

Destinations by Donna

DestinationsByDonna.com

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Travel Tip for Today

Packing for cruising: Go to Walmart or Target and get a hanging shoe organizer—shelves, not pockets. It folds nicely for a suitcase, but expands in a closet for shoes, purses, souvenirs, sweaters, whatever. That brings up another, related tip: **Homeschoolers vacations:** With the recent trend of more families going to home schooling, many families can now vacation outside “peak” travel seasons. This means some incredible values, like cruising the first week of December. Ask me for a quote!

Destination of the Month

As the weather begins to feel like autumn, thoughts turn to winter vacations. For me, that means a place warm, comfortable and friendly! **Ixtapa, Mexico** is a great choice for this winter! Temps are mid to upper 80s—perfect! Beaches are beautiful, with the waves creating gentle scallops on the sand. A huge plus for Ixtapa is the lack of street and beach vendors harassing me! I have walked the beaches late at night and felt safe with just a couple friends with me. Sidewalks have recently been remodeled for improved wheelchair access. **Zihuatanejo** is just a short cab ride away if you prefer a more traditional Mexican village. Thoughts of the seafood I had while in this area make my mouth water! Prices are still down, so now is the time to lock in the great values available! Even if you don't plan to go until the first of next year, get that reservation made!

If you can't go there, go here!

You tell me! I'd love to hear your suggestions!

Donna M Johnson, Travel Consultant
donna@beattygroup.com
Beatty Group Travel
9800 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy
Beaverton, OR 97005/800-285-6215
503-896-6111//facebook.com

Great Values!

Voyages to Antiquity—Cruises to Classical Civilizations. Combining the best in cultural travel, enrichment with expert guest lecturers. 2010 is their inaugural year, with air out of PDX for \$199, gratuities and excursions included! Greece--15 days, from \$3,695 pp. plus port charges and fees. Ask about other itineraries—some would be perfect for a group interested in history or archeology!

The World Through My Eyes

“Excuse me, Madame, did you drop this ring?” The woman's accented speech is not French as I would expect to hear while walking by the Seine River in Paris. I tell her it is not mine. She wants me to have it because her religion does not allow her to wear jewelry. So I take it, being polite and a bit greedy. The hook is set and she begins to reel me in by asking for money for food—just the change in my purse. By now I realize this is a con, but I give her my Euro coins, knowing it is not more than about \$7. She is not very happy with her meager take. I'm not happy to be taken, but I do not give the ring back. I've kept that ring to remind me to think before I act. I could have refused the ring or at least given it back rather than giving her money. I don't like admitting I was a fool, but maybe my story will help you avoid something similar!

Looking to the future →

Come cruise with me on NCL's Pride of America through the Hawaiian Islands! Unpack once, see four Islands--O'ahu, Maui, the Big Island and Kauai! We depart Honolulu April 17, 2010 for a 7 night cruise. One night we plan to sail by Kiluea volcano that is currently flowing into the sea. Our group pricing is lower than individually booking a cabin. This is a fundraiser for a church youth group, so you get a great price and the kids get a benefit as well!

Check out where I've been recently on my blog!
<http://destinationsbydonna.wordpress.com/>