

# Travel



## Travel for "swinging singles."

Single travellers have not always been treated kindly by the travel industry. An industry which refuses to believe that people in fact do travel alone! Single supplements, sometimes substantial, have been the order of the day.

Times are changing however and there are more opportunities than ever today for singles who want to enjoy travelling throughout the world without a premium.

In the past decade one company has made it not only enjoyable, but almost preferable to travel as a single. Club Med, where informality reigns!

According to one travel agent "Club Med is the all-

time favorite for singles, both male and female. A very popular concept. The price is fixed for the entire package including all meals, wine and sports! I've never had a complaint from one of my clients."

Club Med makes sure no one pays a single supplement. Roommates are arranged for single travellers and the dining policy makes it dead easy for even shy people to meet others!

"I'm not outgoing," said a young receptionist who recently returned from a Club Med holiday, "but I found it easy to meet people. With so many things to do it's difficult to keep to yourself at a breakfast or dinner that includes seven other people at the table."

Club Med has brought a number of imitators through its success. Negril Beach Village in Jamaica has been successfully promoting itself as a less expensive Club Med and by using a Hedonism theme. SkyLark Holidays have Shazam packages which are also geared for singles.

World Wide Villa Vacations, based in Toronto, is planning villa holidays for singles in Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia and the Bahamas.

For singles on a budget travelling to Britain or Europe, the Advance Booking Charters or Charter Class Fares on scheduled flights cost about half the regular economy. Both fares must be booked up to two months in advance (the charter booking period was recently reduced from 60 to 45 days) and the "Charter Class Fares" have a 22-day minimum and 45-day maximum stay in summer.

Once in Britain the "single" can save money by staying in private homes for as little as \$8 per night including full English breakfast.

Young travellers who don't mind sharing accommodation with large numbers can buy a membership in the Canadian Youth Hostels Association, which has offices throughout Canada. Membership allows visitors to stay in hostels worldwide including some 3,500 in Europe where the price averages between \$1 and \$2 a night. Another ideal inexpensive place to meet others.

Cruises have the reputation of being great places to meet people but in the past this was usually over-rated.

Women outnumbered men by a considerable number and most of the passengers were middle-aged or older.

Recently, more shorter and less expensive cruises have come on the market; the one-week Caribbean and Alaska cruises are drawing a much younger crowd.

Finally for those who really want to get away from it all and get to know people by travelling in a small group, there are the overland tours. Goway Travel Advisors, Penn Overland and other companies offer

long journeys such as the 72-day London to Katmandu overland expedition or a 12-week trip by Land Rover across the Sahara Desert to East Africa.

Passengers travel in small groups, sleep in tents and contribute to a food kitty.

Wherever it is in a Club Med disco, a private home in Florence or a tent in Nepal - today's single traveller should have no problems finding a great holiday and hopefully enjoyable memories which will last a lifetime.

### Old world accommodation

If you're planning a honeymoon, first or second, then you'll love the old-world atmosphere and the gracious warmth offered by the management and staff at the world-famous Ritz Hotel in London.

Inconvenient? Old-fashioned? Yes, indeed! - that is if you want elevators that whizz upward at an alarming speed, if you demand your breakfast fast and simple, if you worry about having enough air-conditioning and are looking for the latest in stark, modern pre-fab furniture. In that case, skip the Ritz, it's not for you.

## Campsites available in Ontario this summer

**FIND A PLACE TO PITCH A TENT** in Ontario is like a kid pinning a tail to the donkey without a blindfold. It's so easy once you consider that its 16,000 square miles of provincial parks - and there are now 122 of them dotting the Ontario map.

If you can visualize 1-1/2 million people under canvas, that's how many campers enjoy the province's parks every year.

Most famous of all the provincial preserves, Algonquin is 2,910 square miles of glorious wilderness, just 140 miles north of Toronto which increases its popularity even more. One great network of rivers and lakes, this immense game sanctuary is well stocked with fish and renowned for its excellent canoe routes.



**YOU MIGHT CONSIDER QUETICO**, in the north-west, which is superb canoe country on an historic waterway - 1,750 square miles of wilderness extending along the international boundary between Ontario and Minnesota.

Another big one, Lake Superior Provincial Park stretches along Superior's east shore, a 526-square-mile chain of inviting camping parks and picnic sites set in wooded country with hills rising hundreds of feet and fringed by the world's largest lake.

Biggest of all, about 250 miles north of Moosonee on the western shoreline of James and Hudson Bay lies Polar Bear with 7,000 square miles of incredible wilderness and established in 1968 as Ontario's first "primitive"

park to preserve its natural phenomena. Its wildlife inhabitants include the polar bear, black bear, reindeer and moose, and it's the nesting site of hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese.

Only problem with Polar Bear, though, is that its only access is by float plane and would be pretty expensive. Better that this be left to the hardy adventurer or groups of same.



**TO REALLY GET AWAY FROM IT ALL**, you could try one of a number of recently developed campground parks where you'll always be assured of site. Some of the newcomers are Charleston Lake, Restoule, Esker Lakes, Iroquois Beach, Marten River, Kettle Lakes, MacGregor Point, Nagagamiasis and Silent Lake.

**TO AID THE CAMPING BRIGADE** is an excellent guide book titled Ontario/Canada camping which tells you where to go and how to get there. It lists the names of canoeing outfitters and where to go backpacking and hiking. Also essential for a successful camping expedition is a folder called Ontario Provincial Parks.

Both these pieces plus other information, including of course a highway map, can be obtained from Communications, Industry and Tourism, 900 Bay St., Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E2.

## Swedish castles can be fun

**Sleep in a historic castle** ... Meet a real baron ... Dine in an elegant manor house ... If that appeals to you, Sweden has much to offer with hundreds of ancient castles and stately manor houses, many now open to tourists. Though some may be long on history and short on bath rooms, a few even offer room and board.

With over 200 castles dotting the countryside, the province of Skane is called "the chateau country". One of the oldest is Bosjokloster, founded 1080. Young and friendly Count Thord Bonde has now opened his castle to tourists and added a museum, as well as a modest restaurant. Another castle is Backaskog, going back to 1250. For years it was the residence for Danish and Swedish royalty. Now it is a museum and art gallery with a popular restaurant serving specialties of the region.

Värmland is Sweden's folklore district. Two historic and legendary manor

houses there now accept guests. Lansmangården is featured in the famous novel "Gosta Berling's Saga" by the Swedish Nobel Prize winner Selma Lagerlof. It is now a delightful hotel with beautiful gardens and a private beach. Hemmekammar may not be easy to pronounce but its charm is easy to take. In the winter there are cross-country ski trails through the beautiful countryside as well as down hill facilities nearby.

Hook Manor dates back to 1778. It is now a modern hotel, but it still reflects the elegance and charm of a bygone era. Located on a lake, it offers boating and fishing in addition to sports such as golf, tennis, badminton and skiing. Or for the less athletically inclined, croquet or baccia. It is located halfway between Stockholm and Malmö, ideal for the motorist.

Skokloster Castle was built around 1650. It now houses one of Europe's largest

art collections. The art, especially the tapestry, is also justly famous. The old stables now house a fine restaurant serving traditional Swedish food. Nearby, Baron von Essen has built a comfortable hotel. There is also a unique exhibit of antique cars and motorcycles.

In and around Stockholm are nine so-called "Royal Palaces" owned by the State and open to the public. One of the most interesting and impressive is Gripsholm Castle, built in the 1530's on an island in Lake Mälaren. It is now a museum with over 2,800 paintings depicting Sweden's history. The Gripsholm Inn serves an excellent smorgasbord. It is the oldest in Sweden, built in 1623. The Drottningholm Palace is a magnificent 17th century building surrounded by a beautiful garden and park. The Drottningholm Court Theatre is now a museum with opera performances and ballet in the original settings during the summer.

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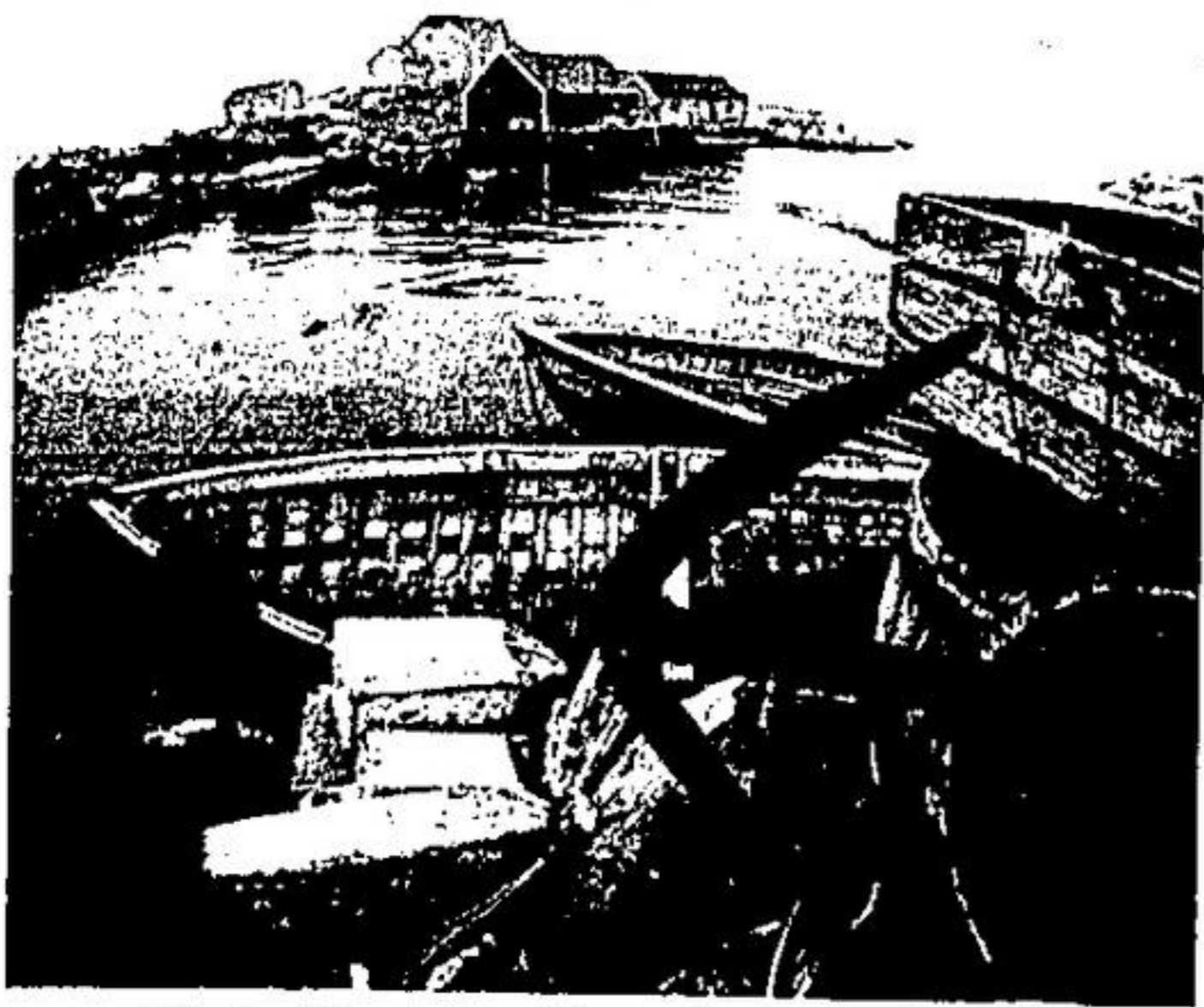
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