



[!\[\]\(c8d96c8885d3000a912c2582004aed63\_img.jpg\) Loyalty Program](#)

[!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8\_img.jpg\) All Deals](#)

[!\[\]\(666e09182d4cd268646ea700ea60dcdf\_img.jpg\) Travel Tips & News](#)



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

Happy Thanksgiving!

We hope you are enjoying your time with family and friends. We understand that in some parts of Canada COVID cases are rising again, as part of a “second wave” - please be safe.

We have a **WINNER** for the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts Contest!

Featured in this newsletter are more long stay vacations within Canada; online presentations to register for - taking place next week; a podcast episode to listen to featuring Trip Merchant Co-founder, Tom MacLean; and supplier offers for future travel!

Also, coming soon...Have you ever wanted to cruise along the St. Lawrence River and visit Quebec City? We are in the process of organizing a small group trip where you can join the Founders, Ryan and Tom, at the end of August 2021 to discover this part of Canada. To be added to our priority interest list, please email us at [info@tripmerchant.com](mailto:info@tripmerchant.com). Limited space will be available!

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*\*We will continue to reiterate that our position has not changed. We understand there is some uncertainty in the world as it relates to international travel in the near future. 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 guidance when booking travel.*

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***Password for Access: BCRPVPM18***

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# FAIRMONT HOTELS & RESORTS **CONTEST**

WE HAVE A **WINNER** FOR THE A 3-NIGHT MOUNTAIN  
GETAWAY!



*Thank you to everyone who entered this trip contest. Good luck with our next contest(s)!*

**The lucky winner has won a 3-Night Mountain Getaway** package with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts at either one of the following properties: Chateau Whistler, Jasper Park Lodge, Banff Springs or Chateau Lake Louise! **Congratulations to...click below to see *who the lucky winner is...***

**FAIRMONT CONTEST WINNER!**

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# NEXT WEEK! ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

## ALGARVE, PORTUGAL



**\*Register and attend this online presentation, on October 20th**, presented by the Algarve Tourism Board to learn why to travel to this beautiful region. Portugal's doors are opening up for international travel and Canada has made the "safe list". Register below!

***Tuesday, October 20 - 9AM PST / 10AM MST / 12PM EST***

[RSVP HERE](#)

Interested in joining a **long stay departure (February 15 - March 10, 2021) for 22-nights in Portugal**; including 18-nights in the Algarve? Starting at only \$1699 CAD per person, based on double occupancy (land only) - click below to learn more:

[MEMBER EXCLUSIVE LONG STAY IN PORTUGAL: 22-NIGHTS](#)

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**TREASURES OF IRELAND**  
**Join the Founders, Tom and Ryan**



Learn about Ireland and the opportunity to travel on this small group departure with the founders of Trip Merchant in June 2021. The Emerald Isle, known for its 40 shades of green! Explore the dramatic landscapes of Ireland on this exciting journey. Taste the delicious food, enjoy the warmth and hospitality of its people and sample some Whiskey! Feel like a King or Queen as we stay for 2 nights in a Castle...

\*We will be limiting this group departure to 24 participants and will be utilizing a 47 passenger bus to maintain social distancing. To view the itinerary details, click below:

[TREASURES OF IRELAND | JUNE 1-12, 2021](#)

**Register and attend one of these two online presentations below!**

**Wednesday, October 21 – 5:30PM PST / 6:30PM MST / 8:30PM EST**

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Thursday, October 22 – 9AM PST / 10AM MST / 12PM EST**

[RSVP HERE](#)

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## TRAVEL TIPS & NEWS

(Click image below to view)

### PODCAST INTERVIEW - FAR EAST TRAVELS PODCAST

With Tom MacLean & John Saboe



Trip Merchant Co-Founder, Tom MacLean, was interviewed on the "*Far East Travels*" Podcast last week. Discussed was, when and how Trip Merchant got started, as well as Tom's take on how we might expect international travel to resume and the affects that Covid-19 has had on the global travel industry. To listen to this podcast episode on Spotify, click on the button below:

[LISTEN HERE](#)

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Exploring the **Caribbean** with Star Clippers



[READ HERE](#)

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## **CANADIAN (WINTER) LONG STAY PROGRAMS**

**Island Long Stay in Parksville, BC - Vancouver Island:  
30-Nights**

*Available Date Range: October 15, 2020 - April 30, 2021*



Relax and enjoy your winter with a luxurious long stay at the Beach Club Resort in Parksville on Vancouver Island's east coast. The Vancouver

Island region has a mild climate combined with one of the lowest annual rainfall levels meaning outside activities can be accessible year-round. Enjoy amazing sandy beaches, picture postcard views, world-class biking and hiking trails, salt-tinged ocean air and small-town charm of local communities. Just minutes away, explore Morningstar Farm and enjoy locally made cheese from Little Qualicum Cheeseworks. The Beach Club Resort has lots of amenities in easy reach such as the on-site pool and hot tub, spa, and Pacific Prime Restaurant with beachfront patio right on the Parksville Beach Boardwalk.

Starting at rate of **\$2249 CAD** per person, based on double occupancy.  
\*Other terms and conditions apply.

**ISLAND LONG STAY IN PARKSVILLE, BC: 30-NIGHTS**

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## **Island Long Stay in Sooke, BC - Vancouver Island: 30-Nights**

***Departure Date: January 14 - February 28, 2021***



Relax and enjoy your winter with a long stay escape at the Prestige Oceanfront Resort on the southern end of Vancouver Island and under an hours drive from Victoria. The Vancouver Island region has a mild climate



combined with one of the lowest annual rainfall levels meaning outside activities can be accessed year-round. Enjoy the wilderness and relaxation that Sooke provides knowing you're close to a variety of activities, dining options and amenities in the local community of Sooke and the city of Victoria. Much of Vancouver Island is very easily accessible for day trips. The Prestige Oceanfront Resort has breathtaking views of Sooke Harbour and offers an on-site restaurant West Coast Grill, pool, hot tub and fitness area and the resort is perfectly located to provide a true west coast experience.

Starting at rate of **\$2475 CAD** per person, based on double occupancy.  
\*Other terms and conditions apply.

[ISLAND LONG STAY IN SOOKE, BC: 30-NIGHTS](#)

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## **OTHER CANADIAN FALL OPTIONS**



**\*Below are starting at prices, per person, based on double occupancy**

### **Long Stay Vacation:**

[OSOYOOS WINTER LONG STAY: 30-NIGHTS - STARTING AT \\$1710](#)

VICTORIA LONG STAY ESCAPE: 29-NIGHTS - STARTING AT \$1349

### Guided Tours:

CHURCHILL TOWN & TUNDRA ENTHUSIAST: 5-NIGHTS - \$6699 CAD

YELLOWKNIFE - AURORA BOREALIS: 4-NIGHTS - \$2295 CAD

### Hotel Stays:

OTTAWA HOTEL STAY: MIN. 2-NIGHTS STARTING AT \$325 CAD

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## FUTURE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES TRAVEL SUPPLIER **SAVINGS!**

**Mekong River Cruising (Vietnam/Cambodia): Receive  
Exclusive Member Rates with Viet Princess Cruises**

**Save Up To \$1500 CAD per person**



Viet Princess Cruise are the pioneers that started exploring the waterways and tributaries of the Mekong back in early 2002. With over 15

years experience, they proudly provide unique shore excursions and local interactions: “off the beaten track” safety, places that very few foreigners have ever visited, friendly by nature Crew, professional Captains, Engineers and deck officers. Last but not least, the perfect blend of Eastern meets Western cuisines are of a standard that befits any truly international five-star venue.

They are focused and passionate about providing you with a heart-warming “Once in a Life-time” truly unique and exotic Asian adventure holiday. Welcome to Viet Princess Cruises!

\*On the Mekong Princess, there are **ONLY 14 cabins, equaling a maximum 28 guests on board!**

**Routing options from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Siem Reap, Cambodia (or in reverse). Departure dates available between fall 2021 and end of March 2022. All these dates have savings of \$700 CAD per person! Starting at only \$2999 CAD per person in a Junior Suite cabin, based on double occupancy (cruise only).**

**Book by December 31, 2020 to receive these extra savings! Initial Deposit of \$500 CAD is 100% refundable until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**

**VIET PRINCESS CRUISES**

### **Member Experience/Testimonial (Fall 2019):**

*"Listen. You need to book this trip! The Viet Princess cruise on the Mekong River is a class act and you will not be disappointed. The ship's décor: suites, dining room, lounge and the sun deck area are beautifully appointed. The crew members are welcoming and bend over backwards to accommodate your needs and to ensure your voyage will create fond memories that will last forever. The cuisine for the buffet breakfast, lunch and the a la carte dinners is exceptional--a five star experience offered by the kitchen staff. The daily tours on shore provide an*

*authentic glimpse into the lives of the people in villages along the Mekong. The local tour guides who stay on the ship are enthusiastic and passionate about their country and make the tours an unforgettable experience. Of my many and varied travels, this experience is equal to my favorite journeys. Do not miss out on a chance to enjoy this amazing travel opportunity."*

**To learn more about this Mekong River Cruise experience, [attend this online presentation on Wednesday, November 25th](#) at 9AM PST / 10AM MST / 12PM EST**

[RSVP HERE!](#)

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**Save Up To 45% on Select Departures with Celestyal Cruises**



Celestyal Cruises is the main home-porting cruise operator in Greece and the preeminent cruise line serving the Greek Islands and East Mediterranean. The company operates two mid-sized vessels, each one cosy enough to provide genuine and highly-personalized services. The foundation of the company's philosophy is the 'destination.' Every cruise focuses on true cultural immersion, offering authentic, lifetime experiences both on board and on shore wherever its vessels sail.

## What's Included on a Celestyal Cruise?

All meals as well as vegetarian options, unlimited alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, port and service charges, gratuities, daily activities

### Itineraries:

**\*Three Continents Cruise - Europe, Asia, Africa: 7-Nights**

**\*Eclectic Aegean: 7-Nights**

\*Departure Dates Available in October, November, December 2021 and dates in 2022!

**Regular Rate = \$1250 USD | NEW Rate = \$699 USD**

\*Prices are per person, based on a double occupancy of the Interior (IA) Category Stateroom inclusive of port taxes.

**Book by October 31, 2020 to receive these savings of \$551 USD per person! Additionally as a member, receive free WI-FI while onboard.**

[ECLECTIC AEGEAN: 7-NIGHTS](#)

[THREE CONTINENTS CRUISE - EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA: 7-NIGHTS](#)

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## OTHER CURRENT OFFERS!

(Click on the Featured Experiences offered by these suppliers below - some offers apply to select dates/itineraries)

[ANAKONDA AMAZON CRUISES - SAVE 20%](#)

[TRAFALGAR TOURS - SAVE UP TO 15%](#)

[HURTIGRUTEN - SAVE UP TO 25%](#)

[COLLETTE TOURS - 10% OFFER WORLDWIDE](#)

[EMERALD WATERWAYS - SAVE UP TO \\$3,000 CAD PER COUPLE](#)

## CURRENT TRIP CONTEST

LESS THAN A MONTH REMAINING TO ENTER!  
WIN A 7-NIGHT VACATION IN **ALGARVE, PORTUGAL**  
Europe's most famous secret...



We've partnered with the Algarve Tourism Board and our local partner in Portugal to provide you with future travel opportunities and a trip giveaway!

[ALGARVE, PORTUGAL TOURISM PAGE](#)

**Win a 7-Night Coastal Vacation** in beautiful Algarve, Portugal! *Contest Closes on **October 31st, 2020.***

Quiz time! To enter and for full terms and conditions click the button below. **\*Please note: Only 1 entry per person.**

[ENTER CONTEST PAGE](#)

**\*NEXT CONTEST...YOU BETTER BELIZE-IT!**

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## **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE**

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

\*On most of the travel supplier pages we've added their "Health & Safety Protocols" and their "COVID Terms & Conditions".

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

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Contact us at [info@tripmerchant.com](mailto:info@tripmerchant.com) or 1-800-481-9739 ext. 0



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**Stay safe. We'll be ready when you are!**

\*Please keep in mind, if there is anything out there that interests you and is not featured on our site, please let us know.

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 [Group Departures](#)

 [Online Presentations](#)

 [FAQ](#)

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 [Testimonials](#)

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