



The Rocky Mountaineer promises Canada's most scenic train ride

Travel doctor



Q My husband and I hope to go on a trip of a lifetime to Canada. Our budget is about £10,000 and we would like to include a train journey through the Rockies, Vancouver, Vancouver Island and its famous gardens, a cruise to Alaska, and seeing polar bears, whales and bears. Is there a company that can organise all this or do we need to book each separately?

Anna Crawford, via e-mail

A The problem with this itinerary, according to Canadian specialist Prestige Holidays (01502 567222)

Q My husband and I both inadvertently bought two sets of flight-only tickets to Gran Canaria for the same two weeks in November, neither of which is refundable. Can I legally sell the tickets and if so am I responsible for changing the name on them?

Judy Wilcox, via e-mail

A Look carefully at the terms and conditions on your tickets to see if they are transferable. You will be responsible for changing the names and will need to factor this into the price — the difference between what was paid for the flight and what it is selling for at the time a name change is made may also be payable. Try a site on which registered users can offer their transferable flight tickets for sale such as JumpFlight (jumpflight.com), which is free if you want to handle the transaction yourself, or charges 10 per cent of the ticket price if you'd prefer to use its mediation service.

Q I would like to give my daughter an Italian cookery course for her 30th birthday next summer. I would like it to last five to seven days and involve the chance to visit local markets to choose ingredients, make pasta and, of course, eat what we make. If at all

possible I would like to be able to fly from Exeter or Bristol as we live in Cornwall.

Anne Betteridge, via e-mail

A Flavours (01313 432500, flavoursholidays.co.uk) has cookery holidays lasting between three and seven nights in Sicily, Puglia, Tuscany and Umbria. You'd be based in a villa (with a pool), groups are small and lessons with local chefs are relaxed and hands on. A week in Tuscany, for example, would include an afternoon visit to Lucca or San Gimignano with dinner in a local restaurant, a day exploring either Florence or Siena and a wine tasting. It costs £1,599pp, which includes £100 towards a flight; Pisa is the nearest airport. Tasting Places (020-8964 5333, www.tastingplaces.com) also has a good selection of Italian destinations. The six-night holiday based at Villa Casagrande in the village of Cison di Valmarino, in the foothills of the Dolomites includes a day in Venice plus a trip to the Rialto markets returning with produce to use in classes and costs £2,150pp. You can fly to seven Italian airports from Bristol, including Pisa, Rome and Venice.

Julia Brookes is the Travel Doctor