



# Springdale Traveler

Dear Springdale Travelers,

Those of us who have reached a certain age are always amazed at how quickly the years seem to pass. As incredible as it seems to us, 2013 will make 35 years that Springdale Travel agents have been providing superior travel services to our customers. We want to ensure that we close in on this milestone more relevant to our customer's needs and expectations than ever before.

Each year, we take a good hard look at how we can make your experience with us more enjoyable. At the end of 2011, we launched a fantastic new website that hopefully better serves your needs. As we move forward through 2012, we are finally paying some much needed attention to our Facebook page, where we hope you will "like" us and share your opinions and travel stories as we improve our page during the next few months (<http://www.facebook.com/springdaletravel>). All these changes aside, ultimately what makes us relevant is the measure of our value in relation to your needs.

But the definition of value means different things to different people. For us it means having the knowledge that we are providing a service which makes your travel experiences even more enjoyable. It means not just booking your travel but adding that extra something that has you talking for years and coming back for more. In the words of the late Steve Jobs, we want to be "insanely great". And 2012 is the year to make it happen.

But we know that we can't do it without your help. That's why we've set up a place for you to send your comments, either anonymously or not, on how we can become "insanely great". What can we offer to you to make your travel planning experience that much better?

If you would like to send us your comments, please visit the link below:

<http://www.springdaletravel.com/comments.html>

We thank you in advance for your input. Stay tuned for more terrific things to come from your Springdale Travel team.

*Bob Bender*

## The New Look of SpringdaleTravel.com



Have you had the opportunity to visit our completely revamped website? If you haven't yet, we definitely recommend that you do!

The new springdaletravel.com is more user-friendly and is easier to navigate. Our goal is to have a website that puts everything at your fingertips and becomes your go-to place for all things travel.

If you've taken the time to look around, let us know what you think. And if there is anything that you would like to see us add in the future, let us know! We've built this site for you so we want it to have the features that YOU want.

And be sure to join our Facebook page. We are renewing our efforts in social media and our fans may be privy to exciting specials or new destinations that you never considered.

[www.springdaletravel.com](http://www.springdaletravel.com)



## Time Saving Tip for Travelers

Here is a wonderful tip for those who travel internationally a lot.

The Transportation Security Administration has put in place a "secure flight program" that speeds up the time it takes to re-enter the country.

All that you have to do is fill out an application online and pay \$100. You will then have to go through an interview process and have your fingerprints taken at a TSA airport and as long as you don't have any criminal history or other issues that crop up, you'll be on the fast track from there on out.

\$100 may seem like a lot but the program is good for your lifetime. And there is a TSA airport as close as Atlanta.

While this may not be worth it for the average traveler, those who are regularly required to travel overseas will definitely see the benefit right away. Please follow the link below for more information:

[http://www.tsa.gov/what\\_we\\_do/layers/secureflight/](http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/secureflight/)



## Set Sail with Mickey and Minnie



There was a grand time had by the entire Armstrong clan on the Disney Dream last November. Mendy Tanner helped plan the entire trip for the extended family of 18 from start to finish. And they sent in their photos and singing praise to prove it.

*Hi – Well, look at the photo – here I am with my love Minnie, all the kids and my father in law. They call him Man, as in “that Man”. Next to me is our Allyce, Harris, our Little Chase, then the other side, Reid, Laura, Caroline, Simms and our oldest Harrison. Thanks Mendy for all your help – we truly had a great time. It’s a terrific ship and I look forward to working with you next time too. You were really fantastic! I looked like I had it all planned out, right down to the great airport hotel. It all was great!  
- Have a great day – Paul and Paula*



## A Review of Couples Swept Away

*Thanks to Springdale Travel and their Travel Consultants, Galyna Henry and Barbara Driver, we took our first trip out of the United States and went to Negril, Jamaica. We spent one week, which included our 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary, at the Couples Swept Away Resort in Negril, Jamaica. This all inclusive trip was better than we expected. The resort was great! We had a beachfront verandah suite and the view from our balcony was breathtaking. The sunrises and sunsets were beautiful. All the staff at the resort was amazing. After the first day we were there, any time the staff walked passed us or served us, they called us by our name.*

*The resort had a schedule of daily activities and entertainment which helped us decide what we wanted to do each day. There were so many things to do, like the shopping tours in downtown Negril, taking a Catamaran cruise, many water sports and many activities at the Sports Complex. We had so much to do during the day, but there were times we just enjoyed relaxing by the pool or on the beach.*

*The entertainment at night was nice. There were choices for the younger couples like the Aura Night Club and for us older couples, places like the Piano Lounge or the entertainment in the Palms & Lemongrass Restaurants. One night, the resort had an upscale beach party with dinner on the beach and live entertainment.*

*For our anniversary, we had a private dinner on the beach in front of our room. It was so romantic and picture perfect – a great dinner, our own professional waitress and even a full moon. After our dinner, we went down the beach to a bonfire and relaxed in the lounge chairs for a short time. The night before our anniversary, we had dinner at Feathers restaurant and they surprised us with our own anniversary cake for desert.*

*We can’t say enough about the food at the resort. We ate at all the restaurants and the food and service was excellent!*

*The resort had professional photographers going through the resort taking photos of everyone. We even scheduled a “sunset photo shoot” and purchased a lot of their photos which we will cherish for many years. We recommend Couples Swept Away to every couple, young or old.*

*- Alan and Brenda Upchurch*

## Seeing Sandals Resorts Up Close and Personal



Linda Bennett and Rebecca Lytle recently had the pleasure of taking a long weekend trip to visit 3 of the Sandals Resorts in the Caribbean.

They visited Sandals Emerald Bay in Exuma, Sandals Grande Antigua, and Sandals Royal Bahamian in Nassau, Bahamas.

According to Linda and Rebecca, all three resorts were absolutely gorgeous. The rooms were all luxurious and beautifully appointed. The beaches at all three resorts had the crystal clear water that can usually only be found on a postcard. But in the end, each resort offers something a little different. Depending on your travel style, one resort may suit your preference over another.

The only down-side was that during their stay one building at Sandals Royal Bahamian was being renovated. It had suffered damage during Hurricane Irene but they are using this opportunity to upgrade all of the rooms and the spa that were located there.

If you would like to see all of their photos or would just like more information on Sandals Resorts, please contact Linda or Rebecca and ask them about their trip. They love to relive it!

## The Varnadore Family Visits Their Favorite Disney Characters.



Keith and Tracy Varnadore recently took their two young daughters to Walt Disney World in Orlando. Galyna Henry planned the entire trip for them and it was truly the vacation of a lifetime!



## Roll Tide Roll!



Okay all you BAMA Fans it's time for another Alabama Football Game!

Join the Alabama Crimson Tide as they take on the Michigan Wolverines in the 2012 Cowboys Classic in Dallas, Texas.

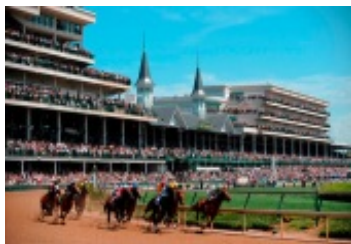
We are offering a variety of package options for those interested; both with or without game tickets and with or without air transportation.

The game is Saturday, September 1 and it promises to be a great game.

Check out [http://www.springdaletravel.com/sports/alabama\\_michigan.html](http://www.springdaletravel.com/sports/alabama_michigan.html) for more information on our packages and we hope to see you there.

**ROLL TIDE!!**

## We're Heading to the Races



It's time for the 138<sup>th</sup> annual Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs and we want you to be in attendance.

With both Platinum and Superior Packages available we are sure to have the perfect package available to fit your needs.

Both packages not only include tickets to The Derby but also tours to the horse barn and distillery on Friday including transportation, box lunches and beverages. And if you upgrade to the Platinum Package you'll enjoy The Derby from the exclusive 1<sup>st</sup> Turn Suite including deluxe catering, top shelf beverages, HD televisions and private seating areas. You'll also have access to VIP entrance and private betting stations.

But even the superior package includes Derby tickets, 3-night stay with complimentary full breakfasts, and transfers between the hotel and the track.

We hope you'll join us for the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Derby.

## Pensacola Opera Presents Italia Classica



Depart November 5 to spend 9-days with the Pensacola Opera touring the sites of Italy. The highlights include Rome, the Colosseum, Florence, Venice, St. Marks Square, and Milan.

Packages include 11 meals during your trip as well as round trip air from Pensacola, air taxes and fees of \$150 (subject to increase) and hotel transfers.

Collette Vacations has provided an exclusive package which includes intimate tours to some of the top sites in Italy, including specially created tours and knowledgeable guides. These tours are intermingled with periods of free time to explore at your leisure.

This is truly the way to see Italy as this intimate group grants you access to the must-see sights and sounds of this majestic destination.

Visit this link for more information: [http://www.springdaletravel.com/groups/pensacola\\_opera\\_italy.pdf](http://www.springdaletravel.com/groups/pensacola_opera_italy.pdf)

## We're Runnin' With The Jags in 2012



If your idea of a good time on a Fall Saturday afternoon is to warm a spot on the bleachers of a USA Jaguars football game, then why not "Run With The Jags" to their 2012 season away games.

Springdale Travel is the official travel agency of the University of South Alabama and we have been planning and organizing trips for the away games for all three years that the team has been traveling.

This year's packages will be done a little differently. Already have tickets and just need a hotel room? No problem. Need tickets, hotel, transportation and the whole works? We can do that too. Hopefully this will mean that more fans can accompany the team to their terrific away games. We're even headed to Hawaii this year!

Don't miss it! For more information visit [www.springdaletravel.com/jags.html](http://www.springdaletravel.com/jags.html). Sign up has already begun for our game versus the University of Hawaii!