

The logo consists of a blue square with the text 'Haslemere TRAVEL' in white, sans-serif font. 'Haslemere' is on the top line and 'TRAVEL' is on the bottom line.

Haslemere
TRAVEL

Pure Shores

AUTUMN 2006

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Cambodia
& Vietnam
"a totally wonderful holiday"

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The Greatest Travel Experience

www.haslemeretravel.co.uk

Haslemere
TRAVEL

The Greatest Travel Experience

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Welcome to the new face of Haslemere Travel

After 18 years developing and polishing our skills we now believe that we are well equipped to face the future and the challenges that you bring us!

We will retain our traditional values and ethos of reliability, honesty and impartial advice, but enhance this by placing far greater emphasis on our network of travel friends and acquaintances around the world to provide a welcome and safe haven for our increasingly adventurous clients.

We are proud to claim that one of our clients has just visited his 191st and last sovereign state in the world – his experiences are our education – his achievement is our goal – his appetite for travel is our passion to reach that distant frontier...

We hope you will enjoy reading the first edition of our new series of regular newsletters and that your appetites will be whetted to join us in the greatest travel experience.



Family



Adventure



Ski



Romance



Culture



Exclusive
Cruises



Safari



A taste of Argentina

The Four Seasons in Buenos Aires has to be the most luxurious way to start your travels in Argentina – a hotel for romantics and businessmen alike – great rooms and wonderful service.

A whistle stop seven days is hardly long enough to even get a sniff of the attractions of this spectacular South American country, but whilst in Buenos Aires we just had time to visit the Plaza de Mayo, Government House, Cathedral Metropolitana and the famous Sunday flea market of Feria de San Telmo where the wonderful tango is danced by both young and old. In the evening we

went to El Querandi for dinner followed by a tango floor show – brilliant.

We then moved north west to the land of the gauchos in the Pampas region of San Antonia de Areco: here we stayed in a beautiful working estancia, El Rosario – a wonderful area for horse riding, swimming, walking and even learning to play polo.

We had two days to visit Iguazu so were able to visit both the Argentinian and Brazilian side of the spectacular falls, 275 waterfalls in total, with an amazing variety of ferns, orchids, begonias, birds and butterflies.

You can take a speed boat ride under the falls and for those with a leaning toward extreme sports, swing in the jungle canopy and abseil down waterfalls.

A further two nights were spent nearby at the Yacuntinga Lodge and Wildlife Nature Reserve located right in the Argentine Rainforest and surrounded by the Iguazu National Park. The lodge's main emphasis is sustainable tourism and during our stay we learnt about the layers of tropical rainforests and the consequences when different layers are removed – this really showed us just how much damage to the environment can be caused by massive deforestation.

This is an ideal centre for a variety of activities including hiking, bird watching and canoeing on the Iguazu river with every opportunity to experience this haven of wildlife and nature which, mercifully, is still totally untouched by outside influences.



How much would it cost?

A 14 night "Taste of Argentina" tour visiting Iguazu, the Lake District, Peninsula Valdes, the glacier region of Calafate & Buenos Aires.

from £3267 pp

ATOL 5206

Susie's latest travel experience adds yet more knowledge to our team – from Brazil, Mexico and Cuba to Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador and the Galapagos you'll find a wealth of Latin American experience at Haslemere Travel.

Castro Country

Hurricane Katrina had delayed our arrival into Havana and though we had to condense our stay in the city we still managed a tour to include the old town, various monuments, forts and museums. It was all extremely interesting, especially the exhibit of the yacht Granma which carried Fidel Castro and his 80 supporters over from Mexico. This was quite a feat as subsequent attempts to fit even 80 children on board this small vessel have failed!

Transport in Havana is either by taxi or horse and carriage. Traffic is very light as there are few private cars. Some taxis are modern vehicles but are just as likely to be 1950s Dodges or Chevies or 'modern' vintage cars, specially designed for the tourist trade! The locals use a contraption known as a camel, a pink bus with an inverted 'hump' in the middle, pulled by something that resembles an aircraft push-back vehicle.

These become extremely crowded and rather resemble a film script 'full of bad language, sex and violence.'

We just had time to visit a small rum making and bottling establishment where we sampled different types of rum and liqueur: normally a city tour would take in the cigar



factory but since we were a day behind we had to cut this short for our drive to Vinales, 2 hours North West of Havana.

This is a stunning area with steep limestone peaks and many deep caves, great for walking and horseback riding. We drove through the Vinales valley en route to Cayo Levisa off the North coast. Unfortunately Levisa was closed to visitors because of recent storm damage: this had not been communicated to our guide so we (like many others on the jetty) had wasted some time on the road. I understand that Levisa has a small number of exclusive bungalows and fabulous beaches which we could just see from the jetty.

After two nights at Vinales we drove back through Havana and on to Varadero, where we stayed at one of the many all inclusive hotels. The beaches here are long and beautiful and very popular. We spent a day cruising to Cayo Blanco, another beautiful island with warm, turquoise waters and white sandy beaches and stunning scenery.



Self-drive holidays are easy to arrange though there are no sign posts and distances are deceptively long. Hire cars should be thoroughly inspected and a map of all the hire company's depots obtained along the route in case of problems. Don't forget US dollars are not accepted.



How much would it cost?

A 6 day group tour staying in Havana, the North Coast and Vinales Valley, including transfers and flights.

from £999 pp ATOL 856

White and black bears and humped-back whales in British Columbia



Words don't do justice... even photographs can't begin to display the real beauty and spectacularly stunning scenery of the Great Bear Rain Forest of British Columbia. It would be very tempting to keep this gem a secret but since it is not that easy to get there I will reveal all.

It takes two light aircraft flights, the last one a 5-seater Beaver floatplane, to reach Barnard Harbour on Princess Royal Island, and the floating luxury paradise of King Pacific Lodge.

This was our base for 4 days of unsurpassed wildlife viewing. In this short time we were blessed with two separate sightings of the very rare white Kermode or spirit bear, and several of the black bear. We viewed them from wooden platforms strategically placed

along river banks, the waters fizzing and jumping with a variety of salmon struggling upstream, providing the bears and wolves with a steady supply of their staple diet. These platforms can only be reached by small motor boats, thus giving us ample opportunity to view humpbacked whales, sealions, seals, porpoises and all manner of birdlife along the way.

The range of activities includes hiking, kayaking, wolf tracking, culture tours, fly fishing, heli-fly fishing up in the mountain lakes, helicopter and sightseeing excursions, saltwater fishing and not least wildlife viewing of black and white bears, humpbacked and orca whales. Friendly and knowledgeable wildlife and fishing experts are on hand to provide personalised daily programmes to suit all tastes and wishes and to escort guests on all daily outings. If you do not fancy being active every day just sit on the front deck of your luxurious floating lodge and view whales, eagles,

bears, river otters, storks, humming birds, porpoises and seals with a glass of delicious Canadian chardonnay at your side.

This is a very special corner of a very special country.



Andrew

How much would it cost?

A weeks adventure to include all flights ex UK, 4 nights full board at King Pacific Lodge plus all activities and 2 nights b&b in Vancouver.

from £3,800 pp

ATOL 4530

Three nights of Venetian magic



Susie found the perfect antidote for a chilly December in England: an even chillier one in Venice! She was whisked away for a couple of days to find out about the charm of this romantic city. What a warm welcome she received – a few 'Lugano cocktails', the local 'green' speciality at the Londra Palace, followed by a spectacular 7 course taster menu, a wonderfully spoiling introduction to the culinary delights of this unique city, and its charm and warm hospitality.

The magic of the city could not be dispelled and in fact could only be enhanced by the picture of Venice in the snow.

The next two days were filled with getting to know the Venetian backstreets and waterways (by foot, vaporetto and gondola), the occasional pit stop that just had to include a bellini at the infamous Harry's Bar, marvelling at the myriad of boutique shops near St Marks Square and the more affordable

by the Rialto bridge, and even time for a visit to the island of Murano and the stunning glass factory.

Time had to be found to visit St Marks Basilica, the Doges Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Casanova's cell.

Venice is still one of the most popular and romantic European cities for British short break enthusiasts. Combine this with Florence for a wonderful two centre holiday.



This city was the choice for our 30th Wedding Anniversary. It was a memorable weekend and we especially enjoyed the Doges Palace Secret tour taking us behind the scenes and travelling the canals by vaporetto. It is a fascinating city for walking around, a map is essential and momentarily getting lost is guaranteed, but what better way to discover the real Venice and still see some Venetian treasures; like a Titian hanging on the wall of a local church, a memorial to the Jews or a street full of artists painting the scenes: this is also the best way to find cafes and restaurants frequented by the locals.



How much would it cost?

Three nights at the beautiful Londra Palace including flights and private return water taxi transfers.

from £649 pp

ATOL 2881

Testing the water in Mallorca

For those who have never been to Mallorca, take my word, there really is a beautiful side to the island and I am delighted to say that there are places that have only been slightly changed by tourism and others that remain completely unaffected.

Head to the north of the island and the Cap de Formentor where the coastal scenery is stunning: the Mirador des Colomer offers great views from the top of the craggy cliffs along the coast with its tiny bays and crystal clear water. Nearby is the beautiful Hotel Formentor, often frequented by the famous.

A few miles southeast lies Puerto Pollensa with its calm bay and strip of sandy beaches. This is a great spot for sailing and windsurfing or just to watch the boats come and go from the little harbour, whilst enjoying a good meal at one of the many restaurants. Following the mountain range south you come to Deya and Soller, the latter is connected by tram to Puerto de Soller on the coast with its harbour and small sandy bays. There are some very smart hotels in this area, good restaurants and plenty of walking - perfect for a spring or autumn break.

Palma, the island's capital, still retains its original character and has a bustling marina - from little fishing boats to luxury yachts. There is a lovely converted hotel with just a dozen rooms right in the heart of Palma, which offers home from home service. Shopping is excellent and when you have had your fill



of window shopping there are numerous bodegas and tapas bars to indulge in a glass or two and enjoy the lazy pace of Spanish life.

Mallorca has so much to offer everyone from great walking, bird watching, water sports on sandy beaches, some good golf courses, and the culture of its capital.

If you are looking for something more traditional you should head inland to Valldemossa where there is a stunning hotel or venture up to Campanet where a converted 18th century manor house is now a hotel set in acres of grounds on a hill with sheep and goats to keep you company. Nearer the coast is a converted monastery now a stunning contemporary style hotel, surrounded by hills but with views of the sea and just a 10 minute drive to the coast.

The hotels range from converted manor houses, to the traditional family home, and to the ultra modern. There is also a huge range of villas - from simple apartments to luxury fully staffed villas.



How much would it cost?

One week at the Formentor including flights, transfers and b&b accommodation

from £814 pp

Or stay in a converted 16th century manor house in Puerto de Soller

from £533 pp

ATOL 5837

Travellers tales: Cambodia & Vietnam



MUST DO'S IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM

- The temples of Angkor Wat
- Tonle Sap Lake
- Halong Bay's spectacular islands
- Village life on the Mekong Delta
- Imperial city of Hue
- The markets of Hoi An

First I must say that each of our guides were individuals and each went out of their way to be helpful and to ensure that we had a good time.

We loved Cambodia (Siem Reap) and plan a repeat visit soon. It was our fault that we tried to see all the Angkor Wat area in a day, but it was almost that or a week. The hotel was great, with a lovely pool, and the local people are enchanting. The visit to the lake and the floating village(s) was quite a highlight too.

“Thank you so much for your help in arranging this totally wonderful holiday. It was one of the best ever and everything went absolutely according to plan – and, at least as important, to expectation.”

Hanoi (Vietnam) was equally a high spot, although Ho was off for his annual refurbishment when we there so we did not get a glimpse of the old stiff (quite relieved, actually). It's an interesting and beautiful city and we loved every aspect of it. And of course Halong is truly spectacular - it can't be missed!

Quite the star of our holiday was Hoi An, which is an absolute gem, the Venice of the East. We adored it and went there four times, not least for the clothes (I now have two Vietnamese suits, two pairs of shoes, six shirts and a pair of slack trousers all for under \$300) and the food. Everybody who goes to Vietnam should head for Hoi An, no question. A piece of the old Orient caught in a timewarp.

"So we are still glowing from the happiness of it, and thank you for making our homecoming so special with your flowers."

Dan H
Haslemere Travel client



How much would it cost?

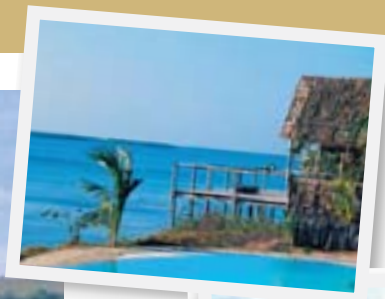
12 day holiday to Vietnam visiting Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Hoi An, Danang, Mekong Delta & Ho Chi Minh city.

Twin share: based on BA international flights, best hotels, private transfers + own English speaking guide/driver throughout.

from £2359 pp ATOL 2881

12 day adventure group departures from
from £1325 pp ATOL 2595

On Safari in Kenya



Just the two of us and our guide sat watching in awe as three female lions played with their young cubs a few feet from us: one minute they were climbing all over their mothers and the next they were chasing each other up and over the large hillock: we were told that play like this is so important in teaching them how to hunt. We gazed until the magnificent African sun had almost set across the Mara plains and we had to make tracks for our lodge set in the centre of this wonderful reserve.

Slowly over the days we ticked off seeing beautiful coloured birds, families of elephants looking after their calves, a cheetah sitting on a mound looking very regal then slowly stretching and wandering off into the grasses, a leopard with a kill and another large pride of lions ambling past us in our Landrover.



The eagle with its kill, the water buffalo and the showdown between a male hippo and a mother with her 2 babies trying to get back up to her section of the river.... I haven't even started on the giraffes and the rhinos, the crocodiles, wild dogs, the gazelles and dik diks. There was just so much to see.

Our breakfasts were spent on Maasai blankets watching the zebras, gazelles and water buck grazing, baboons playing along the river bank or scanning the landscape for signs of lions prowling in the distance and all this without sight of any other humans.

The perfect start or end to your holiday in Kenya (or indeed a holiday in its own right) should include a few days on the Swahili island of Lamu off the north coast. There are a couple of tiny resorts just a 45 minute boat ride from Lamu town – both offering pure escapism, bare foot luxury at its best – comfortable king size beds, running water

and wonderful food: a perfect antidote to the hectic life we all seem to lead these days. Lamu is not for everyone, but, if you don't mind a 2 hour flight in a light aircraft, no gold taps or marble bathrooms, just total relaxation, then this could be an island well worth considering before the modern world takes over.



How much would it cost?

3 nights at Mara Explorer (AI) & 5 nights at Kipungani, Lamu (FB) excluding international flights, from

from £1700 pp

ATOL 2881



Exclusive Cruising

Join our exclusive Cruise Club

On the Waterfront

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Is cruising stuffy and boring?

Not so on the 6 star Crystal Serenity.

The ship's interior is stylish but with a laid back atmosphere. The on board dining is an exquisite experience – book a table at Nobu Matsuhisa's Silk Road or try Piero Selvaggio's menu at Prego without the normal months long waiting list to dine at these famous restaurants; or simply try a burger at the Trident Grill or sip a cappuccino at the Bistro, dine out at the Lido café and watch the world go by... the choice is endless.

Boring, definitely not: certain cruises are themed offering the perfect opportunity to those who have never cruised to try them out.

For example the Sotheby's Institute with experts from

Sotheby's giving talks on the culture and art of ports of call on your itinerary; Wine & Food Festivals with world renowned chefs and wine experts on board to share their talents.

On every cruise there is the Creative Learning Institute featuring Tai Chi, language classes, wine tasting and Computer University – the list is endless.

The difference is Crystal clear (forgive the pun): it offers first class accommodation, an extremely high standard of food with exceptional personal and professional service. You really don't have to think about anything: it's all done for you! Certain cabin grades even include a butler.

What are you waiting for? Everyone deserves the feeling of pure luxury.



Sarah.

INSIDE NEXT ISSUE

Terry's ultimate seagoing experience aboard the Royal Clipper, the largest fully rigged sailing ship in the world, visiting St Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, St Kitts, Ile des Saintes, Martinique and Barbados. -"Feel the elation of those mariners long ago."

Haslemere
TRAVEL

and Friends

CRUISE, TRAVEL & LIFESTYLE SHOWCASE

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2006 10.00-14.00
Branksome, Hindhead Road, Haslemere, Surrey

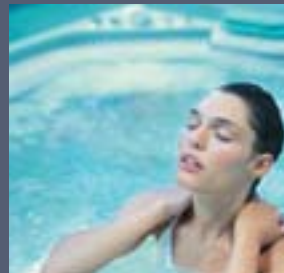
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