

## Feeling a little snow-squirrely?

# Pack the tanning oil—it's time to go to the sun

When up to your armpits in snow, think spring. Plan to take a trip on a cruise boat in a warmer climate, or motoring down a highway winding its way through green spring grass.

Use those cold winter nights to read books and magazines about the places you want to visit. Take time now to write for the information you need to read before you go.

By IRIS SANDERSON JONES

In Chicago they're calling it cabin fever, a craziness that strikes people who have been cooped up far too long because of the weather. But there is a cure and all it takes is time spent pouring over travel literature in preparation for a trip away from it all.

We started thinking spring several months ago, when we started to write away for cruise information. Here are some cruise vacations to dream about during the next winter storm. A few can be taken on the spur of the moment, although many should be planned months in advance.

**SUN LINE CRUISES** offers a yacht-like itinerary on the small ship *Stella Oceanis*, which includes a 14-day voyage from the Leeward Islands to the Orinoco River, starting from San Juan on Feb. 2, 16 and March 2.

The 6,000-ton ship calls at St. Barthelemy, St. John, St. Lucia, Barbados, Tobago, Orinoco River, Ciudad Guayana, Trinidad, Grenada, Carriacou, Union and Pal Islands, Bequia in the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Antigua, St. Thomas and San Juan.

A highlight of the trip is the 180-mile navigation on the Orinoco River and an air voyage over Angel's Falls, the world's highest waterfall, to the jungle resort of Canaima.

A geographer-naturalist from Rand McNally sails on this cruise to conduct lectures about the destinations.

**ANOTHER SUN LINE** ship, the *Stella Solaris*, will do a 12-day cruise through the Panama Canal, with stops at La Guaira, Venezuela, Curacao, starting Feb. 9. One-week cruises leave Jamaica for Grand Cayman and Playa del Carmen, Mexico, Feb. 2 and March 9.

An 11-day cruise leaves Galveston, Tex., Feb. 25 for Jamaica, Columbia, Panama and the Cayman Islands.

**COSTA LINE** has several three- or four-day cruises which can be done on the spur of the moment from Miami, and a week-long trip to Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas that can be taken with a little advance planning.

Fly/cruise packages are available from Detroit and 100 other gateway cities. Free air fare from Midwest cities is available for some cruises.

Destinations include a variety of Caribbean islands as well as South America, the Panama Canal, Mexico, and the Mediterranean, where Costa ranges in every direction from the Italian coast to Greece.

**ROYAL CARIBBEAN** cruise lines, which runs the *Song of Norway*, the Sun

Viking and the *Nordic Prince*, is so busy ferrying snowbound travelers to the Caribbean that they are literally cutting their ships in half and lengthening them.

The *Song of Norway* has already had a new midsection added and the *Nordic Prince* is next.

Royal Caribbean averaged "100 per cent occupancy," in 1978 according to company president Kristian Pabst. It can't build ships fast enough to meet the market demand.

**SITMAR CRUISES**, headquartered in Los Angeles, has a different smorgasbord of cruises available on fly/cruise packages from Detroit. They do Caribbean cruises, but they also have cruises to what is called the Mexican Riviera (Puerto Vallarta, Cabo San Lucas and the tip of Baja, Calif.) as well as the Panama Canal and the Inside Passage to Alaska.

The 14-day Alaskan cruise takes you from San Francisco to Vancouver Island and Vancouver, and up the narrow, mountain-lined shores of British Columbia to the Yukon and Alaska.

It may be too late for you to climb out of your snowbank and onto a cruise ship this winter, but this is a good time of year to plan a summer cruise or to plan to get away from it all when other people are throwing snowballs next winter.



A good way to beat cabin fever is to picture yourself soaking up Sol's rays on the deck of a cruise ship resting at anchor in the Caribbean or off the coasts of Florida or Southern California. Ahhhhhh.



## Wildlife abundant

Contrary to popular belief, not all of Florida's wildlife is to be found in Daytona, Ft. Lauderdale or Key West.

The Dark Continent, Busch Gardens features a population of 1,000 free-roaming African animals on the Serengeti Plain, elephant rides, Moroccan shopping bazaar, trained animal shows, African Queen boat cruises, games area, a tour of the Anheuser-Busch brewery, bird gardens and a trained bird show, Bengal tiger exhibit, and plenty of places to eat.

The park, open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., with hours to 8 p.m. in the summer, is eight miles northeast of downtown Tampa at 3000 Busch Boulevard.



## If you're not heading south...

According to the Michigan Travel Commission, there's a lot more to winter than shovelling it out of your driveway.

February holds the following events to get you out and about:

**PERCIVILLE U.S.A.**—On Tawas Bay at Tawas/East Tawas. Ice fishing contests, ice sculpting, helicopter rides, parade, demolition derby, pie eating and pie throwing contests, games and prizes. Also a polar bear swim in the waters of the bay for the daring or daft. Feb. 2-4.

**RAW BEESE LAKE**—Tip-Up Festival at Hillsdale. Fishing contests with trophies and prizes for the winners. Feb. 3-4.

**MICH. TECH. WINTER CARNIVAL**—Ice sculpting, skiing, snowshoeing, broom ball and sled dog races, with people taking the canines' roles. Feb. 5-11 at Houghton.

**CHAIN OF LAKES TIP-UP**—Ice fishing, parade, log sawing contests, snowmobile races, dancing at the Fisherman's Ball. Tip Up Island, Marble Lake, at Quincy. Feb. 10-11.

**SNOWMOBILING**—The I-500, last and biggest of the triple crown of snowmobiling races, at Sault Ste. Marie, Feb. 10. Poker Rally at Grand Marais, Feb. 3. Snowmobile Ride-In, Iron River, Feb. 17. Gladwin 150, OMB Track, Gladwin, Feb. 25.

**CROSS-COUNTRY**—White Pine Stampede, across four counties through northwest Michigan forestlands, for Michigan's longest cross-country ski event. Starts at 10 a.m. Feb. 3 from Twin Peaks, near Frederic, 50 kilometers to Mt. Manelona in Manelona. Shorter, 20-kilometer race ends at Cameron Bridge on the Manistee River at the

Crawford-Kalkaska County line. For registration information and entry blanks call 1-616-587-8531, or write White Pine Stampede, P.O. Box 428, Manelona 49859. Deadline for entries is Jan. 29, so it would be wise to call today.

**DOWNHILLING**—USSA CD Region Four Junior Alpine championships, Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville, Feb. 9-11, and the MCSA Eastern Regional Championships, same place, Feb. 24-25; Women's AIAW Midwest Championships, Ski Brule, Iron River, Feb. 17; Central Division Championships-Mid-American series finale, Indianhead near Wakefield, Feb. 27-28.

**HIT THE ROAD**—RV Show, Western Mall, Kalamazoo, Feb. 5-10; Detroit Camper Show, Artillery Armory, Oak Park, Feb. 16-25; Camper and Travel Trailer Show, IMA Sports Arena, Flint, Feb. 20-25.

## TRAVEL LOG of Iris Jones



## Materials for the asking

Millions of dollars worth of travel material is published yearly by a travel industry eager to send it—if they know you're interested.

If you are planning a trip anywhere in the United States or in the world this year, collect some of that expensive information in advance by exploring a few available sources.

Most of the countries have tourist information offices in the United States, and most of these are in New York City. Some have branches in Chicago.

The Canadian Government Office of Tourism will give you information about any part of Canada from its offices at 1900 First Federal Building, 1001 W. Lafayette, Detroit 48226. Or you can call them at 963-8686.

If you want to know the address of any other foreign travel bureau, call or visit your library and check out "Pan Am's World Guide," published by McGraw Hill. It sells for \$7.95 in the bookstores.

The domestic version of that book, "Pan Am's USA Guide," (McGraw Hill, \$5.95) will give you the address of state tourist bureaus.

The history and travel department of the Detroit Public Library will gladly give you information over the phone, if all you want is an address or other basic information. If you want average temperatures, places to visit, accommodations and restaurants, visit the library yourself.

If you are in a hurry for the information, you can usually telephone a state or national tourist bureau long-distance. A few have a toll-free number, which you can obtain by dialing 1-800-555-1212, the information operation for toll free numbers.

**ASK FOR SPECIFIC** information. You will want general information about tourist sites and facilities, but also remember to ask for any available lists of festivals and celebrations as well as information about transportation, if that is applicable.

If you write to Great Britain, for example, secure information on the British rail system and on the historic inns of that country.

Travelers going to Michigan destinations can pick up the phone and dial this toll-free number, which will get you the travel bureau of the state Department of Commerce in Lansing: 1-800-292-2520.

The rule for the flexible travelers: get enough information on what is available at your travel destination and then plan it by ear when you get there.

**IN THE MEANTIME**, take a tip from Donna Wesley of Farmington Hills, whose job doesn't allow her time for full vacations. Ms. Wesley vacations practically every Sunday somewhere near the Detroit area.

Last week, she went to Frankensmouth with her daughter, Helen, her son, John, and her sister, Penny Sills of Detroit.

They slid down the street like a bunch of kids to play pinball machines at the penny arcade. They bought January sale Christmas decorations from Bonners.

"We got home about 7 p.m., tired and ready for bed, just like you do after any vacation on the road," she said.

Next week they are planning a toboggan trip to Kensington Park.

## Whoop it up in lone-star state

It's already spring in south Texas, where northerners are beginning to go as an escape from winter.

A growing number of hotels and tourist facilities, as well as winter condominiums, are being built in the Corpus Christi area and on nearby Padre Island.

One of the highlights of a southern Texas vacation is the regular boat trip into the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, which is launched 75 miles north of Corpus Christi.

South Texas weather is unreliable, so there is no guarantee that you will actually see any whooping cranes, which are observed and counted here carefully every fall when they arrive and every spring when they leave for summer regions north.

The Whooping Crane, a small four boat, sails out through seagulls and markers, past the LBJ Causeway to the low, marsh-like islands where the whooping cranes nest for the winter.

The tour boat captain keeps up a running commentary as you go. "That's a Coughbird Christ cormorant ahead of the left." "Those are crab traps off to the

right, where they pull in 20 to 30 crabs per trap every day."

A multi-level trail of seagulls flies at eye level behind the boat, their black feet tucked up neatly beneath their white tails.

When you reach the grass-and-scrub-covered sand islands of the Aransas

National Wildlife Refuge, the captain's voice directs your eye to the famous cranes, which blend so well into the landscape the birds would not easily be seen by the inexperienced.

The birds leave the refuge in April for Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada.



The Whooping Crane will take you to where the birds play. (Photo by Micky Jones)