

TRAVERSING THE GLOBE

Volume 2, Issue 4

by Debbie Gulliver, University Travel Manager

July 2005

Traveling Abroad...

Helpful hints for planning a successful trip

Summertime finds many of our students, faculty, and staff traveling overseas. Whether traveling for business, study abroad, or on a family vacation, it is important to be prepared. We are very fortunate at Michigan State University to have many resources right at our fingertips (direct links available through the Travel website at www.ctr.msu.edu/travel). In addition to these invaluable resources, I would like to recommend an additional source that can help you be even more prepared for your overseas visit.

Rick Steves, who visits Europe 100 days each year, has a multitude of knowledge he shares to make Americans smarter travelers by giving them the tools to have a successful trip to Europe. By providing guidance to those out of the way places that only the residents of that locale know, Rick Steves enables us to experience the true flavor of the European community.

I highly recommend that you visit his website at www.ricksteves.com, peruse one of his books, or catch his program "Rick Steves' Europe" the next time he is on PBS. These resources answer questions such as "What should I see while in Paris, France?" to "What and how should I pack for my trip to Europe?"

ResX Has a New Look...

New service offers all MSU employees access

Spartan Travel has upgraded their on-line booking tool so that all Michigan State University employees can book their personal travel utilizing this website. The website address is <http://msu.pways.com/>. To book your personal trip, click on the button at the top, right-hand side of the screen that says "For Personal Travel [CLICK HERE](#)". You will then need to join the Passageways Online Travel Center. This travel center gives you access to cruise, vacation, and hotel specials in addition to airfares. You can also email questions to their travel professionals. User help is right at your fingertips via email or a telephone call away. At first glance, this website shows you airfares from various mid-Michigan airports to the top six destinations with a current 21 day advance purchase.

Credit Card Use...

Advice for Overseas Travelers

If you are using your credit card overseas, you may find that what you thought you were being charged at the time of the purchase is not what your credit company actually charged you. In fact, your credit card statement may reflect a higher amount. Many credit card companies are now charging a 1 – 2% fee for overseas transactions. One way to avoid this additional expenditure is to use cash. Some merchants and hoteliers will give you a better deal if you offer to pay with cash.

Please advise your credit card company before you travel overseas. With the large amount of theft going on in this world, credit card companies are vigilant in watching for unusual activity. They have been known, after trying unsuccessfully to reach the cardholder, to suspend or even close accounts for this reason.

Limousine Service...

Who should you use?

I often receive telephone calls asking for recommendations of limousine service between MSU and mid-Michigan airports. To those departments who have related their experiences, I am grateful. Michigan State University does not have a preferred limousine company; however, below you will find a list of those companies that have been recommended. All of these companies are Lansing-based unless otherwise noted.

Airport Chauffeur Service	349-4554
Grand Limo	371-1940
Big Daddy Taxi	367-7474
Country Club Limo	703-1914
Aristocrat (Detroit)	1-800-682-1453

Please direct any suggestions or comments to the University Travel Manager, Debbie Gulliver at telephone (517) 355-0343, or email gullive5@ctrl.msu.edu or fax (517) 432-4656.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer.