



O.W.C.E. Summer Tour
BARBADOS
2010

NEWSETTER



MARCH 2010

NUMBER 3

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TOUR CHANGES

Due to the economic climate in Barbados I regret that the Villa accommodation offered before Christmas is no longer available. We have therefore transferred all the villa bookings into the one bedroom apartments at All Seasons Europa sleeping two or three adults. Rooming arrangements can be made later. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me on either telephone numbers above. Sharing will only be offered if you have indicated that you are willing to share.



INSURANCE

One of the benefits of travelling in a large group is that travel insurance can be a lot cheaper. Barbados is classified as a long haul destination, and can attract the more expensive rates of insurance. The current price for 10-17 days cover is £58.00. We can offer the same cover but on a group policy for a lot cheaper. If you are interested then please let me know as soon as possible. You may of course already be covered by your own policy. We cannot stress too strongly the need for insurance when travelling. Barbados has no NHS and a simple visit to the doctors can cost £35 plus without any treatment. Not to mention cover for other losses, baggage, money, cancellation etc.

Special family rates are available for those travelling with children please contact me for prices.

FINAL HOLIDAY PRICE

We can now confirm that the final holiday price per. person will be £895.00 this includes return flights on Virgin Atlantic, 14 nights self catering accommodation at the All Seasons Resort Europa on the Gold Coast of the Island. Transfers too and from the resort, entrance to the Virgin Lounge at London Gatwick on the day of departure, and the services of the Virgin Holiday representatives are also included. Upgrade of flights to premium economy are available at a extra cost of £569.00 return. Seats are limited so please let me know if you wish to book.

See page two for the tour itinerary



TOUR ITINERARY

OUTWARD



Departure Date Tuesday 19th October 2010
Airport London Gatwick – South Terminal
Carrier Virgin Atlantic
Flight Number VS 029
Latest Check-in 07:00* **Departs** 10:00am



Arrives Grantly Adams Airport – Bridgetown Barbados
Arrival time 13:45 **Flight time** 7hrs 45min
Transfer time to resort 30min approx.

HOMEWARD

Departure date Tuesday 2nd November 2010
Airport Grantly Adams Airport Barbados
Carrier Virgin Atlantic
Flight Number VS 030
Latest check-in 15:00 ** **Departs** 17:50
Arrives London Gatwick – South Terminal
Time & Date 05:50 Wednesday 3rd November 2010 **Flight time** 7hrs



ALLOWANCES

Luggage allowance (hold) 1 piece weighing no more than 23 kilos (51lbs)
Cabin Hand Luggage **Final details to follow**

Allowances for those taking Cricket, Golf, or SCUBA equipment to follow

Please Remember **YOUR PASSPORT, MONEY AND DRIVING LICENCE**

* Twilight Check-in is available from 2pm on Monday 18th October and use of the Virgin Lounge on the morning of departure at London Gatwick. We will be offering one night's accommodation at a hotel at London Gatwick on Monday 18th November together with 16 nights secure parking. Further details to follow.

** Check-in in Barbados will take place at the resort during the morning on the day of departure giving you more pool time and less queuing.

Banks & Money Matters



Banks are open from 8.00am until 3.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00am until 5.00pm on Fridays. The Caribbean Commercial Bank is located in Bridgetown, Hastings, Christchurch, **Sunset Crest** (the nearest branch to our complex). and opens on Saturday mornings from 9.00am until 12.00 midday.

The Barbados National Bank at the airport is open from 8.00am until the last plane leaves or arrives 7 days a week including holidays. Any Barbadian currency you may have left can be changed there.

The Barbados dollar is directly tied to the United States dollar at a rate of US\$1=Bds\$1.98. You are advised to take US dollar travellers cheques.

All purchases made on credit cards will appear in Barbados dollars. There are some ATM machines on the Island that will give you cash 24 hours.

BE CAREFUL A lot of outlets (restaurants in particular) find it fashionable to quote prices in US dollars. Check when prices are quoted . Are they American or Barbados? You could end up paying double!

Tour Clothing



We are offering items of clothing for this year's tour

The Polo Shirt (*left*) embroidered with the tour logo will be included as part of the price of your holiday.

Enclosed with this newsletter is an questionnaire for you to complete and return asking for your size. As the shirts will be bespoke, we regret we cannot change shirt sizes once ordered.

There will be cricket clothing on sale for those playing matches. Please see the tour kit manager, **Callum Steel** for further details.



Scuba Diving



Those of you who have expressed an interest in scuba diving during our stay will be pleased to know that I have contacted West Side Scuba in Barbados who will be sending their current price list. Of course it will be cheaper if you know a little about diving before we leave. There may be an opportunity for you to try a dive. Please contact me for further details.



beautiful
BARBADOS

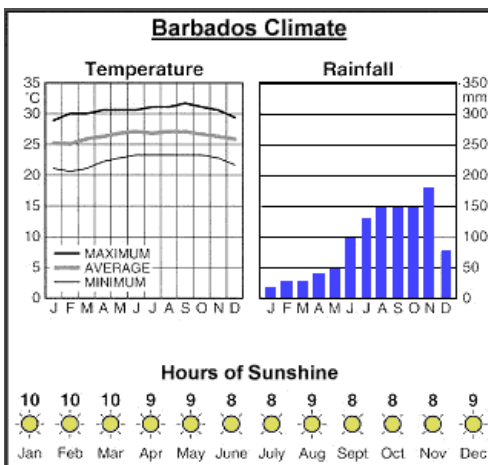




Car Hire

Arrangements are well in hand regarding car hire. Prices seem to be quite competitive and I will report back in future newsletters with prices. You are reminded that making your booking here in the UK **before** we leave is a lot cheaper than booking when you arrive. All car hire is paid for on collection of the vehicle at the resort. You pay nothing when you make the booking.

Weather



As you can see from the illustration the weather in Barbados is quite temperate.

With a maximum of eight hours of sunshine a day. Being so close to the equator sunsets are quite fast and can be spectacular. Rainfall as shown can reach 150mm in October. I can tell you it will rain over the two weeks but hopefully not too much during the day. An average temperature of 27°C is expected. Please note that too much sun too soon can and will ruin your holiday. We would advise a high factor sun screen for the first few days. Only you know how much you can sit in the sun.

Passports



I am reminding you once again to check your passport. Where is it? Is it in date? Remember it must be valid for at least 3 months after your return. Holders of non European passports may need a visa I have the relevant forms therefore if this applies to you please contact me ASAP. Visa applications can take 6 weeks to process

Dates to Remember

Saturday 24 July - Pay Yer Balance Barbie - at The Clubhouse at Hayes.

Of course you can pay your balance sooner if you wish.

Monday 11 October - from 8pm -Ticket Collection and final briefing at the Clubhouse.

Tuesday 19th October - I will leave this one up to you!!

NEXT NEWLETTER WILL BE IN MAY

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TOUR PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME , DETAILS ON PAGE 1