

Secret of inexpensive traveling is courier flights

The Courier Air Travel Handbook

★★

AUTHOR: Mark Fields
PUBLISHER: Thunderbird Press
COST: \$7.95

So what are you going to do for Christmas vacation? Going to just sit at home and watch cousin Floyd pick his nose after the holiday feast, again? If so, you've planned wrong. And a new book out this year can help show you the error of your ways.

For \$300 and a little bit of chutzpah, you can get from here to anywhere and back by booking your flight with a courier travel agent, says Mark Field in his book, *The Courier Air Travel Handbook*. The book costs \$7.95 and is available through Thunderbird Press.

"The ability to travel should not be decided by one's financial position," Fields writes in the book.

Take IBC Pacific of Los Angeles, for instance. The company offers round-trip flights from LA to Tokyo for only \$250. The "cheap" seats through regular agencies go for \$600 for the same

destination.

Other travel spots include Paris for \$300, London for \$250 and Mexico City for free.

What's the catch?

Most courier flights are booked out of only one airport. For example, if you wanted to go to London, you would either have to leave from New York City or Los Angeles. Very few flights leave Portland.

But you can get there from here. Added to the list of courier ticket agencies are companies that give you a car if you simply drive it to a drop-off point, like LA. These companies specialize in getting rental cars on one-way trips back to their rightful owners and are very helpful in getting you settled into one of their cars.

In most cases, all you have to do is hitch a ride to Portland to reserve a car. That's a lot easier than getting to LA by thumb.

Another problem with courier travel is that you can't take luggage. Although some of the companies listed allow one small suitcase or backpack, most limit you to just your carry-on bags.

The company replaces your luggage with a package — gener-

ally charts, maps and other business paraphernalia. That space in the luggage hold is why these companies are paying part of your ticket. Getting documents to Asia and Europe is their business, and they need you to fill the seat so they can legally get the package on board.

Beyond getting the ticket, you have no contact with the company or the package.

According to the book, all of the courier companies are bonded and subject to search, so you are not going to be carrying contraband for which officials in Istanbul might jail you. Always a good thing to know.

Another negative is that there are restrictions with some tickets, like a \$200 deposit that guarantees your return. If you don't return, neither can another package and a good chunk of a company's profits. That is also a good thing to know.

But there are enough companies listed in the book that matching one with your money and vacation time shouldn't be a problem.

Other goodies include lists of recommended youth hostels with prices, a guide for helping you book a flight with a courier com-

pany and information on travel guides and obtaining a visa.

Does this whet your travel interest?

If it doesn't, just think of your cousin again, or maybe Aunt

Thelma, the cheek pincher.

And then get your butt to the bookstore.

— Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald



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DEPECHE

Continued from Page 10

ences. Opening the tour is the British band The The, headed by Matt Johnson. Depeche Mode found the match slightly ironic. Although they had been involved in several collections with Johnson, including the *Some Bizarre* compilation back in 1980, they had never met in person. "It's really worked well, the contrast," Fletcher said of the tour. "It warms the crowd up for us."

Some Bizarre marked Depeche Mode's introduction to the music world. The band, at that stage, was headed by Vince Clark. Clark soon left and went on to form Yaz. Looking back, Fletcher reflects on how the band would have been different if Vince had remained in charge. "We wouldn't have progressed as much," he said.

Since Clark's departure, Martin Gore has taken over all creative duties for the band, writing both music and lyrics. Alan Wilder, who has become

extremely interested in the production side of music, has started his own side project called Recoil. Fletcher said, "Alan probably won't write for the band" any longer.

After the *Violator* tour, the band took its first break in 10 years. "I started a restaurant and a family," said Fletcher. "My daughter is two now. It would be too hard for her to travel. The worst part of touring is the travel."

Fletcher has also become more involved with the management side of the music industry, which he finds interesting. "We're supposed to be more artistic than other industries, but there are a lot of parallels."

As for fame, Fletcher takes it in stride. "It only really causes problems on tour. You have to shake people's hands, and you want to have a beer and to relax," he said. He is thankful that Depeche Mode is not George Michael. "We are very fortunate that when we come home from a tour, we can live fairly normal personal lives," he said.

GERMANY

Continued from Page 9

wurst and bratwurst can be purchased, and come with a choice of side dish, such as German potato salad or sauerkraut, both delicious. The wurst menu, which also temporarily doubles for a lunch menu, is served from 11 a.m. to midnight. The dinner menu is offered from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Snyder plans to expand both menus and possibly start serving breakfast.

Of course, no German meal would be complete without a stein of hearty beer, and at this restaurant, beer flows like the Rhine. Forty-eight brands of beer are offered, as well as 32 types of wine. Draft beers are served in 12, 16, 23 and steroid-sized 46-ounce mugs, and are very reasonably priced. Beer and wine are served until 1 a.m. on weeknights and 2 a.m. on the weekends. Soda and fruit drinks are available as well.

Despite the fact that there are two bars, one upstairs and one downstairs, and that the beer is served in vats, Snyder does not want people coming to get hammered.

"If you're drunk and rowdy, you're going to get kicked out,"

Snyder said.

She doesn't want her restaurant to turn into another campus meat market. You will see no dance floor, no video poker machines, no neanderthal bouncers. You will hear no "Woop, there it is!" on the stereo. Customers sit at tables and talk to each other. Snyder wants The Taste of Germany to be a place where you can bring a date, dine with your spouse, or just hang out with friends and not feel overpowered. Eating should be paramount; drinking is secondary.

Business has been excellent so far. The meal time clientele is diverse—faculty, Sacred Heart employees, professionals, families, but on weekend nights it is

clearly students who wield the power. There is a strong greek presence, but everyone should feel comfortable going in.

One cautionary note: German food is not for sissies. It is fare for the tough guy meaty, breaded and full of gravy. If you're looking for tofu wurst or dolphin-safe cabbage, look elsewhere. If you're looking for hearty food, good beer and a nice atmosphere, slip into your lederhosen and march on down to The Taste of Germany.

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