

Old Country presents new playbill of shows

The Old Country, Busch Gardens' showcase of European euphoria near Williamsburg, Va., will offer a playbill of new shows for 1977.

The family fun center has operated for two seasons.

"Once Upon A Dragon" is marionette maestro Bill Baird's final strings-attached medieval melodrama complete with maidens in distress, denture-wearing dragons and a David-

and-Goliath-like duel between a poor court jester and a mighty but evil baron.

It's the first-ever production for a theme park by Baird, bard of Broadway, network television and distant continents.

"La Music Hall," an original but family-sized Parisian revue, features no less than six major scene changes—all in a space of 25 minutes.

The show will present young talents performing "cancan" numbers and adaptations of many recent Broadway triumphs such as "Chicago" and "Pippin."

ALTERNATING with "La Music Hall," in the French Three Musketeers Theatre in the French section of the park will be magician Mark Wilson's production of "Mystical Adventure." This is a "now-you-see-it... now-you-don't" exhibition of imagery and illusion in the Wilson style.

Offsetting these and other spectator-oriented productions, Busch Gardens has imported "Oktoberfest," a straight-from-Old-Munich area with thrill rides, games of chance, and "Das Festhaus," the most enormous German festival hall in this hemisphere.

Celebrating its first full season of operation, Oktoberfest is a multi-million dollar expansion of the German hamlet which so captivated Old

Country first-timers in 1975 and the first half of 1976.

Baird's marionettes will hold forth in the Reynolds Aluminum Theatre in Hastings, a sort of suburb of the park's Elizabethan English section. His "Once Upon A Dragon" will star 50 original puppet characters.

Baird has temporarily abandoned his own Greenwich Village puppet theater to create The Old Country production. At 72, he is the world's foremost living puppeteer. In addition to countless TV guest appearances and four series he produced for CBS-TV, Baird created numerous simulations to enhance network coverage of Gemini and Apollo space shots.

"Ghosts of the Globe," a modern mix of Shakespeare magic and merriment as Shakespeare might have presented it, given electricity, will return as regular fare in a twice-sized replica of the Globe Theatre in Elizabethan England.



Young masters of illusion in production "Mystical Adventure" perform regularly in open-air Three Musketeers Theatre.

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Travel's future still looks bright

I have heard and read quite pessimistic comments in connection with the administration's energy program and, frankly, I can't see the future of travel that dark.

No question about it. The cost of travel will go up as the airlines have to pay more for jet fuel. Adding to the cost will be the general trend of rising prices for all materials, commodities and labor.

But this will continue to be a general phenomenon. The same way the rising cost of operating a big car will not deter everyone from buying and using them, people will continue to travel.

Travel has become a way of life for an ever-increasing strata of the North American population. Unless there is a real crisis, this trend is irreversible.

IF WE TAKE a close look at the cost of travel, compared to the cost of a car or a home, we realize that while other costs are climbing the cost of travel has actually gone down.

I don't deny that a hotel room in most European countries has gone up, that a meal in Paris can cost you an arm and a leg, but there are still ways to have a relatively inexpensive vacation. The main thing is the cost of air travel has actually declined since the introduction of the new charter regulations.

The secret of inexpensive travel is: Plan ahead. Don't miss the deadlines (which vary considerably from one kind of charter to another) for booking on a charter in, or close to, your destination.



By
PETER GERAN

Write ahead to the boardinghouses, paradores or hotels of your choice. If you plan to drive, map out your itinerary in the most economical way, avoiding backtracking or unnecessary detours.

Buy yourself local currency through a legitimate institution (bank or money-exchange company), to be independent from currency fluctuations or scalpers who will cheat you on the exchange rate.

IF YOU REALLY need some things that are produced cheaper abroad, get all the information in time. Shop around, look for duty-free shops and you may get the goods at considerably lower prices than at home.

Obviously, the best bargain is no bargain if you don't need as many items as you are tempted to buy because of the low cost.

This is probably the key to savings in general: Limit yourself to your real needs, be it with purchases of goods or services.

Take a break, America. Take off for Canada.

Pick a package or come your own way, by road, rail or air. Take off for a few days, a week or more if you can. It'll do you a world of good, America. Any travel agent in town can arrange it for you.

Baffin Island Summer Adventure.

9 days under the midnight sun: **\$1,285***
Consolidated Tours can jet you to Montréal via Air Canada to connect with a Nordair flight to Baffin Island, high above the Arctic Circle. In winter, it's a frozen wilderness; in summer, a glorious panorama of flower-filled meadows, magnificent fjords and glacier-fed bays. You'll visit Eskimo settlements at Pangnirtung and Frobisher Bay, cruise the waters of Pangnirtung Fjord and Cumberland Sound, tour ancient Thule sites, join in Arctic Games, enjoy a night-time cookout in broad daylight, photograph shy Arctic wildlife and some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Price includes return air fare from Montréal, accommodations in comfortable hotels and lodges, all meals, boat cruises and the services of an experienced guide. Arctic Char fishing packages and Arctic camping trips can also be arranged.

Atlantic Canada Motorhome Holidays. 7 days from:

\$343.80* **\$312.20***
(Air fare extra)

Outdoor Sportsman Tours can jet you to Montréal to connect with an Eastern Provincial flight to Halifax, Nova Scotia, for a go-as-you-please vacation in the Atlantic Provinces. Take a day to see the great port city, then pick up your choice of Motorhome or camper and take off to explore picture-postcard Atlantic Provinces. Maybe you'll drive to Peggy's Cove, a delight for painters and photographers with its colourful wooden houses, weathered wharves and fishing boats bobbing on the sunlit water. You could roam the scenic splendour of the Cabot

Trail in the glorious Cape Breton Highlands... and see the superbly restored Fortress of Louisbourg, which may be the historic showpiece of the whole continent. Maybe you'll decide to drive to New Brunswick to follow the Acadian trail through picturesque fishing villages where the descendants of Canada's first French settlers still live. Or you could take the ferry to tiny Prince Edward Island and visit the famous pink sandy beaches of P.E.I. National Park. Packages (available for 7 to 21 days) include Halifax hotel plus vehicle equipped with cooking, eating and cleaning utensils, propane fuel, basic insurance. Not included: security deposit, mileage charges, campground fees.



Climb aboard a horse-drawn calèche in Montréal and ask the friendly driver to show you the sights.

3-day Toronto package:

\$121.76*

Today Tours can jet you via North Central Airlines from Detroit to Toronto, arrange accommodations for you in a fine downtown hotel, include continental breakfasts and a familiarization tour of the city... and leave you to have a ball. See the new 1,805-foot CN Tower (tallest free-standing structure in the world), and Ontario Place, an indoor-outdoor entertainment complex built on 90 acres of platforms and man-made islands over Lake Ontario. Stroll the crowded sidewalks of Kensington Market (where you'll hear more foreign languages than you'll recognize) and shop in the chic boutiques of Yorkville and Markham Street Village. Visit Old Fort York and Casa Loma, a fairytale castle complete with secret passages; see the fine museums, the planetarium, the art galleries and the fantastic Science Centre, where more than 500 fascinating exhibits invite you to push, pull, guess and compete. Check the theatres (where you can sometimes catch Broadway shows before they get to Broadway) and take your pick of dozens of great restaurants, pubs, clubs and rooftop cocktail lounges. Package includes hotel, continental breakfasts, sightseeing and taxes.

Montréal French Connection.

3-days: **\$124***

Nordair can jet you to Montréal, arrange accommodations for you in a fine downtown hotel, show you the city... and leave you to have a ball. Montréal is big (only

Paris has a bigger French-speaking population and sophisticated. You can stroll miles of underground shopping galleries, sip an apéritif in a sidewalk café, ride a horse-drawn calèche over Mount Royal and take your pick of more than 5,000 restaurants. Explore the narrow streets and cobbled squares of the Old City, visit the magnificent church of Notre Dame de Bonsecours (which dates from 1772), see the fabulous Olympic Stadium and take the world's most beautiful subway to Ile Sainte-Hélène to see the permanent Man and His World exhibition. After dark, you can choose between elegant supper clubs with high-kicking can-can revues and an evening of folk songs at a friendly *boite à chanson*: between symphony concerts, drama and ballet at the fabulous Place des Arts and dozens of bistros, taverns and sky-top cocktail lounges. Montréal isn't the kind of city that encourages visitors to go to bed early with a glass of warm milk! Package includes hotel, transfers and sightseeing tour.



Montréal, like Paris, is a city of sidewalk cafés.

*Prices quoted are per person, double occupancy rate, and are subject to change. Check with any travel agent. The tours and packages offered above are operated, sold by independent travel wholesalers and operators, who are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information. The Canadian Government Office of Tourism does not assume any responsibility for inaccuracies, changes or omissions.

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Get out of town: See Toronto from the new CN Tower, 1/2 of a mile above the city.