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Make all your Journeys like a Priceless Sunset

Call 253-630-7755 or email Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com

PS JOURNAL

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SPRING 2011



**CRUISE LINES
INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Certifies Kathleen Tansey, an ECC

The (ECC) Elite Cruise Counsellor designation is conferred by (CLIA) Cruise Lines International Association, Inc upon dedicated travel professionals who have completed an extensive program of classroom training, cruise experience, ship inspections, and a combination of video/DVD training and attendance at industry events. CLIA Certified Cruise Counsellors are your best resource in choosing a perfect vacation. Notice: Counsellor is spelled with sell.

What is Travel Center?

Who is Travel Leaders?

As a group travel consultant, I am affiliated with **Travel Center, Inc.**, a Washington State registered Seller of Travel and a franchise member of **Travel Leaders**. Although I am a commissioned based employee responsible for my own marketing, I report to my manager, Mary Garitone, and agency owner, Alex Trettin. I am supported by their accounting, IT and website services. (www.travelcenter4u.com)

At staff meetings, we explored why our clients use **Travel Leaders-Travel Center, Inc.** Discussions lead to several reasons why clients come back to our company and appreciate our services:

- Agents have great product knowledge, Our agents have years of experience. Most are Master Cruise Counselors or Certified Travel Counselors.
- Travel Center has a long time local presence since 1946 with the same owners, **Trettin Family** for 25+ years
- Agents offer easy time-saving booking options, guidance, & personal service.
- **Travel Leaders** size (8th largest in USA-Canada with over 900 offices) provides buying power offering lower pricing, value added amenities, & the possibility of payment plans.

Never thought it could be me using that Travel Insurance Policy

In my last issue, I wrote about celebrating milestones and bucket lists. For my 60th birthday in May 2010, I told of plans to attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. I began presenting group travel opportunities to senior organizations in Puget Sound region about 30 years ago. Often I was told by an audience member, "We wanted to go overseas but now we are too old." I wondered, "Why did they wait so long?" Now I know. Life's twists & turns get in the way. I learned to encourage clients to travel overseas before symptoms of aging like bad knees, arthritis etc. set in because the ancient sites are not easy to navigate. The United States and cruise ships are better equipped with crosswalks, elevators and ADA accessibility.

I preached "buy insurance" with every booking. It's a good thing I practice what I preach. When did "old age" and infirmity creep up. I never thought it could be me. Actually my spouse, my "knight in shining armor" is dented with aging. He needed surgical corrections for bone deformities. My Germany trip was cancelled. My husband had 3 major operations in the last 10 months. And I stayed home to care for him. I completed forms with **Travelguard, Inc.** After verification by Don's Doctors, the claim reimbursed me for all prepaid costs. That made it possible for a Fall journey with Fr. Ed White to Assisi, between surgeries.

Don is currently recuperating from third and hopefully last operation. He is looking forward to the **Holland America Line** cruise to Bermuda with the Carvers in June 2012. I'm hoping we will also spend a little time in Branson visiting friends and relatives in the fall.

Are you contemplating a journey? Don't put it off any longer. Plan to go soon and prepare for life's little road-blocks, with travel insurance.

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TRAVEL TIP

From author *Christopher Elliott* of [Tribune Media Services](http://TribuneMediaServices.com).

"Seven trips you should never book online:

1. When you need to **save time**, agents are efficient
2. When you are **new to the web**. It can be confusing.
3. When you **cruise**, agents match you to best ship
4. When you travel **around the world**. The agent's experience & connections are invaluable.
5. When you do something **exotic**. See a specialist.
6. When you plan a **special event** like a honeymoon, anniversary, or reunion.
7. When you **travel as a group**. Agents watch out for all the details.

Thinking about the Future:

Fatima and Lourdes after Easter 2012

Return to the Holyland including Bethlehem

Missions of California

DC Pilgrimage

More Cruising!

Published by Kathleen G. Tansey CTC

When is the last time to book? Why does it cost so much?

I am often challenged by the two questions above. My answer to receive the best price or choice on a cruise, book early or when the specials are advertised. It's the same with airline reservations and ticketing, plan in advance. With rare exceptions, the closer booking comes to departure, the higher the price and less selection choices.

For any group tour, don't wait to see if your friends have joined the group. If everyone waits until the last minute to book, the tour may be cancelled. Group contracts require deposits that become nonrefundable within 30, 60, or 90 days of departure. The group leader or agent risks losing the money and may cancel the tour if the minimum guaranteed number is not reached. I hope you will book and deposit early next time.

T Following St. Francis, In the Italian Hills

The retreat pilgrimage lead by Fr. Ed White was a wonderful spiritual journey in the fresh air of Italian hill homeland of St. Francis. Each day started with morning prayer and scripture. Every day included study time and Mass. We began in Greccio, the site of the Grotto where Francis set the first living nativity, a practice continues today & lead to the practice of making small mangers or crèche for homes. Our lodging overlooking a small lake known for many international rowing events welcomed us with a delicious meal. Traveling to Assisi, we walked across an ancient Roman aqueduct. We saw where Francis and his brothers lived in a former barn, now surrounded by a beautiful church. Taxis met the bus for a short narrow street drive to San Giuseppe convent. Sunsets were stunning over the valley below. Our third accommodation was in a converted convent. A hard roll & cappuccino were common for breakfast but dinners were many courses with soup, salad, pasta, meat, vegetable, fruit and cheese with wine.

I was glad I trained up to 4 miles walking on hills before leaving home. Everyday we explored the towns and the nearby hiking trails. For the athletic, it is possible to hike from Greccio all the way north to La Verna in 5 to 7 days. It was very peaceful and calming to experience Italy in a spiritual journey..



Kathleen
253-630-7755

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For a groups especially a custom escorted tour, costs for the leader are worked into the total. The price may also include special services, such as prepaid meals, entrance fees, specialty guides or scheduled times for admission. When ever a motor coach is chartered, the cost is very dependent on the number of participants as every seat, empty or full is included in pricing. When taking our specialty craft cruises, the surcharges or higher price for the cruise covers the added items such as lectures, parties, freight & specialty items like memory t-shirts or bags. Class fees cover supply kits, instructor transportation and sometimes lodging. I hope you will appreciate the extra services and value added items when you travel on one of our group programs.

Spiritual Treasures & Spring Flowers

Saturday, April 30, 2011

One Day Tour-Retreat to Mossyrock WA

(Begin your day with Morning Mass at your Church)



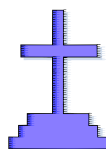
\$60.00 pp by April 15, 2011 INCLUDES:

Transportation* Lunch * Snacks & Beverages* Guides *

Pick up at 9 am Renton (Across from e Piazza 230 Burnett Ave South)

Pick up at 9:30 am at Kent (behind Station P&R by Bridge)

Pick up at 10:00 am at Lakewood P&R (near McDonalds)



Enjoy Stations of the Cross with Hill Trail to the Cross,

Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel



Visit to DeGoede Nursery,

Bulb Farm & Display Gardens

Return between 5:30pm and 6:00pm

No refunds. Name change okay. Based on 30 passengers

Interested in Alaska for 2011?

There are many ways to explore the 49th State. Only have 7 days, then round trip to the SE panhandle showcases totems, salmon, the gold rush of '98, and glaciers. Or if you have 14 Days, a cruise north to Anchorage and Kodiak is an easy way to see more. Or do you want to explore the interior & Mt McKinley, there are many tours. But you must hurry and book your Cruise or Tour now before your choice is gone!!

A little bird told me, Cruise Prices go up on 1APR11!

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