



APRIL 2009

Sunshine



Patricia, Cecilia, and Valerie at New Year's Party on Rose Parade Highlights tour. (Photo from the Sun Tours Photo Gallery courtesy of Patricia Rathbone.)

PHOTO GALLERY

The Sun Tours photo gallery has now been open for 6 months and there have been 29 photo albums uploaded. If you have been on a tour during that time and took some photographs, you can share your photos with your fellow travelers very conveniently by uploading your images. If you didn't take photographs, check out the photo gallery to see if someone else on the tour has uploaded photos from your tour. You can download any that you want to keep. Just go to the Sun Tours web site at www.suntoursus.com and click on the Photo Gallery link.

AIRLINE CHARGES

The airlines have found new ways to increase their profits. Their term for it is "unbundling." Previously, when you bought an airline ticket, it included checked baggage, meals, non-alcoholic beverages, pillows, etc. Now be prepared to pay extra for each of these items. It varies from airline to airline. So far, only Southwest Airlines has no additional fees. In Europe, Ryanair has gone so far as to eliminate check-in counters and is considering charging for restroom use.

Needless to say, when Sun Tours offers a trip including airfare, we cannot include the cost of what are now "extras." In the pre-tour letter (or at the briefing for international tours and cruises) we will give you the latest information available on any charges levied by the carrier that we are using.

KARL'S KORNER

I led a Sun Tours group to Egypt in 1993. We had a wonderful trip. As I was planning the new Egypt tour for January 2010, memories of my Egypt tour kept coming back. It remains one of my all time favorite trips.

Two months ago our most recent Egyptian tour group returned. When I met them at the airport they were so excited about their trip. Their Egyptian guide, Assem, was fantastic. The whole trip was wonderful. As one tour member said, "Everybody should go."

The good news is that now you can. We have scheduled our next Egypt tour for January 15, 2010. This time we are working directly with an Egyptian tour operator. We have upgraded both the Nile boat and the Lake Nasser boat and could still maintain last year's very reasonable price. See the tour details on pages 18-19.

Spring is here and it almost seems like we didn't have a winter this year. As many of you know, I grew up in Madison, Wisconsin. As I am writing this column (March 11), the predicted high in Madison is 29 degrees with a low of 4 degrees. Every day in winter I am thankful for living in Albuquerque with our wonderful climate.

Have you ever heard of Philadelphia's Mummers Parade? This 107-year-old tradition features 10,000 people dressed in outlandish costumes twirling and strutting up the street. We have fashioned a new tour around all the Mummer activities with a lavish New Year's Party. Details on page 14.

Happy Trails,

Karl

Lena and Ole

The judge had just awarded a divorce to Lena, who had charged non-support. He said to Ole, "I have decided to give your wife \$400 a month for support."

"Vell, dat's fine, Judge," said Ole. "And vunce in a vile I'll try to chip in a few bucks, myself."