

# GOING PLACES

## WEBSITE



### ROOMERAMA!

Finding the proverbial cheap hotel room in New York City and other major urban areas is not an easy proposition. And as every budget-conscious traveller knows, it's much cheaper to stay with friends — even if that means camping out on the sofa in the living room. Roomorama.com is a new website that seeks to match budget-conscious travellers with people who are willing — for a modest price — to put someone up in their home. In some cases the homeowners will be away and travellers can stay in their apartment in their absence; in other cases, homeowners have a room (or even floor space) to spare and are willing to let a travelling stranger use it. Guests pay Roomorama and Roomorama pays the host. The company says the average cost of staying in someone's place in New York City is usually about \$100 U.S. a night, which is roughly half the cost of a hotel room. (Prices depend on the neighbourhood and the quality of accommodation.) The company plans user profiles and accommodation reviews to keep everything on the up-and-up. Roomorama ([www.roomorama.com](http://www.roomorama.com)) is up and running in New York City, and plans to expand to Chicago, Boston and Toronto this fall.

## CHARMING INNS



### NEWFOUNDLAND CRAFTS AND CULTURE

Fishers' Loft Inn is located on Newfoundland's Trinity Bay, about halfway between St. John's and Gander and a short distance from Terra Nova National Park. One of only 15 properties in Canada to make it onto *National Geographic Traveler* magazine's "Stay" list, the inn prides itself on being a showcase for local culture. Each building is built in traditional Newfoundland style, the furniture is locally made and rooms and public areas feature artwork by some of the province's leading artists. That artwork can be bought — and the inn also sells juried Newfoundland and Labrador crafts and books. Travellers who visit the inn this month can listen to a Newfoundland author reading from his or her works. For the fourth year, the inn is hosting a Just Before Dinner reading series on Saturday evenings in September. The free, half-hour readings, followed by questions and answers and a book-signing, are part of a partnership between Fishers' Loft Inn and the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador. The writers stay for dinner, and guests can join them. Room rates range from \$56 per person, based on double occupancy and no meals, to \$165 for a suite with breakfast and four-course dinner. For information, visit [www.fishersloft.com](http://www.fishersloft.com) or call 1-877-464-3240.

## SOUVENIR



### EASTERN INFLUENCE ON THE WEST COAST

**What is it?** Handcrafted jewelry by Shi Studio  
**Where is it?** Victoria, B.C.  
**Describe it:** If you want a lasting memento of Victoria's Chinatown but shun the sweatshop-direct fans, tea sets and Hello Kitty paraphernalia, consider one of Shi Studio's stunning pieces. Local designer Cory Judge pairs sumptuous Chinese silk with glass and the outcome is eye-popping, one-of-a-kind jewelry. Shi's selection ranges from elegant classics like pendants and earrings to edgier items like belt buckles, cuffs, chokers and cufflinks.  
**How much?** From \$48 (small earrings) to \$135 (sterling silver cufflinks). Available at Oscar & Libby's (770 Fort St. in Victoria) and online at [www.shistudio.com](http://www.shistudio.com)

## GEARTO GO



### FLIP VIDEO CAMERA

You thought it would be cool if your vycay in The Holy City coincided with a music festival. But — by golly — you're really lucked out: Lucifer himself has shown up! What's running through your mind? The possibility of eternal damnation? Mild surprise because he's sporting a full beard instead of a devilish goatee? No — you're thinking: "How fast can I get this on YouTube?" Savvy techie travellers whip out a Flip Ultra Video camera. Lightweight and shaped like a cell phone, The Flip records 60 minutes of high quality digital footage. A minimal number of buttons means no Spielberg talents required. The best part: a built-in USB arm so you can quickly upload your video before the devil downloads you to hell. Comes in black or green and is available for \$158.64 at Wal-Mart.

**PACKAGE TO LAS VEGAS**  
Hotel & Air from Montreal with Sunwing  
4 nights  
22 Dec. from **\$650** (+\$230/tax)  
[www.HANDATRAVEL.com](http://www.HANDATRAVEL.com)  
731-1111 • 2249 Riverside Dr. (Billings Bridge)  
251-1111 727-1111 629-8800 251-1111 326-1111

"See the world with us"

## Senior Tours Canada

Escorted tours and holidays to destinations world-wide.  
All Senior Tours are escorted and include round trip airfare, accommodation, meals, health & cancellation insurance, all taxes, all tipping and round trip transportation between your home and the airport (from most Canadian cities).

**Arizona Christmas**  
**18 Days • Departs December 17**  
A delightful Holiday Season tour to Scottsdale, Arizona. Air Canada flights, accommodation at the Hilton Garden Inn, many excursions (including overnight at the Grand Canyon), breakfast daily, 7 dinners, festive celebrations.  
**\$3587 CDN p.p. dbl.**

**Christmas in Italy**  
**18 Days • Departs December 16**  
Enjoy an extraordinary Christmas with us in Calabria (Southern Italy). Alitalia flights, moderate 1st class hotel, 3 meals daily with special Calabrese feasts and entertainment, many excursions, festive celebrations.  
**\$4547 CDN p.p. dbl.**

**The Leader in Tours for the 50+ Traveller**

Call for a free brochure  
613-722-9400 or 1-800-268-3492 • [www.seniortours.ca](http://www.seniortours.ca)  
392 Richmond Road • Ottawa K2A 0E8

## WHERE RELAXATION AND ADVENTURE GO TOGETHER PERFECTLY.

At Royal Caribbean we're all about relaxation and adventure. With over 200 destinations to choose from worldwide, and the amenities of some of the most innovative ships, it's a wonder how we fit everything onboard. Join us for adventure with our signature Rockwall, or FlowRider® surf simulator. Or if you feel like kickin' back, relax with a spa treatment or just sunbathe by the pool.

<b>7-NIGHT SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN</b> .....	FROM <b>\$749<sup>CDN</sup></b>
+ TAXES/FEES \$114 CAT. Q 3/8/2009	
<b>7-NIGHT EASTERN CARIBBEAN</b> .....	FROM <b>\$839<sup>CDN</sup></b>
+ TAXES/FEES \$123 CAT. Q 2/28/2009	
<b>13-NIGHT SOUTH AMERICA</b> .....	FROM <b>\$889<sup>CDN</sup></b>
+ TAXES/FEES \$295 CAT. Q 12/7/2008	
<b>15-NIGHT SOUTH AMERICA</b> .....	FROM <b>\$1629<sup>CDN</sup></b>
+ TAXES/FEES \$251 CAT. Q 1/4/2009	

FOR NORTH AMERICAN RESERVATIONS, A FUEL SUPPLEMENT OF \$10 (CDN) PER PERSON, PER DAY FOR THE FIRST 2 GUESTS IN A STATEROOM APPLIES; EACH ADDITIONAL GUEST IN THE STATEROOM WILL BE CHARGED \$5 (CDN) PER PERSON, PER DAY.

The world's waiting — call 1-800-ROYALCARIBBEAN, visit [www.royalcaribbean.com](http://www.royalcaribbean.com) or contact your local travel agent.

\*Prices are per person, double occupancy, cruise only, on select sailings, and subject to availability. Government taxes and fees are additional. Certain restrictions apply. All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars. Itinerary and prices are good from 9/13-9/15/2008 and subject to change without notice. ©2008 Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ships registered in the Bahamas. Brilliance of the Seas® is operated by RCL (UK) Ltd., a subsidiary of Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

OTTAWA CITIZEN  
**Wedding DAY** online at: [www.ottawaweddingday.com](http://www.ottawaweddingday.com)