

Advertorial

TRAVEL COLUMN

Free.... ALASKA Travel Shows

Did you know... the name Alaska is derived from the Aleut word "Alyeska," meaning "great land."?

Did you know... Alaska was purchased from Russia for just 2 cents an acre in 1867?

Did you know... Dog-Mushing is the official state sport?

Did you know... Of the 20 highest mountain peaks in the U.S.17 are in Alaska?

Did you know...the best way to plan that Alaska dream vacation is to attend one of the free Pauls Cruises shows? (*the* best shows anywhere...next Sunday...circle your calendar!)

Next SUNDAY-July 28

@ 2 p.m.

Pauls Cruises Theater -

5767 SW Green Oaks -

easy access from everywhere!

(SE corner of I-20 - exit 445 - left of Panchos)

Come see why "Mr. & Mrs. & Miss Alaska" (owners Tom, Rita & Christy Paul) have been delighting travelers on their personally escorted "BEST OF ALASKA" cruise-tours since 1981! The Pauls, longtime local residents, will personally escort you on their Alaskan Adventure. Travel industry professionals have named the Pauls, "MR. & MRS. & MISS ALASKA" after escorting groups to Alaska for the past 31 years. They know & love this great land, and their reputation and experience for escorting fun-filled groups throughout the world is well known.

Alaska Cruise specialist, Rita Paul, will answer questions about what to wear, wildlife, weather, ports of call, what to do and see, and other questions you might have. Special bonuses and savings. Special 2014 Alaska prices available, as well as information on two escorted, *complete* VIPP ALASKAN ADVENTURES, an escorted combination land tour and cruise which will depart the DFW area on **May 26 or July 6.**

Come see what hundreds of people are talking about! Uniquely designed by Pauls, these tours feature "The Best of Alaska" and are available only through Pauls Cruises. Spend time in Anchorage, 2 nts. in the Denali area, 2 nts. in Fairbanks and travel over 200 miles by train in deluxe domed rail cars. No long, boring motorcoach rides. Visits to Denali National Park, the Alaska Pipeline, an afternoon Riverboat ride, Gold Panning, and a personal visit to a musher dog kennel are all included plus a 7 night Inside Passage-Glacier Bay cruise! Special savings and just a \$100/person deposit will secure a spot on this Adventure!

Stop by either of their office locations (Hurst or Arlington) during ALASKA WEEK. Come see what everyone is talking about!

FREE Admission but please r.s.v.p.. Door Prizes! Huge SAVINGS. To r.s.v.p, or for further information, or to reserve your dream Alaskan Adventure - in the DFW Metroplex-call (metro)-(817)-572-PAUL(7285) or (817)589-SHIP(7447) or outside the DFW area - 800-327-3533. Or e-mail them Alaska@PaulsCruises.com



Take a short trip to BIG summer fun at Gaylord Texan, the grandest resort destination in the Lone Star State! Located on the shores of Lake Grapevine, Gaylord Texan delights visitors with four-and-a-half acres of lush indoor gardens, winding waterways, and waterfalls under its signature glass atrium. Kept at a comfortable 72-degrees all summer long, the resort features 1,511 luxury guest rooms, four award-winning restaurants, seven bars and lounges, a 25,000-square-foot European inspired spa, a 24-hour fitness center with a saltwater lap pool, unique retail shops, and much more.



Now through Labor Day, experience Gaylord Texan's 10th annual SummerFest event featuring fun activities, live entertainment, culinary programs, and happy hour specials. There is something for all ages to enjoy including caricature and balloon artists, strolling entertainers, and Friday night firework shows! Bring out your child's inner chef as they learn the basic kitchen techniques, recipes, and plating skills at Junior Chef Camps. Participate in exciting one-of-a-kind DreamWorks Animation themed activities including Rise of the Guardians scavenger hunt, character meet and greets, and breakfast with your favorite characters from Madagascar! New this year, experience Wind Down Wednesday happy hour at Glass Cactus Nightclub, embrace your creativity at "Create Your Canvas" art classes, find inner peace at poolside yoga, enhance your culinary abilities at adult cooking classes, explore the resort's atriums featuring original artwork created by local artisans, and much more.



Outside, make a splash at Paradise Springs, Gaylord Texan's 10-acre outdoor pool and lazy river playground named the #1 Top Aquatic Resort in the United States by Water Parks & Resorts Today. Explore a 600-foot long winding lazy river with entertaining water features and 6,000-square-foot family lagoon featuring a walk-in beach, a 27-foot tall waterslide, two horseshoe-shaped hot pools, water basketball, and a 25-foot long zip-line. In addition to the numerous water activities, Paradise Springs also features 1,200 chaise loungers, an outdoor game pavilion, and a full-service pool bar and grill. With so much to see and do at Gaylord Texan, it is the perfect destination for your summer stay-cation! For more information, visit www.gaylordtexan.com.



Pristine island has long had strong pull on resort pioneers

What do Richard Nixon and Giorgio Armani have in common? Anguilla.

By Debra Dunning Brouillette
Special to the Star-Telegram

When Robin and Sue Ricketts arrived in Anguilla in 1978, there were two small hotels and one restaurant.

The British-born couple's experience in the hotel industry around the world had brought them to the Caribbean to take charge of hotel start-ups first in Aruba, then in Martinique and Bonaire. While visiting friends on St. Maarten, an afternoon boat outing brought them to the neighboring island of Anguilla.

"All we could see were beaches, one after the other," Robin said. "We thought, 'My god, this is just heaven!'"

After meeting with government and tourism officials about their desire to start hotel projects, the Ricketts decided to settle on this beach-rimmed isle, at least long enough to give it a go.

"We had the expertise, but not the money," Sue Ricketts said. "We secured land rights to a prime 20-acre beachfront site overlooking Meads Bay and Turtle Cove, but needed to find the finances to proceed with building what would become the Malliouhana, Anguilla's first luxury resort."

Within months, Leon Roydon, an investor vacationing on St. Martin (the French side of St. Maarten), came looking for land to develop. "Lo and behold, we sealed the deal," she said.

Two luxury villas opened in 1981. The main 55-room hotel opened in November 1984.

"Giorgio Armani was our first guest in the villas," Sue said. "There were no credit cards, no 800 numbers and no computers; reservations came in by Telex." Other celebrities and well-heeled guests also found their way there, none more surprising than former President Richard Nixon, who swam ashore one day from his yacht, along with his Secret Service companions.

"We invited him in for a drink and discussed events in China with him - in the bathroom no less!"

Once the standard-bearer among Anguilla's luxury resorts, the hotel closed in 2011, an apparent casualty of the worldwide economic downturn. It is expected to reopen this year under new ownership.

The Ricketts left the Malliouhana shortly after its full opening in 1984 to help create and manage Cap Juluca, another



British natives and hoteliers Sue and Robin Ricketts were some of the first to recognize Anguilla's tourism prospects. Anguilla Tourist Board

other of the island's best-known hotels. Three six-bedroom villas opened in 1988, while construction continued all around them.

"Those days were much like what is portrayed in Herman Wouk's *Don't Stop the Carnival*," Sue Ricketts said. "We had telephones, but no electricity. Generators powered everything."

Within three years, the Rickettses, known throughout the Caribbean for their expertise as hoteliers, were lured away from Anguilla for the first time in 13 years.

"We left in 1991 to help start up Grace Bay Club in the Turks and Caicos, then spent about a year in England before returning to our home in Anguilla."

In 1997, they were asked to return to Cap Juluca, which by then had grown to an 18-villa, 98-room property. Sue oversaw worldwide sales and marketing while Robin sat on the management board. Before the couple left again in 2007 to handle luxury villa rentals, the resort was named No. 1 in the Caribbean by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*.

It wasn't long, however, before they were back at hotel work. They took on ownership and management of the upgraded and revitalized 27-room Anacaona Boutique Hotel in 2010, an affordable alternative to Anguilla's luxury resorts.

"Anguilla has become our home, in every sense of the word," Sue said. "It's our world, and one in which we're very happy to have spent the majority of our lives."

STAR-TELEGRAM BRIDAL SHOW

Passports

Special arrangements have been made with the District Clerk's Passport Section to be at the show. Be sure to bring proof of U.S. citizenship, identification, front and back copy of identification, valid Social Security number, and two separate checks for application fees; \$35 (includes pictures) for the Tarrant County District Clerk and \$110 for the Department of State (Adult Fees). You must apply in person. For questions prior to the event, please call 817-884-2520.

Sunday, August 18, 2013
Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, TX
10:30am - 4:30pm

www.star-telegramweddings.com

Fashion Show by Susan Huston:
2pm

Admission:
\$8 cash only please
(\$4 for valid Press Pass members)

Parking:
\$5 per vehicle

GAYLORD TEXAN RESORT

Star-Telegram

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