

**TRAVEL**

# Good buys for 1980

By THELMA DICKMAN  
Planning a holiday in 1980?

Good. Everyone knows that travel is fun, broadening, necessary for your physical health and terrific for your mental stability. Those color brochures of Grenada's beaches and blooming nutmeg trees make for soothing reading, particularly when snow is piling up on window sills outside.

But travellers should be aware of two inescapable economic factors that must be figured in to any price tag they can hang on their 80s holidays — travel costs will increase inexorably with each price increase of fuel, and surcharges are now a fact of life on all charter class travel. Whatever it costs you to get there today it will cost you more tomorrow.

Having said that, there still remain some good buys for 1980 travel to keep the sparkle in your eye when you talk holiday.

British Airways has brought back the appealing combination of hotel with full English breakfast on their "Britain Mini Stay" program — breakfast and three course dinners are included with accommodation at fourteen hotels in some of the most attractive parts of the country.

Prices start at \$34 a night each, double occupancy. They also offer London Mini Stays, six nights accommodation and English breakfast, double occupancy starting from \$139 each.

Or how about "London on a Shoestring" — six nights, continental breakfast, seven days of trips on London transport, sight-seeing, one dinner, Countdown discount shopping card and reduced-rate car rental, for \$112 each. It costs me more than that to live in Toronto for a week.

These packages are all in conjunction with BA charter class advance booking flights from Toronto. An airline executive claims we'll never see prices this low again and, even at that, March 31 is the last day they're available.

Canadian Pacific Airlines' best Canadian bet is Skybus. There are two flights a week Toronto-Vancouver at \$101 one way, compared with the regular fare of \$217 (with other times and costs to Winnipeg, Montreal, Calgary and Edmonton).

It's a no-frills service — you tag your own luggage, take seats on a first-aid basis, and

although there's a bar service, there are no magazines, movies or meals. If you can save that much money on a four-hour flight, who cares?

In May, CP Air will begin landing in eight Great Britain locations, including London, on their advance booking charters. Alphabetically, it's Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, London, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle, and Prestwick.

Fares start at \$199 and are a combination of two one way fares, which allows passengers to take advantage of the open jaw concept. Open jaw permits returns from any CP Air holiday UK destination — you could enter Manchester and leave from Cardiff — or even return from Frankfurt.

Air Canada's ski trips are a seasonal best buy, combining charter class fares with ground accommodation in Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Whistler Mountain in B.C. All the packages are for eight days and seven nights, with a full six days of skiing, and all with different fares. Your travel agent can help; but they all include transportation from the airport to hotel and return, transfers between hotel and lift, as well as ski lift tickets.

For cross-country ski enthusiasts, you'll get a welcome cocktail party, maps of cross-country tours with a guide. Take your own equipment or rent it there.

If you prefer a French connection, ski the Laurentians with Air Canada — stay in Quebec City, if you like cocktail lounges, intimate bars and good local restaurants; or hang out in the Laurentians, the largest ski area on the continent and site of its first ski tow.

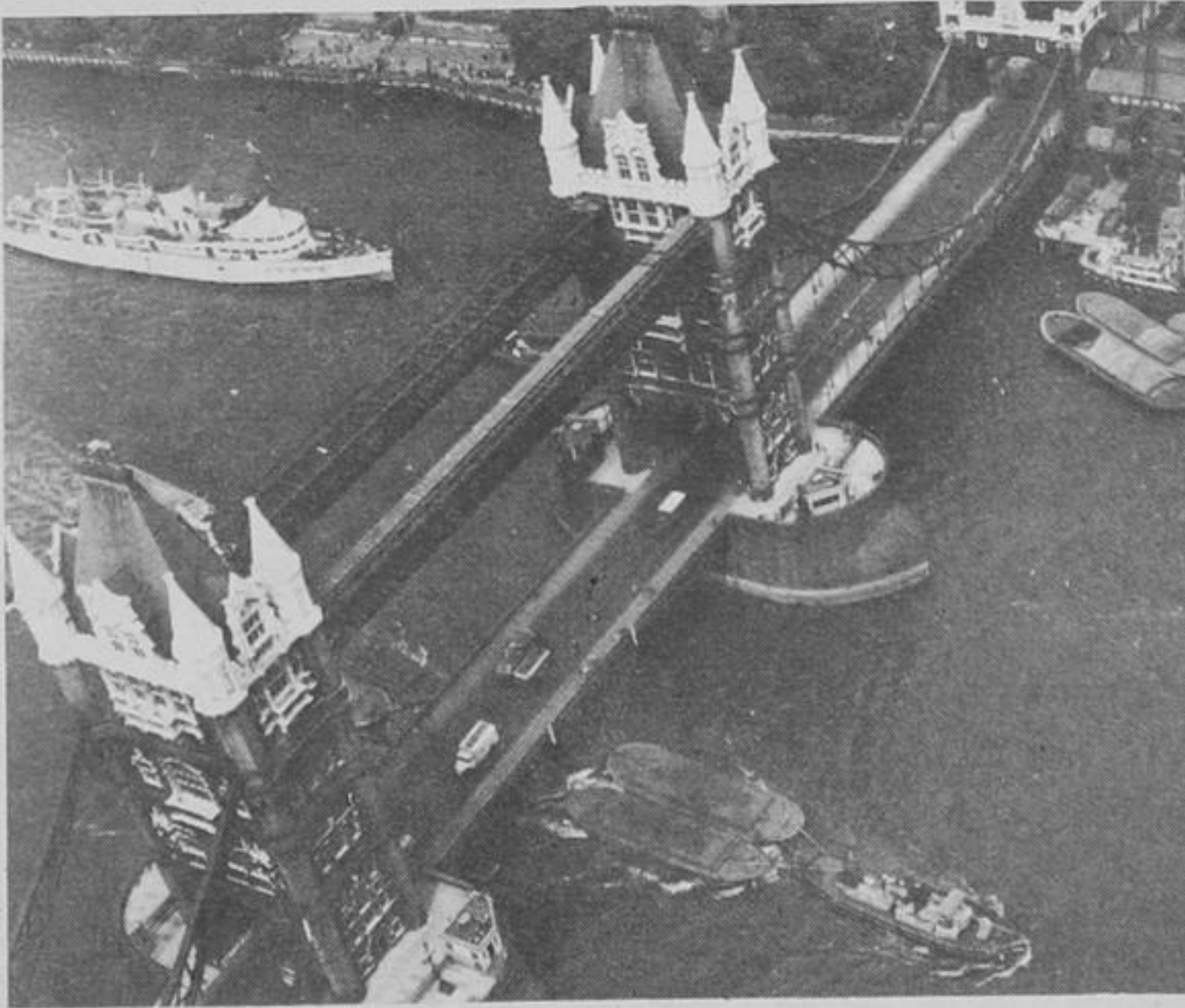
No best buy roundup would be complete without the mention of World Wide Villa Vacations, which in Canada has 15 participating hotels in the network.

Last September I stayed in Vancouver's Blue Horizon, which matched everything offered by a good chain hotel a block away — harbor view from the private balcony, rooftop dining lounge, swimming pool — and also threw in an equipped kitchen and dinette. It still costs less than the other hotel. You can book many of the apartments on a daily basis, although some need a week's minimum. They can be booked through Air Canada on a

package basis independently through World Wide Villa Vacations, 175 Bloor St. East, Toronto, or a travel agent.

During the 80s the airline industry is predicting more wide bodied jets, with more seats, fewer services, and continuing airport congestion, there is talk about double decker 747s with 600-800 seats; and many believe that hydrogen-powered aircraft, already on the drawing board, must be made workable soon, or mass pleasure travel will cease to exist.

If you don't take your holiday while you can, you might find that you'll be here ... and here tomorrow.



The Tower Bridge is a crossroads to sea or city on London's River Thames. London can be a bargain holiday on British Airways' "Mini-Stay" program.

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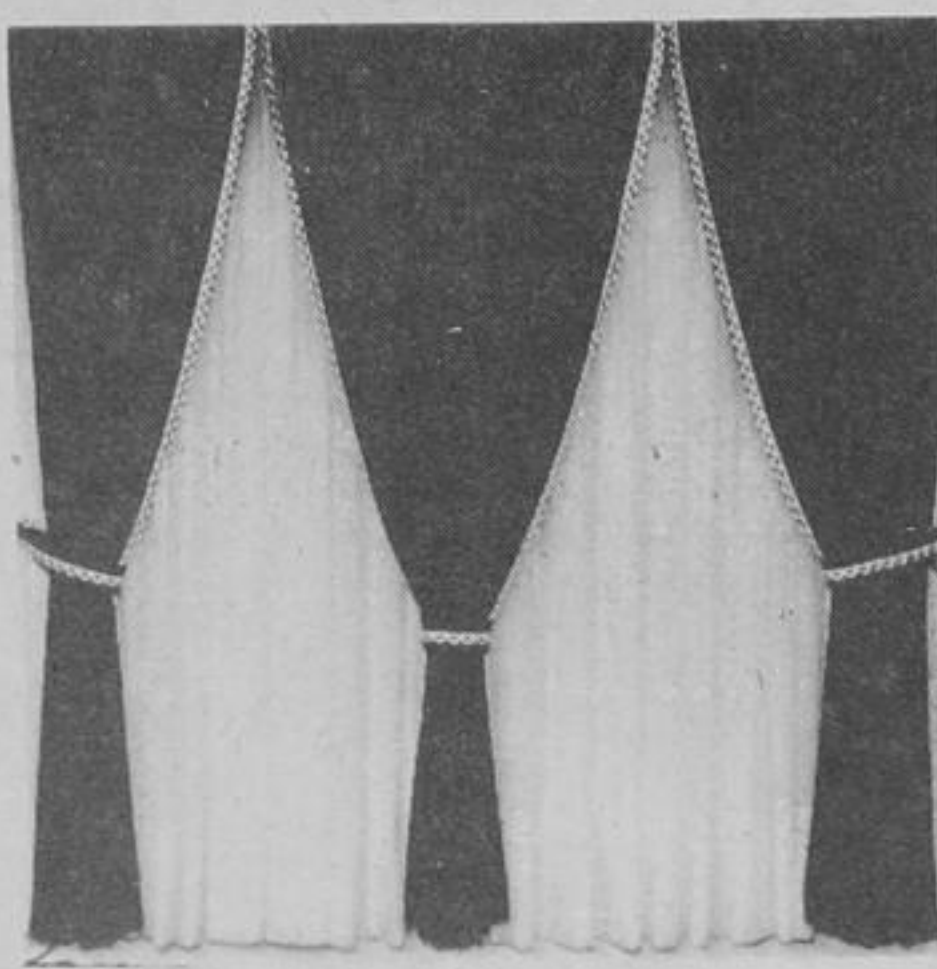
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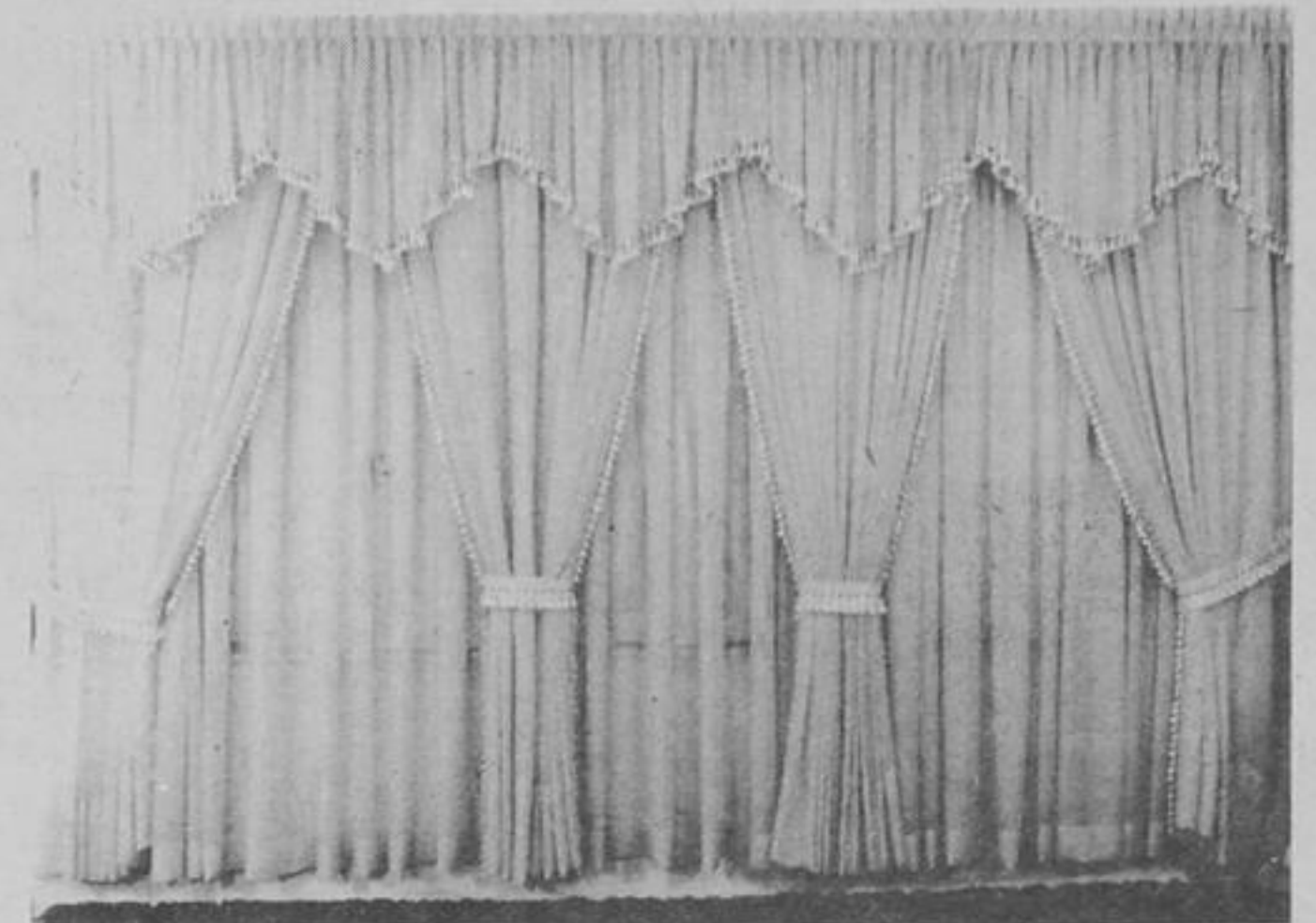


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