

## Travel via the Moon

Depends what you're reading, gift-giving, black Friday, or Cyber Monday, walking through the Mall--and you saw all kinds of names for those coming holidays. But the one you should be concerned with if you're planning on travel in 2015 is: **get the planning done NOW** for that trip you've been thinking about in 2015! Why so early? Because the prices and add-on offers of many discounts are flowing from those advertisers between now and March and then **the prices go up**, starting in mid-March through September. Just get on the computer and select the company you want to go on that trip with, Royal Caribbean, Viking, or just select anyone of the companies that offer some type of trip to the area you want to go to in 2015. **Warning:** you will get numerous advertisements soon after you select this method of finding a company asking you to try "this" country, or this trip, and the advertisements seem non-ending, but you can just delete those ads you don't care about. The important thing is **start planning NOW !**

OK, now you selected the company and country you want to go to. How are you going to get there? Next item to be choosing is the airline that will get you there for the least cost! Do you have frequent flyer miles in your account, or maybe a stop-over flight that costs less, or maybe a chance to upgrade to better seats for very little money? These are all the next selections to look at now because: **Again, the prices will be going UP.**

Most aircraft fly at the same speeds and if you plan right, you should leave the US at night, fly over-night and land at your destination the next day, so aircraft type doesn't make any difference. The new 787 has lower inside pressure and more humidity, so it may be of comfort to some travelers, but if Wi-Fi, the movie that is playing in your direction this month, or the amount of space your seat has if any of those are very important, check with each airline (on the computer) and pick the one you want with the best price.

And finally, that little thing that fits in your carry-on bag **called a passport**. It just ruins your whole day when you get to your departing gate (or TSA) and you remember that little book you need to get out of the USA and also to get into the countries you're going to, is back home. With some airlines, it will cost you to rebook your flight on a following flight, if you can even get on a flight that will get you to your destination in time to get on your cruise, or your hotel on time without another penalty. Get the passports out as soon as you **start to pack**. And just before you put it in your carry-on, open it up and check the date it **expires**. Some countries require that there are at least 6 months remaining on the expiration date, or they won't let you in the country! If it's getting close to that expiration send NOW and get a renewal. Renewal cost and the place to send it to can be found at most large post-offices. Passports last for years, so if it's getting close, DO IT NOW and there's no more worry for another 10 years. And you will be using it again later this year or next year.

Where are we going? Paris, Peru, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Jamaica, Nova Scotia, New Jersey -- Oh, they let us in now without a passport -- just don't tell them you're from New York. If you have any doubts about some new area you want to go to, stop in at your local book store and buy a book on that country. It's gonna be great -- **Enjoy**

Submitted by AGCM Moon Mullen USN RET