

Vacation Destinations

Travel agents streamline planning

Making your own travel arrangements can be a daunting task. Booking a 2 a.m. flight, finding a hotel room at the last minute or searching for a honeymoon resort in Hawaii are all reasons thousands of travelers rely on travel agents for one-stop travel shopping. More than 85 per cent of all airline tickets are booked through travel agents each year.

Travel agents take the pressure off travel planning, offer helpful advice and iron out emergency situations with just one phone call. Following are some helpful tips for selecting and working with a travel agent.

✓ Know that travel agent services are free to you. Whether you call your travel agent once every five years or 500 times in one year, the cost to you is still the same — nothing. Travel agents earn their living through commissions paid by the airlines, hotels, car rental companies and other travel services they book for you.

✓ Save yourself time and money. Rather than making multiple calls to airlines, hotels and car rental companies each and every time you travel, you can place a single call to one agency that will identify and book the best values on all of your travel needs.

✓ Be specific about your needs. A good travel agent is patient and responsive to special requests. For example, business travelers often request a hotel with a business center, fax-delivery services and an in-room telephone dataport. Leisure travelers may request a hotel with a fitness center, a fine dining restaurant or close proximity to the local zoo.

✓ If you work with a travel agent regularly, she or he will learn your preferences and take care of your travel details without even having to ask.

✓ Get the most bang for your buck. Ask about special rate promotions. Travel agents are the best source of information on special rates and programs that save you money. While it would be impossible for the average

consumer to keep track of all these offers, it's "all in a day's work" for a travel agent.

✓ Ask for personal recommendations. Travel agents know many destinations and hotels from firsthand experience and their clients. Use their knowledge to your advantage.

✓ Use your agent to help focus your travel planning. Looking for a warm sandy beach on a quiet island in February? Your agent can help match a destination with your dreams, needs and budget.

✓ Take advantage of frequent-traveler programs. If you're a frequent traveler, guest-reward programs offer significant benefits and upgrades to mem-

bers at little or no cost. Your agent can enroll you in a program that accumulates "points" each time you travel — some are more generous than others.

✓ Work with one travel agent regularly to save time and money in the long run. Once the agent is familiar with you, she or he can accommodate your needs more quickly and efficiently. It's usually best to work with a local agency so they're nearby if you have a problem.

✓ Give feedback to your agent. Letting your agent know how your trip went can help streamline your next trip.

With these tips in mind, you can enjoy traveling with hassle-free confidence.



Photo/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Volunteers honored

Parkview Home held a tea to honor its volunteers recently. Here, Heather Andrews (left) presents flowers and bars to Evelyn Waggoner, a 20-year volunteer, Margaret Jemmett, 20 years and Reta Yake, 15 years. Martha Wideman (missing) also served 15 years. Other volunteers honored at the tea included: Marg Amos, Genevieve Bruce, Elsie McDowell, and Alma Oldham, each honored with 10 year bars; Lynn Poell, Evie Hortel and Agnes Brooks, were awarded five-year bars; Tracy Andrews, Marie Buchanan, Anna Fretz, Jean Hammond, Lorna Hogg, Joe Nighswander, Rev. Robert Shields, Marie Smith, Vern Walder, Elsie Wightman, Carol Watson, Donna Hardie, and Joyce Ham received three year bars. Receiving Parkview pins were: Jan and Cliff Eastall, Rev. Isaac Flagg, Winifred Frost, Frances Heikens, Grace Hoover, Wilf Morley, Frank Naccarato, David Osborne, Ellen Pan, Lois Patterson, Jamie Shortening, Bill Smith, Pam Welstead, Susan Barkworth, Don Brooks, Darlene Bagg, Meryl Parish, Linda Goerzten, Heather Andrews and Ross Fraser.

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NOTICE

The Nominating Committee of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation is seeking local residents who may be interested in becoming members of the Foundation Board of Directors should vacancies occur.

Board Members receive no monetary compensation and are expected to devote approximately 15 hours per month to Foundation matters.

Interested residents should possess knowledge, skill and expertise in the following areas: fundraising; marketing; finance; law; business; government relations; management; leadership; local community interests and issues.

Applications will be reviewed and assessed according to the needs of the Foundation and may include an interview. Please send a letter describing your background and your interest in becoming a member of the Foundation Board by May 27, 1994 to:

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Hospital Foundation
c/o Nominating Committee
381 Church Street
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