

Happy New Year!

I trust everyone had a busy month and apologies for the delay with Decembers Newsletter...I am sure it went by with many not even thinking of it! This was a special Christmas for my family as it was the first year that both of my young girls realized the magic of Christmas. I have had some special moments in my life for sure, but I know nothing will ever compare to the excitement one feels as a child while tracking Santa on Christmas Eve!

Now, back to reality and looking forward to some wonderful adventures in 2020!

fernweh (n)

farsickness: an urge to travel even stronger than wanderlust



Our next meet ups will be held on the dates below from 6:00-8:00pm. Please let me know if you will be able to make it out for planning purposes!

February 11– Honeybee Centre Beestro,
7480 176th Street, Surrey

February 13th-Wild Fig Lounge
Executive Plaza Hotel, 405 North Road, Coquitlam

February 27th-Sylvia Hotel Lounge
1154 Gilford Street, Vancouver

Longstay vacations have become increasingly popular in the last few years and for good reason! For many of us, venturing to warmer destinations to bridge into the Spring and Summer is ideal, and especially when you are in one place and can truly immerse yourself in the culture around you. Longstay vacations are trips that are 2 weeks or longer in duration, and while we have a number that we are promoting right now with particular dates, they can all be adjusted and made to suit your availability. Some include breakfast, but almost all come equipped with the kitchenette so you can avoid the pressures of needing to be up and eating out each morning and evening. I say that food should not always be considered an expense of a trip, as you need to eat whether you are at home or somewhere else. With that said, eating out can get costly, so if you are like me and enjoy wandering through and exploring the local markets, and don't mind making a meal or packing a lunch, longstays could be the perfect fit! They are centrally located in town to everything you would need, and the packages include airfare, accommodations, and transfers.

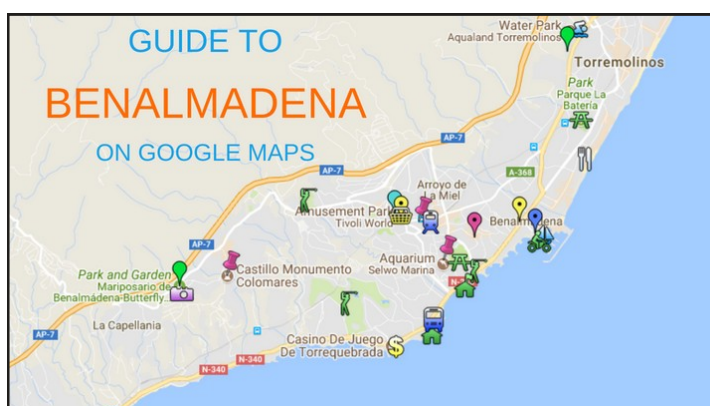
Prices below are per person based on solo occupancy

[Costa del Sol Longstay with Portugal extension](#)

March 03-April 1, 2020

\$2929 including taxes from Vancouver

\$3229 including taxes from Victoria, Kelowna, Calgary



[Rome and Sorrento Long Stay](#)

March 4th-March 24th, 2020

\$3879 including taxes from Vancouver

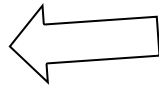
The first 5 nights of your longstay will be spent in Rome, before moving on to Sorrento, a coastal town in southeastern Italy. Perched atop cliffs that separate the town from its busy marinas, it's known for sweeping views and Piazza Tasso, a cafe-lined square. The historic center is a warren of narrow alleys that includes the Chiesa di San Francesco, a 14th-century church. The Grand Flora Hotel is located in the center of Sorrento. Within a 5 minute walk you arrive at the Piazza Tasso. From the hotel terrace you can enjoy the unforgettable views of Vesuvius and the entire Gulf of Naples. Sorrento is also a gateway for excursions to the Amalfi Coast, Capri and Pompeii.



For a complete list our longstays currently offered, please click on the link below. Pricing on the site is based on double occupancy, but of course you never know if someone else is interested in the same one as you! [2020 Longstays](#)

Looking for a quick week getaway to Mexico in February?

While your availability may vary, one solo traveller is looking to get some sun on the West Coast of Mexico. There are some really great single pricing options out there for one week February 16-23!



[Samba Vallarta](#)— 4 star

\$1695 per person including taxes

My brother got married at this resort, and while it does not boast as many restaurants as some of the other larger hotels, the resort is simple yet elegant and the doors to the rooms are amazing! (I like doors...and lamp posts in Europe)

[Krystal Vallarta](#)— 4 star

\$1855 per person

a lovely smaller resort with only 388 rooms.



If either of these interest you, or you would like me to look into alternative dates or resorts, do let me know. I can either secure single pricing for you, or start a larger conversation that can be thrown out to others for consideration



Now to change gears a bit and look ahead...way ahead. For those avid golfers out there, you may or may not know, that the 150th Open will be taking place in Scotland at St. Andrews from July 12-18th.

There is a member of the club (and a couple of his friends) who have expressed an interest in attending this, during the opening few days of course, and possibly combining it with an extension of a tour in Scotland with some golf. Packages are available for a variety of hotels, and if this is something that interests you, please let me know and I will link you in on that conversations. Tickets will go fast of course, and for a sample of some of the pricing available, please see the link [Golf St. Andrews](#).

Of course it goes without saying that if there is someone you know that may be interested as well, if not yourself, please pass along the newsletter! If a golf trip to Scotland without the Open is something you have in mind, that of course can be accommodated as well. Have I said anything is possible?



Highlights of Morocco with Cosmos

March 5th or November 12th 2020

Airfare from Vancouver, 10 nights, guided tours and 16 meals

Solo accommodation limited at \$3432 including taxes

Officially named the Kingdom of Morocco, the country is the same size as California but has a population of nearly 36 million!



Best of Egypt with GAdventures

Dates from April 22-August 28th 2020.

Trip includes airfare from Vancouver, one pre-night hotel 7 nights with guided tours and 12 meals.

Solo pricing at \$3347 per person

****One solo traveller just returned last month from this trip and could not say enough about it! She said it was one of the most amazing trips she had been on and it was not only because of the destination! The special feature of GAdventures is the small group sizes between 12-16. I got goosebumps as she recalled being one of only 9 people to watch the sun come up over the Pyramids at Giza.*

To explore many more small group tours with GAdventures, click [HERE!](#)

For those of you looking at a really unique trip, JustYou has an 8 day tour to walk the [Camino de Santiago](#). On this active tour you will experience charming towns and cities showcasing Spanish culture as you take the Pilgrim's Road to Santiago de Compostela. Pricing for the tour starts at \$2499 with guaranteed departures from April through to October. Being that [JustYou](#) is a UK based company, the majority of their tours are shorter in duration, but that is a great opportunity to combine some structure with your own adventures! Some of the very reasonable options pricing wise with some destinations that have come up have me leaving you with the following possibilities...

[Croatia Istrian Coast](#)

[Treasures of Andalucia](#)

[Jordan-A Land of Ancient Treasure and Empires](#)



While some of us would dream of living in a place that boasts heat and sunshine all year, I personally need the changing of the seasons. The short, dark days of winter seem a distant memory once spring has sprung and after a long, hot summer, I look forward to the crisp mornings. If a Fall trip to Eastern Canada is on your to-do list, why not consider a September trip with [Maritime Coastal Wonders & The Cabo Trail](#). Pricing starts at \$2999 for double occupancy and \$3999 for solos.

Tours with Cost saver

Cost saver is an extension of the Trafalgar brand, and for those who still would like the Trafalgar Experience, but have a tighter budget, this is for you. The main difference is that that accommodations are not centrally located, but you are in essence, on the same tour!

[Greek Island Explorer](#)



May 27– June 5th, land only,
Twin share only \$2250.
Alternative dates available

[Britain & Ireland Delight](#)

Explore the cultural diversity and breathtaking countryside of Britain and Ireland with their imposing city spires, wild Highland landscapes and such highlights as the idyllic Lake District, Edinburgh Castle, Dublin's Trinity College and Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.

May 28 or September 3rd

Air, 9 nights guided vacation, 11 meals, sightseeing tours & transfers

Solo Pricing \$3597+ \$598 tax

[Prague, Vienna, Budapest](#)

June 13-22, 2020

Airfare from Vancouver, 8 nights
guided tours with Cosmos and 10 meals

DbI Occupancy \$3552 tax included

Solo Supplement of only \$515!!!



As I have communicated with most of you, many companies will say they do not charge a solo supplement, but it is actually misleading. Nothing is free and why would an operator or supplier give a trip to one person for less when they could sell the same trip to 2 people? Accommodations have a price, whether it be a hotel, cabin on a cruise ship, or a tent in the jungle and when people travel solo, it will almost always be more than when travelling in 2. There are of course exceptions when there are special promotions and sales through many operators, but like seat sales with airlines, they are few and far between and driven by supply and demand rather than trying to satisfy you as a solo traveller.

Don't let that be discouraging though!

So many destinations are solo friendly as they have significantly lower rates for accommodations. Many countries in Asia and South America have very affordable solo supplements, and places like Australia, New Zealand, North America are among those with the highest.

Also, many suppliers are telling me that gone are the days where you should worry about being the only solo traveller on a trip with only couples! Many operators like Trafalgar, GAdventures, and Collette have more than 30% of their guests travelling on their own! Many of course will offer the twin share option, and offer to "match" you with another suitable traveller, but it will only be based on gender. That is why I spend my time trying to find the best deals for solos as pairing up is not always possible, and the reason I started the club. In my mind, nothing will be more telling and true than meeting others in person, so I look forward to many more meetups and the connection of new friends!

Thanks for your time, and if I can help you with anything, you know where you can find me!

Have a wonderful week! Janita