

From: VacationsToGo.com <vtgmail@list.vacationstogo.com>
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov
Date: 7/26/2016 9:14:09 PM
Subject: Vacations To Go Cruise Deals plus CEO Alan Fox Reports from Nice

Dear Mr. Kester,

I'm writing today at the end of a European vacation that took me to London, Tenerife and Madrid before boarding a ship for a Mediterranean cruise. I'm sorting through my cruise photos and notes now and I'll report on that voyage in two weeks....please don't miss it!

Despite the strong dollar, travel to Europe from America is off somewhat this year, due primarily to the fear of terrorism. It's understandable that some people are afraid to travel after a terrorist attack, but I'm not one of them.

Travel is a right and a privilege that none of us should be denied. There's an immense and incredible world out there, calling out to be explored, and only so much time in which to see it.

Anyone who has vacationed internationally knows that travel, above all other things, builds bridges between countries, cultures, religions, races and individuals. Everyone at Vacations To Go feels blessed to be part of such an amazing industry, and it is an honor to be trusted to annually help more than 700,000 customers see the best that the world has to offer.

If the number of Americans in Europe this summer is a little lower than usual, I certainly couldn't tell it from the packed streets, cafes and tourist attractions everywhere I went.

I stood in line for an hour to enter Westminster Abbey in London, one of my favorite places in the entire world, and I shudder to think how long the queue might have been if it hadn't been raining.

I took the enjoyable, self-guided audio tour there, as I did at the fascinating Tower of London, another of my favorites, and stopped afterward for a pint at the colorful Hung, Drawn and Quartered pub.

Madrid was equally busy, with bustling squares and streets and vibrant nightlife on rooftop bars. Outdoor cafes were packed starting at 10 p.m., not coincidentally about the time the 100-degree heat of the summer day begins to wane. Bring on the tapas and ice-cold sangria!

On Tenerife, largest of the Canary Islands, I floated just offshore with a dozen pilot whales (there year-round) and a stray humpback whale, usually seen in February in those waters. I hiked through and around the spectacular, sheer cliffs of Los Gigantes, which rise from the sea to a height of 2,600 feet, took a helicopter tour of the island and rode a cable car to the top of El Teide, a 12,000-foot active volcano.

Tenerife's breathtaking natural beauty is on display just far enough off the beaten path to allow tourists to escape the crowds, even in summer.

After the land tour, I flew to Nice and was shuttled to nearby Monte Carlo to board my ship. A couple of days into the cruise, I heard the horrific news that someone had driven a truck into a crowd of children, women and men along the oceanfront in Nice.

Initial suspicions were quickly confirmed when it became clear that the crime was the act of another jihadist lunatic. The target was not just the good people on the Promenade des Anglais, or the people of Nice, or the people of France, but people who live free from tyranny, anywhere on Earth.

At least 84 killed, more than 100 injured, a mile-long trail of carnage and cruelty.

I resolved then to visit the Promenade to pay my respects, upon my disembarkation in Monte Carlo. That was this morning, and here I am.

Today, along the Cote d'Azur, sunlight glistens off the water and a lone swimmer back strokes against the tide. Families spread their blankets on the rocky beach and children play at the water's edge.

But only a few steps away, on the pedestrian promenade, a memorial has sprouted and the city publicly grieves. People speak in hushed tones or not at all, hugging, crying, consoling.

Scattered amid thousands of flower bouquets and handwritten cards, there is a heart-wrenching display of ownerless toys and tiny stuffed animals. Candles flicker for those whose lights have been extinguished.

We will never know what all those children might have done with their lives, the songs they might have sung, the books they might have written, the light they might have brought to the darkness. All of that potential was swept away by the pointless act of a misguided coward.

The memorial has spread across the wide boulevard to the park, where it continues to grow at a rapid rate. The outpouring of love and goodwill from people of all nationalities is touching and inspiring.

This is a tribute to those who lost their lives and to those who lost loved ones, to be sure, but it also seems to me to be a tribute to what is good in the world.

A prayer for Nice is a prayer for the world.

Alan Fox
Chairman & CEO

To see photos of the Nice memorials, please [click here](#).

I'm happy to present a few **money-saving offers that we've negotiated with Royal Caribbean, Carnival, Oceania, Crystal and Windstar**. They include shipboard credits, which are as good as cash on board and can be used to pay for almost anything not included in the upfront cost of the cruise, like bar drinks and shore excursions.

Royal Caribbean is offering our customers reduced rates (save up to 86%) and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$300 per cabin. [See dates and prices](#).

Carnival has slashed fares by up to 84% in a variety of regions for Vacations To Go. [See dates and prices](#).

Oceania is offering our customers fantastic discounts of up to 84% and exclusive shipboard credits of up to \$1,700 per cabin on many sailings. Plus, enjoy free unlimited Internet and your choice of either free drinks or up to five free shore excursions. Select departures include all of these offers. [See dates and prices](#).

Crystal is offering Vacations To Go customers savings of up to 71% and shipboard credits of up to \$500 per cabin on most sailings. On select departures, also choose one of the following per cabin: 1) an additional discount of up to \$1,000, 2) an air credit of up to \$1,500 or an additional shipboard credit of up to \$2,000. Your upfront Crystal fare includes gratuities, fine wines, Champagne, premium spirits and nonalcoholic beverages. [See dates and prices](#).

Windstar is offering our customers exclusive rates -- save up to 84% off cruises aboard its masted sailing ships and power yachts, which provide casually elegant atmospheres. Also enjoy a shipboard credit of \$200 per cabin on select sailings. **Book by August 5**. All Windstar vacations include a complimentary onshore private event, like lunch at a Sicilian winery or a beach party on Costa Rica's Tortuga Island. [See dates and prices](#).

As always, these offers are for new bookings only and subject to availability. Restrictions may apply.

Here are the best cruise deals in the next 90 days, organized by port of departure.

Click below for best cruise deals departing US and Canada ports:

Anchorage, AK (All ports serving...)
Baltimore, MD
Bayonne, NJ
Boston, MA
Charleston, SC
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Galveston, TX
Honolulu, Oahu, HI
Jacksonville, FL
Los Angeles (Long Beach), CA
Los Angeles (San Pedro), CA
Miami, FL
Montreal, QC, Canada
New Orleans, LA
New York City, NY (All ports serving...)
Port Canaveral, FL
Portland, OR
Quebec City, QC, Canada
San Diego, CA
San Francisco, CA
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Seattle, WA
Tampa, FL
Vancouver, BC, Canada
Warren, RI

Click below for best cruise deals departing major ports worldwide:

Amsterdam, Holland
Athens (Piraeus), Greece
Barbados
Barcelona, Spain
Bari, Italy
Beijing (Tianjin), China
Bergen, Norway
Berlin (Warnemunde), Germany
Brisbane, Australia
Cartagena, Colombia
Colon, Panama
Copenhagen, Denmark
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Dubrovnik, Croatia
Genoa, Italy
Hamburg, Germany
Hong Kong
Istanbul, Turkey
Kiel, Germany
Kirkenes, Norway
Lima (Callao), Peru
Lisbon, Portugal
Liverpool, England
London, England (All ports serving...)
Marseille, France
Monte Carlo, Monaco
Naples (Capri), Italy
Nice, France

Palermo, Sicily, Italy
Palma de Mallorca, Spain
Papeete, Tahiti, Society Islands
Paris (Calais), France
Perth (Fremantle), Australia
Reykjavik, Iceland
Rome (Civitavecchia), Italy
Savona, Italy
Shanghai, China
Singapore
Stockholm, Sweden
Sydney, Australia
Tokyo (Yokohama), Japan
Toulon, France
Trieste, Italy
Valencia, Spain
Valletta, Malta
Venice, Italy

Here are today's **Top 10 Cruises**, brand-new specials from the world's best cruise lines. **Click the FastDeal # for details.**

- 1) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Carnival, departs San Juan Oct 16, starting at \$419, save 67%, **FastDeal # 23123**
- 2) **Alaska**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Anchorage Aug 19, starting at \$633, save 68%, **FastDeal # 28782**
- 3) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Norwegian, departs Miami Sep 4, starting at \$549, save 70%, **FastDeal # 20863**
- 4) **Mexico**, 10 nights on Princess, departs San Francisco Sep 25, starting at \$699, save 67%, **FastDeal # 11294**
- 5) **Greek Islands**, 11 nights on Celebrity, departs Rome Sep 19, starting at \$949, save 67%, **FastDeal # 16816**
- 6) **Caribbean**, 7 nights on Royal Caribbean, departs Galveston Sep 11, starting at \$479, save 74%, **FastDeal # 24408**
- 7) **Mediterranean**, 7 nights on Azamara Club Cruises, departs Rome Aug 22, starting at \$999, save 74%, **FastDeal # 10384**
- 8) **Tahiti/French Polynesia**, 7 nights on Windstar, departs Papeete Sep 2, oceanview starting at \$2,199, save 70%, **FastDeal # 19146**
- 9) **Caribbean**, 12 nights on Oceania Cruises, departs Miami Nov 5, starting at \$2,399, save 73%, **FastDeal # 11041**
- 10) **Canada/New England**, 7 nights on Crystal, departs Quebec City Oct 18, balcony starting at \$3,240, save 67%, **FastDeal # 37243**

For the best last-minute cruise specials in the next 90 days, please visit our world-famous **90-Day Ticker**. To search for discounts of up to 82% on cruises departing more than 90 days from now, **click here**.

To save up to 40% with escorted and independent tours, **click here**.

For river cruises up to 50% off, **click here**.

For discounts of up to 50% at hotels and all-inclusive resorts, **click here**.

For the lowest rates on Africa safaris from budget to luxury in quality, **click here**.

Once you've found a FASTDEAL, call us toll free at 800-338-4962 (US and Canada) and a cruise counselor will attend to your needs. International customers, please email or call us at +1-713-974-2121.

Please email me your comments, suggestions and questions at alanfox@vacationstogo.com and I will respond the same day.

If you enjoy our newsletter, please forward this email to family and friends.

Sincerely,

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