

Travel news and adventure

for expanding your horizons



B.C.'s capital celebrates 150 years in 2012

Happy Birthday, Victoria! The town site of Fort Victoria was incorporated as the City of Victoria in 1862, and in celebration of its 150th anniversary, the city will host several special events in 2012. On August 2, there will be a public ceremony followed by a community celebration in Centennial Square featuring music, performances, birthday cake and many more activities. Next up will be Symphony Splash (August 5), a spectacular music event that sees Victoria's Inner Harbour transformed into an outdoor concert stage. Summer is also time for the *Taste Festival of Food and Wine*. Scheduled for July 19-22, this culinary extravaganza offers the opportunity to experience local fare at 10 events. For more information, visit www.victoria.ca.

Aeroplan launches digital media store

If you're looking for some great summer reads for the cottage, maybe it's time to turn miles into media. Aeroplan has launched an online store where members can use accumulated reward miles to download digital content from a selection of eBooks, audiobooks, mobile apps, games and music. Aeroplan miles are redeemed in bundles of 25, 50 or 100 credits at a cost of 3,000, 5,500 and 11,000 miles respectively. Choose from more than three million songs and a catalogue of over 150,000 popular eBooks and audiobooks, compatible with most eBook readers, tablets and smart phones. For more information, visit the Digital Media Store at media.aeroplan.com.

Fairmont opens first hotel in Ukraine


Fairmont Hotels & Resorts has debuted in Eastern Europe. Located in the heart of Kyiv's historic Podil district, the classically designed Fairmont Grand Hotel Kyiv offers 258 rooms, including 54 suites and a luxurious spa. The Grand Cru Champagne Bar features an impressive roster of champagnes, while the Atrium Lounge & Pâtisserie is the perfect setting for traditional afternoon tea. For fine dining, the

Strand Grill highlights local ingredients with international flair. Kyiv is a growing hub for genealogical research among Canadians looking for information on Ukrainian ancestors and will also host several high-profile international events such as the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship. Visit fairmont.com.

A new way to cruise

Prefer flying to sailing? Mauiva AirCruise brings cruising into the jet age by offering all the pampering and location-hopping glamour of an ocean cruise with the ease of air travel. And easy it is. Mauiva AirCruise uses private turbo-prop aircrafts typically seating 30 to 70 passengers and privately-owned airports, allowing tour members to avoid long security waits and arrive just minutes before take-off. Overall flight time totals about three hours a week and maximizes time at each destination. Choose from the All American East or Western Wonder Experiences. New for 2012, the Sun & Fun Experience departs from Orlando, Florida, and visits the Bahamas, Grand Cayman and Cancun. See www.mauivaaircruise.com.

Santa Fe Indian Market

Fans of Native North American art and culture will not want to miss the Santa Fe Indian Market scheduled for August 18 and 19 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Now in its 91st year, the market is the largest and most prestigious Native arts market in the world. More than 1,000 Native artists from both Canada and the U.S. sell their contemporary and traditional artwork ranging from jewellery, pottery and textiles, to drums, cradleboards and wooden carvings known as *kachinas*. Meet and buy directly from the artists, some of whom have been exhibiting for over 50 years. Sample fry bread, roast corn and other foods of the Southwest as you enjoy live music, pueblo dances and more. For details, visit www.santafe.org. 

Michele and Lesley Peterson are Toronto-based travel journalists.