



## The Quench Connection, June 2011

These last months have flown by, and suddenly summer is here. With school nearly out, most of our travellers are soon off on their family adventures. The Quench team has also been busy exploring the globe, uncovering more fascinating corners of Morocco, France, Vietnam, Cambodia and the UK. If you still hope to plan a summer getaway, we have some inspiring ideas and the inside scoop on last minute availability. If you aren't leaving until the fall or winter, it's best to start planning now. **India, Morocco, or Vietnam & Cambodia** may beckon for cultural exploration, or you may want to explore **South America in its early spring season** or **Europe during harvest season**. For pure R&R, we know some idyllic patches of sand and romantic plunge pools in the **Indian Ocean, Mexico & The Caribbean**.

### Last Minute Home Away from Home

Whether you are in Ontario or the south of France, a hot summer afternoon is ideally spent lying by a pool, iced beverage by your side, reading a book to the song of the cicadas. There's no better way to fully relax on vacation than to rent a house somewhere you love along with your favourite people. Unpack once and enjoy a blissful week wherein your most difficult decision is whether to drink white or rose.

We know some **wonderful houses in France, Italy, Spain, and Greece** that would be the ultimate spots to make this your reality. A few of our favourites have just let us know about **last minute availability in July and August**. Give us a call if you would like our help to find a place that matches your style and budget.



If you are looking ahead to the fall, this September you could **spend a week exploring the stunning Languedoc region of France on a bike**. With a luxurious villa near Uzès as your home base, you will have access to challenging cycling routes (for all fitness levels), stunning scenery, and superb food and wine. This cycling tour is a unique and culturally rich experience led by skilled cyclists and guides who understand the history and culture of the area. Please call us if you would like more details about this trip.

### Things to watch for...

#### Art Trips

Different things motivate us to explore the world. If you are seeking something beyond a pure "vacation", there is the draw of **gastronomic discovery**, immersion into a certain period of **history**, exploring a **literary trail**, or **walking a pilgrimage route**. Most of us enjoy taking photos along the way, but if you have some artistic talent, you have the luxury of recording all you see with a charcoal pencil or paintbrush.

We are currently developing a series of **hands-on art-themed trips for 2012**. These trips are intended to inspire travelling artists of all skill levels. We'll send you to beautiful places in the world under the guidance of a proficient artist teacher/host. Sit and study the landscape for days, and return with some new masterpieces of your own.

#### Corporate Retreats

Looking for a novel way to take your colleagues out of the boardroom and on a **memorable corporate retreat**? We specialize in orchestrating inventive, productive getaways for small corporate groups and would be happy to discuss various options both in North America and abroad.

**For more information about our art trips and corporate retreats, please contact us by phone at 416 366 2777 or by email at [tripdesign@quenchtravel.com](mailto:tripdesign@quenchtravel.com)**

### THE GIFT OF TRAVEL

When it comes to gifts, what could be better than receiving a contribution toward your next **memorable trip**? Our **Quench Travel Registry** can be used by soon-to-be-newlyweds destined for a **romantic honeymoon**, kids who are treating their parents to a **special anniversary gift**, or longtime pals who want to send each other on an adventure to

celebrate a **landmark birthday**. Simply sign up with us and let your friends and family chip in for a trip to your dream destination.

#### QUENCH IS GROWING!

As many of you know, Mercedeh is expecting a baby in July. Until the new year she'll be in the office a little less; far from gone,

just happily distracted. In the meantime, we are thrilled to introduce **Kiloran McRae** as our newest Trip Designer. Kiloran has been a world traveller all her life, and is an accomplished trip planner and guide. She looks forward to sharing her experiences with you, and is already busy creating some **exciting art-related itineraries for 2012**.

Contact us for more information or to make a booking at 416.366.2777 or [tripdesign@quenchtravel.com](mailto:tripdesign@quenchtravel.com)  
Follow us on Twitter @ QuenchTravel and on Quench Connections @ [blog.quenchtravel.com](http://blog.quenchtravel.com)

## TRAVELLER HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past few months, Quench travellers have explored **Italy, France, Spain, the UK, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Greece, Vietnam & Cambodia, Turkey, Mexico, Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands, China, Cuba, the Caribbean, USA and Canada.** We love to hear about their highlights (and even the odd unfortunate low-light) and would like to share some favourite experiences with you.



*"Fes. Absolute magic, like time travel...I can just about see those fairy-tale flying carpets in the night sky. Every ancient alley is filled with intricate textures, colour and LIFE - no camera could capture it. I've loved everywhere else we've been in Morocco, but the Fes medina is 'other-worldly'."* - On her third trip to Morocco, E.J. was already a huge fan of Morocco. She was further enchanted by Fes.

*"As you may or may not know, this trip to Italy was top of my bucket list. Thanks to you it was, and is, my dream trip. It was wonderful - no detail too big or too small - all were attended to. To name one highlight is difficult, but listening to the orchestra play Vivaldi within the vaults of the Baroque church was pretty special. I can't thank you enough. You made my dream come true."* - G.T. from Ottawa had always hoped to take her daughter and two eldest grandchildren to Italy to indulge their shared passion for classical music. She succeeded!



*"Approaching that magnificent temple at Angkor Wat in the pre-dawn, we were blown away by the peacefulness. Only the sound of birdsong and crickets masked our footsteps on the gravel path through the dense forest and then suddenly there was the ancient tower beyond the trees. No crowds, just ourselves and our guide whispering in awe. We did not come across another person until we reached the other side; it was blissful. Going in the 'back door' was an absolutely magical treat that we will never forget. Thank you!"* - K.M. from Toronto spent several days exploring the temples near Siem Reap,

Cambodia, something she had longed to do since studying Art History in University.

*"We're here at Fundu Lagoon and it is spectacular - really, I can't say enough good things. It is beyond impressive; the fantastic cottage-suite plunge pool is a huge treat. A local guy just walked by on the beach carrying 3 giant fish (swordfish?) on a shoulder pole. Everything up until now has been amazing, but THIS is the life. If only we could stay for a month!"* - F.S. from Chelsea landed in Zanzibar after a week-long conference in Nairobi and a walking safari in Northern Kenya. She was in serious need of R&R, and this spot proved to be perfect for just that.

*"We loved the 'real' Cuba: exploring the areas immediately around that first magnificent hotel... Havana was a dream that we did not want to wake from. The route to Trinidad was filled with picture perfect images of rural life. Our drive into Topes de Collantes was an adventure in itself, winding through simply stunning countryside up to our hotel, situated in a paradise of flora and fauna. The hike and swim in the natural pools in the park were wonderful."* - M.M. from Ottawa travelled with his family to Cuba to celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary.



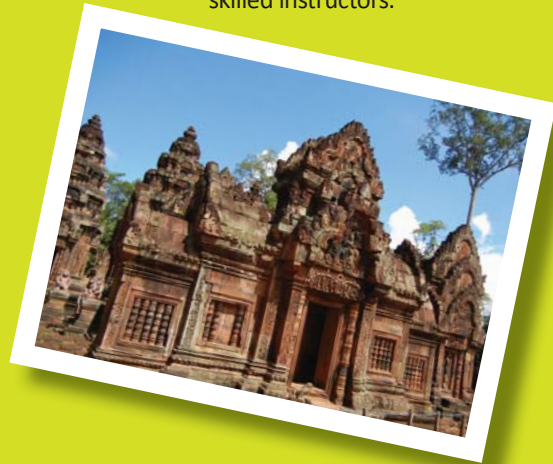
*"Our guide today was terrific. She provided an excellent mix of historic fact and whimsical human interest info, and we would never have seen everything she showed us on our own. Likely wouldn't have been brave enough to ride the tube without her either. Our tour of the East End was also fabulous. The guide is fantastic and immediately figured out exactly what we wanted to see (great galleries, holes in the wall, etc.) The REAL London. Thank you!"* - M.H. from Toronto experienced "the real London" during a March Break visit with his family.

## VALUED ADVENTURES

### See more, pay less ...

Many Canadians are keen to travel abroad in summer, but when the weather is so beautiful it's also nice to stay put and take in some of our own home-grown splendours.

We're fans of hiking in the **Rockies**, Whale Watching on the **St. Lawrence River** and boogie-boarding on **Long Beach**. One of our favourite itineraries also involves a little creativity: **Painting & Print-making on Trinity Bay, NL**. For a week, walk some of **Newfoundland's** most breathtaking coastal trails, see whales and icebergs, and enjoy a drink or two in lively pubs frequented by local fisherman. All the while you'll discover your own artistic talent in highly personalized art classes led by skilled instructors.



**Off-Season travel brings many rewards**, not the least of which are fewer crowds and lower prices.

Looking ahead to autumn trip ideas, we've got access to some amazing deals for two 3-night cruises departing in September around Cape Horn. Set sail from **Ushuaia, Argentina** or **Punta Arenas, Chile** to explore the staggering wilderness of Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn.

In **Vietnam**, autumn is a quieter time to visit. From the surreal seascape of **Halong Bay** to the ancient Royal tombs at **Hue** and the hum of **Mekong Delta**, the moderate climate and reasonable rates make September an ideal month to enjoy beautiful hotels, incredible cuisine, and magnificently lush terrain. Pair this with a few days in **Cambodia**, whose untouched landscape is home to some of the world's most staggering temples in and near **Angkor Wat**, and you'll have the perfect cultural experience. The rich history and warm welcome in both countries will leave you wanting more.

**Contact us** if you would like more details about these and other trip ideas.