

## **TRAVEL COPY - A WORLD AWAITS**

*Kevin M. Mitchell*

### **WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE INVITES YOU TO BE YOUR OWN PIRATE**



Discover pristine beaches and hide-away bars where you can lose yourself on a cruise through the earth's most weather-perfect and beautiful islands. Saunter through the unspoiled sands of your first port of call, Isla Culebra, Puerto Rico, and you'll feel as if you're discovering paradise yourself. Historically known as a refuge for pirates, it's considerably tamer now (at least until you show up). Gustavia on St. Barthelemy is rich in French and Spanish history. Marigot, St. Martin, is where King Louis XVI built historic Fort St. Louis. Revel in the secluded beaches, and of course, the Grand Case, the Caribbean's best dining. Do stop off at the Dutch island of Jost Van Tyke and taste the Caribbean's most famous cocktail, "the Painkiller," where it was invented: the Soggy Dollar Bar. Island hopping continues, as do snorkeling, swimming, hiking, sharing beaches with turtles, and bellying up to bars where you'll hear tales you won't be able to share with everyone. Then there's festive San Juan, with a vibrant history that offers you a chance to experience a succulent tour of the Bacardi rum plant.

You'll do all your buccaneering in 277 square feet of the elegant comfort that is Windstar Star Legend, a "small" ship that accommodates "only" 148 guests. This will be your private yacht that offers hidden nooks for private moments and with two gourmet restaurants for not-so-private ones. Take your chances at the casino, literary yourself up in the library, or just unwind in the hot tub until the next port beckons.

### **ROMANCE, HISTORY, & ADVENTURE ARE YOURS**

Antiquity and adventure abound for those who cruise the Adriatic Sea and its opulent ports and exotic locales. You'll begin this chapter of your bucket list in celebrated Venice,



city of romance. The waterfront palazzos are as inspiring as the gondolas are intriguing, and to float down the Grand Canal is like seeing your favorite paintings come alive. From there it's on to quaint Ravenna, once the capital of the Byzantine Empire. There, uncover beautiful churches and their world-famous mosaics – stunning. Next you stop at Sibenik, Croatia, brimming with historic monuments, before landing in one of the world's most beautiful cities: Dubrovnik. Its "Old Town" was walled in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the streets

are vibrant with shops, music, and food. You'll find the vividly picturesque Kotor, Montenegro, where you'll get lost in time in labyrinthine marbled lanes filled with churches, shops, and bars. Next you'll conquer Corfu, Greece, and stroll among the remains of Venetian fortresses and Greek temples. Then it's back to Italy, stopping at Taormina, Capri, Sorrento, and Civitavecchia, all with their own marvelous story to tell.

The journey is the destination, because you'll be cruising into all these magical ports on the award-winning Silversea Silver Spirit. When not relaxing in your beautifully appointed and spacious Veranda Suite, you'll be sunning by the pool enjoying the live music. There's a spa, fitness center, and theater that offers everything from classical music to movies to full dazzling productions. This floating luxury metropolis will dazzle and pamper you simultaneously.

### ***MAGICAL MACHU PICCHU & THE JOURNEY OF THE LIFETIME***

You know exactly why emperor Pachacuti chose this spectacular high-altitude location to have his enigmatic citadel erected when you visit Machu Picchu – it's otherworldly. Balanced on an awe-inspiring mountain range above the Sacred Valley, this icon of Inca civilization awaits the adventurous. Witness architecture so grand that some people think that only aliens could have been capable of such technological and architectural feats (you, however, will give the ingenious Incas their proper due). Below, discover the vibrant city of Cusco, an invigorating mix of Amerindian and Mestizo culture. This mystical, whimsical city is brimming with wild fiestas and carnivals, but somehow also filled with equal parts pagan tradition and solemn Catholic rituals. Take a full-day tour of the Sacred Valley—or for the more adrenaline-hungry, why not river rafting on the Urubamba River?



When not uncovering an old world, you'll be swaddled in the new: Your three hotels offer unprecedented extravagance, indulging you with personalized service and incomparable dining. In Lima, the Belmond Miraflores is centered in one of the world's most fashionable areas, renowned for its tranquil garden. The city boasts colonial architecture and superb museums in addition to glamorous shops and bars. In Machu Picchu, the Belmond Sanctuary Lodge awaits. Here you'll discover a world more astonishing than you ever imagined. Perhaps what you'll most often reminisce about is the passage through all of this on the Hiram Bingham Train. These 1920s Pullman carriages are truly a once in a lifetime magical journey.