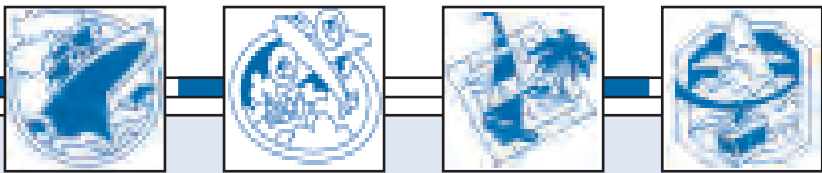
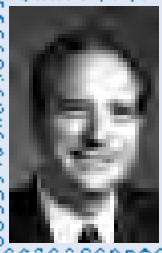


OFFICIAL CLUB PARTNER



# Travel Talk

by Tony Adler, President, Cruise and Resort, Inc. Club Travel Partner



Tony Adler

## Hawaii for All Budgets

■ America's 50th state can be one of the more affordable "exotic" vacations.

Hawaii is one of my family's favorite vacation destinations. It has a perfect combination of features, including romance; great weather; fun for the kids; friendly people; accessibility (easy to get to from Los Angeles); and variety – there are many ways to spend your days, so boredom is never an issue. What many people don't know is that it is one of the more affordable "exotic" vacations you can find.

There are numerous flights from Los Angeles to the Islands. Sometimes the fares look expensive, but we generally purchase the seats from Hawaii wholesalers to save our clients money. They get the same scheduled air on the same airlines for less money. What makes this possible? Well, the Hawaii wholesalers commit to a certain number of seats and promise not to sell them to the general public unless they are sold in conjunction with a car rental or hotel. Most people rent a car, so even if we handle our clients' hotels separately, they still are able to take advantage of the lower fares. Regardless of whether you choose very deluxe hotels or more budget-oriented properties, our air contacts save you money just getting there!

Once you decide to go to Hawaii, you need to choose your islands. Our most popular vacation destinations in Hawaii are Kauai and Maui. If you have never visited Hawaii before, you might want to stop in Honolulu on the island of Oahu. We generally don't recommend that you spend too much time there because Honolulu has grown to be such a big city that you often miss the Hawaii experience you were dreaming about. The island of Hawaii, known as "the big island," has some spectacular golf and magnificent hotels. Virtually the entire island is built on top of black lava. You can still take excursions to an active volcano on Hawaii, and you could even choose to see it from above by helicopter. I like a little adventure, but helicopters are not my thing! Finally, there is the island of Lanai. This has been the quietest of the Hawaiian Islands, but now that the Four Seasons has taken over its two major hotels, it is bound to become much more popular. My wife and I are visiting it this month, so feel free to ask us what we thought if you are interested in checking it out.

Once you choose your islands, your next big decision has to do with your budget and what you like. Do you want deluxe hotels or moderate hotels? If watching your dollars carefully, would you prefer a garden room at a deluxe hotel or an ocean-view room at a moderate hotel? Is on-site golf or tennis important? If you are traveling with children, ask us about the hotels with the best waterslides. Once we know what you like and approximately how much you can spend, we can "shop"

for you to find you the best value for your money. We come back to you with choices that best reflect what you are looking for in a vacation. As a Club member, you never pay for this service!

Although the rates vary by time of year and the hotel properties you choose, a one-week vacation that includes three or four nights each on Maui and Kauai, air to Hawaii from Los Angeles, inter-island air, hotels and hotel taxes, and rental cars on both islands can run from as low as about \$1,000 per person. Using deluxe properties like the Four Seasons on Maui or the Grand Hyatt on Kauai can move the rates up to more than \$2,500 per person. This is just a rough estimate, but it should help you begin your planning.



After you decide on the package that includes your air, hotels or condos and rental cars, you can still do some additional fine-tuning of your vacation by taking advantage of our Hawaii concierge services. We can book many of Hawaii's best attractions for you in advance. For example, we can set you up at Maui's best luau, arrange a sunrise bicycle trip down a volcano, book a water tubing adventure down an irrigation ditch on Kauai, and various other custom tours. Many people like to plan these things in advance; others like to wait until they are on the islands. It is totally up to you.

By the way, we have special relationships with the top hotels in the Hawaiian Islands. When the hotel shows up as "sold out" on their own Websites, we can often get our clients in. Also, our clients frequently get the best rooms in the category booked, and even upgrades when available. This has to do partly with the volume of business we send these properties, and partly due to personal friendships we have made throughout the years.

Hawaii can be done inexpensively or lavishly. The important thing is to get the most for your money no matter how you choose to go. We are eager to help you plan a visit to the Aloha State that will keep you coming back again and again.

Cruise and Resort, Inc. is your Club partner for travel. With the exception of domestic air tickets, we never charge for our services. We are available by phone, e-mail or via the Internet. We provide value and service. We realize how precious your vacation time is, and we want to make sure you get the most incredible travel experiences for your money.

Cruise and Resort can help you with all your vacation and business travel throughout the world. Please give us a call at (888) 652-6400 with any questions and for reservations. Not only can we book your member reservations at any hotel, resort or cruise line, we can often save you money and offer you additional Club benefits.



## John's Picture Perfect Contest

WIN \$25 TRADER JOE'S Gift Card

### For June, we have three winners!

Start snapping today, and send us your best results! Three winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Trader Joe's.

Three PRIZES

NEXT DEADLINE: June 19 Happy Snapping!



"While on a camping trip in the Inyo National Forest in August 2004, I took this picture of a lone tree with the Eastern Sierra Nevada in the background near the Manzanar National Historical Site."

- Arvin Lopez, GIS Supervisor I, Bureau of Engineering/GIS Mapping

John's comments: Here are some words that come to mind when I look at this picture: haunted, cold, dark, lonely, nuclear wasteland...in fact I'm starting to get depressed just looking at the picture...but that's what I like about it, it evokes emotion, it commands my attention, I can easily get lost in it. Thanks Arvin (as always) for the mind trip.



"Cosmo is a five-month-old teacup Pomeranian. They call the coloring "merle," and his coloring is very unique. Someone was just having fun and put Oz in his shirt."

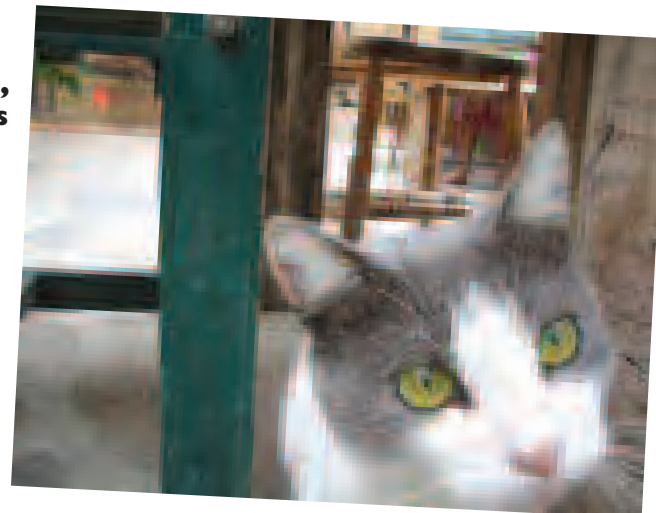
- Gail Seltzer, DWP

John's comments: I don't know whom I'm more worried for, Cosmo or the DWP employee in the picture. In any event, Gail, this is a fun one; it puts animal and people on the same level. It's a classic!

"Green Eyes in Mexico."

- Jenny Arzate, Rec and Parks

John's comments: If cats could talk, I think this one would be saying something like, "I'm hungry, yet I'm curious." I really like the sharpness of the cat's face; it's not easy to get such close shots, especially with animals that are moving. But most of all, I think this captures the essence of a cat's life: roaming, inquisitive and always on the move. Thanks, Jenny!



### Runner-Ups:

Margaret B. Grijalva  
Dawn Smith – Airport Police  
Evelyn F. Auyeung-Ing  
Jennifer Smith – City Attorney's Office  
Susy Gomez – Public Works

Vyry Herrington for Fidencio Madero  
– Building and Safety  
Nancy Wills, DWP, Retired (Bishop)  
Margaret B. Grijalva  
Evelyn Auyeung-Ing

### Rules:

- The contest is open to all Club members in good standing. Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.
- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to: Picture Perfect Contest, *Alive!*, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 350 S. Figueroa St., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90071
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.

Call your Club representatives at (888) 652-6400

Julie, David or Kristy – to talk about any travel destination. Be sure to mention that you are a Club member for your maximum discounts. We value your business and look forward to the opportunity to assist you.