

Customized Educational

CETA TOURS

Tour Arrangements

# READY, SET...GO!

## TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 1 • February 2013

## New CETA Tours Flash Drives

Those of you planning tours for 2014 will see a change in the way we get the sign-up meeting materials to you. In the past, we have mailed a folder of printed information along with a Power Point Presentation on CD and printed brochures/applications.

We will continue to send full-color tour brochures with applications and flyers to promote your trip around school. However, the following materials will be loaded on a USB flash drive:

- Power Point Presentation
- *Tour Handbook for Organizing Teachers*
- Information about Travel Guard's Insurance Plan
- Scholarship Information
- Contingency Plan
- Information Meeting Sign Up Sheets
- Teacher/Chaperone Applications

It is our hope that by including these on a flash drive, they will be easily accessible. You can print as many copies of the above items as needed and some documents may not need to be printed at all, but are available for your perusal in electronic format.

Our goal is that this will make it easier to keep track of these documents and that in the long run; we may save a tree or two as well.

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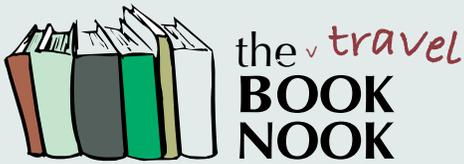
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\* Be sure to check out these fun, new columns we've started in this issue of our newsletter!



book recommendations for the armchair traveler

### ***Tales of a Female Nomad***

by Rita Golden Gelman

*The author recounts her solo travels to Central America, Israel, Indonesia, New Zealand and Thailand. If you liked Eat, Pray, Love, you'll like this!*

- Mel Paulson



We're passionate about travel too! But we don't always get the chance to share our excitement for all things travel-related with our clients. In this column you can read about destinations that have been on our mind.

### ***Slovenia***

*Having recently coordinated an adult tour that included several nights in Slovenia, I had the chance to research a place that had existed on the fringes of my travel bucket list. When I lived in Vienna, I loved that it was a city at the crossroads of culture and history. As I worked on the tour details, I began to see that Slovenia is at a similar crossroads and locations such as Kobarid (Hemmingway's A Farewell to Arms), the Julian Alps, Lake Bled, Lake Bohinj and Ljubljana all call me to explore their history and natural beauty.*

- Jean Denesen

## Frequent Flyer Notice

For those of you, and your students, who count on earning frequent-flier miles on tour, we would like to make you aware that many airlines have recently changed their policies regarding how mileage is earned on group tickets and tickets booked by a third party. Some airlines have included a clause in their contracts that group tickets are not eligible for their frequent-flier program or are only eligible for partial credit. Others have not explicitly outlined a policy in their contract, but state in the terms & conditions of their mileage rewards programs that tickets purchased from the internet or booked at discounted fares through travel agents or tour operators may be excluded for mileage credit.

These policies vary by airline and seem to be very fluid. It is not possible for us to track every program, but we wanted to make you aware of the possibility that you may not get full or any credit for miles flown on your trip, as has usually been the case in years past.

Please make your students and their parents aware of this at one of your pre-departure meetings.

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## Insurance Upgrade Reminder

Please remind your students that it is still possible to purchase the Insurance Upgrade to include coverage for:

- Trip Cancellation
- Trip Interruption - Cost of Unused Trip Portion
- Pre-existing Medical Condition Coverage

★ The upgrade is available until the final payment due date.

Information about coverage was included in the first financial statement students received from CETA. A reminder with information about the cost of the upgrade will be included with the final financial statement. Questions about the coverage can be directed to Carrie by calling 1-800-501-0397 or via email [cneidermyer@cetatours.com](mailto:cneidermyer@cetatours.com).

# 2013 Scholarship Winners

CETA received applications from many, many qualified scholarship candidates again this year. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to apply. The scholarship committee had a difficult time choosing the final recipients.

We are delighted to announce the winners of CETA's scholarship program for 2013. Congratulations to all of you!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Autumn & Robin Burns - Sterling, OH

Teddy Gaede - Waverly, IA

Tristan Jollie - Clyman, WI

Deanna Knetzger - Hustisford, WI

Mitchell Millius - Dubuque, IA

## 2013 Photo Contest Announced

Don't forget to pack your camera! CETA will be sponsoring a photo contest again this year. Please pass this information on to your students and encourage them to compete. All those traveling with CETA in 2013 are invited to submit their photos. Teachers are eligible too! One winner in each of the following three categories will be awarded a \$50 Amazon gift card. Two honorable mentions in each category will receive \$25 Amazon gift cards.

Contest entrants must include their name, school name and category when submitting photos. Entries must be submitted in jpeg format (.jpg) to [info@cetatours.com](mailto:info@cetatours.com) by August 1, 2013 for consideration. You may submit multiple entries. E-mail reminders will be sent a week or so prior to your group's departure and a few weeks prior to the contest deadline. Highlights of the contest will be featured on CETA's Facebook page, as well as used in brochures and other promotional materials. Winners will be notified in mid-August and announced on our Facebook page.



view 2012  
entries

(even if you don't  
have facebook)

### • 1 •

#### **"WE WERE HERE"**

Photos that capture you, your friends or your entire group at an area of interest, landmark or other cool place on tour.

### • 2 •

#### **CULTURAL EXPERIENCES**

Photos that showcase cultural experiences encountered on tour. Food, markets, art, interesting locals or anything you see on tour that probably would not be found in the US applies.

### • 3 •

#### **LANDSCAPE OR CITYSCAPE**

This category is just as it says – scenic photos of landscapes in the city or country.

# 2014 Cooperative Tours

Looking ahead, our pre-designed cooperative tours for 2014 are newly posted on **our website**. These tours are for small groups looking to pair up with another school to make their trip more affordable. Remember, even when traveling with another school, you can tailor our cooperative tours to meet your needs. These trips can be priced with airfare out of your departure city and with the chaperone to student ratio you request. You can also elect to add a family stay or additional insurance coverage.

If you think you'll have enough students to travel as your own group, these tours are also a great place to get some ideas for your customized tour itinerary. Please **contact Kristen** if you are ready to start planning for 2014!

## SPRING CONFERENCE 2013 SCHEDULE

CETA Tours will be exhibiting at the following language association conference this spring. Stop by our booth and see us!

**CSC: Columbus, OH**  
March 14-16, 2013  
Hilton Downtown

## The App Recap

fun travel apps to try on your mobile device

**Postagram** (free - iOS, Android)  
by Sincerely, Inc

With e-mail, texting and social media where pictures and stories can be posted for all to instantly see, the idea of sending a postcard while traveling has sort of gone by the wayside. Postagram may change that. This user-friendly app seems like it was designed for teens. Users pick a photo stored on their device, Instagram or Facebook account, crop it to fit the card, add a personal message (limited to 180 characters), plug in the recipient's address and voilà, Postagram mails out a card via the USPS. Delivery takes 3-5 days in the US and 7-14 days abroad.

The cost per card is 99¢ in the US and \$1.99 to/from countries outside the US - probably less than purchasing a postcard and stamp, with a lot more convenience. Credits can be purchased on-line or via the app with a credit card. Bonus: At the time of this printing, Postagram offered five free postcards with the download.

This is a fun, inexpensive way to send a postcard. What I like most is that grandparents and other loved-ones who aren't part of social media can also be included without much more effort than is needed to post pictures on Facebook. I have used it to send cards to my totally off-line mother-in-law and a young niece who loves getting mail.

- Kristen Billingsley