



[!\[\]\(c8d96c8885d3000a912c2582004aed63_img.jpg\) Loyalty Program](#)

[!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8_img.jpg\) All Deals](#)

[!\[\]\(666e09182d4cd268646ea700ea60dcdf_img.jpg\) Travel Tips & News](#)

Welcome to the BC Retired Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association Travel Newsletter!

We're seeing more countries opening their doors to fully vaccinated travellers. Having recently travelled to Saudi Arabia, we have first hand experience of what travel is like now, before, during and on the return. Many of you likely have not travelled out of Canada since the pandemic began and with that comes uncertainty. Our goal is to provide you with comfort, guidance, and setting the right expectation.

In this edition, we're featuring a combination of domestic and international travel experience; a few new trips and offers, including Haida Gwaii (Canada), new group trip to Colombia (July 2022) and Tanzania in August 2023, and a special offer with Celestyal Cruises!

Ryan and Tom will be hosting a group departure to witness “The Great Migration” in Tanzania in August of 2023. We will be officially releasing this trip in our next newsletter! See the details below on how to be placed on the priority list.

**We understand there is some uncertainty in the world as it relates to international travel in the near future; especially with current restrictions and requirements. At this time, members should make their travel decisions based on what their local Provincial Health Officer/Government is advising, followed by the Canadian Government. Through our assistance we will provide our best guidance when booking future travel.*

Password for Access: BCRPVPM18

ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

NEXT WEEK: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
Paul Gauguin Cruises - Two Time Slots



Join Trip Merchant and Vicky Lubyk (Director of Sales, Western Canada for Paul Gauguin Cruises) as she whisks us away to Tahiti & French Polynesia and the South Pacific!

Attend one of these two online presentations on **Tuesday, November 16th at either 9am PST/10am MST/12pm EST OR 6pm PST/7pm MST/9pm EST**. Register by clicking the button/time of interest below!

[REGISTER HERE! 9AM PST / 10AM MST / 12PM EST](#)

[REGISTER HERE! 6PM PST / 7PM MST / 9PM EST](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
Costa Rica - Pura Vida!



This week, Ryan Mikucki, Co-Founder of Trip Merchant, will be travelling to Costa Rica with the Costa Rican Tourism Board! Between November 11-18, follow along on the Trip Merchant Facebook page for updates, and upon his return await a blog.

Ryan will be exploring this diverse country and will return to share his experience with you via an online presentation as well.

Why Costa Rica? Here you will enjoy beautiful tropical beaches, volcanoes, grand adventures, delicious food, hospitable people, wildlife and the wonders of nature and a vibrant culture- Pura Vida! No wonder thousands have made Costa Rica their top travel choice.

Attend this online presentation on **Thursday, December 9th at 9am PST/10am MST/12pm EST**. Register by clicking the button below!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

ALL OTHER *UPCOMING* ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Register and attend these upcoming online presentations; including:
***Our Saudi Arabian Experience with the Scenic Eclipse** - November 25th, and
***Rovos Rail** (African Luxury Train Travel) - November 30th

[ALL UPCOMING ONLINE PRESENTATIONS!](#)

RECENT *RECORDED* ONLINE PRESENTATION

Silversea - Luxury Cruise Voyages Worldwide - October 28th

To watch this inspirational recorded webinar on Silversea, click the button below and type in this passcode (exactly as shown): **@silversea1**

[WATCH HERE!](#)

GROUP DEPARTURES

Tanzania – The Great Migration
(With Optional 7 Day Kenya Pre-Extension)
Departure Date: August 19-September 2, 2023



Come join the founder's of Trip Merchant on this small group departure to witness one of nature's greatest spectacles, the Great Migration of the Wildebeest in Tanzania! This is truly a once in a lifetime event!

Highlights:

- *Witness Nature's Greatest Spectacle – The Great Migration
 - *Tarangire National Park
- *Enjoy two nights at luxury lodge overlooking Ngorongoro Crater
 - *Enjoy a Bush Lunch on the crater floor of Ngorongoro
 - *Olduvai Gorge
- *Two Game Drives Daily in the National Parks to search for the Big 5
 - *Lake Manyara
- *Relax on the beautiful island of Zanzibar and be pampered for 3 Nights

We are still finalizing the details and will be releasing this trip in the next newsletter. If you're interested in being put on the priority reserve list, email us your name(s), telephone number and the number in your party at info@tripmerchant.com!

Greece: Idyllic Aegean by Land & Sea
Featuring a 7-Night Cruise with Celestyal Cruises

Departure Dates: May 14-21, 2022 (Land portion) & May 21-28, 2022 (Cruise portion)



Highlights: Wonders of Greece Pre-Cruise Land Tour

- *City Tour of Athens (including the Acropolis, Temple of Olympian Zeus and much more.)
- *Theatre of Epidaurus
- *Visit the Corinth Canal, Mycenae, and Nafplion
- *Delphi and the Sanctuary of Apollo
- *Olympia – Site of the first Olympic Games
- *Meteora

Highlights: Idyllic Aegean Cruise

Come and be serenaded by the romance of the Aegean on this exciting cruise. Visit the most enchanting Greek island destinations dotted around the Aegean Sea, where culture, history, pristine beaches, and fishing villages suspended in time all await. Voyage highlights include a Over-night stay in glamorous Santorini, 24 hours in Mykonos, a full day to explore Rhodes and a guaranteed Santorini sunset (weather permitting).

Cruise Inclusions:

All-Inclusive Classic Drinks; Complimentary Onboard Dining; Excursion - Acropolis of Lindos & Citadel of the Knights; Excursion - Ancient Ephesus; Onboard Entertainment; Onboard Gratuities; Shuttle Bus - Mykonos Old Town

Pricing: \$3099 CAD which reflects the early booking savings. This price is for entire land tour and ocean cruise combined, based on 2 people sharing in an interior cabin (Category IA); Port charges and taxes are included. Upgraded cabins available.

For full itinerary and details, click the button below:

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Pacific Northwest – Portland to Spokane (with American Queen Voyages)

Departure Date: March 27-April 4, 2022



Join Trip Merchant's Founders, Tom and Ryan on this 9 day program! Enjoy the best of the Pacific Northwest aboard this Columbia and Snake river cruise from Portland to Spokane. Embark on this river

cruise to see that the natural world is alive here – unlike anywhere else on earth – and through historic sites and locks and dams, it flows. Sea lions sunbathe on buoys as the distant horizon unblankets the sky to reveal its snow-capped mountains between Portland and Spokane.

Those that want to drive down to Portland and park at the hotel may do so. We plan on negotiating special parking rates for those who choose to do so. If we have enough wanting to do this, we will also arrange a one-way bus transfer from Spokane back to Portland to pick up your vehicles. The pre-night hotel will be at the Hilton in Vancouver, Washington.

ALL CREW ONBOARD AND ALL TRAVELLERS MUST BE FULLY VACCINATED TO GO ON THIS TRIP. MIXED DOSES NOW COUNT AS BEING FULLY VACCINNATED

What's Included:

*Our all inclusive fares offer a one-night pre-cruise hotel stay with FREE ground transfers, unlimited hop on hop off shore excursions in every port and with your comfort in mind, deluxe private motorcoaches to get there safely, unlimited beverages including Extensive wine list, choice spirits, local craft beers and specialty coffees, open bars and lounges throughout each vessel including a smoothie and juice bar every morning, all meals including alternative dining featuring fresh lobster and USDA Prime Beef available every night, 24 hour in-room dining, unlimited WIFI, bicycles and hiking sticks, and live, daily entertainment and enrichment.

Regular rate: \$2999 USD | Trip Merchant Rate: \$1835 USD

*Per person, based on 2 people sharing in a Category E Cabin, cruise only. Includes port charges and all gratuities.

For full itinerary and details, click the button below:

[CLICK HERE!](#)

OVER HALF FULL!
Best of Newfoundland and Labrador
Departure Date: August 23-September 3, 2022



Join this fully escorted tour of Newfoundland and Labrador operated by
McCarthy's Party - the experts in Newfoundland & Labrador!

Highlights:

Historic Tour of St. Johns, including Signal Hill, Quidi Vidi and Cape Spear; Whale/Puffin Watching Cruise (weather permitting); Visit the historic village of Trinity, one of North America's Oldest Communities; Visit Cape Bonavista, landing site of John Cabot in 1497; Seaside Lunch in Terranova National Park; Sightseeing in Gros Morne Park; Boat Tour in Bonne Bay (weather permitting); Tour to L'Anse Aux Meadows; Entrance Fees to National Historic Sites

What's Included:

- *11 nights accommodation with private bath and/or shower
- *Baggage handling at the hotels of 1 piece per person
- *25 Meals: 11 Breakfasts, 10 Lunches, 4 Dinners
- *Transportation throughout / arrival and departure transfers at scheduled times

- *Full Time Tour Manager and Local English-speaking guides
- *All sightseeing as per itinerary
- *15% Newfoundland Hospitality Tax
- *Tipping for Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides

Regular rate: \$5199 CAD | Trip Merchant Rate: \$4899 CAD

*Per person, based on 2 people sharing, land only

For full itinerary details, click the button below:

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Highlights of Colombia

Departure Date: July 12-23, 2022

****Only 12-17 passengers***



Colombia is the biggest secret in travel! Did you know it's the world's most biodiverse country by square metre! We at Trip Merchant ventured down to Colombia (not "Columbia") back in 2019 and we were blown away by this remarkable country and our expectations were far exceeded. In fact, we rank this as our favourite country in the world to visit and we've been

to many!

Highlights:

Explore La Candelaria in Bogota; Enjoy a fun evening at Andres DC – a 6 story dining and entertainment complex; Hiking around the legendary Guatava Lake region; Visit a Coffee Farm for a tour and tasting in Colombia’s most famous Coffee Region; Experience the incredible beauty of Cocora National Park. Home of the Wax Palm tree, the worlds tallest palm trees; Enjoy a fun filled evening playing Tejo; Witness the incredible transformation of Comuna 13 in Medellin; Kayaking in Lake Guatape; Explore the culinary delights in Cartagena on a Street Food Tour; Enjoy; a cocktail at your hotels rooftop pool in Cartagena to view the Sunset; Salsa Lesson; Cycling tour of Getsemani

What’s Included:

All sightseeing and meals as per itinerary (15 meals), all tipping for drivers and guides, all entrance fees as per itinerary, arrival and departure transfers, private English Speaking guide throughout the entire trip, local specialty guides, all taxes

Regular rate: \$2899 CAD | Trip Merchant Rate: \$2599 CAD

*Per person, based on 2 people sharing (land only)

For full itinerary details, click the button below:

[CLICK HERE!](#)

GENERAL TRIPS/OFFERS

**Haida Gwaii and the Great Bear Rainforest Coast: 7-Nights
With Anderson Vacations!**

Departures available: June-September 2022



Haida Gwaii is a wild and untouched archipelago on the west coast of British Columbia steeped in the culture of the Haida People dating back over 10,000 years. Discover the culture both past and present as we explore the dramatic landscapes and abundant wildlife of these incredible islands. Visit Haida Gwaii and experience a mystical world of adventure and breathtaking beauty.

What's Included: 7 nights hotel accommodation (3.5–4 star), professional Tour Leader, transportation by private vehicles, 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners

Pricing: \$3290 + 5% Tax and Single Pricing: \$3895 + 5% Tax
SAVE \$100 off per person as a member benefit

*Prices are CAD per person, based on double occupancy (land only)

[**CLICK HERE!**](#)

Celestyal Cruises - Greek Islands & Mediterranean
SAVE up to 40% Off 2022 All-Inclusive Cruises!



Celestyal Cruises is the main home-porting cruise operator in Greece and the preeminent cruise line serving the Greek Islands and East Mediterranean.

3, 4 & 7 NIGHT CRUISES - ICONIC, IDYLIC & ECLECTIC AEGEAN

Eclectic Aegean (7-Nights):

Regular rate: \$1,250 USD | New Rate: \$789 USD

Idyllic Aegean (7-Nights):

Regular Rate: \$1,500 USD | New Rate: \$919 USD

OR book the **Iconic Aegean (3-4 Nights)** for as little as **\$379-\$559 USD** on select departures!

Inclusions:

All meals (as well as vegetarian options), unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, port and service charges, gratuities, daily activities, plus free WiFi as an extra member benefit

Terms & Conditions:

**You can cancel your booking for free up to 90 days before departure. All prices are per-person, based on a double occupancy of the stateroom and are quoted in US Dollars (USD). Offer is valid for new, individual bookings. It is not valid for groups and cannot be held as group block. Booking window is from now to 11/30/2021 for selected cruises. The general terms and conditions of Celestyal Cruises apply.*

**For the full itinerary and further information, contact us
at info@tripmerchant.com**

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Please visit this page to see the most recent news or updates related to COVID-19 and travel.

Updates:

[CLICK HERE](#)

***Please note, Trip Merchant sells anything and everything. If there is a travel supplier or a specific trip that you do not see on your travel site, Trip Merchant can still provide that experience for you and you will earn your Trip Merchant Loyalty Reward Dollars!**

Contact us at info@tripmerchant.com or 1-800-481-9739 ext. 0