that are out there you will have the time of your life.

We will be here to inspire you to greater travel heights. After a year of traveling to destinations as far ranging as Chile, Fiji, Papua Nui Guinea and India, in 2009

we are traveling to Turkey, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Thailand and returning to Africa.

Season III of Travelscope TV joins Seasons I and II to bring to a total of 39 the shows that are airing on PBS stations around the country. Season III releases on June 1, and while Season II garnered 93% of the U.S. market, Season III is expect to do even better.

Yes, there may be trials and tribulations this year, but be of good cheer — the brightest days emerge from the darkest nights! Happy Traveling!

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Getting Around

Cyclists rejoice. **Denver now offers “Denver B-Cycle,” a citywide, free bike-sharing program.** By summer 2009, 500 free bikes will be available at some 40 stations throughout the city. Visitors simply go to a bike station, swipe a credit card and pedal off along Denver’s 850 miles of off-road, paved bike trails. Bike rentals are free as long as the bike is returned to the same location by the following morning. See VisitDenver.com or call 800-2-DENVER.

In Guatemala, turn any excursion into an adventure by riding the famous “Chicken Buses,” Guatemala’s public transportation — so nicknamed for the tight manner in which passengers are crammed into these retired U.S. school buses. You’ll enjoy a cheap ride and local color. For more on visiting Guatemala, go to VisitGuatemala.com. Be sure to watch Joseph ride a Chicken Bus in Travelscope’s “Guatemala – The Maya of the Western Highlands” show airing now on PBS as part of Season III of Travelscope TV.

Stretch your money in Vienna, Austria with “Vienna a’ la Carte,” the Vienna discount card that lets visitors ride the subway, buses and streetcars free for 72 hours; and offers discounts on more than 210 sights, eateries and shops. The card costs 18.50 Euros and can be purchased within Vienna at hotels, the Vienna Transport Authority and Tourist Information Centers. Go to Vienna.info and for more on Austria, go to Austria.info. Watch for Joseph “Celebrating the Vine in Vienna and the Burgenland” airing now on more than 300 PBS stations nationwide.

Austrian Airlines offers a “Vienna on Us” complimentary stop-over in Vienna to travelers who purchase a Business or First Class ticket to any destination beyond Vienna. The special includes a private limousine to and from the airport, luxury one-night hotel stay in Vienna, and a gourmet dinner and buffet breakfast at the hotel. For reservations, visit AUA.com or call 800-843-0002.

Qatar Airways plans to launch daily direct service between Houston and Kuwait on March 30. “Linking the energy capitals of the world,” is the theme of the Doha-based carrier’s third U.S. route. It also serves New York and Washington, D.C. The nearly 17-hour flight will feature a Boeing 777-200 long range aircraft. Visit QatarAirways.com.

Celebrations U.S.A

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California presents “The Last Full Measure of Devotion: Collecting Abraham Lincoln,” Feb. 7 through April 27, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth (1809 - 1865). Letters, photos and manuscripts will be on display. On Feb. 21, the Gettysburg Address will be delivered by Lincoln (actor William T. Peck). Visit Huntington.org or call 626-405-2100.

The 17th annual Taste of Solvang, March 20 - 22, in Danish village of Solvang on California’s Central Coast begins with an appetizer this year — Restaurant Week. From March 15 to 19 a host of eateries in Solvang will offer \$20 three-course tasting menus. The popular event, Taste of Solvang, includes a Walking Smorgasbord, Wine Tasting Walk and live entertainment. Go to SolvangUSA.com or phone 800-468-6765.

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, in style in Butte, Montana. The “Irish Parade” of green-clad leprechauns, bagpipers and frolicking fiddlers kicks off a day of merry-making and pub-hopping through Butte’s countless Irish bars by more than 30,000 Irish aficionados. Check out VisitMt.com or call the Butte Chamber of Commerce 800-735-6814 for details.

Celebrate a Texas-style Mardi Gras with fine wines, gumbo and good times during the “Ragin Cajun” festivities on Feb. 28 at wineries along the Fredericksburg, Texas’ Wine Road 290 Trail. See Wineroad290.com for event details and Fredericksburg-Texas.com for more on the city. Watch for Travelscope’s “Fredericksburg, Texas Show,” airing on PBS as part of Season IV of Travelscope TV airing June 2010.

“Jamestown and Bermuda: Virginia Company Colonies,” March 1 through Oct. 15 in Williamsburg, Virginia, explores the unique connections between England’s first settlement in Jamestown, Virginia (1607) and its second on the Bermuda island in 1609. Watch for “America’s Historic Triangle,” Travelscope’s Colonial Williamsburg show on PBS in 2009. For information go to VisitWilliamsburg.com or 888-593-4682.

Gadgets & Gizmos

by **Barbara Beckley**

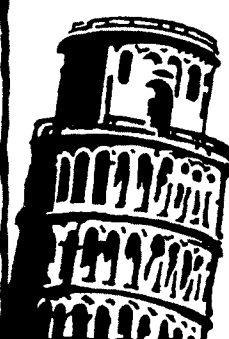
If you travel with a laptop, you know the hassle — and perhaps the worry of possible damage — of having to take your computer out of its case to put it through the security x-ray at the airport. Now, there's a new assortment of checkpoint-friendly cases from SOLO, a manufacturer of lifestyle-focused business cases, called CheckFast that may put an end to your worries.

According to SOLO, the new CheckFast bags meet the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) guidelines for check-point friendly bags and thus allow airline passengers to travel through airport security without removing laptops from their cases. CheckFast offers several options within its various business case collections including:

- A Tech Collection mesh-covered removable laptop sleeve for 15.4-inch laptops that features cut-out windows for easy identification by airport security.
- A Tech Collection clamshell “mini instant messenger” that holds an 11-inch netbook.
- A Classic Collection clamshell portfolio for 15.4-inch laptops that will lay flat across the x-ray belt during screening.
- The “AlwaysOn” CheckFast sleeve, which securely hugs the laptop while also featuring vented openings in the back for cord pass-through, thus allowing the user to utilize their laptop while it's still in the sleeve. The “AlwaysOn” sleeve comes in a variety of sizes to accommodate most laptops.

The CheckFast sleeves range from \$30 to \$60 and are available at major office supply and consumer electronics stores and online. SOLO is owned by U.S. Luggage Company, LLC, the company that first introduced wheels on luggage.

For more information visit SoloCases.com.



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Dateline: The World

Two New Brunswick destinations — the City of Fredericton and the town of Caraquet — have each been designated one of the 2009 “Cultural Capitals of Canada.” Fredericton is celebrating with “Exposing Our Culture,” a variety of activities throughout the year focusing on its youth, as well as, First Nations and French heritages. Caraquet is presenting “Caraquet, Ville Lumiere 2009,” showcasing the visual and performing arts while emphasizing its Acadian heritage. Learn more at TourismNewBrunswick.ca.

Party at the world's second largest carnival celebration — Carnival in Panama — Feb. 20 - 24. Celebrate in Panama City with endless parades, floats, dancing in the streets and being drenched with water. In the provincial town of Las Tablas thousands of revelers gather for a more folkloric vibe of fancy costumes and creative floats. For more information, go to VisitPanama.com.

Guatemala celebrates Easter with pomp and pageantry, making Holy Week, April 5 - 12 (Easter Sunday), a top attraction. Colorful processions wind through the cities and villages, with incense wafting overhead, flower petals and richly-colored sawdust carpeting the streets and onlookers setting off firecrackers and fireworks. The Catholic Pilgrim's Route honors a local colonial-era saint and the mysterious “Black Christ” attracts thousands to the village of Esquipulas. For more information about Guatemala, check out VisitGuatemala.com.

Kick up your heels in Switzerland at the International Carnival Parade on March 1 in the ancient town of Arbon on Lake Constance. It's the largest parade in eastern Switzerland, with more than 40 groups including brass bands marching through town in colorful costumes. For details on this and all of Switzerland, go to MySwitzerland.com.

The “International Mural Fest” April 12-18 in the city of Sheffield on Australia's island state of Tasmania features competing artists from around the world completing huge murals in just six days. Dancing and wine and food tastings add to the fun of this colorful event celebrating Tasmania's history and culture. For event information, visit MuralFest.com.au and for information on visiting Tasmania, go to DiscoverTasmania.com.

The Persistent Traveler

India – Spiritual Journeys on the Sub-Continent

by Julie Rosendo



Evening prayers outside the Shiva Temple in Khajuraho are about to begin. The sun has set, but the sky still glows amber with the last light and the dissipating heat.

Standing at the bottom of the temple steps, the structure is silhouetted against the orange and pink sky. The last of thousands of bright green parakeets swoosh past my head on their way to roost. Bats flutter so close to my ear that I feel the movement of their wings. Women in brightly colored saris and men in traditional kurta or panjabi clothing, rush up the steps. Scents of incense fill the air.

Holy men chant as they climb the steps, clad only in loin cloths with their faces painted to include the third eye – the invisible eye of the mind. The bells begin ringing. Scents of India. Sounds of India. Sights of India. This is the India I imagined I would find and as I stand at the base of the steps with the temple towering above me I say my own private prayer of thanksgiving.

Joseph and the Travelscope crew are inside the temple in its small center chamber where the bells are deafening. I'm minding the tripod because we have learned the hard way that it's not allowed in temples. But I'm not missing a thing. I love my perfect vantage point to see, hear, smell and experience the true India.



After being expelled from countless temples, forts and historical sites due to our tripod, I've volunteered to stay outside so our shoot isn't interrupted. As two men approach me in the middle of my semi-meditative state I reflexively go into explanation mode. "I'm not taking the tripod inside... I have a permit from the Archeological Survey of India... I am waiting for my crew," all this while I'm showing them the official documents, my business card, anything that will make them leave me alone.

Yet, the men smile, bow their heads, put their hands together and answer me with "Namaskar." I don't know how to respond. It's not what I had expected or experienced in the past 8 days of our sojourn. As it turns out the two men are religious teachers and came to the temple for evening prayers. When they saw me, obviously a western woman standing alone, they approached out of curiosity. Through broken English and hand gestures I learn they are interested in practicing their English and are eager to teach me about their version of Hinduism.

Namaskar, which is the common greeting in the sub-continent, not "namaste" as we say in the west, literally means "I bow to you." I bow to the divine in you. It's a true recognition that we are all one. The men demonstrate the utmost show of respect and touch the ground while doing so. This equals touching Rama's feet they tell me. It is the release of ego. After

walking the streets of India I vividly understand the significance of this.

Even though there are a plethora of Gods in Hinduism — is it 3 million of 30 million —

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who's really counting anyway? — all Gods are manifestations of the one God, Rama. I explain to them that it is not unlike Catholicism's version of Christianity with its multitude of Saints.

❖ *Enlightenment* ❖

When I ask them to further explain all the Gods they give me the analogy that Rama is supreme, similar to any world leader today, and like our president in the United States, he needs help ruling over the masses so he enlisted many minor deities, similar to our congressmen or senators. The analogy makes us all laugh. They also shared that after Rama's creation of earth he has since retreated mainly into meditation so the lesser deities are of even greater importance. I strangely relate to this. Who among us wouldn't love to retreat into meditation after arduous achievements?

After experiencing India it's easy to understand how even a God would need help ruling over

this vast continent and its billion plus people. The few minutes I spend with these two gentle spirits are just one of the many memories I have of India.

We spent 18 days in India in the state of Madhya Pradesh, the most rural and one of the most impoverished areas of the country. India challenged me on levels I had not experienced before. India is like no other place on the planet. It might be possible to visit India and remain separate from the experience — to be sanitized from the reality. But it would be just that, a visit -- not the true India experience.

Season III of Travelscope, released June 2009, devotes two episodes to rural Madhya Pradesh — considered the heart of India. These episodes are samples of the experience



that awaits a true traveler who heads off the beaten path in search of the real deal. From the tiger reserve of Bandhavgarh to the ghats of Maheshwar, we met some of the warmest, most interesting and welcoming people we've encountered anywhere in the world. Women in Orcha doing construction work in their saris stopped working so I could take my picture with them. It was such an amazing sight I had to capture the moment. They laughed at me, but happily posed.

There is so much to remember: Young children in Orcha initially trying to sell us trinkets, but in the end playing games and laughing with us. A young Sikh whose father made him stand next to me so he could take a picture of us together. I was the curious spectacle.

And I will always remember the two young girls in the temples of Mandu who were aggressive panhandlers. When I was sure that other children weren't around so I wouldn't be mobbed by the crowd, I gave them my last two bags of trail mix. It was as if I had given them the most precious gift they had ever received. They quickly hid the snack from the other children and disappeared. When we were driving away from the fort I saw them off by themselves savoring each and every piece of the mix, one by one. They caught my eye and both of them smiled the widest, most heart-felt smile I've ever been given.

India's history is overwhelming; its temples and monuments breathtaking. Yet, the temples, castles and monuments are dead things. The real India lives alive in its people. And it's the people that I'll always remember.

For more on amazing India go to IncredibleIndia.org. For the state of Madhya Pradesh visit MPTourism.com and for the best way to get to India go to AirIndia.com.

Resorts, Hotels 'n' Inns

Here are some restful values.

R = resort **H** = hotel **I** = inn ♥ = romance, of course.

I The Inn at Loreto Bay, tucked in the shadow of the Sierra de la Giganta mountains on Baja California's Sea of Cortez, is not only romantic — it's kind to the environment. The 155-room property is the first Green Globe certified resort in Baja. In addition to helping the environment, guests enjoy modern guest rooms and suites, all with ocean views. The Vista Del Mar Suites include a jacuzzi on the terrace. Four dining choices feature fine dining under the stars at Salvatierra Restaurant, and spa enthusiasts enjoy pampering inside or under private massage palapas on the beach. To celebrate its Green Globe certification, the inn is offering a "Go Green for Less Green" promotion through March 31. This includes 7 nights for the price of 5 in a one-, two- or three-bedroom villa; or 4 nights for the price of 3 in the inn. Extras include unlimited free golf, 50% off spa services, \$100 resort credit, free kayaking and snorkeling, free Wi-Fi and other free services. Savings range from \$770 to \$1,310. To make reservations, visit DiscoverLoretoBay.com. ♥



I Experience a little bit of Tuscany at the Tuscali Mountain Inn, a luxury bed and breakfast, nestled in Topanga Canyon in the heart of Southern California's Santa Monica Mountains just minutes from Malibu and Santa Monica.



Hidden away on the gated, three-acre property with amazing views across Topanga Canyon and the 13,000-acre Topanga State Park, the inn offers three elegantly furnished rooms, an exquisite breakfast menu, and, at sunset, delicious hors d'oeuvres and choice California wines. Rates are \$245 and \$295 per night depending on the room, and ensuite massages begin from \$100. Wedding Packages including in-house facials, massage, hair and make-up for the bride and bridal party by top professionals start at \$600. Visit TuscaliMountaininn.com. ♥

H Surrounded by thick flora and fauna, the Hotel Jungle Lodge combines luxury and eco tourism in the heart of Guatemala's lush Tikal National Park. Originally built in 1956 to provide food and lodging for archeologists exploring the ancient Mayan city of Tikal, today, it's transformed into an elegant resort — the closest to Tikal. Its amenities please a range of travelers with junior suites, bungalows and rooms with shared baths; a pool, restaurant, bar and gardens. Specials include a day-package with airport transfers, a tour of Tikal, the museum and lunch at the hotel. The 2- and 3-day packages including transfers, meals and tours to Tikal, the museum and jungle walks. For rates and information, visit JungleLodgeTikal.com.



R Romance is in the air at El Convento Antigua, a colonial-era jewel situated adjacent to an 18th Capuchin convent along the cobblestone streets of Antigua, Guatemala, a highland city famous for its beautiful Spanish colonial baroque architecture. Featuring 19 luxurious suites, each with private walled gardens, a fire place, cedar-beamed ceilings and sumptuous linens and hand-woven textiles; the hotel blends the ancient and the modern, combining artisanal brick vaulted ceilings, exposed stone walls and hand-crafted doors with modern amenities. Luxuries include a pillow menu, and an aroma menu, which allows guests to select the aroma they prefer in their suite, for example orange or eucalyptus. The public rooms are equally elegant, with deep-set living room sofas and a domed cupola over the bar. Sitz' Restaurant is an epicurean delight, serving traditional Guatemala specialties with a modern spin, and modern cuisine with a twist of spices, flowers and fruits of the region. Rates begin at \$190 for a junior suite, \$240 for a suite and \$300 for a grand suite. To watch for special promotions and the Longer-stay rates, visit ElConventoAntigua.com. ♥



TRAVELSCOOP



Following two incredible seasons, Travelscope returns with a dynamic Season III that offers even more adventure, scenery and insight into the world's diverse cultures. From Fiji to India, the new programs, delivered in High Definition, introduce people to people and provide a bridge between cultures. Travelscope is a favorite with audiences and succeeds in offering high class travels from a personal perspective and with a welcoming presentation.

Underwritten by DK Eyewitness Travel Guides, the guides that show you what others only tell you, and distributed by American Public Television to the PBS system, Season I and II aired on more than 300 PBS stations and have a strong reach to audiences in the 25-54 age group, as well as the 55+ viewers, both male and female. Travelscope is represented by San Francisco PBS station KQED.

Watch for Travelscope on your PBS Television Station. We'll be sure to turn you on to travel!

SEASON THREE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS



Fiji - Island Hopping - Travelscope goes island hopping. From the romantic private island of Matangi to the pristine waters of Jean Michelle Cousteau's resort, Joseph snorkels through amazing coral reefs and shares a kava ceremony with a local chief.



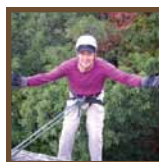
Alberta, Canada - The Canadian Rockies - From the streets of the quaint mountain village of Banff to the chateau and tea houses of Lake Louise and the lakes and rivers of Jasper National Park, Joseph introduces viewers to the amazing province that Albertans call home.



Chile - From Seaside to Mountaintop - Joseph starts his Chilean adventure in the country's capital, Santiago, and then heads into the Andes where he meets up with glacier-trekking ice climbers before descending into the Maipo Valley for wine touring and tasting and then taking in the nightlife and ocean breezes of the port city of Valparaiso.



Chile - The Driest Place on Earth - Joseph travels north to the driest place on the planet, Chile's Atacama Desert. He finds that the desert, though it appears dry and barren, is alive with varied wildlife and vibrant cultures. During his journey he encounters the friendly Atacameño Indians and witnesses spouting geysers, endless sand dunes and the area's breathtaking natural beauty.



West Virginia - Wild and Wonderful - In the New River Gorge Joseph paddles the gentle New River and then battles to stay afloat on the raging Gauley. Along the way he bikes up a mountain trail, rappels down the gorge's face and experiences West Virginia's coal mining past.



Austria - Celebrating the Vine in Vienna and the Burgenland - Travelscope celebrates the historic and modern in Austria's capital, Vienna, and the Burgenland wine country. Along the wine trail Joseph grabs a healthy helping of Gemütlichkeit (the good life) in the capital's own vineyards and in the Buschenshanks and Heurigers (wine cafés) of the villages along Burgenland's Lake Neusiedl.

SEASON THREE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS



Papua New Guinea - Cultural Encounters in an Ancient World - Joseph heads to Papua New Guinea's remote highlands for cultural encounters with the Huli Wigmen and then journeys to the Sepik River for a tropical rendezvous with the ancient people of its riverside villages.



Italy - Friuli Venezia Giulia - Italy's Hidden Region - Joseph embarks into the little known region of Friuli Venezia Giulia on the Slovenian border where a multi-cultural heritage thrives. He straps on his helmet before hopping a Vespa for a two-wheeled tour through the region's wine country where he meets generations of winemakers and their fellow Dionysian devotees.



Guatemala - The Maya of the Western Highlands - Joseph visits the ancient Spanish colonial capital of Antigua before climbing volcanoes and heading into Guatemala's Mayan highland villages for friendly bargaining in the local markets, a ride on a "chicken bus" and a weaving lesson on a traditional back-strap loom.



Guatemala - Seeking the Past in Tikal and Yaxha - Joseph combines the legendary with the natural when he explores Guatemala's Mayan legacy at the temples of Tikal and Yaxha and then discovers the wonders that wait at the El Quetzal Biotope Nature Reserve.



Williamsburg, Virginia - America's Historic Triangle - Travelscope traces America's birth in Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown, Virginia. Yet, this adventure covers more than the past as Joseph kayaks the Chickahominy River, sails on a four-masted schooner past modern-day ocean-going vessels and partakes of the area's family fun.



Madhya Pradesh, India - The Heart of India - Joseph begins his adventure in India's capital, Delhi, and then makes a pilgrimage to the ancient Hindu and Jain temples of Khajuraho with their erotic life-affirming 1,000-year-old carvings. His journey of discovery draws him from rural villages to palace ruins.



Madhya Pradesh, India - India's Rural Heart - Joseph continues his passage through the heart of India with an expedition to Bandhavgarh National Park's tiger reserve. He then visits the princely town of Maheshwar where he celebrates sunrise and witnesses morning rituals along the holy Narmada River. In the city of Indore he joins the crowds for the Diwali Festival - a celebration of good over evil and the glory of light.



A Rarotonga Rhapsody

by Barbara Beckley

Dipping the paddle into the transparent waters, I propelled myself across water as smooth as glass. Beneath me, the shallow lagoon's white sandy bottom was a perfect backdrop to the bright yellow-and-black sergeant majors and other colorful fish darting under my red plastic kayak. In front of me, five motus (tiny coral reef islets) — so picture perfect one is my screen saver — separated the Muri Beach Lagoon from the raw Pacific Ocean.

"Just another day in paradise," I smiled, waving to new local friends sunning themselves on the long, sandy beach in back of me.

Paradise it is, according to the numerous New Zealanders, Australians and handful of Americans who have discovered one of the South Pacific's best keep secrets — The

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Cook Islands and its largest island, Rarotonga — upon who's dreamy lagoon I was paddling. Discovered by Capt. Cook in 1777, Raro, as the locals call it, is large enough to offer plenty of day and nighttime adventures, and small enough (you can drive around it in an hour) to feel at home after the first day.

Toddling along the beach road in a rental convertible, with the top down and my spirits high, misty mountain peaks, wrapped in emerald foliage towered above me.



Soon, I was climbing those peaks! I was stepping over tangled tree roots, trekking under forests of Alice-in-Wonderland-sized ferns in the dense interior and discovering ancient Polynesian marai (sacred gathering spots) on Pa's Treks' Cross Island Tour, led by Pa, a Cook Island character and legendary guide. Sitting on a rock at the base of the Needle, a natural granite spire piercing the sky from a mountain peak, Pa pointed out the beach far below, from which ancient Polynesians had voyaged to Tahiti and colonized the Tahitian islands.

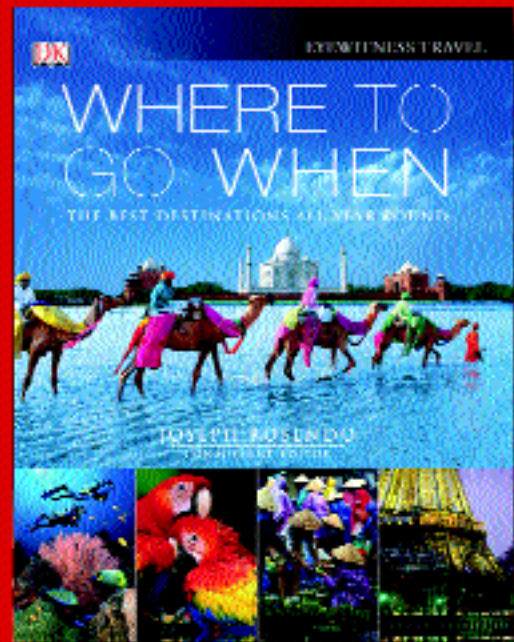
I was ready for a little R&R after my trek, and since it was Friday night, that meant drinks, nibbles and dancing to a live band at Trader Jack's. On the waterfront in Avarua, the main town, Jack's has been a favorite Friday night haunt with locals, visitors, yachties and business people for years.

On Saturdays, locals and visitors converge at Avarua's Punanganui Market to chat, enjoy the local live bands and singers, and buy souvenirs, Polynesian carvings, black pearls, tropical-patterned shirts, dresses, parius (wrap-around pieces of brightly patterned cloth), bed spreads, island-made perfumes, coconut soaps and a multitude of gift and personal items. Most of the island's merchants set up booths, so it's an efficient and sometimes cheap way to shop. I bought a good-

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Joseph Rosendo calls
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THE GUIDES THAT SHOW YOU WHAT OTHERS ONLY TELL YOU

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sized grey-toned black pearl pendant for \$25. Be sure to get there early — it's all over by noon.

If you can get reservations Saturday evenings, BBQ Night at the Aroa Beachside Inn is the place to be. Run by Hawaii-transplant, Jim Bruce, I found the Mai Tais perfect, the sunset over the Pacific stellar and the ambiance "Jimmy Buffet" perfect. Bruce put everyone in a party mood with jokes and nutty quizzes, and his New Zealand keyboard player was a charmer playing sounds from soft jazz to Sinatra to Hawaiian tunes. The bar-b-qed meats, baked potatoes, taro and peach cobbler were all-American delicious.

With just two parallel roads, the beach road and the inland road (originally an ancient footpath), there's never a worry about getting lost, and always something to discover. (Just remember you're driving on the British side of the road.) In the older Polynesian district, I was fascinated by an ancient marai by a river and puzzled over a tiki face carved into a living tree by the side of the road.

I was charmed by the idyllic Perfumes of Rarotonga "factory" housed in a rambling wooden structure shaded by palms and vines. Inside, the essence of frangipani and other pure tropical scents in perfume, eau du toilet and freshly-made coconut soap were irresistible; as were the mango liqueurs packaged in whimsical tiki-shaped bottles.

Luckily, Raro isn't over-built, yet has hotels for all budgets. Many have a handful of rooms, such as the chic Little Polynesian. The 64-room Pacific Resort is one of the largest, and a favorite for beachside cocktails and dinners.


For more information on Rarotonga and the Cook Islands, visit CookIslands.travel

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TRAVELSCOPE SALUTES WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

by **Barbara Beckley**



In our ongoing recognition of those who contribute to Travelscope TV's success, we're pleased to showcase the heart of our nation's history — Williamsburg, Virginia — in this issue.

Founded in 1699, Colonial Williamsburg, the restored 18th-century capital of Britain's Virginia colony, is the world's largest living history museum offering 301 acres of historic buildings, gardens

and greens where costumed interpreters reenact colonial life. The new "Revolutionary City" living history drama combines large-scale streetscape performances and multiple simultaneous vignettes.

History continues along the "Colonial Parkway," a 23-mile roadway connecting Williamsburg to Jamestown, the New World's first permanent English settlement in 1607, and Yorktown, a quaint village dating to 1691 and site of the last major battle of the American Revolutionary War.

Jamestown highlights include the 1639 church tower, the recreated 1608 Glass House and Powhatan Indian village, life-size replicas of the three ships that brought the first English settlers to the New World, and intriguing artifacts from the ongoing excavations of the original James Fort.

At the Yorktown Battlefield & Visitor Center, travelers see Surrender Field, the Moore House, where negotiations for Cornwallis' surrender took place, and the original tents used by General Washington. At the Yorktown Victory Center, visitors can join a cannon crew in the Continental Army encampment for some explosive excitement. The triple treat is a joy for the entire family.

To learn more about Williamsburg and the area, log onto VisitWilliamsburg.com and watch for "America's Historic Triangle," Travelscope's Colonial Williamsburg show on PBS in 2009.

Book Marks

by Barbara Beckley



“Every party is suitable for the young, as well as, the young at heart...”

Some of us travel for relaxation; others travel to learn about different cultures, but we all travel to enjoy ourselves. For those of us who want to really enjoy ourselves — a unique new guidebook, *Party Across America*, published by Adams Media, is the ideal source. Subtitled “101 of the Greatest Festivals, Sporting Events, and Celebrations in the U.S.,” this fun and easy-to-read book describes the nation’s top festivals, celebrations, parades and public parties for weekend, week-long or month-long event-centered trips.

Author Michael Guerriero began his “research” as a self-described ski bum who traversed the country with his buddies attending the nation’s biggest bashes — and ended up compiling his notes into this book.

From celebrating St. Patrick’s day in Butte, Montana to the

World’s Largest Disco in Buffalo and swash-buckling good times at the Gaspirilla’s Pirate Festival — and, of course, Mardi Gras in New Orleans and New Year’s Eve in Times Square — it’s one awesome time after another as travelers criss-cross the country in search of the next great celebration. Divided by region, Guerriero gives an insider’s perspective on how best to enjoy each festivity, along with where to stay and how to get there.

Every party is suitable for the young, as well as, the young at heart.

Party Across America! is \$12.95 at fwpublications.com. In Southern California, you can find it, other travel books and accessories at *Distant Lands, A Travelers’ Book Store* (800-310-3220) in Pasadena, California or at DistantLands.com.



Joseph Rosendo's

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Joseph Rosendo has been a travel, food and wine journalist for 28 years. He has been published in the Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, Washington Post, Westways, Vista USA, Sojourns and many other publications.

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