

NEWPORT NEWS OFFICE
10858 Warwick Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23601
757-599-3011 • 1-800-462-3204



WILLIAMSBURG OFFICE
240 McLaws Circle (Kingsmill)
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WARWICK TRAVEL
SERVICE, INC.

Personal Service at its Best!

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OCEANIA CRUISES®
Your World. Your Way.®

Regatta / Insignia / Nautica / Sirena / Marina / Riviera

Oceania Cruises is the world's leading destination-focused and culinary-focused cruise line. The line's six intimate and luxurious ships which carry 684 or 1,250 guests offer an unrivaled vacation experience featuring the finest cuisine at sea and destination-rich itineraries that span the globe. Expertly crafted voyages aboard designer-inspired intimate ships call on more than 450 ports across Europe, Alaska, Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, New England/Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Panama Canal, Tahiti, the South Pacific and the epic 180-day Around the World Voyages.

The Oceania Cruises guest is typically mature, recently retired or entrepreneurs, who may enjoy a seven-day cruise but also have the flexibility to take longer vacations. They are discerning travelers looking for a vacation of exceptional distinction – perhaps wishing to move up from larger, more impersonal premium cruise lines or possibly seeking a better dollar value than offered by other lines. They are individuals who embrace multicultural and immersive experiences and value the port-intensive cruises that are a hallmark of the Oceania Cruises brand. They are connoisseurs who appreciate fine dining, extraordinary service, elegant surroundings and attention to detail.

Oceania Cruises offers gourmet cuisine in six distinctive restaurants – at no additional charge. Open seating in all restaurants allows guests to dine where,

when and with whom they choose. Five-star menus are curated by Oceania Cruises' Executive Culinary and renowned Master Chef Jacques Pepin. Enjoy Continental cuisine at the elegant Grand Dining Room, Steaks, Chops and Seafood at Polo Grill, Gourmet Italian dining at Toscana, French Country cuisine at Jacques and Bold, Contemporary flavors of Asia at Red Ginger. You will enjoy casual and alfresco breakfast, lunch and dinner at Terrace Café. When cruising on-board Marina and Riviera,



Oceania Marina

you will find exquisite wine and food pairings a La Reserve by Wine Spectator. So many elegant choices!

On-board life consists of gracious personalized service, country club casual ambiance that is elegant yet relaxed, a multitude of enriching activities that reflect the varied interests of those with an appreciation for the finer things in life, the Canyon Ranch Spa Club featured on board every ship offering massages, facials, other spa treatments plus complimentary fitness classes, wellness lectures and vegan and spa cuisine options in the restaurants. You

will enjoy a Monte Carlo-style casino, production shows, headline entertainers, stylish boutiques, a well-stocked library, Internet center and more.

Complimentary unlimited soft drinks, bottled water, cappuccino, espresso, teas and juices are available throughout the ship and in all suites and staterooms. On board Marina and Riviera, you will find The Culinary Center offering a variety of cooking classes at the first hands on cooking school at sea.

With the OceaniaNEXT initiative, the line has elevated the guest experience to new levels, completely transforming new delights to its two 1,250-guest ships, Marina and Riviera. After a sweeping series of enhancements, Regatta, Insignia, Nautica and Sirena are better than new – all 342 suites and staterooms are new from top to bottom with luxurious touches of

freshness.

Oceania Cruises is truly a five-star product and positions the line as the cruise company of choice for travelers seeking a truly refined and casually elegant travel experience. Whatever corner of the globe beckons you, Oceania Cruises takes you there in comfort and style.

The Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel can assist you with your dream destination along with all the benefits of booking an Oceania Cruise.



European Adventure Take Off with Tauck

Amy Hill TAUCK  WORLD
DISCOVERY

Visit Europe on a Tauck Adventure and take advantage of their Take Off with Tauck promo if you book by February 29, 2020, and travel March 1 through August 31, 2020.

This promo is good on new European Land trips, European River Cruises, Tauck Bridges Europe trips and Europe Small Ship Cruises on select itineraries.

Small groups are designed for travelers who want more time to experience each destination up close and personally. You'll have more opportunities throughout Europe to connect as you experience daily life and learn from local experts.

Personal, thoughtful service is the hallmark of the Tauck Directors and local guides – together they provide a deeper, authentic travel experience in Europe. Their guides average over 10 years of service, come from 35 countries and speak 46 languages collectively. They are multi-talented and creative. They're the difference between a trip and the trip of a lifetime!

With such a variety of ways to experience Europe, call now and speak to one of our Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel to plan your next 2020 adventure. Take advantage of this special Tauck offer at this time.



Pacific Coast Adventure

Kim Gambino

GLOBUS

Your adventure begins in the "Emerald City" of Seattle where you will visit the Future of Flight Aviation Center for a tour of the Boeing Factory and past, present and future developments in aviation technology plus sights and highlights in Seattle.

As you venture south, you will visit Portland, Newport, Florence and Coos Bay while traveling through Oregon. Continue traveling on down the Pacific Coast Highway to California where you will visit Gold Beach, the Redwood National Park (home of the world's most spectacular ancient redwood trees), Eureka and on to San Francisco where you will visit key sights along with the Golden Gate Bridge.

This 9-day land tour runs June – September, 2020, and is priced from \$2939 per person based on double occupancy including breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 3 three-course dinners.

For a more detailed itinerary, please call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel.



Best of Iceland and Ireland South

Janis Belch, CTC

 **C-I-E TOURS
International**

Discover the wealth of cultural heritage, folklore and spectacular scenery in these two magnificent destinations. Your vacation begins in Reykjavik where you will enjoy a guided tour of Iceland's capital city set on the southern shore of Faxa Bay. Discover Reykjavik's settlement history and the natural beauty that surrounds it, especially the architecture and the beautiful brightly-colored rooftops. Visit the famous Blue Lagoon, a large man-made lake surrounded by a lava field that is also a geothermal spa.

Fly to Dublin and enjoy an orientation tour of the city center followed by a walking tour of Trinity College, visiting the library to view the Book of Kells, the 9th-century illuminated manuscript that is one of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures.

Travel to the Blarney Castle, kiss the Blarney Stone and on to Killarney. Discover the glorious Dingle Peninsula and the beautiful scenery found here. Take a traditional horse-drawn jaunting car through picturesque Killarney National Park.

Continue along the coast of County Clare to visit the Cliffs of Moher, which soar almost 700 feet above churning Atlantic swells and Galway Bay.

This 10-day land itinerary has 10 departure dates – March thru October, 2020, includes 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 5 dinners and is priced from \$3,249 per person based on double occupancy.

Call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel for more details.

You're Invited!

Please Join Warwick Travel For An Evening With

**Oceania Cruises
&**

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
6:00 – 8:00pm

Williamsburg Golf Club
1801 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg VA 23185

RSVP by April 8, 2020
Williamsburg (757) 229-7854
Newport News (757) 599-3011



Along the Mississippi New Orleans to Memphis By Small Ship

Emily Barker

ALEXANDER
+ROBERTS

Enjoy an in-depth tour of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans including a screening of Beyond the Boundaries, narrated by Tom Hanks. Spend 2-nights at a charming boutique hotel in the heart of the French Quarter. Embark on a private boat expedition into the Manchac Bayou where the lush vegetation and moss-draped cypresses provide prime habitat for a rich variety of wildlife.

Step into the Pre-Civil War era on a private tour of Nottoway Plantation, the largest and grandest Antebellum mansion in the South.

Sit down with inmates inside the infamous Angola Penitentiary to learn about their past – and their inspiring, personal journeys of transformation.

Hear riveting stories about the historic Siege of Vicksburg and visit the most impressive of the National Military Park's 27 state monuments – among our most important war memorials.

All of this and more awaits you on this small group water journey aboard the American Duchess on select dates in May, June, Aug, Nov & Dec 2020. Enjoy 10-days, 24 meals, open bar throughout your cruise, transfers, and all gratuities except your Trip Leader. From \$4,699 per person.



Luxury Hawaiian Escape

Linda Waynick

LUXURY GOLD

BRINGING BACK THE GOLDEN ERA OF TRAVEL

Hawaii's traditional greeting, Aloha, signifies love and compassion for others and nature. Experience the magic of this tropical island and meet its gentle people, as you celebrate local traditions and discover amazing historical sites, lush rain forests and palm-fringed beaches.

Kauai: A local to Kauai will share with you some of the secrets of the Kauai community and accompanies you on an exploration of Waimea Canyon.

Maui: Take in the magnificent views at Mount Haleakala National Park, an International Biosphere Reserve. Visit Iao Needle Monument, rich in cultural and spiritual values.

Oahu: Visit historic Pearl Harbor National Monument and the Pacific National Monument, home of the USS Arizona Memorial.

Hawaii: Visit Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the world's largest volcano.

For a more detailed itinerary, rates and dates, please call the Travel Advisors at Warwick Travel.

*Warwick Travel encourages appointments
but walk-ins are always welcome!*

At Your Service:

Your Warwick Travel Staff

NEWPORT NEWS OFFICE: 757-599-3011

Nancy Alligood, CTC
General Manager, Co-Owner,
Newsletter Editor

Linda Waynick
Travel Advisor

Kim Gambino
Travel Agent Manager

Emily Barker
Travel Advisor

Sharon Flick
Travel Advisor

Morag Richards
Travel Advisor

Susan Adams
Operations Manager

WILLIAMSBURG OFFICE: 757-229-7854

Dee King
Assistant Manager

Amy Hill
Travel Advisor

Janis Belch, CTC
Travel Advisor

Gerry Siekirsi
Group Specialist/Co-Owner



Central & South America Adventures

Dee King



If you're looking for natural beauty, Central and South America have it all. Majestic mountains, lush green valleys, spectacular rainforests, ancient ruins and famed archaeology. But their trips aren't just about sightseeing – when you travel with Adventures by Disney, you make lasting connections with the people and places you visit. Destinations include Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Amazon, Galapagos Islands and Peru.

An Adventure by Disney experience is unlike any other. With each trip, you get the benefit of local experts and two Adventure Guides to immerse you in the culture. Whether a short flight, train, ferry or motor coach ride, all travel within your journey is included, along with local gratuities, entry fees and most meals. Every detail of your trip is designed to relieve stress and maximize your enjoyment.

Call a Travel Advisor at Warwick Travel for more details, dates and prices.



Cruise News



Homeport Cruising from Norfolk - 2020

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINE

Bahamas 5-Night Cruise on the Sunrise, May 4 & 15. Call for rates.

Bahamas 6-Night Cruise on the Sunrise, May 9. Call for rates.

Bahamas 6-Night Cruise on the Radiance, Oct 12. From \$729.

Eastern Caribbean 7-Night Cruise on the Radiance, Oct 18 & 25. From \$819.

Bahamas 5-Night Cruise on the Radiance, Nov 1. From \$619

Ocean Cruises – 2020

AZAMARA CRUISES

Scotland Intensive 11-Night Cruise on the Quest, Aug 18, Amsterdam to Dublin. Visit Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Invergordon, Lerwick, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Oban and Glasgow, Scotland.

CELEBRITY CRUISES

Ultimate Southern Caribbean 10-Night Cruise on the Reflection, Nov 13 & Dec 4, Roundtrip Ft. Lauderdale. Visit St. Martin, St. Lucia, Barbados, Antigua, St. Kitts & Nevis.

CRYSTAL CRUISES

Mediterranean Island Inspiration 7-Night Cruise on the Symphony, Oct 4, Monte Carlo to Barcelona. Visit Monte Carlo, Monaco; Corsica, France; Sardinia, Italy; Majorca, Valencia & Barcelona, Spain.

DISNEY CRUISE LINE

Bahamian 4-Night Cruise on the Fantasy, Aug 31, Oct 19 & 26, Nov 2, Roundtrip Port Canaveral. Visit Nassau, Bahamas & Disney Castaway Cay.

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

Panama Canal 17-Night Cruise on the Zaandam, Oct 31, Ft. Lauderdale to San Diego. Visit the Bahamas, Aruba, Panama City, Nicaragua, Guatemala & Mexico.

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES

Hawaii 7-Night Inter-Island Cruise on the Pride of America, Jan thru Dec, Roundtrip Honolulu. Visit Kahului, Maui; Hilo & Kona, Hawaii; Nawiliwili, Kauai.

PRINCESS CRUISES

Denali Explorer 12-Night Southbound Alaska Cruise Tour on the Coral, Grand or Royal Princess, May thru Sep, Anchorage to Vancouver. Visit Anchorage, Mt. McKinley, Denali, Skagway, Juneau & Ketchikan.

REGENT SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

Greek Isles 10-Night Cruise on the Splendor, Oct 4, Athens to Istanbul. Visit Santorini, Mykonos, Gythion, Argostoli, Zakynthos, Crete & Rhodes, Greece; Ephesus & Istanbul, Turkey.

ROYAL CARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL

Western Caribbean 6-Night Cruise on the Odyssey, Nov 14, 28 & Dec 12, 26, Roundtrip Ft. Lauderdale. Visit "Perfect Day at CocoCay", Jamaica & Grand Cayman.

VIKING OCEAN CRUISES

Cities of Antiquity & The Holy Land 15-Night Cruise, Oct 28, Nov 7 & Dec 9, Athens to Rome. Visit Athens, Mykonos, Rhodes & Heraklion, Greece; Limassol, Cyprus; Jerusalem & Haifa, Israel; Naples & Rome, Italy.

River Cruises – 2020

AMA WATERWAYS

Romantic Danube 9-Night Wine River Cruise, Nov 11, 18 & 19, Munich, Germany to Budapest, Hungary. Spend 2 pre-nights in Munich. Visit Vishofen & Passau, Germany; Linz, Weissenkirchen & Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia & Budapest, Hungary.

AVALON WATERWAYS

Balkan Discovery 8-Night Danube River Cruise, Apr – Oct, Budapest, Hungary to Bucharest, Romania. Visit Mohacs, Hungary; Osijek, Croatia; Belgrade & Lepenski Vir, Serbia; Vidin, Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanassi, Bulgaria & Bucharest, Romania.

CRYSTAL RIVER CRUISES

Tulips & Windmills 7-Night Rhine River Cruise, Apr 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24, Roundtrip Amsterdam. Visit Amsterdam, Hoorn, Kinderdijk, Rotterdam & Middleburg, Netherlands; Antwerp & Ghent, Belgium.

TAUCK RIVER CRUISES

Rhine Enchantment 10-Night River Cruise, May – Oct, Milan, Italy to Amsterdam, The Netherlands or reverse. Spend 3 nights in Milan. Visit Lake Como, Italy; Basel or Zurich, Switzerland; Strasbourg, France; Heidelberg, Wiesbaden & Dusseldorf, Germany & Amsterdam.

UNIWORLD BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISES

Portugal & Spain 10-Night Douro River Cruise on the S.S. Sao Gabriel, May – Nov, Lisbon to Porto, Portugal. Spend 3 pre-nights in Lisbon. Visit Regua, Barca D'Alva, Pinhao, Portugal & Vega De Terron, Spain.

VIKING RIVER CRUISES

Imperial Jewels of China 13-Night Cruise Tour on the Emerald, May – Nov, Beijing to Shanghai, China. Visit Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Shibaozhai, Jingzhou, Wuhan & Shanghai, China.

Unless otherwise noted, fares are cruise only, per person rates based on double occupancy; subject to availability and capacity controlled by the cruise line. Amenities apply. Government fees, taxes and airfare are not included unless specifically stated in offer.



O Life CHOICE*



INCLUDES: Airfare & Unlimited Internet
PLUS CHOOSE ONE: FREE - Shore Excursions
FREE - Beverage Package
FREE - Shipboard Credit

The O Life Difference:

- The Finest Cuisine at Sea
- Six distinctive open-seating restaurants – all at no additional charge
- Gourmet Cuisine created by world-renowned Master Chef Jacques Pepin
- Epicurean enrichment program, including immersive Culinary Discovery Tours in the world's most fascinating destinations
- Award-winning itineraries featuring more than 400 alluring destinations
- Spectacular port-intensive voyages featuring overnight visits and extended evening port stays
- Intimate, luxurious ships catering to just 684 or 1,250 guests
- Exceptional personalized service
- Country club casual ambiance
- Acclaimed Canyon Ranch SpaClub

Special Oceania Cruise Promotions in 2020

Alaska Gold Rush Discovery 11-Night Cruise on the Regatta, June 25, Seattle to Vancouver. Visit Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Hoonah, Wrangell, Alaska; Victoria, British Columbia.

Momentous Mediterranean 10-Night Cruise on the Riviera, June 29, Venice to Barcelona. Visit Kotor, Montenegro; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Corfu, Greece; Sicily, Amalfi/Positano & Rome; Monte Carlo, Monaco; Saint-Tropez & Toulon, France.

British Isles Tapestry 10-Night Cruise on the Marina, July 28, Roundtrip London. Visit Edinburgh, Invergordon, Isle of Sky & Glasgow, Scotland; Belfast, Northern Ireland; Dublin & Cork, Ireland; Portland, UK.

Palaces, Parks & Piazzas 10-Night Cruise on the Sirena, July 30, Barcelona to Monte Carlo. Visit Valencia & Mallorca, Spain; Valletta, Malta; Sicily, Amalfi/Positano, Rome, Portoferraio & Portofino, Italy.

Bermuda Bliss 7-Night Cruise on the Insignia, Aug 8, Roundtrip New York. Visit St. George & Hamilton, Bermuda.

Emperors & The Opulent 10-Night Cruise on the Marina, Aug 29, Copenhagen to Stockholm. Visit Berlin, Germany; Ronne, Denmark; Gdansk, Poland; Klaipeda, Lithuania; Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland.

Alaska Summer Vistas 7-Night Cruise on the Regatta, Aug 24, Seward to Vancouver. Visit Juneau, Haines, Hoonah & Ketchikan, Alaska.

Emerald Isles, 10-Night Cruise on the Sirena, Sep 14, Roundtrip London. Visit Edinburgh, Invergordon, Stornoway & Glasgow, Scotland; Liverpool & Dartmouth, UK; Dublin & Cork, Ireland.

Limericks & Lore, 10-Night Cruise on the Nautica, Sep 28, Roundtrip Dublin. Visit Waterford, Cork, Glengarriffi & Galway, Ireland; Londonderry & Belfast, Northern Ireland; Liverpool, UK; Holyhead, Wales; Douglas, Isle of Man.

Landmarks & Lighthouses, 15-Night Cruise on the Insignia, Oct 26, Montreal to Miami. Visit Quebec City, Quebec; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Sydney & Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor, Maine; Newport, Rhode Island; New York; St. George, Bermuda.

Pathway to Paradise, 16 Night Cruise on the Riviera, Oct 28, Rome to Miami. Visit Cannes, France; Barcelona & Malaga, Spain; Madeira, Portugal; Bermuda; Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas.

Atlantic & Amber Gems, 10-Night Cruise on the Riviera, Dec 3, Roundtrip Miami. Visit St. Barts; Martinique; St. Lucia; Antigua; Puerto Rico.

The “Real ID”?

When using your driver’s license for identification, you may not be able to fly domestically without the REAL ID, effective October 1, 2020, as you must have a current driver’s license with a “star” in the upper right corner.

To get the REAL ID, you must visit the DMV in person and bring documents showing your identity, Social Security number and two proofs of Virginia residence. That could mean, for example, a birth certificate or a valid U.S. Passport; a Social Security card or tax documents, such as a W-2, showing the full number; and a valid driver’s license with the current street address plus a recent utility bill in your legal name. For more information about the required documents, go to: dmvNOW.com

A valid passport will always allow you to fly domestically or internationally. Aside from passports, certain other documents will be deemed acceptable in lieu of a REAL ID. Those include some Defense Department identification cards, a Department of Homeland Security “trusted traveler” card, foreign passports or a tribal ID card, among others. But most people will need either a valid passport or a REAL ID to fly domestically after October 1, 2020.



Agent Spotlight: Sharon Flick

Sharon joined Warwick Travel in 2009 and is celebrating 20 years in the travel industry. Originally from Williamsburg and now living in Newport News, she is a true native of Virginia – a real Southern Lady!

She enjoys helping clients plan a variety of travel including European tours, cruises, romantic getaways, family vacations and more. She enjoys working with groups, whether for a cruise or land adventure.

Cruising is one of Sharon’s favorite forms of travel. She has specialist training from several cruise lines, including Oceania, Regent, Celebrity, Carnival and Disney. She often attends ship inspections and can advise her clients what cruise line would be a good fit for them.

Sharon is a graduate of the Tauck Academy and Disney College of Knowledge, as well as a Bermuda and Sandals Specialists.

Her travels have taken her to Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, Mexico and all over the United States. One of her best travel adventures was to beautiful Hawaii, exploring Kauai and the Big Island.

Please give her a call for your next vacation adventure. She is ready, willing and able to assist you with your travel plans.



Gerry’s Adventures

Gerry Siekirski

2020

**SEPTEMBER 12-27: SWITZERLAND
RAIL/LAND TOUR**

Join Gerry & Zee on a great adventure in Switzerland for 2 weeks roundtrip Zurich. Visiting by rail & coach, Lucerne, Bern, Interlaken, Grindenwald/the Jungfra, Montreux, Lausanne, Zermatt/the Matterhorn, St. Moritz & Liechtenstein. This adventure includes Cog trains, cable cars, train from Interlaken to Montreux – Chocolate train to Gruyere – train from Tasch to Zermatt – Glacier Express from Zermatt to St. Moritz.

Limited seats available. \$5,000 land only. If interested, please call Gerry for the itinerary.

2021

**FEBRUARY 2-16: TALES OF TASMAN – SYDNEY
TO AUCKLAND**

Join Gerry & Zee on the Oceania Regatta to discover “DownUnder” in Australia, Tasmania & New Zealand for 2 weeks. Gerry is planning a pre-three night stay in Sydney then board the Regatta to enjoy an overnight in Melbourne and on to Burnie/Tasmania. New Zealand includes visits to Milford Sound, Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Bay of Islands and fly home from Auckland.

Wow! Another great “Adventure”. Enjoy \$400 ship board credit or 4 Free shore excursions. Warwick Travel is offering prepaid Gratuities. Space is limited as the ship is almost sold out. Contact Gerry for a brochure and more information.

**MARCH 4–APRIL 1: EASTERN EMBRACE – SINGAPORE
TO TOKYO**

Space has been blocked on the Oceania Nautica for this 28-Day Voyage visiting Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. If interested, please call Gerry for more information, rates and the itinerary.

Clients Corner

Sam & Susan Huffman - Harrisonburg, VA

Nancy, our Princess Alaska vacation was wonderful! We have highly recommended it to everyone we talk to about it. Princess did a great job of taking care of us while on the land portion and made the transfers from place to place very easy. The ship was beautiful and the scenery amazing. The cabin you picked for us was in a good location and all of your prodding regarding documents, etc. and your advice was very helpful! Everything about the trip was great--the excursions, the train ride to Whittier (which we ALMOST didn’t get to do because of the fires), the food, even the weather cooperated except for the last 2 days! It was Sam’s first cruise and he already wants to do another one!

Thank you for everything – we will be in touch soon.

Milan: Italy's best kept secret

By Nancy B. Alligood, CTC, Warwick Travel Service



If you have visited Rome, Florence and Venice but not Milan, this city should be high on your list. It is a city that defines romance, where fashion, art, music and architecture create an indelible impression. Travelers to Milan find that this modern, industrious metropolis packs historic highlights as powerful as other Italian cities.

While it does not have the depth of sites and experiences that some of Italy's other highly acclaimed cities offer, Milan is a cosmopolitan city, rich in history and culture and home to world-class museums, spectacular frescoed churches, contemporary art galleries, high-end restaurants, famous cafés, hidden gardens and great shopping destinations. Milan is also the economic power of Italy.

When it comes to cathedrals, it doesn't get much grander than the Duomo di Milan, the third largest cathedral in the world. To build it, the Milanese used the most expensive stone they could find—pink marble. This 650-year-old Gothic masterpiece of Milan is the hub of activity with its 135 spires and more than 2,200 statues gracing the exterior. While viewing the cathedral from the ground level is inspiring, its rooftop terrace offers the

most magnificent views available. The photo opportunities are endless, and the exquisite detail of the building with its numerous statues is clearly evident as you make your way to the terrace.

If you are an opera fanatic, the world-renowned opera theatre, La Scala, is considered the most prestigious opera house in the world. Built in 1778, La Scala has hosted some of the world's most famous composers, including Verdi, Puccini and Rossini. Many of the greatest operas first performed here, including *Madame Butterfly*, *Nabucco* and *Turandot*. Almost all of the great opera singers, from Caruso to Callas and Pavarotti, have sung here. Even if you are not an opera fan, a visit to this historic building should not be missed.

Connecting two of Milan's most famous landmarks—Duomo di Milan and La Scala—the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele forms the historic center of Milan. This mall is four stories tall and topped by an impressive glass-vaulted ceiling. Inside, you will find plenty of high-priced shops and restaurants.

As the fashion center of Italy, Milan offers plenty of shopping. Even if you are a casual shopper visiting the city for its historical sites, you will find yourself drawn to window shopping and linger-



Duomo di Milan to the right of the historic mall Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II

© STEFFEN SCHMITZ / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ing among luxury stores such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Prada.

Considered one of the most recognizable paintings in the world, "The Last Supper," is away from the city center. Leonardo Da Vinci's fragile fresco survives—just barely—inside the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, centuries after it was painted onto the wall of what had been the church's dining hall. Unfortunately, deterioration began within six years of its completion, and the church was bombed in World War II, but the wall holding "The Last Supper" remained standing.

Da Vinci spent three years painting "The Last Supper." It is said that he went entire days without painting a stroke, just staring at the work. Then he'd grab a brush, rush up, flick on a dab of paint—and go back to staring.

Today this extraordinary work is housed in a humidity-regulated room

that limits the number of visitors. Most of the original paint is gone. Still, visitors come from around the world to see what's left of this remarkable art. Reservations are mandatory and it is recommended to book at least three months in advance. It is a highlight not to be missed!


While there is much to see and do in Milan, a day visit to beautiful Lake Como, nestled in the shadow of the snowcapped Alps, is a short distance away. Boat cruises are available around the lake, allowing visitors to explore the centuries-old buildings, stone lanes and cobbled stairways lined with shops. In the city of Como, you can take the funicular up the mountain to Brunate, where the views are spectacular while watching the sun set over the mountains.

While much of Italy's appeal is rooted in its relaxed pace and Old World feel, Milan, the nation's second city and financial capital, offers just the opposite. Travelers who take time for Milan find that this modern, industrious metropolis packs historic highlights as powerful as other Italian cities.

Milan may be overshadowed by Rome, Venice and Florence as a tourist destination, but this stirred-up melting pot of people, industry and history is one of the top treasures of the wonder that is modern-day Italy.

No trip to Italy is complete without visiting Milan and Lake Como. It truly is Italy's best kept secret. ◀

Nancy B. Alligood, CTC is general manager/owner of Warwick Travel Service, Inc. and can be reached at 757-599-3011 or n_alligood@warwicktravel.com.



TAUCK

EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISING


Rhine Enchantment, Amsterdam to Milan...

Five countries, three nights in Milan and Lake Como, and a 7-night cruise along the Rhine... Stay 3 nights at Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan and explore Lake Como, where the wealthy and powerful have vacationed since ancient days, on a boat cruise to Isola Comacina for a six-course lunch. Sailing along the Rhine, discover castles that have watched over the landscapes from their royal perches for centuries. You will savor a special dinner at Biebrich Palace, just for Tauck guests. And walk through history at Heidelberg Castle in Germany's oldest university town.

DISTINCTIVELY INCLUSIVE RIVER CRUISES

CALL THE TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS AT WARWICK TRAVEL

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Williamsburg: 757-229-7854
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Happy New Year from your Warwick Travel Team!



Seated left to right: Susan Adams, Dee King, Morag Richards, Sharon Flick

Standing left to right: Amy Hill, Janis Belch, Gerry Siekirski, Nancy Alligood, Kim Gambino, Emily Barker

Absent: Linda Waynick