

Venue International Professionals, Inc.

2017 Summer Edition Travel and Tourism Newsletter©

Travel and Tourism News and Information That You Can Benefit From July-September 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Greetings to our business associates and clients! Welcome to the 2017 summer edition of Venue International Professionals, Inc.'s Quarterly Newsletter. The purpose of our quarterly newsletter is to provide news and information about the various types of tours that we offer for 2017 and 2018 as well as insightful advice and news about the travel and tourism industry.

Have you ever been to Africa, wanted to meet the people, experience the sights and sounds, let us help you with your decision as you "Come To Africa and Find Yourself". Venue International Professionals, Inc. (VIP), since 1997, has uniquely positioned itself to provide highly customized marketing, sales and technical assistance services in the travel and tourism industry for the Continent of Africa based on its proven track record and expertise.

In closing, we would be pleased to discuss with you how we can meet your specific needs for travel and tourism in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa or wherever your wandering dreams might take you.

Helen Broadus

About Venue International Professionals, Inc. (VIP)

Venue International Professionals, Inc. (VIP) is your full service travel and tourism consultant. VIP specializes in customized and escorted tours for business and/or leisure to the Continent of Africa. The principals of VIP, Helen Broadus (President) and David J. Saunders (Chief Executive Officer), together have more than forty years of experience and expertise in the travel and tourism industry of Africa and have visited thirty African countries at least once over the past twenty years. Specifically, VIP offers the following compliment of services for its clients:

- *Personalized group tours from 7 days/6 nights up to 31 days/30 nights;*
- *Orientation sessions about African history, geography and culture;*
- *Affordable roundtrip airfare (direct from USA to Africa) with major airline carriers;*
- *Adventure, cultural and eco-tourism destination tour programs in more than thirty-five African countries;*
- *Advice on shopping options for unique African jewelry, textiles and handicrafts;*
- *Invitations to special events such as African Arts and Music Festivals and African Naming Ceremonies;*
- *Coordination of fantastic tourism venues and optional village/eco-tourism excursions; and*
- *Providing relaxed customized sightseeing tours with personal professional guides.*

Let VIP arrange your next individual or group tour to Africa!

For more information about VIP or to inquire about travel and tourism excursions to the African Continent, please contact VIP at Telephone Number: (301) 856-9188; Facsimile Number (240) 244-2180; and E-Mail Address at vipinc@erols.com. Also, please check out our VIP website: www.venuetravel.net.

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Security Alert: How to keep Your Home Safe While You Are on Vacation – Ten Essential Tips. by Caroline Costello – Smart Travel

Murphy's Law for travelers: If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong while you are on vacation – which is arguably the worst time a household calamity can strike. Coming home from your honeymoon, an African safari or a Caribbean cruise can be gloomy. But returning from a memorable journey and learning something has gone seriously wrong at your home can be downright devastating. The following are Ten Essential Tips to Keep Your Home Safe While You Are on Vacation.

#1. Ask a Friend to Help. A simple, albeit crucial, way to gain peace of mind while traveling is to ask a friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your house while you are away. Ask him or her to drive by your home once every day or so and check on the place. Give this person a key so that they can bring your mail in, feed your cat/dog, water your plants, trim your lawn, rake your leaves, etcetera. If you don't have a garage, you may also want to give this person a key to your car – you never know when your vehicle may need to be moved. He or she should also have your contact information and a copy of your travel itinerary in case of emergencies. Do you have more than one person visiting your house while you are away? If so, tell them about each other! If the neighbor you asked to keep an eye on your abode calls the police or fire department they can speak on your behalf and also notify you of any important matter. You may also want to consider using AWatchfulNeighbor.com, a subscription service that allows anyone who notices anything amiss about your home to notify you, even if you have not asked them to keep an eye on things. The neighbor contacts the service, which then reaches out to you via your cell phone, text or email. A subscription cost \$50.00 per year.

#2 Don't Tip Off Criminals on the Web. In a world where it seems everyone is blabbing about their business on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, it is important to stop and think: Who exactly is reading this stuff? The anonymity of the internet can encourage us to share personal information without fully realizing that there may be hundreds of complete strangers receiving your daily musings. Would you announce to a crowd that you will be leaving your house unattended for two weeks this December? If not, then you should think twice about posting your detailed vacation plans on social media – especially if that information is visible to internet users other than your friends and family (and it probably is). Also be careful what you say on your answering machine or voice mail. Callers don't need to know that you are not home for an extended period of time – they just need to know that you can't come to the phone right now.

#3. Do Tip Off The Police. Consider notifying the police if you are going on vacation. No need to let the police know about a weekend getaway, but do call them if you are leaving town for longer than a week. It is possible the police may go out of their way to drive by your house while on patrol, especially if you live in a small town. If you have a security alarm, leave a house key and the code with someone that you trust, and provide the police and security alarm company with their name and telephone number. You may also want to contact your local neighborhood watch program if there is one in your area.

#4. Leave Curtains Closed or Open? Before you leave for that vacation, you may decide to close your curtains in order to prevent people from peering inside your home to see whether you are there or not. However, closed curtains also stop those who aim to help – the police, your neighbors or your friends – from seeing inside of your house. So what is your best bet? Leave your curtains exactly as you usually keep them when you are at home, since noticeable changes

could provide a hint that you are not around anymore – especially if your curtains are uncharacteristically left closed for two weeks. Move expensive items, such as jewelry or computers, out of plain sight if they are visible from the windows.

#5. The Lights Are On But No One Is Home. Don't leave your lights on at home throughout your entire vacation in an effort to make it look like someone is in the house. Your electric bill will end up more costly than your mortgage, and house lights blazing throughout the night might look a bit suspicious. Instead purchase a light switch timer that can turn your lights on and off automatically according to a programmed schedule. Criminals keeping an eye on your house will notice any lights flipping on and off, and will probably assume that someone is doing the flipping. Amazon offers a number of such products, including one from Honeywell and another from Enerlites.

#6. Stop Your Mail Delivery Service. Either place a "stop" order on your mail and newspapers or arrange to have a friend or neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers while you are away. Otherwise, a week's worth of newspapers piled on your front steps could signal to criminals that this particular homeowner is out of town. It is also easy to put your mail on hold at USPS.com.

#7. Put That in Your Pipe. If you live in a cold region of the world and your pipes are in danger of freezing during the winter, you have another compelling reason to leave a house key with a friend or neighbor while you are traveling. Ask your friend or neighbor to stop by your home and check your faucets. If he or she turns on a faucet and only a few drops of water come out, your pipes may be frozen.

#8. Pull The Plug. Unplug your television, computer, toaster oven and other appliances in order to protect them from power surges. This will help you to save power as many household appliances draw energy even when they are turned off.

#9. Remove Your Spare Key. Having a spare key stashed somewhere outside is not fooling anyone. If a criminal figures out you are away on vacation, it is likely that he or she will search around your front porch for a spare key. So reach under the mat, into the mailbox, above the door frame or into the flower pot and remove your spare key before you leave on your vacation.

#10. Consider Purchasing a Home Security Camera System. Having a security camera system installed at your home gives you the ability to remotely check on the home while you are away as well as provide the ability to record any suspicious activities. Some home security systems even allow you to speak to anyone moving about your property as well as activate an alarm. A security camera system is a worthwhile investment and you can also receive a favorable discount on your home owners insurance.

WHAT TO DO IF AN AIRLINE LOSES YOUR LUGGAGE?

By Cailey Rizzon – Travel Leisure Magazine July 18, 2017

With the advent of better technology in the aviation industry, airlines are getting better all of the time, at least when it comes to checked baggage. For example airlines are now about seventy percent less likely to lose luggage than they were ten years ago. Less than .03 percent of passengers experience mishandled baggage – the lowest rate since the Department of Transportation started collecting data on bags in 1987. However, there are still an unlucky few

who will have to jump through hoops in order to get their checked luggage back after a flight. Below are a few suggestions on what to do if your luggage happens to be misplaced or lost:

Notify the Airline Immediately. The first step to finding a bag that doesn't show up at the baggage claim is to let the airline know it is missing ASAP. It may be helpful to have a couple of pictures of your luggage on your telephone to show the airport staff. Regardless, be sure to know a bag's brand, size and color before takeoff. Airlines will use this information when hunting down your misplaced luggage. Travelers should be sure to hold onto their claim check (usually a sticker stuck on the back of a boarding pass) as that little barcode could be vital in confirming a bag's identity.

Don't Let Them Forget About You. Anybody dealing with a lost bag should stay in constant contact with the airline until they are reunited with their suitcase. Don't let them forget about you but do it nicely. The airline doesn't care that you will not have clothes for Aunt Millie's wedding - so don't tell them the stories that they don't need to know. It won't get your luggage any faster.

Check on Compensation. Travelers should enquire about airline policy for lost luggage as they may be entitled to compensation. In instances where a bag is lost for more than twenty-four hours, airlines may be required to compensate travelers with a clothing allowance. For those who lost their toiletries while in transit, airlines usually have small amenity kits with toothpaste, deodorant and soap to hand out.

Take Inventory of the Contents Inside Your Luggage. Travelers should take photographs of any items of value that are placed in their checked luggage. It is also wise to prepare a checklist of exactly what is placed inside your luggage and if possible have a copy of any receipts for valuable items as proof of the replacement cost with the airline or insurance company.

Prevent Your Bag From Getting Lost. But of course, the best way to deal with a lost bag is to make sure that it doesn't happen in the first place. Travelers who are particularly anxious about losing their luggage can opt to buy a smart suitcase like Raden or Bluesmart that can track itself through the airport via an app. It is also possible to buy a GPS tracker to stick inside any old suitcase and turn it into a smart suitcase. Passengers should also know that how you fly matters. Qatar Airlines and Delta Airlines have both implemented their own tracking technology inside of luggage stickers that allows passengers to track their bags until the very moment they are reunited. Delta Airlines is also the U.S. carrier least likely to lose luggage.

Don't Forget the ID Tags. And there are also some more old school tricks. Travelers should make sure that every piece of luggage they are checking has an identification tag with their name and contact information. After handing over a bag to the airline counter, travelers should ensure that the luggage sticker has both their correct name and final destination (mistakes can happen).

Avoid Overweight Luggage or Using Broken Suitcases. Travelers should also avoid traveling with luggage that is overweight or broken. If an old suitcase happens to break open before it makes it to the airplane, it will get put aside without question. If your luggage is worn out, replace it in order to save a lot of headaches. On the other side of the equation, if an airline have unclaimed luggage, they are required to spend ninety days trying to reunite the bag with its owner. If after ninety days and no one shows up to collect the bag, the airline can resell it to somewhere like the Unclaimed Luggage Center, which lets shoppers peruse lost items like a thrift store.

STAYING PLUGGED IN WHILE ON VACATION

If you are planning to leave your smartphone or laptop at home when you go on a vacation you might want to think again. More than sixty-two percent of travelers say that they plan to check their work-related emails and voice mails, according to a new poll by the travel agency network Travel Leaders Group. While most people attempt to disconnect from their smartphones and laptops while on vacation as people really need a break from work, it remains sensible to stay connected to improve your vacation. People can simply check their emails once daily and text colleagues, family and friends as deemed necessary. This will ensure that your vacation remains a vacation free from stress. In today's age of social media accessibility 24/7 it is recommended that you choose a particular time of the day to check your emails and messages and then stick to this schedule. In a sense, leisure travelers are becoming more like business travelers who seek to stay connected. In addition to being unrealistic, unplugged vacations deprive travelers of a valuable tool as your device can help you to resolve challenges often quickly and in many cases get better customer service. Travelers can use their smartphones to get travel-related directions as well as stay in contact in case something really important occurs and you need to be contacted. Carrying a smartphone can also be used to take photographs and/or video record rude or unprofessional behavior and distribute via social media. Facebook and Twitter post is often enough to get a service problem resolved in real time. However, don't let your vacation be ruined by staying in touch as you do deserve a break from the normal and a chance to rejuvenate while on vacation.

SEE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN ART AT SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

African art rarely thrives in Western art museums. It generally hovers between the beautiful or intriguing object and the ethnographic specimen. Exhibitions are also relatively infrequent, so audiences have little opportunity to truly experience and enjoy. Fortunately, magnificent African art collections can be viewed and enjoyed at the National Museum of African Art (NMAfA) located as a part of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Here one can participate in a guided tour or simply enjoy at your own pace many African artifacts and art pieces that evoke powerful visual and emotional messages to the viewer. Experienced docents can offer information and insight on the original significance or connection to African history, culture and society. For your information, Helen Broadus (President of Venue International Professionals, Inc.) is a Docent with the National Museum of African Art and she is available to assist you with organizing tours of African art exhibitions and lecture series. Please feel free to contact her at yipinc@erols.com if you are interested in specific tours.



PLEASE ALSO VISIT VENUE INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INC.'S WEBSITE (WWW.VENUETRAVEL.NET) FOR ADDITIONAL NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AS WELL AS SEVERAL NEW AND EXCITING DESTINATIONS THAT WE ARE PROMOTING SUCH AS CUBA, DUBAI, CHINA AND AUSTRALIA.



VENUE INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INC.

SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA TOUR™

NOVEMBER 3-17, 2017

Double Occupancy \$5,999.00 and Single Occupancy \$7,499.00

Make Plans Now For a Fantastic Adventure of the Best of Africa Tour in South Africa, Zambia and Botswana! Highlights of Your Best of Southern Africa Tour in South Africa include: Welcome Dinner; City Tour of Johannesburg and Soweto; Visit the Apartheid Museum; City Tour of Pretoria; Visit to Lesedi Cultural Village; Wine Estate Tour, City Tour of Cape Town; Pilgrimage to Robben Island; Visit to Table Mountain; Cape Peninsula Tour and Farewell Dinner with Cultural Entertainment. Highlights of Your Best of Southern Africa Tour in Zambia and Botswana include: Walking Tour of the Majestic Victoria Falls as well as a Sundowner Cruise on the Zambezi River; Full-Day Excursion for a Mini-Safari in the Chobe National Park; Rhino Walking Safari in Victoria Falls National Park; and a Farewell Boma Dinner with a Cultural Entertainment. Also enjoy various shopping opportunities for African textiles, handicrafts, jewelry and much more!

YOUR BEST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA INCLUDES: Roundtrip International Airfare on South African Airways; Transportation in air-conditioned vehicles; Eleven Nights Hotel Accommodations with breakfast included; Various Sightseeing Tours as published in the Day-To-Day Itinerary; Welcome and Farewell Dinners with Cultural Entertainment; Group Tips and Gratuities; and a VIP Souvenir Gift.

DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A BEST OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA, ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA. SEATS ARE VERY LIMITED SO RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY! Please call (301) 856-9188 to confirm your reservation. DETACH and MAIL your \$500.00 DEPOSIT TODAY – to Venue International Professionals, Inc. 9134 Piscataway Road, Suite 1872, Clinton, Maryland 20735. **NOTE: Please refer to VIP's "Best of Southern Africa Tour to South Africa, Zambia and Botswana 2017™" on all correspondence.**

Please Call For A Detailed Itinerary



Please cut along this line -----

Enclosed is my deposit/payment in the amount of \$ _____ for # _____ of people for the Best of Southern Africa Tour to South Africa, Zambia and Botswana scheduled for November 3-17, 2017. Please Note: 50% of the Deposit is Non-Refundable. FINAL PAYMENT DUE by September 5, 2017. Single Supplement of \$1,500.00 is available upon request. Please check [] for double occupancy or please check [] for the single supplement. Please check [] if require special needs assistance. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to experience the Best of Southern Africa Tour to South Africa, Zambia and Botswana in 2017. Optional Elephant Back Safari in Zambia is available upon request for an additional \$200.00.

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

My Roommate's Name is: _____



JOIN OUR DISCOVERY TOUR TO CUBA™

MONDAY, APRIL 9 – FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

Double Occupancy \$4,299.00*/Single Occupancy \$4,999.00*

Make Plans Now To Join Us on a Discovery Tour for a Unique Experience of Cuba! Highlights of Your Discovery Tour of Cuba include: Roundtrip Flight between Washington, D.C. and Havana, Cuba; Welcome Dinner; City Tour of Havana, the Capital City of Cuba; City Tour of Trinidad, affectionately referred to as the “Crown Jewel” of Cuba’s colonial cities and Tours of Santiago de Cuba, the “Center of Afro-Cuban Culture and Traditions”; and Farewell Dinner with Cultural Entertainment as well as opportunities to interact with the Cuban people and much more!

YOUR TOUR OF CUBA INCLUDES: Roundtrip International Flight; Transportation in air-conditioned vehicles; Eleven Nights Hotel Accommodations with breakfast included; Various Sightseeing Tours as published in the Day-To-Day Itinerary; Welcome and Farewell Dinners with Cultural Entertainment; and various people-to-people interactions.

DON'T MISS THIS FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A CUBA. SEATS ARE VERY LIMITED SO RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY! Please call (301) 856-9188 to confirm your reservation. DETACH and MAIL your \$500.00 DEPOSIT TODAY – to Venue International Professionals, Inc. 9134 Piscataway Road, Suite 1872, Clinton, Maryland 20735. **NOTE: Please refer to VIP’s “Discovery Tour to Cuba™” 2018 on all correspondence.**

Please Call For A Detailed Itinerary



Please cut along this line -----

Enclosed is my deposit/payment in the amount of \$500.00 for # _____ of people for the Discovery Tour of Cuba™ scheduled for Monday, April 9 – Friday, April 20, 2018. Please Note: 50% of the Deposit is Non-Refundable. FINAL PAYMENT DUE by Monday, February 19, 2018. Price is \$4,299.00 based on double occupancy and \$4,999.00 based on single occupancy. Please check [] for double occupancy or please check [] for the single supplement. Please check [] if require special needs assistance. Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to visit Cuba’s Charming Colonial Cities in 2018 with Venue International Professionals, Inc.

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

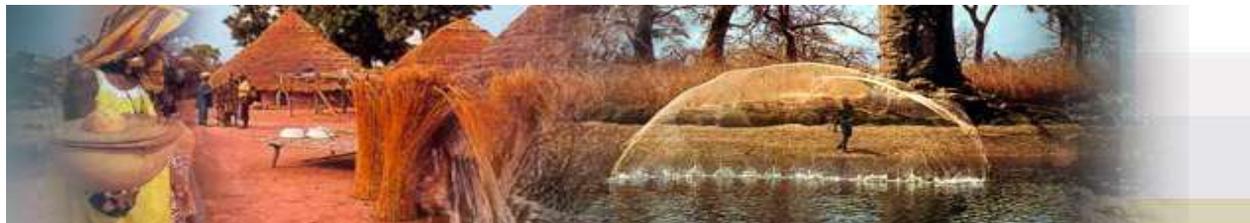
Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

My Roommate’s Name is: _____

***Prices & Dates Are Subject to Change Without Notice.**

Make Plans To Join Venue International Professionals, Inc. (VIP) for a Fantastic Journey to the Motherland to these two unique destinations in 2018. If you are interested in either one of these tours or any particular African destination please contact Venue International Professionals, Inc.



**JOIN VENUE INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INC. ON A
JOURNEY TO THE MOTHERLAND: SENEGAL AND THE GAMBIA, WEST AFRICA™**

Experience Senegal and The Gambia, West Africa! Highlights of Your West Africa Tour include: Welcome Dinner; City Tours of Dakar, the Capital of Senegal and Banjul, the Capital City of The Gambia; visit to Goree Island to see the “Door of No Return”; visit to the African Renaissance Monument; Pilgrimage to Juffureh, the ancestral homeland of Kunta, made famous by the epic story of ROOTS; Tour of the Pink Lake; and a Farewell Dinner with an Authentic Senegalese Naming Ceremony. Also enjoy plenty of shopping opportunities for textile, handicrafts, jewelry and much more! **Your Tour of Senegal and The Gambia Includes:** Roundtrip International Airfare on South African Airways; Transportation in air-conditioned vehicles; Nine Nights Hotel Accommodations with breakfast included; Various Sightseeing Tours as published in the Day-To-Day Itinerary; Welcome and Farewell Dinners with Cultural Entertainment; and VIP souvenir gift.



**JOIN VENUE INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INC. ON A
JOURNEY TO THE MOTHERLAND: GHANA, WEST AFRICA™**

Experience Ghana, West Africa! Highlights of Your West Africa Tour include: Welcome Dinner; City Tour of Accra, the Capital of Ghana; Pilgrimage to Elmina and Cape Coast to see the “Slave Castles and Dungeons”; Experience a Fantastic Rainforest Canopy Walkway in Kakum National Park; and visit Kumasi, the ancestral homeland of the Ashanti Empire as well as the Ashanti Craft Villages to learn more about the famous Kente Cloth Weavers; and a Farewell Dinner with an Authentic Ghanaian Naming Ceremony. Also enjoy plenty of shopping opportunities for textile, handicrafts, jewelry and much more! **Your Tour of Ghana Includes:** Roundtrip International Airfare on South African Airways; Transportation in air-conditioned vehicles; Eight Nights Hotel Accommodations with breakfast included; Various Sightseeing Tours as published in the Day-To-Day Itinerary; Welcome and Farewell Dinners with Cultural Entertainment; and VIP souvenir gift.