

Send For Your Group Leader Kit



When you organize a group, Vantage will handle all the details, from taking reservations to processing payments, to getting everyone their tickets and other paperwork.

Call toll free at
1 800 994-6321
to get your Group Leader Kit or
visit our website at
www.vantagetravel.com
to download it.

Let's hear from you!

Do you have any great stories or high resolution digital photos you'd like to share from your travels? Vantage would like to hear about your Group Leader experiences and receive your commentary in general.

E-mail Fran Levoy at
flevoy@vantagetravel.com
Or write to her at:
Group Travel Department
Vantage Travel
90 Canal Street
Boston, MA 02114

Refer a Group & Save!

You don't even have to travel with a group to enjoy the savings. Simply refer a group to Vantage, and you'll earn \$500 as soon as they complete their travel! Please call a Vantage sales representative for details on how to refer a group - and save.



90 Canal Street, Boston MA 02114-2031

Meet the Team

INTRODUCING VANTAGE'S NEW GROUP TRAVEL TEAM



Director Phil Todisco, Group Travel Regional Sales Representatives Dave Lubchansky, Ruthann Famolare, Kelly DeAngelis, and Group Sales Coordinator Fran Levoy.

When it came to creating a Group Travel Team, Vantage selected a group of people with colorful travel backgrounds and strong group sales experience — starting with its new director, Phil Todisco. Phil brings 15 years of selling group travel to the table.

He is joined by Dave Lubchansky, who has been with Vantage for six

months, Ruthann Famolare, who has held a number of responsible positions in her 18 years at Vantage, and similarly Fran Levoy with 11 years and Kelly DeAngelis, with 1 year.

These seasoned professionals are full of ideas and enthusiasm, and they stand ready to help you with an effective program from start to finish — whether your group is small or large.

Our new Group Sales hours are 8:30am to 6pm, Monday through Friday, Saturdays, 9am – 5:30pm Eastern Time. CALL 1 800 994 - 6321



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Dear Group Leader,

Whether you are a seasoned group travel leader or just considering the idea for the first

time and looking for more information, we are looking forward to guiding you through your planning process.

And 2008 is a particularly special year to travel with Vantage — we are celebrating our 25th anniversary. And we would like you and your group to join us.

Learn about Vantage's best-selling trips, answers commonly asked questions, and much more in this newsletter. Here, we spell out clearly what's involved in being part of the Vantage Group Travel Program, as well as offer you a better idea of the sense of accomplishment that's part of this program ... the joy of travelling with family, friends or co-workers. And, of course, there's the good feeling that comes with knowing your organizational skills not only pay off, but bring satisfaction to others as well.

This newsletter is designed to help you participate more easily in the Group Travel process. But it's also a forum and a place to share ideas. We'd love to receive your group photos, and any stories that would be of interest to other group leaders.

Again, you're sure to find this newsletter very helpful. You can also look forward to receiving future editions of <EnCompass> on a quarterly basis.

Sincerely,

Henry Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

<EnCompass>

Directions in Group Travel

Start planning your 2009 Group Travel!

It's never too early to start thinking about your 2009 travel plans. Gather your group together and decide which exciting Vantage adventure you'd like to experience. You can take the opportunity to explore Europe's waterways aboard one of Vantage's four deluxe river cruise ships — where you can explore Eastern Europe like never before. Or, try the newest travel trend, small ship cruising. Vantage offers an intimate, close-up view of the world aboard several small ship excursions, including the beautiful *Aegean Odyssey: The Greek Isles and Turkey* and the majestic *Imperial Russian Waterways & St. Petersburg*. Choose your trip and start planning today!

Join Vantage's Group Travel Symposium

AS A GROUP TRAVEL LEADER, you and a guest are invited to attend the Vantage Group Travel Symposium, an invitation-only travel event on March 13 - 21, 2008.

Join us aboard the *ms River Discovery* for this 7-night river cruise, which includes roundtrip airfare, accommodations, meals, sightseeing tours, and more. This is a chance for you to discover why more and more travel leaders from around the world are choosing Vantage Deluxe World Travel.

On this trip, you'll get the scoop on travelling with Vantage during an informational briefing on our programs, take advantage of networking opportunities with other Group Travel Leaders, and sit down for a one-on-one consult with a Vantage Group Travel specialist.

The cost is \$450 per person. **This offer is limited to experienced group travel leaders who have successfully organized travel groups of 20 or more members. If you have travelled on a symposium within the last 2 years, you are not qualified for this event.**

To join us, you can go to www.vantagetravel.com and click on "Group Travel." There, you'll find a Travel Profile, which you can fill out and return to:

Vantage Deluxe World Travel
Attn: Fran Levoy

90 Canal St.
Boston, MA 02114
or flevoy@vantagetravel.com.
Take advantage of this opportunity to experience the most exciting development in group travel — a Vantage Deluxe River Cruise!

Most Popular Vantage Trips

ALTHOUGH THE RANKING TENDS TO CHANGE RAPIDLY, currently the most popular Vantage trips all have a “riverboat” or “small ship” component. That’s because travellers generally like the idea of unpacking and packing only once. Then there’s the fact that “getting there” involves an ever-changing panorama or riverside scenery, interrupted only by delightful shipboard activities.

For group travel, a riverboat trip or small ship cruise is a particularly good choice — because the atmosphere aboard the vessel is inherently intimate and convivial. Here are Vantage’s Top 3 most popular trips to journey on as a group:



Explore the wonders of China from the bustling cities to the ancient villages on this popular trip.

EXTRAORDINARY WONDERS OF CHINA AND THE YANGTZE RIVER

**21-DAY SMALL SHIP CRUISE
MARCH – OCTOBER, 2008**

Take your group on this fascinating trip to China, spending 21 days exploring this imperial country, including four days aboard a small ship and 15 at Superior First-Class and First-Class hotels.

You’ll see progressive cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, as well as ancient wonders, including Xi’an. Includes 41 meals and 23 sightseeing tours and Cultural Connections.

FROM ONLY \$3939



Celebrate the holiday season in German’s whimsical riverside villages, where you can browse the Christmas markets.

HOLIDAY MARKETS ON THE RHINE & MAIN RIVERS

**11-DAY RIVER CRUISE
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER, 2008**

Get into the spirit of the holiday season on this fully escorted river cruisetour through storybook Old World villages, visiting to up to 8 traditional Christmas markets.

Germany’s holiday wonderland emerges along the Rhine and Main rivers with sparkling evergreen trees and delightful town squares. Includes 27 meals, 8 sightseeing tours, and Cultural Connections.

FROM ONLY \$1999



Visit Holland and Belgium in bloom on a springtime river cruise, where you’ll see blossoming flowers and twirling windmills.

WATERWAYS OF HOLLAND & BELGIUM: TULIPS, WINDMILLS, AND CANALS

**12-DAY RIVER CRUISE
MARCH & APRIL, 2009**

You haven’t seen spring until you’ve seen it on this river cruise, spending 12 days viewing the tulips, windmills, and canals of Eastern Europe.

See Holland and Belgium in bloom as you tiptoe through the tulips, hyacinths, lilies, and more. Visit the world famous Keukenhof Gardens and meet Dutch bulb growers in person. Includes 30 meals, 12 sightseeing tours, and Cultural Connections.

FROM ONLY \$2415

Earn free travel for yourself — or cash!

As more and more travellers are discovering, Vantage Deluxe World Travel offers the most varied and exciting packages in the marketplace — at prices that are truly exceptional.

At the heart of Vantage programs is superior value — meaning that trips include virtually everything ... round trip air transportation, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing, exclusive cultural events, seasoned program managers, and much more.

The Vantage Group Travel Program offers you an extraordinary opportunity to travel with friends, family, co-workers, or fellow members of a club or association. **All you have to do is organize a group of as few as 10 people — in addition to yourself — and you can travel for FREE.** (Alternatively, you can earn a commission.)

Get a group to go away together. You're sure to have a wonderful time!

Vantage Program Manager Valeria Bolshakova has a background that ranges from Russia to Poland to the U.S. and beyond. Valeria is uniquely positioned to know just what the similarities and differences between our countries are. Russian by birth, Valeria grew up in Warsaw, Poland. She lived in Boston for a year on a student exchange program and studied at the Russian Academy of Economics in Moscow, where she graduated with a major in Economics and Management.

Valeria began her career in travel during her second year at the Academy, working as a local guide conducting tours of Moscow in English and Polish. She then started leading tours from Siberia to Mongolia, and she joined Vantage two years ago and now leads the Imperial Russian Waterways & St. Petersburg river cruise.

One of the aspects of Vantage that drew her to the company was its team spirit. "Everyone works together — cruise staff, the great Vantage Program Managers team, the corporate staff — all making sure the trip is as good as it can be," she explains.

She also has high praise for Vantage travellers, saying they are "eager to learn as much as possible. What I like most is the chance to show each of them something new and exciting about Russia."

Along the Imperial Russian Waterways & St. Petersburg itinerary, Valeria notes that travellers enjoy the contrast between Russia's big cities and small villages, and they are fascinated with her country's ancient churches, beautiful palaces, and cultural heritage, especially Russian ballet and art.

When she's not leading tours, Valeria enjoys travelling on her own time, especially to Europe. She is fluent in several languages, including English, Polish, and Spanish.



Our enthusiastic Program Manager loves to hear from her travellers about their life in America.



Faythe Vorderstrasse (middle row, third from left) and Mary Davids (middle row, fourth from right) with their group, the Worldwide Wanderers, on a Vantage Group Travel Trip.

Meet the Worldwide Wanderers

**LED BY FAYTHE VORDERSTRASSE
AND MARY DAVIDS**

We recently caught up with two of Vantage's stellar Group Leaders, Faythe Vorderstrasse and Mary Davids, of the Worldwide Wanderers, who have led groups ranging from 8 to 40 friends on many Vantage trips since 1989. They've taken a trip a year — sometimes two — since then. Faythe, who lives in Parker, Arizona, and Mary, who lives in Manhattan Beach, California, gather old college friends, family members, neighbors, and, through their website, travelers from across the country for their annual Vantage trips. Past excursions include *Imperial Russian Waterways & St. Petersburg*, *Extraordinary Wonders of China & the Yangtze River* and *Alaska: Inside Passage and Denali*.

Every trip has been more than memorable for the group. "We've enjoyed them all," Faythe says. "Each one has been special in some way." Among the Wanderers' favorite trips was Cruising the Danube in 2004.

When asked about why the Worldwide Wanderers prefer Vantage for their group trips, Mary praised Vantage's many included tours and activities, which competitors don't usually offer. "We just have really enjoyed travelling with Vantage because there are so many extras and excursions," she says. "We get more bang for our buck. That's why we decided, why travel with anyone but Vantage?"

Up next for the Worldwide Wanderers is the *Best of Africa* tour in October 2008. To learn more about the group and to see photos from their past trips, visit www.worldwidewanderers.info.