

If I Should Ever Travel

By Katherine Gauss Jackson

● CHRISTMAS Cruises. . . . Gifts for Travellers. . . . Mexico and how to get there. . . . Austria and Switzerland offer winter sports and reduced railroad rates. . . . The record-breaking streamline train thrills a continent.

IF I were a real travel-talker, I suppose I should start right out explaining that Christmas, of all times of the year, is the season for getting up and going. Personally the home hearthstone looks just about right to me at Christmas, so if to mine own self

I'm to be true, I can't talk travel. But I am enough of a realist to see, looking over the possibilities, that if you're the going kind—and why not—you're nothing short of mad to stay at home over the holidays.

For instance. You can leave on a West Indies Cruise on December 21, touch at Nassau, Kingston and Havana, and arrive back in New York at noon on January 2—all for \$145. This on a boat of one of the large Atlantic lines. Or, if you prefer, you can sail from New York at 5 o'clock on December 22 and not be heard of again till you return, healthier, happier and very little poorer, on January 4. You

mustn't ask where the boat stops. If you wish to be understood, you must say, "And what, please, are the ports of call?" They are Kingston, Cristobal, Havana, and Nassau. The minimum rate is \$155, and this is also on one of the boats of a trans-Atlantic line. Or, if it suits your plans better, sail on December 19, pay \$155, call at La Guaira, Curacao, Cartagena, Colon, and Nassau and return January 2. It's just as if the lines had all got together and planned their cruises to suit everybody's schedule and everybody's pocketbook. They've even thought of people who want to stay at home for Christmas. Rates begin at \$65 for a cruise on an

ocean liner to Nassau, leaving New York December 26, after the last stocking has been opened.

GOING AWAY GIVING

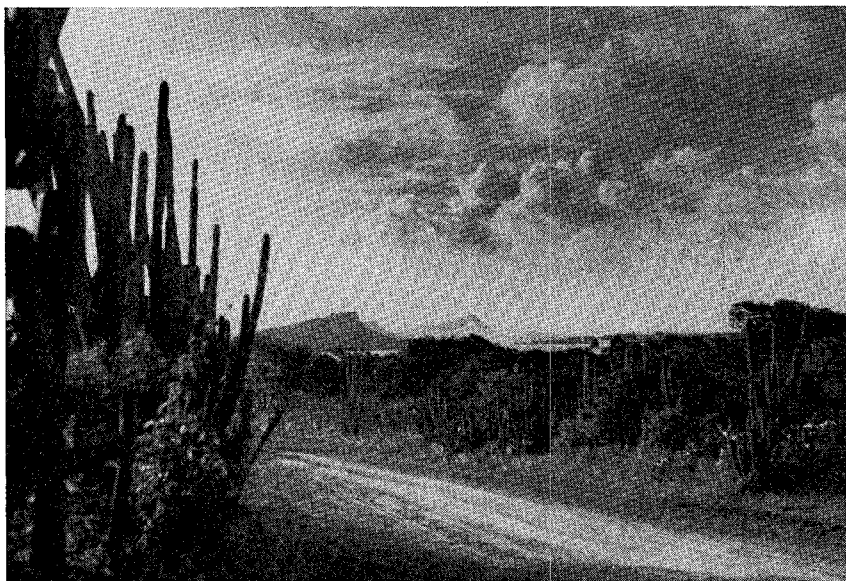
Except for those rare occasions on which I myself am the lucky one to be setting sail, it has always seemed a little unfair to me that the person who is going away, having all the fun, should in addition be showered with gifts, and by those very ones whose lot is to remain at home and grieve. If your Christmas list includes a lady who plans a cruise, Bonwit Teller, Fifth Avenue at 56th Street, has several bright suggestions for combination Christmas and bon voyage giving. Small gold identification bracelets may be ordered in their jewelry department, allowing a little time for name and address to be engraved. Spacious handbags with many zipper compartments and a special compartment for passport will help the regular pocketbook to avoid that overstuffed look. There are beautifully tailored dark silk pajamas with dressing gowns to match which are particularly good in navy blue. A hand-quilted moiré handkerchief case, in any color, costs a dollar. For the not-up-to-par days, or for cabin entertaining you might offer attractive bed-jackets to your departing friends. Compact little travelling bags with all necessary cosmetics, charming small sequin and brocaded evening bags that go with all evening dresses, and fabric and suede gloves that may be laundered over night, are other ideas.

MEXICO

It seems absurd after all that Stuart Chase and others have written about Mexico in the last few years, that the first things that come to mind still,



POPOCATEPETL FROM A LITTLE VILLAGE IN THE VALLEY OF MEXICO



ALONG THE ROAD TO WILLEMSTAD IN CURACAO

Courtesy Hamburg American Line

when we hear it mentioned, should be Aztecs, revolution, and bandits set up vaguely against a brilliant semi-tropical background. So much may childhood impressions condition our future thinking. If any such impressions persist in your own mind all you need do is to read Grace Flandrau's article on page 350. Then what you will want to know is rates. An all-rail round trip to Mexico, via Chicago and St. Louis; St. Louis direct; New Orleans; or any of the four Texas border gateways—Laredo, El Paso, Eagle Pass or Brownsville—costs \$116.80 for a twenty-five day limit ticket. Pullman is about \$50 extra, round trip. A six-month limit ticket costs \$150.10. Don't forget the ten cents. Or, a thirty-day round trip ticket on the Rail-Water Circuit costs \$141.20.

If you prefer, for \$220 you can make a twelve-day tour, all expenses except meals on trains, and for \$225 a rail-water circle tour of fifteen days. Rail-water means, of course, one way by boat, one way by rail. These tours include rail transportation, Pullman, room with private bath in Mexico City, four sightseeing trips, all meals except on trains, first class steamer accommodations. And Mexico into the bargain. Mexico at its best in December.

WINTER SPORTS

Apparently the trip from Paris to Vienna on the Arlberg Orient Express—the very name is glamorous—is just one ski-jump after another. Innsbruck, Salzburg, Kitzbuehel. And Obergurgl in Tyrol with a magnificent ski-jump is only a few hours by auto-bus from the main line of the railway. Moreover, if you choose to winter in Vienna among the art galleries, universities, riding schools, operas and coffee houses, even then it appears to be but waltzing

(Continued on page 40)



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