

Group Leader NEWS

Group Leader Spotlight

GCT GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL

Overseas
Adventure Travel

EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION
FOR GRAND CIRCLE & OAT
GROUP LEADERS
WINTER 2011



Nancy & Paul Fischer

7-time travelers & Group Leaders
Erie, Pennsylvania

Inner Circle members and Group Leaders Nancy (an almost-retired teacher) and Paul (a retired pipe organ builder) Fischer's passion for travel began in 1984 when they were asked to chaperone a group of high school students on a trip to Europe. They quickly learned that this was a way to see the world at a substantial savings—but with great responsibilities attached. By opening their annual trips to student's families, the Fischers relieved themselves of much of the 'parenting' necessary with student travel. It only took a few such trips to make them realize that 'mature travel' would practically eliminate all of that responsibility, especially when traveling with a company such as Grand Circle.

The Fischers' database of followers now exceeds 500 people, many of whom are Inner Circle members themselves. Nancy and Paul report that they can gather groups of 30 or more people simply by reaching out to former travelers and by placing posters in social clubs, senior centers, bank lobbies, supermarket bulletin boards, etc. With a little extra effort, they even reserved an entire ship on a recent *Christmas Markets Along the Rhine River Cruise*.

"For us—and a majority of our travelers—the most relaxing and productive trips have been the River Cruises," Paul says. "Grand Circle's *Christmas Markets Along the Danube* and *Christmas Markets Along the Rhine River Cruises* have become annual trips for us, with many couples repeating them several times. There are always new and different things to see and do each time. Grand Circle's Group Sales Department has planned these trips so well that we have even been able to run two cruises simultaneously without any concern for each going flawlessly! The competency of the staff makes organizing group travel so easy that we can't wait to see where our travelers want to go next, knowing that regardless of whether it's Europe or Egypt, by land or by river, our pre-trip work will be a breeze!"

Dear Group Leader,

As winter begins—and the cooler temperatures are upon us—many travelers' thoughts turn to where their journeys will take them in 2012. It's a great time to plan your group's next vacation because we've recently made several enhancements to our trips and programs for next year—which you'll learn more about inside. If you're trying to decide where to go next, check out the adventures of Group Leaders Nancy and Paul Fischer in our Group Leader Spotlight to the left, or see some of our most popular trips for groups on the next page.

Inside, you'll find out why there's never been a better time to travel with your group on one of our River Cruises—including a special 1 for 8 offer for new groups. You'll also read about how our new "River Cruise Best Price Guarantee" ensures that you, and your group members, receive the best value in the industry. And if your group is thinking about exploring the world on an OAT adventure next year, you can rest assured that we *guarantee* you'll receive our lowest price with our new Lowest Price Guarantee.

We're also excited to share news about the latest accolades we've received from *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2011 Readers' Choice Awards. Plus, learn about savings you and your group can enjoy on select vacations and adventures.

If you have any questions about leading a group, or about any of our vacations or adventures, please call our Group Sales Account Representatives toll-free 1-800-597-2452, Option 3 (for Grand Circle), or 1-800-353-6262, Option 3 (for OAT) today.

Warmly,

Adam Goddess
Group Sales Director
Grand Circle & Overseas Adventure Travel



P.S. If you know someone who you think would make a great Group Leader, simply call your Group Sales Account Representative and provide us with their contact information. If the person you refer becomes a Group Leader on a Grand Circle or OAT trip, you'll receive \$1000 CASH.

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when you gather a group of your friends

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www.gct.com/groups or www.oattravel.com/groups

Discover our Most Popular Destinations for Groups in 2012

Ultimate Africa: Botswana, Zambia & Zimbabwe Safari

CHOBE • KAFUE • OKAVANGO DELTA • HWANGE • VICTORIA FALLS

17 days from only **\$5745**

PRE-TRIP OPTION:

South Africa: Kruger National Park

4 nights from only \$1395

POST-TRIP OPTION:

Cape Town & The Cape of Good Hope

4 nights from only \$1095



Imagine exchanging stories around a crackling fire under a star-filled sky with your fellow group members after an exhilarating day of spotting elusive wildlife in Africa. This discovery-rich itinerary offers fun-filled safari drives, local village visits, and unspoiled landscapes. From Chobe National Park—with the world's largest elephant population—to the flourishing Okavango Delta, this is truly the safari of a lifetime.

Watch our video at www.oattravel.com/bot2012

Romance of the Rhine & Mosel

BELGIUM • THE NETHERLANDS • GERMANY • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND

16 days from only **\$3045**

PRE-TRIP OPTION:

Bruges, Belgium

3 nights from only \$695

POST-TRIP OPTIONS:

Lucerne, Switzerland

4 nights from only \$695

Experience the Floriade World Horticultural Exposition when you travel on select May-July departures



As you sail, view verdant hilltop vineyards, medieval architecture, and landscapes that seem untouched by time. You'll cruise the legendary Rhine and Mosel rivers, visiting small historic towns, as well as elegant cities like Strasbourg and Antwerp. And you'll now have the opportunity to experience the Floriade World Horticultural Exposition—a once-a-decade event—on eight departures.

Watch our video at www.gct.com/sab2012

Russia Revealed: Moscow to St. Petersburg

MOSCOW • UGLICH • GORITSY • KIZHI • PETROZAVODSK • SVIR STROI • ST. PETERSBURG

16 days from only **\$3945**

PRE-TRIP OPTION:

Kiev, Ukraine

4 nights from only \$745

POST-TRIP OPTION:

Baltic Capitals: Helsinki, Finland & Tallinn, Estonia

5 nights from only \$745



Prices Reduced:
Save \$800 per couple
on July-August
departures.

Grand Circle travelers frequently share that our Russian River Cruise is never quite what they expect—from the country's rich heritage to its stunning architecture, the Russian culture fascinates as it unfolds. Your group will explore the modern, cosmopolitan capital of Russia, as well as magnificent St. Petersburg—known for its ornate palaces and captivating historical monuments.

Watch our video at www.gct.com/ozz2012

Australia, New Zealand & Fiji

CAIRNS • SYDNEY • QUEENSTOWN • ROTORUA • AUCKLAND • FIJI

21 days from only **\$4845**

PRE-TRIP OPTION:

Melbourne & the Outback

5 nights from only \$1895

POST-TRIP OPTION:

Fiji Islands Cruise

3 nights from only \$895



Whether you're exploring the Great Barrier Reef—one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World—sauntering through the cosmopolitan city of Sydney, or discovering the lush island of Viti Levu, Fiji, you'll find many opportunities for learning and discovery. Throughout the many highlights of this vacation, you and your group are sure to find friendly people and fascinating cultures around every turn.

Watch our video at www.gct.com/anz2012

Travel with OAT— and we will *guarantee* you receive the lowest price

Has your group been thinking about an exhilarating adventure for 2012? With OAT's new Lowest Price Guarantee, if your group reserves a 2012 departure on any OAT Land Adventure, you're *guaranteed* to receive our lowest price—and if we reduce the price of your departure *after* you have made your reservation, we will automatically refund you the difference. This guarantee is also your assurance that *no one* traveling on the same departure date as you will have paid a lower published price. Visit www.oattravel.com/priceguarantee to learn more.

New “River Cruise Best Price Guarantee”

New for 2012, our “River Cruise Best Price Guarantee” means that—on the day you reserve—if you find a lower, published per-day price (with or without international airfare) on a comparable 2012 European River Cruise vacation from one of our competitors serving American travelers, we will match that price—*guaranteed*. By reserving a European River Cruise with Grand Circle, your group will have peace of mind knowing that you are receiving exceptional value—and the best price in the industry. Visit www.gct.com/bestprice for more information.

In 2012, enjoy 1 for 8 on all Grand Circle River Cruises

There's never been a better time to plan a Grand Circle River Cruise with friends, family, or members of your social, religious, or civic organization. That's because, when you **gather a group of just 8 or more travelers for any Grand Circle River Cruise—and reserve by February 15, 2012—as the 9th member, you'll now travel FREE.** Whether you choose our most popular River Cruise—*The Great Rivers of Europe*—or one of our newest—*Essence of the Elbe: Hamburg to Prague*—you can take advantage of the best group value in the travel industry.



Enjoy great savings on select 2012 trips

It can sometimes be a challenge to choose your next group vacation or adventure. So, why not consider one of our discovery-rich trips that we've made more affordable than ever? We're excited to announce that we've reduced our prices on many of our Grand Circle vacations and OAT adventures. For example, you'll now save up to \$2600 per couple on OAT's *Antarctica's White Wilderness* adventure, where you and your group members can enjoy up-close encounters with penguins, seals, and more; or save \$1200 per couple on Grand Circle's *Cruising Burgundy & Provence to the Cote d'Azur* River Cruise, sailing through the French countryside aboard one of our private river cruisers; or save up to \$1000 per couple on Grand Circle's *Ireland in Depth* vacation, as you discover the lush landscapes and friendly people of the Emerald Isle. To learn more about these and other enriching trips—visit our websites at www.gct.com and www.oattravel.com.

Grand Circle's river fleet is named #2 in the world

We're excited to announce that Grand Circle Travel's river ship fleet was ranked the #2 “World's Best River Cruise Line” in *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2011 Readers' Choice Awards. This is the seventh year in a row that Grand Circle's fleet has been rated among the world's best in the travel magazine's annual survey. This year, more than 28,000 readers responded to the survey, which asked them to rate the world's best cities, hotels, airlines, cruise lines, and more. In the river ship category, readers rated their experiences based on the ships' activities/facilities, cabins, crew/service, design/layout, food/dining, itineraries/schedule, and shore excursions. We'd like to thank readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* for recognizing our efforts to provide excellent river cruise experiences for our travelers at exceptional value.



Condé Nast Traveler

Gold List: World's Best Cruise Lines • 2006-2011
Top Cruise Ships Worldwide—Individual Small Ship Category • 2006-2011 (7 Ships in Top 20 in 2011)

Readers' Choice Awards:

#2 World's Best River Cruise Line • 2011
Top 5 World's Best Small Ship Cruise Lines • 2005-2010

Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards

Top 10 Small Ship Cruise Lines • 2006-2009
#1 Best Value Cruise Line • 2007
Top 10 World's Best Service Cruise Line • 2007

Here's what your fellow Group Leaders had to say ...

"Since we discovered OAT and Grand Circle, we have traveled exclusively with them—we've completed eight trips with two more planned for next year. All of our trips throughout various parts of the world have been absolutely wonderful. Our OAT group trip Treasures of the Aegean: Greek Island Cruise, Athens & Istanbul this past summer was no exception. Some within our group have proclaimed this one was the best ever—but we have discovered, like many OAT and Grand Circle travelers, that the last trip is always the best."

Lauranne & W.J. Kitchen
8-time travelers & Group Leaders
Rancho Santa Fe, California



Do you have a great group story, your own hints for putting together group trips, or simply want to share the joys of leading your own groups? Please share your Group Leader Stories, photos, and tips with us by emailing Dave Lubchansky, Vice President of Traveler Relations, at dlubchansky@oattravel.com.

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Learn more about our trips by reading Traveler Reviews, viewing videos and photos, and more, by visiting us online.



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www.facebook.com/overseasadventuretravel