



Trip Quest Travel Services

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Dear Traveling Friends,

Bring on the spring! Steve and I just returned from a wonderful fun-in-the-sun week with my mom in Naples, Florida to celebrate my birthday and our anniversary. Of course, now it is full speed ahead in Augusta to ready ourselves for our Masters' family and friends next month. From a travel perspective, I attended a high-level conference in Charlotte in February where I learned so much about new locations and had great conversations with so many knowledgeable travel advisors. It has made me that more committed to providing you with great travel ideas that will exceed your expectations!

During the past couple of weeks, the coronavirus (COVID-19) has taken center-stage in the travel and medical communities. Please know that many suppliers will work with you to delay your trip if your travel plans include a location where the virus is prevalent. The purchase of most travel insurance would protect you if you get sick while traveling. However, travel insurance does not protect you from the fear of travel or if the pandemic causes cancellations. This month's newsletter is filled with info on the coronavirus and also some great ideas on group trips we have coming up in the next two years.

Lauren

### The Rising Toll of Corona Virus



Everyone's talking about the new Corona virus, and it can be hard to determine the difference between the facts and the myths. Sometimes officials take action based on scientific evidence, but often it's in response to fear. Here are a few things you need to know.

In early January 2020, China and the *World Health Organization (WHO)* confirmed the identification of a new virus located in Wuhan, a city in the Chinese province of Hubei. The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)* describe Corona viruses as a type of virus that commonly causes a fever and symptoms of the upper respiratory system, like a sore throat, coughing, and a runny nose. Sometimes Corona viruses can cause more severe symptoms like difficulty breathing, illnesses of the lower respiratory system like bronchitis and pneumonia, and sometimes death. Corona viruses were first identified in the 1960s and have "corona" in their name because, at the molecular level, they're shaped like a halo. The common cold is a Corona virus, but so are more serious diseases like SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

Scientists pay close attention to new viruses because they don't know how they'll behave and how dangerous they might become. For example, a virus that's contagious only when the infected person is clearly sick and that causes only minor symptoms isn't a big concern. But a virus that transmits rapidly, especially before an infected person even realizes they're sick, is more dangerous. The new Corona virus is getting a lot of attention because it's new there are still a lot of unanswered questions.

Should you change your own travel plans? Some infectious disease specialists are saying that not all of the restrictions are medically necessary, but are being put in place for political reasons and to encourage trust. Studies have shown that travel bans don't prevent outbreaks and can cause people to hide symptoms and not report to doctors. Travel bans can also have huge economic costs and increase, rather than decrease, fear.

#### Here are the important common-sense reminders to prevent illness.

- Always wash your hands with soap and warm water. If that's not always possible, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face because viruses and bacteria enter the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Cough and sneeze into a disposable tissue whenever possible.
- Regularly disinfect surfaces that get handled frequently, such as your phone and television remote. If you're on a plane or hotel, use a wipe to clean off your tray table, armrests, and seat belt.
- Keep your distance from sick people. Avoid hugs, kisses, and handshakes.
- At restaurants, wash your hands after handling the menu and before you start to eat. At a buffet, only put food on a clean plate; don't bring your used plate back to get more food.

Avoid traveling if you feel sick- your fellow passengers will appreciate it! With the increased monitoring since the discovery of the new Corona virus, travelers who do show signs of illness could be prevented from boarding a plane, cruise, train, or bus. Many airports and cruise ports have installed thermal imaging cameras to scan people as they walk by. Anyone showing a fever is pulled aside for additional questioning and maybe quarantine. If you have any symptoms of Corona virus, such as fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, go to your doctor immediately. If possible, call ahead to the office so that they can take precautions to isolate you from other patients while they carry out testing. Make sure to tell your doctor if you've been traveling.

**I hope this virus will be short lived, but if you have further questions about a particular trip that you are considering, please feel free to call me!**

### Trip Quest Tips

When traveling, always keep your passport in the hotel safe and a color copy in your wallet. Make copies of the front and back of your credit cards and keep them with your passport in the safe, if any of these items are lost, having copied will make it much easier to get a replacement.

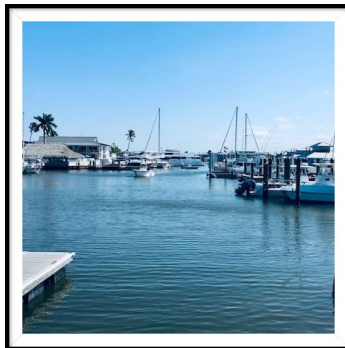


## Trip Quest Travelers

### South Florida Adventures

Clients Barbara and Lucy enjoyed fun in the sun while they visited Key West, Marathon, Marco Island, and Sanibel Island.

Steve and I also took a trip to South Florida, enjoying Naples and Sanibel Island.



## Quick Links for Group Travel

**The bucket- list trip for 2021!** We have 21 already booked for March, 2021 on Viking's unique Ocean Voyage itinerary shown below. You can even add on some time before or after to explore Italy in-depth. This will probably sell out before this summer, but right now there is some space still available. We are going to have so much fun

Iconic Adriatic Antiquities



## The Holy Land

We had a second meeting of interest in February and now have 26 travelers deposited. If you have been considering this, give me a call and let's talk about it as we will begin to make some flight arrangements soon. We also have several singles going solo or looking for a roommate! Most travelers have also added on the Egypt portion of the trip which will make this a wonderful time to grow spiritually as well as an opportunity to visit parts of the world most never get to see! Details are attached or give me a call for more info!

### Fun Facts about Israel:

- El Al, Israel's national airline, set the world record for the most passengers on a commercial flight with 1088 people.
- The world's largest pepper was grown in Israel's Moshav Ein Yahav, recorded by the *The Guinness Book of World Records* in 2013.
- Israeli cows produce more milk per cow than almost any country in the world, vying only with South Korea.



Bible Land Exploration  
Brochure



Email me here!

## About Me!

I am Lauren Williams, a partner in Trip Quest Travel Services for the past five years. Moving from three decades in education to becoming a travel consultant has caused me to shift from "The Doctor of Education" to "The Doctor of Travel." My clients are often just like me – they want a rejuvenating vacation that teaches them about the world and the cultures around them. I love beautiful scenery, exploring new places, and learning something new every day! Aside from travel, I stay busy with my husband, Steve, and our four children and twelve grandchildren. Staying active in the church and in our community feeds our soul as well. I love to play tennis, pickleball, and bridge when I am not helping clients plan that perfect trip! Because our world is so much smaller now, I am happy to work with clients wherever they might live...but by referral only! Hope you enjoy my monthly newsletter – let me know if there is something you'd like to know more about!

