

# Destinations by Donna

DestinationsByDonna.com

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## Travel Tip for Today

### Duct tape, Dental floss and Ziplocs

What's in your emergency pouch? A couple ideas: Carry a pencil wrapped in duct tape. You can have a lot of tape in a little space. Then add several layers of dental floss. Hope you never need it, but be prepared! Always carry Ziploc bags in various sizes. Good for everything from wet bathing suits to a bottle of wine.

## Destination of the Month

You can't get much more centrally located in Western Europe than **Belgium!** By train you can be in London in 2 hours from Brussels, Paris in 1.5, and Frankfurt in 3.5 hours. But don't think of Belgium as just a jumping off point. Visit Brugge, the Venice of the North, and buy lace; listen to the voices of history in the biting wind at Bastogne, where the Battle of the Bulge was fought in 1945. Eat mussels in Brussels! Taste one of the 500 beers brewed in this small country, and don't forget the frites (French fries) and waffles! They speak Flemish (like Dutch) in the north and French in the south, with a distinct line dividing the two. English is widely spoken in the major cities. Play golf at Mont Garni in Baudour; the clubhouse used to be a manor house. Ask me about Belgium, a diamond in the necklace of Europe. I lived there for six years!

## If you can't go there, go here!

### Red Ridge Farms—olive oil and wine tasting

5510 NE Breyman Orchards Rd, Dayton, OR  
503-864-8502, [www.redridgefarms.com](http://www.redridgefarms.com)

Olive oil tasting: \$25 pp/  
Durant Vineyards wine tasting: \$15 pp,  
wine tasting, olive oil tasting, and picnic on the patio: \$45 pp

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## Great Values!

**Pacific Northwest**—September 25, 3 night cruise, Mercury on Celebrity Cruise Lines, roundtrip Seattle, from \$880 for inside cabin. I'm going!

**Mexico-Puerto Vallarta Crown Paradise**—all inclusive, 2 adults, 2 children under 12, 7 nights early June: \$3,125—including air from PDX!

**Radisson Hotel PDX**—park and fly--\$88 includes one night plus 10 days parking, airport shuttle

**Hawaii, Kauai—Aston Poipu Kai**, 7 nights early June, 2 adults, compact car, air from PDX--\$2,415

## The World Through My Eyes

A dream come true! Our tour bus stops at a shop in Jaipur, India that sells fabric! Crowding into a space with an overhead cover but no walls, we witness an old man stamping fabric with blocks to form intricate designs, the smell of the dye strong and staining his hands. Fascinating and beautiful! We could pick out fabric and have it made to measure in 24 hours. Wow! Imagine! I never thought I would have this opportunity! So many fabrics to choose from! I buy two lovely pieces that were hand blocked and order an outfit in an orange gauze. I am now the proud owner of a beautiful orange gauze suit that hangs in my closet! I do many things well. Shopping, I confess, is not one of those things!

## Looking to the future ➡

**October 18, 2009: The 15th Annual Komen Hawaii Race for the Cure.** I plan to lead a group to Honolulu to participate in this event. More info next month after I meet with people in Hawaii in late April. I'll show you O'ahu as you have never seen it! Plus, perhaps a short trip to Moloka'i after. Details to follow! Focus is health and wellness.

❖ Look for my blog while I'm on O'ahu in April!  
<http://destinationsbydonna.wordpress.com/>

If you would like to receive an expanded version of this newsletter, please let me know via email.