

# Tobago offers off-beaten path appeal

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But the president of Newmarket's Uniglobe Voyageur Travel was thrilled to travel to Tobago with her new husband Garth Webb early this month after her business won an provincewide competition for travel agents.

"I do like off the beaten track and so does my husband. Tobago has rainforest, it's good for bird watching or eco-hiking tours. We didn't just sit on the beach," she said.

Enjoying a natural environment and visiting with local residents is a major appeal of Tobago, Ms. Stuart Webb said.

"It's a really unspoiled and beautiful place. There are about six hotels, two very nice ones. Unspoiled is probably the best way to describe it. It's how the (more travelled to) islands used to be before

they got commercialized with a string of hotels."

While British travellers and, to a lesser degree, German vacationers are starting to embrace Tobago, it remains something new for North Americans because it is not packaged as a charter destination the way other popular locations are.

"We were the only Canadians there. There were a lot of charters from Britain. Ninety per cent of the tourists are from Britain," Ms. Stuart Webb said.

Ms. Stuart Webb is hoping Tobago can remain unspoiled as tourism increases.

"That's why you go to some of these places. I would go back because it's not as commercialized."

Not all travellers are looking for exotic locations, according to Ying Chun, owner of Markham's Global Travel Network.

While he has seen a slight

increase in people booking off the beaten track destinations, the vast majority of Mr. Chun's customers are still looking for popular spots in the Caribbean or to visit friends and relatives in Asia.

*About 400 Canadians contracted malaria while travelling abroad last year.*

"We find most people are looking for the beach, for Canadians at least. Americans are more adventurous. For Canadians, a beach holiday is what they are going for," he said.

According to a survey by online travel agent Expedia.ca, 31 per cent of Canadians would choose Europe as their dream vacation spot. Right behind is the Caribbean at 30 per cent.

A family getaway to Disney World in Florida is the choice of 16 per cent. Canadian destinations also came in at 16 per cent.

Five per cent of Canadians would opt for a high-rolling vacation to Las Vegas.

While travelling can be a compelling adventure, vacationers should also be aware of potential drawbacks.

For example, after six Canadians contracted malaria while visiting the Dominican Republic last month, Ottawa is reminding travellers the disease can be just a plane ride away.

About 400 Canadians contracted malaria while travelling abroad last year, a government advisory cautioned.

To help prevent malaria deaths in Canada, the government advises health care professionals and travellers to be aware of the correct use

of anti-malarial drugs and other protective measures such as insect repellents and bed nets.

Vacationers are urged to check with their family doctor and visit [www.travelhealth.gc.ca](http://www.travelhealth.gc.ca).

Mr. Bulsara acknowledged GOWAY customers have been known to question the safety of travelling to Africa or other exotic locales.

But he said the company's destinations are chosen because they pose no significant danger.

For more information about GOWAY's African adventures, call 1-800-245-0920, e-mail [info@africaexperts.com](mailto:info@africaexperts.com) or log on to [www.africaexperts.com](http://www.africaexperts.com) or [www.goway.com](http://www.goway.com). For more information about Newmarket's Uniglobe Voyageur Travel, call 905-895-2433 or visit [www.uniglobevoyageurtravel.com](http://www.uniglobevoyageurtravel.com). For more information about Global Travel Network, call 905-707-7222 or visit [www.globaltravelweb.com](http://www.globaltravelweb.com).

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