

The Touring Club

December 2009

Travel to Expand Your Horizons

Planning a Year of Fun in 2010

The Touring Club is looking forward to 2010! Next year we plan to emphasize longer trips and personal travel, while continuing to offer day trips to special events and interesting places. Recently we've become affiliated with a company which has enabled The Touring Club to become a full-service travel agency: we can now book tours, resorts, hotels, rental cars and flights as well as cruises. Please call us when you begin to plan your next vacation.

In the new year we will offer more of the trips members of The Touring Club enjoy most: Wilmington concerts, our most popular day trips, and 3-day trips to southern locations as well as group cruises. We have so many plans for 2010 that we need the space in this, our first newsletter, to tell you about all we're offering.

In late 2009 TTC ended its first year with successful group cruises to Italy & the Adriatic and to the Bahamas. Some people who came with us are already asking where we're going next. In choosing group cruises we look for excellent value and the most interesting itineraries. We've reserved six exciting cruises for 2010 – you will find the schedule on page 3. If you would like to join us for any of these, please call soon for all the details. A small deposit will hold your place for many months. Cruising with a TTC group is the easiest and most fun way to travel.

We provide complete trip planning services. If you're thinking of traveling to Europe or if you're in charge of the family reunion, or if you've been appointed by your church or club to plan a group tour, The Touring Club can help you with all the details. Call us at 252-633-9771 to discuss all your travel needs.

Wilmington Classical Music Day Trips

In 2010 the Wilmington Concert Association continues its tradition of bringing classical music performances to eastern North Carolina. Again this year we'll be there. We combine an afternoon tour and the opportunity for a fine dinner with the evening's musical offerings, making for a great day out. Here's this year's schedule:

Band of the Irish Guards and the Drums, Pipes & Dancers of the Royal Regiment of Scotland Sunday, January 17. We'll also enjoy a specially designed afternoon "ghost walk" of Wilmington with a Celtic twist.

La Traviata
Wednesday, Feb 3. Following a tour of movie locations and dinner, we'll enjoy Verdi's opera performed by Teatro Lirica d'Europa, an Italian opera company.

Gold Medal Winner of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition
Thursday, April 3. Earlier we'll visit Orton Plantation and Old Brunswick Town.

We provide motorcoach travel, an on-board dessert and hot beverages, the afternoon activities and a ticket to the performance. The price is \$100 per person. Dinner is not included.

TTC on the Web

The Touring Club's website has been completely updated. Please visit us at www.TheTouringClub.net. All the details of every day-trip, tour and cruise mentioned in this newsletter are there, as well as constantly changing tips for travelers and the best cruise values.

Libbie writes a blog full of travel news and suggestions at www.practical-tourist.com. Find "postcards" of our adventures filled with news and pictures from our latest trips at touringclubpostcards.blogspot.com.

Look for us on Facebook and become a "fan." Just search for The Touring Club from your Facebook page. See you in cyber-space!



Lee Duer, Judy Privette, Ed Duer, Anne and Jerome Parker enjoying their recent cruise on the Adriatic Sea aboard the Azamara Quest.

The Touring Club LLC

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Tours: Ours

We are planning several 3-day tours for members of The Touring Club in 2010.

For garden lovers, what could be better than **Charleston's House & Garden Tour in early April?** We'll add visits to several major South Carolina gardens to our itinerary.

In early May we'll combine history with springtime beauty when we visit Norfolk and Williamsburg. **We'll begin in Norfolk** with battleships or botanical gardens — your choice. Choose from many activities in Williamsburg on our second day. **Tour plantations or visit Jamestown and Yorktown on day 3.** We'll return to New Bern that evening.

In autumn we'll visit Biltmore and Asheville and enjoy a day on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Details of each of these adventures can be found on our website at www.TheTouringClub.net/tours.

Tours: Theirs

Would you like to go to Italy? or China? or Scotland or Ireland? Now we can help you find exactly the right tour to make your trip **convenient and thoroughly enjoyable. We'll help you sort through** the many tour company offerings to find the itinerary and the **price that are right for you. Recently we've arranged tours to Italy** with Globus Tours for four clients. Globus features quality, centrally-located hotels in major cities and professionally-guided tours to all the most famous sites. For budget travelers, their affiliate Cosmos Tours may be the right answer. We are very impressed by the tours of Ireland offered by C.I.E. Tours. They offer a wide variety of itineraries and prices. For those who prefer more upscale, small-group travel, we are very impressed by Odysseys **Unlimited's tours which cover the globe.**

When you plan to book a tour, please call TTC and take advantage of our extensive travel experience. Reach us at 252-633-9771.

Tours: Yours

People who travel with The Touring Club often comment on the attention to detail we give to every trip we plan. Now that we can arrange every travel-related service, we would like to work with you to make your dream trip perfect.

Whether you want to take a trip abroad, a very special cruise, or to travel for a day or more with your church or club, we hope your first call will be to Libbie Griffin, owner of The Touring Club. She will work closely with you to make the most of your budget and to make traveling easy and completely enjoyable. Call Libbie at 252-633-9771 or email Libbie@TheTouringClub.net.

Day Trips

For early 2010 we've made plans to explore a new destination and to return to some of the places members of The Touring Club liked best in '09.

January 27: Cooking Class Lunch, Durham
We return to A Southern Season for their big after-Christmas sale and for a TTC favorite, a cooking class lunch. Chef Marilyn Markel gives us a menu and recipes for southern favorites, then shows us exactly how to prepare them. The best part, though, is the eating! Our delicious lunch is served with a glass of fine wine. After **time to shop the Southern Season's sale, we'll make another stop or two.**

March 18: A Day Out in Pinehurst
Join us for an exploration of American **golf. We'll enjoy a guided tour of Pinehurst** with an emphasis on the history of the course. Our lunch in the club restaurant and a visit to the golf museum and shopping will make the day complete.

April 10: Wilmington Azalea Festival
We'll enjoy a day at the annual Azalea Festival in Wilmington. We'll go on Saturday this year so we can include a visit to Airlea Gardens at its best. Add your name to the list for this one soon!

See our website at www.TheTouringClub.net/daytrips or call 252-633-9771 for all the details of these tours. If you have a suggestion for a day out within 120 miles of New Bern, please tell us about it.

The Touring Club L.L.C. is owned and operated by Libbie Griffin. Its creation was inspired by a life-long love of travel and a desire to share with others the enrichment of experiencing unfamiliar places. TTC is a travel consultancy and planner, helping clients enjoy worry-free, safe and comfortable journeys.

The Touring Club's 2010 Calendar

January 17	IRISH/SCOTTISH MUSIC & DANCE PERFORMANCE, Wilmington
January 27	COOKING CLASS LUNCHEON AT A SOUTHERN SEASON , Chapel Hill
February 3	LA TRAVIATA , Wilmington
March 18	DAY TRIP TO PINEHURST
March 29—31	SPRINGTIME HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR OF CHARLESTON
April 10	AZALEA FESTIVAL , Wilmington
April 22	PIANO PERFORMANCE plus ORTON PLANTATION , Wilmington
May 4 - 6	THREE DAYS IN NORFOLK & WILLIAMSBURG
May 15 - 20	GROUP CRUISE TO BERMUDA
June 13 - 19	DISNEYWORLD plus BAHAMAS CRUISE
July 23 - 30	GROUP CRUISE TO ALASKA
September 19 - 30	GROUP CRUISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
October 2 - 11	GROUP CRUISE TO NEW ENGLAND and CANADA plus QUEBEC & MONTREAL
December 6 - 12	GROUP CRUISE CHARLESTON to BAHAMAS plus WEEKEND IN CHARLESTON

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The Touring Club
is making plans for
2010
Please look inside for the details