

Sojourns on a Shoestring

by Dena Kaye

The rise in the cost of living—an estimated 10 percent in the last year—has given the jitters to those who purvey places and transport. It has also given pause to those about to go on holiday. This is a second collection of ideas for moderately priced trips. The first appeared in *SR/W* March 23, 1974.

Beachcomb on Isla del Carmen, Mexico—port and shrimp center sits off the northern tip of the Yucatán peninsula. Town shaded in coconut palms, houses strewn with shrimp nets. Best beaches: Bajamita, El Playon. Lino's Motel in town set in tropical gardens, \$8 single. Jet Hotel on beach \$5.60, good seafood restaurant on premises. Daily flights from Mexico City on Mexicana de Aviacion to Ciudad del Carmen.

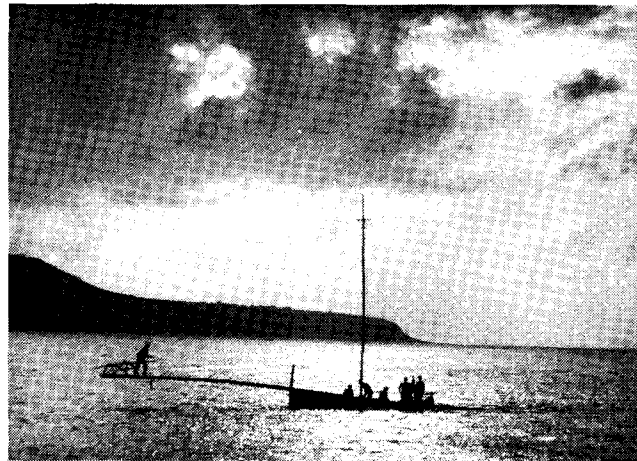
Keep House in a Houseboat in the Thousand Islands—tour 1700 islands in the St. Lawrence River, Ontario, docking at St. Lawrence National Park or Heart Island to see model of Rhine-country château. Fish, skin-dive, swim. Explorer Houseboat Rentals in Brockville, Ontario, rents thirty-six-foot houseboat for \$345 per week, six people. No boating experience needed. Food, linens, not supplied. Highway 81 from New York, over Thousand Islands Bridge to Thousand Islands Parkway, then to Rockport, Ontario, to pick up boat and supplies.

Live Creole-Style in Guadeloupe—over one hundred restaurants serve Creole cuisine on this French West Indies island. Look for restaurants with ladies' names: Chez Odette, Chez Rosette, Chez Violette. Lunch or dinner choices include *pâté en pot* (thick soup), *blaff* (poached fresh fish with herbs). Costs from five to eight dollars, including *le punch* (local aperitif), table wine, tips, taxes. Alternative: breakfast, dinner, and lodging at Auberge du Grand Large on the beach in St. Anne for twelve to sixteen dollars per person. Or feast for free, for five hours, at the Fête des Cuisinières on August 10 in Pointe-à-Pitre.

Be Stately in Britain—Open-to-View ticket costs \$5.50, permits free entry to castles, stately homes, and historic sites; Countdown Card costs \$4.00, gives sav-

ings of 20 percent on memberships to nightclubs, meals, theater, clothes, car rentals, dry cleaning, hotels; Status Card at \$15.00, saves up to 50 percent on meals at twenty-five restaurants and 20 percent in more than four hundred shops. Honorary membership in fifteen clubs, discount admission at Sadlers Wells Opera, Penthouse Club, discothèques, riding stables.

Alight on the Aeolian Islands, Italy—a series of islands planted off the northeast tip of Sicily, all connected by hydrofoil: Vulcano, smallest of main islands, has grottoes and a crater 1200 feet above sea level. Over ten hotels; prices from ten



Aeolian Islands—Black-sand beaches and grottoes.

dollars per person, with meals. Lipari has black-sand beaches, ancient fourth-century-B.C. coins, city with a cathedral whose foundations are Norman, sixteenth-century Spanish fortress, good shopping. Most hotels (over fourteen) have private beach, air conditioning, TV. Room with bath and full board from fourteen dollars. Stromboli has black- and white-sand beaches. Famous for an Ingrid Bergman film. Overnight steamer from Naples to islands under twenty dollars round trip. Hour - and - a - half hydrofoil ride from Messina. About eight dollars round trip.

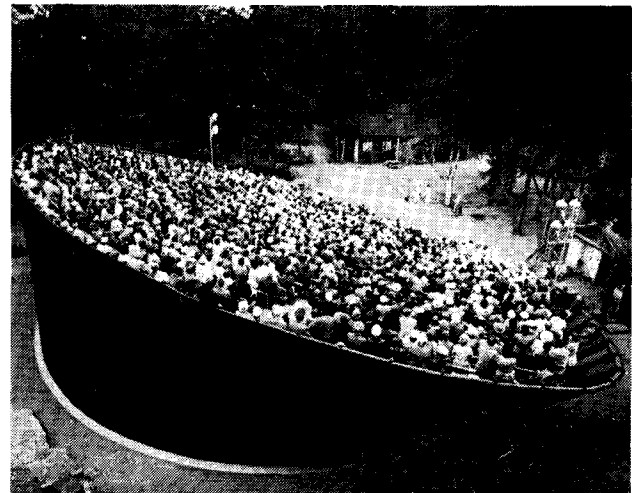
Ferry to Fish Restaurants in Lisbon, Portugal—red-and-white ferries cross the Tagus River, for eight cents per person, to seafood restaurants on the opposite bank. Grilled sardines, octopus, and lobster. Dinner with table wine about five dollars, but lobsters are no bargain. By day, the view is Lisbon's pastel-colored buildings; by night, the illuminated monuments.

Take a Walk in Norway—hike Norway's vast mountain network separating the fjords from the inland valleys, passing glaciers, waterfalls, still lakes, valleys. Tourist lodges, set about a day's walk apart (routes are marked for "leisurely" or "vigorous" pace), offer lodging and meals (including lunch for the trail) for fourteen dollars. Conducted walking tours arranged by Norwegian Touring Club in Oslo. Also available: maps showing lodges and distances in between.

Spend the Weekend in Stockholm, Sweden

—four days and three nights in choice of hotels (for thirty-two dollars, twin without bath) includes breakfast, discounts for sight-seeing tours, and admission to various monuments and museums. Free concerts in many parks.

Fly to the Finnish Festivals—Finnair offers a ninety-nine-dollar Holiday Ticket for unlimited domestic flights taken within fifteen consecutive days. Nine major festivals all over Finland from June



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to September 9 (most towns have airports) include dance, music, jazz, art, theater. Many events free. Opera and theater tickets about five dollars.

Hole up in a Holiday Village in Finland—more than one hundred holiday villages sit in pine or birch forests, by lakes, rivers, or the sea. One- and two-bedroom cottages range from rustic to deluxe (decor done in bright colors), with wood-burning fireplaces, picture windows, saunas. Cook at home (taxi or bike into town for supplies) or eat in first-class restaurant in the village. A three-room cottage (sleeps four to six) costs thirty dollars a day. Full board is ten dollars extra.

See Russia Without Going Into the Red—Intourist has a packaged tour, New York-Moscow-Leningrad (get Bucharest, Budapest, Prague stops for free on local carriers) for \$490. Includes meals, hotels, four tickets to ballet or theater, sight-seeing by coach. Or take fourteen-to-twenty-one-day excursion, New York-Moscow-New York for \$602 and pitch a tent on Moscow's camping grounds. About \$2.50 a night, which saves a fifth of hotel price.

Turn Bohemian in Czechoslovakia—three-day excursion from Prague. Stops at Melník, home of Bohemian viticulture; Novy Bor, center of Bohemian glass production; Liberec, Renaissance chapel and castle (and nearby Frydant V Cechách, Renaissance château); Jablonec nad Nisou, noted for costume jewelry; Turnov, center for cutting stones mined in nearby Mount Kozákov. Transportation, guide, lodging, and full board for \$59.50 per person.

WIT TWISTER NO. 21

Edited by Arthur Swan

The object of the game is to complete the poem by thinking of one word whose letters, when rearranged, will yield the appropriate word for each series of blanks. Each dash within a blank corresponds to a letter of the word. Answers on page 52.

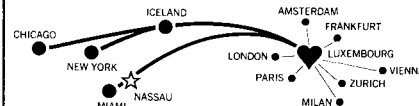
He's learned to _____ the news until he culls

One fact that _____ his demagogic needs.

He drives it home, through dull disciples' skulls,

With _____ and frenzy and mendacious screeds. A.S.

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