



At last, affordable air-land packages to Cuba

Just when it seemed that nearly all the new air-land packages to Cuba were priced at outlandish levels (\$500 to \$600 a day per person, plus the cost of airfare between Miami and Havana), along comes Road Scholar (the former Elderhostel) to save the day. In a recent announcement, the famed nonprofit travel organization for mature Americans (phone 800-454-5768) has offered to operate numerous departures of such a trip (through most of the year) for a reasonable sum (see below), including — repeat, including — round-trip airfare between Miami and Havana.



ARTHUR FROMMER

BUDGET TRAVEL

still are people of advanced years (68 to 70 probably is the average age), Road Scholar now accepts people of any age, though youngsters in their 20s, 30s and early 40s probably would feel distinctly out of place on the typical Road Scholar trip. Road Scholar is operating three different programs to Cuba, two of which involve a seven-night stay in Cuba (exact details and dates of departure are on the Road Scholar website, www.roadscholar.com):

“Cuba Today: People and Society” is a nine-day, eight-night trip (of which one night is spent in Miami), with four nights in Havana and three nights in Cienfuegos, all-inclusive of accommodations,



Courtesy photo

Havana, Cuba, is a highlight of affordable tours to the once off-limits country.

meals, daily sightseeing, all government fees and taxes, and round-trip air between Miami and Cuba, for a total of \$3,295 per person for most dates. If you assume the value of the round-trip air to be around \$400 (the figure used by most other tour operators to Cuba), then your stay in

Cuba is costing about \$360 per person per day, which is far less than most others charge. The focus of this tour is on a broad range of Cuban institutions, exploring the history and cultural heritage of Cuba and meeting (according to Road Scholar) with “community leaders, artists

and intellectuals.”

“Havana: City of Arts and Artists” is an eight-day, seven-night trip (one night spent in Miami) devoting six nights to the arts community of Cuba (painters, dancers, musicians and other performers), including two evening performances, one of which is in the Gran Teatro de Havana. Participants receive 12 field trips, all meals, accommodations, attendance at rehearsals, contact with directors and producers of artistic enterprises, and round-trip airfare to Havana, including all government fees and taxes. Prices are as low as \$2,995 per person, but also rise to between \$3,095 and \$3,395 per person, depending on date of departure (again, including round-trip airfare between Miami and Havana).

“Shalom Cuba: Exploring Jewish Heritage” is a nine-day, eight-night trip (one night spent in Miami) that also devotes four nights to Havana and three nights to Cienfuegos, where participants meet with members of the small but active Jewish

community of Cuba and visit synagogues, a Jewish pharmacy and other institutions of importance to the Jewish heritage in both cities.

Participants also engage in 12 field trips and six excursions, and pay \$3,295 per person, including round-trip airfare between Miami and Cuba.

On Road Scholar’s website, a great many departures are listed for March, April and May, and these will soon be extended into the autumn months.

Road Scholar is actively engaged in obtaining additional hotel space for a program that is already regarded as a major success. And given the fact that it is far less expensive than those already announced by several other major tour operators, it well deserves its popularity.

Arthur Frommer is the founder of the Frommer’s Travel Guide book series. Find more destinations online and read Arthur Frommer’s blog at frommers.com.

Tickets, no parking spot for ‘La Nouba’

Q: I need some help. My friend and her husband have been extremely good to me this past year. It has been a difficult year for me personally and they have opened their home to me and their friendship has been unmerited.

As a token of my appreciation, I recently purchased two tickets to Cirque du Soleil “La Nouba” in Orlando for them. They booked a hotel and planned on making it a fun-filled weekend. The tickets state on them to arrive at least 30 minutes early. They actually arrived one hour early and were instantly presented with an overwhelming obstacle: There was absolutely no parking.

They rode around the parking areas from 5 until 7:45 p.m. At that time, they knew that they had missed over half of the show, conceded defeat and went back to their hotel room.

I didn’t find out about it until the following Monday when I asked how the show was. My friend then told me the tale of the “worst traffic she had ever seen.” She also stated that all of the parking areas were full and closed off and that once in the stream of traffic, looking for a parking



CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

space, it was impossible to get out of the flow. My friend didn’t want to tell me because she was disappointed and knew that I would also be disappointed.

I called Cirque du Soleil and was told that my friend should have called the box office and explained her parking dilemma, and that their tickets could have been re-issued for a later showing. But there is no phone in the box office.

Now I’m being told that I need to personally come to the box office to try to negotiate a refund or re-issue of the tickets. But I live two hours from Orlando, so that’s not an option. Can you help?
— Jenni Turbeville, Okeechobee, Fla.

A: Cirque’s purchase agreement for its tickets doesn’t address your friend’s particular problem. But they seem to suggest that while Cirque can cancel any performance and reschedule, you don’t have the same flexibility. Here’s a link: <http://www.cirqueduseil.com/en/home/purchase-policy.aspx>.

That may seem a little one-sided, but it’s in line with other live events. Imagine if the ticket terms were fairer, allowing you to cancel any time up to the moment the curtain rises, and get a full refund. Cirque would probably go out of business.

At the same time, I think special allowances should be made for circumstances that are within the theater’s control, like traffic. Cirque has a responsibility, at least in my view, to provide adequate parking for its guests. If no one can get to the show, what’s the point of having one?

Your friends were attending a performance on a busy holiday weekend, so they probably should have given themselves a little extra time. But

even if they had, they reported circling in the parking lot nearly two hours, so I doubt if that would have done much good.

There must have been others who couldn’t make the show, too. Cirque should have either printed a warning on its tickets during these peak times, or allowed the no-shows to come back at a later time without having to visit the box office in person. But at the end of the day, your friends were responsible for making it to the show on time — at least according to the terms of their ticket. So strictly speaking, Cirque didn’t owe them anything.

Still, knowing Cirque and having attended its shows in

the past, I don’t think it would want you or your friends to be disappointed. I decided to share your story with them, and a representative contacted you by e-mail, offering to re-issue the tickets.

Christopher Elliott is the author of “Scammed: How to Save Your Money and Find Better Service in a World of Schemes, Swindles, and Shady Deals” (Wiley). He’s also the ombudsman for National Geographic Traveler magazine and co-founder of the Consumer Travel Alliance, a nonprofit organization that advocates for travelers. Read more tips on his blog, elliott.org, or e-mail him at chris@elliott.org. Elliott receives a great deal of reader mail, and though he answers them as quickly as possible, your story may not be published for several months because of a backlog.

PRUDENT TOURS

SOUTHERN SPLENDORS

April 14-29, 2012 \$619
 *Biltmore House & Gardens, *Somerset Place, *Roanoke Island, *Bodie Island Lighthouse, *Elizabeth II Historic Site, *Wright Brothers Nat'l Memorial, *Elizabethan Gardens, *Cape Hatteras Nat'l Seashore & Lighthouse, *Ocracoke Lighthouse, *BattleShip North Carolina, *Brookgreen Gardens, *Fort Sumter, *Hilton Head Island, *Tour Savannah. * & More

HEART OF TEXAS

April 16-21, 2012 \$699
 *National Wildflower Research Center, *LBJ Historical Park, *Wildseed Farms, *Tour San Antonio, *Ellison's Greenhouses, *Blue Bell Ice Cream Plant, *Texas State Capitol, *Fort Worth Stockyards, *Tarrant County Train

March 2012
 20-4/4 Washington DC/New York/Boston in Spring \$1789
 24-4/1 Cajun Country / New Orleans \$1109

April 2012
 25-2/7 Branson in the Spring, *Joseph - The Musical \$519
 30-5/6 Tennessee Mountain Music \$1029

May 2012
 1-5 Pella Tulips & More \$509
 4-13 Canyonlands \$1209
 7-13 Springtime in Michigan & Indiana \$859
 15-17 Mystery Tour \$369

Call for our FREE 2012 catalog!
1-800-658-1734
 OR Visit our website at:
www.prudenttours.com
 *We pick up on all tours in
 Wichita, Newton, McPherson & Salina

NTA 108 N. Main, Hillsboro, KS
 National Tour Association

FLYING HIGH LOWEST ROUND-TRIP AIRFARES FROM WICHITA

Prices are for 14- or 21-day advance purchase fares. They generally require a Saturday night stayover. Today's fares were researched for departure on or after March 19, 2012.

City	Fare	Carriers
Atlanta	\$343	DL, FL
Baltimore	\$350	CO, FL, AA, UA, DL
Boston	\$356	CO, AA, UA, DL, FL
Charlotte	\$339	FL
Chicago	\$361	CO, AA, UA, F9, FL
Dallas	\$398	AA
Denver	\$211	F9, UA, CO
Detroit	\$484	FL
Fort Lauderdale	\$329	UA, CO, DL, FL, F9, AA
Houston	\$547	FL
Las Vegas	\$216	G4
Los Angeles	\$328	FL
Memphis	\$445	CO, UA, AA
Miami	\$329	CO, UA, DL
Minneapolis	\$354	F9, FL
New York	\$356	AA, FL, DL
Orlando	\$335	CO, UA, AA, DL, FL, F9
Philadelphia	\$442	CO, AA, DL, FL, UA
Phoenix	\$222	G4
San Diego	\$190	DL, AA, F9
San Francisco	\$306	FL
Seattle	\$348	F9, CO, UA, AA, UA
St. Louis	\$452	FL, AA
Tampa	\$345	UA, CO, AA, DL, FL
Washington	\$352	FL

These fares, researched last Friday, are provided for information only. Airlines may drop or change fares on a daily basis without notice. Fares may not apply to all seats on all flights and may be subject to advance booking, availability, payment restrictions and penalties for cancellations or changes. Extremely limited fares (including some weekend fares) may not be included. Approximate taxes and fees are included. The actual taxes and fees will vary.

Airlines
 AA - American
 CO - Continental
 DL - Delta
 FL - AirTran
 F9 - Frontier
 G4 - Allegiant
 UA - United
 YX - Midwest

Jim & Cindy's Tours LLC
 OF WICHITA.
jctours.com
 We Charter Modern Motorcoaches!
 800-499-9162
316-838-0795

CALL FOR 2012-2013 NEW TOUR BOOK!
WE HAVE EXPERIENCE IN 103 COUNTRIES!

PRICES INCLUDE ALL AIR FARE - PRE AND/OR POST NIGHTS ON CRUISES - EXCELLENT TRAVEL INSURANCE ON 4 DAY TRIPS OR LONGER - CALL FOR DISCOUNTS!! JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER!!

Mystery + Meal - Bus	March 17	\$89
Chicken-N-Pickin - Frank - Bus	March 29	\$89
Mystery + Meal - Bus	Apr 3	\$89
Branson Springtime - Bus	Apr 13-15	\$399
SIX / Joseph, the Musical-New Sight & Sound Theatre / Red Hot & Blue / Hughes Bros. / Clarion Hotel		
Nashville & The Smokies - Bus	Apr 17-25	\$1797
MUSIC TRIP - 5 SHOWS + MANY SITES!! / Branson-SIX / Memphis-GRACELAND-King's Palace Cafe- Beale St- Peabody Ducks / Nashville-GRAND OLE OPRY-Music Hall of Fame-Dance Wildhorse Saloon / Pigeon Forge-BLACK BEAR JAMBOREE & COUNTRY TONITE + DOLLYWOOD / Gatlinburg-Smoky Mountain Nat'l Park+NC / Berea, KY-Ranfro Valley MUSIC SHOW & DINNER + MUSEUM / KY Horse Country / ST. LOUIS ARCH TOUR		
South Africa to London Cruise	May 2-June 3	\$9997
New York Broadway - Fly	June 8-11	\$1989
3 Nights in Luxury Marriott Marquis in Times Square!! / Jersey Boys & Million Dollar Quartet Included / 2 More Optional Shows / City Tour / Free Time / Ellis Island / Statue of Liberty / 9/11 Memorial / Champagne Brunch-Bloomingdale's/Today Show/A Fantastic Trip!!		
Alaska Cruise + Land Tour	June 18-July 1	\$4199
Montana & Idaho - Bus	July 23-Aug 5	\$2599
Corn Palace-SD / Pitchfork Fondue-Medora, ND / Gates of Mountains Boat Tour / Glacier Nat'l Park-MT / Smoke Jumper Center-Missoula / Boise, ID Spanish Dancers / Craters of Moon / Kennecott Copper Mine-Salt Lake / Grand Junction Farm Tour		
Mystery + Meal - Bus	Aug 10	\$89
Extensive Ireland - Fly - Bus	Aug 17-Sept 1	\$4999
Fabulous Ireland & Northern Ireland!! JOIN US!!		
New England Fall Foliage - Bus	Sept 25-Oct 10	\$2999
San Francisco - Fly	Oct 21-24	\$1989
The Very Best Time of Year to See This City!!		
2013 - Book Trips Early!!		
Hawaii / Mardi Gras New Orleans / Galapagos & Machu Picchu / Amsterdam Tulips, Luxembourg, Belgium, Paris / Broadway NYC / Alaska / Top of the World Explorer Cruise London to NYC, Scotland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Greenland, Nova Scotia / Black Sea & Crimean Coasts Cruise, Athens, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Istanbul, Turkey, Slovenia, Venice, Italy / TRIPS-PRICES-SUBJECT TO CHANGE		

SPORTS ZONE • PUZZLES • HOROSCOPE
 February 13 - 19, 2011
www.iwantmytvmagazine.com

weekly \$2.99

FOUR TIME NOMINATED KATY PERRY

THE 53RD ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS CBS SUNDAY

67¢ A WEEK

TELEVISION'S ULTIMATE HANDBOOK
 Sign up today for TV Weekly, the ultimate new television guide, and receive it every Sunday with *The Wichita Eagle* for as little as 67¢ per week.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
www.iwantmytvmagazine.com/wichita
 888-790-0202

EUROPE SPECIAL

15-day **HEART OF EUROPE** Circle Tour of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Belgium & Holland by Image Tours

\$4240
 Includes AIR from WICHITA

Price reflects \$300 Savings per couple

June 27, July 11 & Aug 1 departures. Includes air, escort, hotels, 21 meals, transportation in Europe, and air taxes, p.p. double occupancy. **BOOK BY 3/14/12.** Call for a FREE brochure.

SAM'S TOURS
 Ph: 785-825-0881 or 800-825-7715

We do not charge a fee for booking any vacation package

Air Capital Travel
 262-1011 or 1-800-279-0747
 Monday - Saturday 8am - 6pm
 OPEN SUNDAY 1PM-4PM
 PRICES BASED ON AVAILABILITY & DOUBLE OCCUPANCY & ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
206 N. SENECA
www.aircapitaltravel.com
agent@actrvl.com
 Visit us at Facebook.com/aircapitaltravel

Wichita to Vegas Snts Air, Hotel & Transfers Book With Us & Receive a Coupon Book!	\$237 p/p \$256 p/p
Wichita to Cancun Snts Air, Hotel & Transfers. All Inclusive (based on 2 adults/2 kids)	\$731 p/p
Wichita to Paris Snts Air, Hotel & Transfers	\$1531 p/p
Wichita to Jamaica Snts Air, Hotel & Transfers. All Inclusive	\$929 p/p
Disney in Orlando Snts Air, Disney Hotel, Transfers & 4 Day Disney Base Tickets (based on 2 adults/2 kids)	\$756 p/p
Wichita to Dublin, Ireland Snts Air, Hotel & a Rail Tour of the Country side	\$1203 p/p

SAVE UP TO 77% OFF THE COVER PRICE

TV WEEKLY INCLUDES	CHANNEL LISTINGS FOR ALL LOCAL CABLE COMPANIES	LOCAL TELEVISION CHANNELS
A-Z MOVIES	Cox Wichita	KAKE-ABC KSCW-CW
EXPANDED LATE NIGHT LISTINGS	AT&T U-Verse	KWCH-CBS KMTW-MNT
DIGITAL CHANNELS	DirectTV	KSAS-FOX KDCU-UNIV
PUZZLES	DISH	KSNW-NBC KTPX-ION
GOSSIP		KPTS2-PBS KGPT-RETRO
ARTICLES & MORE!		KPTS2-PBS2 KPTS3-CREATE