

... and enjoy our famous hospitality and friendship!



WORLD AIRLINES CLUBS ASSOCIATION

WACA WORLD NEWS

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Editorial



Dear Interliners,

It seems it was only yesterday, that we were in Cape Town, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of our Association and where most of us met and enjoyed South African hospitality to the full. In the meantime, the Year-end holidays are also in the past, and the New Year began with all its power, news and challenges.

We are very happy to again be able to present a large and exciting number of interesting events this year. It is amazing to see so many clubs investing time and effort in planning special programs with new components to welcome interliners of the entire world and offer exciting views of their countries. Elaine Miller, Acting Vice President Sports and International Events is not sparing any effort in supporting the organizing clubs with the promotion and coordinating all event related activities.

Have you participated in one of the tours in the first quarter of this year – maybe to Cambodia, Laos or China? Or have you been at one of the Sport Events? We would like to know about your experience and your impressions and to share them with all interliners. Let us have a short report and some nice photos from your trip – we will be happy to publish it!

As every year, the highlight of our Calendar of Events will be at the end of September with “The 2008 Interline Celebration”, including our 41st Annual General Assembly. As you are aware, the venue this year will be in Nassau, Bahamas. Year after year, our friends from the Airlines Club Bahamas have joined our AGA with a big number of participants, enriching the events so much with their joy and friendship. What is a regional party without the hot rhythm of our Caribbean friends? This year, we all will have the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of our friends on their sunny island. Many surprises are being prepared by the organizing committee of the ACB to make our stay there an unforgettable one. In this edition of your WACA World News you will find more information about this event, you can also check our website www.waca.org for more details. Also, our WACA Headquarters and any one of the EC-Members will be very happy to help with any questions or queries you may have.

At the beginning of March, the WACA-EC held a very productive meeting in AMM. Special attention was given to the difficult situation that we and most of our clubs are facing due to changes in our industry. Which support can we give to our Clubs and the Association? Our aim is to permanently improve our products and activities in order to offer a better service to all our members. However, of course all our efforts are in vain without all your support. Whenever you have a suggestion, a good idea for additional activities or a new WACA-Product – please do not hesitate to communicate it to any one of our EC-Members. All regions are organizing well-prepared get-togethers including the Regional Meetings to be held over the next few weeks. What a good opportunity to meet friends and exchange ideas!

Yours in Interlining,
Rosemarie Mamede
Vice President Public Relations

EC-Meeting in Amman, Jordan

March 2008

The Jordan Interline Club hosted the first meeting 2008 of WACA's Executive Committee. The meeting was held on a holiday and weekend at RVP AIM-Region Yousef Yousef's office. The very good arrangements in the office with excellent coffee-breaks prepared by Yousef's wife Amal, the warm reception at their home and the support of the members of Jordan Interline Club in organizing the evenings have contributed to the successful working sessions.



“2008 Interline Celebration” and 41st General Annual Assembly, Bahamas



TO ALL OUR WACA INTERLINERS:

We are already approximately 5 ½ months away from our “2008 Interline Celebration and Annual General Assembly”. This year we will be coming together in the beautiful Nassau, Bahamas.

From February 21-24, the RVP for Latin America and the Caribbean, Jacquie Lyseight, and myself, as Acting Vice-President International Events and Special Projects, met in Nassau with the President of the Airlines Club Bahamas (ACB), Ann Albury, to carry out the site inspection visit for this upcoming event, to be held September 28th to October 3rd, 2008.

I would like to give you a report on our findings and how very satisfied we were with the preparations and feel the Airlines Club Bahamas is ready to welcome us all to their wonderful island in the Caribbean.



ARRIVALS:

Upon arrival at the airport the ACB plan to have a welcome desk set up in the arrivals area. They have arranged for a transportation company to do the transfers of the participants to the hotel and return to the airport on the day of departure. It will be important to advise them of your planned arrival and departure times so they can coordinate this

with the transportation company. They use air conditioned vans and buses and the trip to the hotel is about 10-15 minutes.

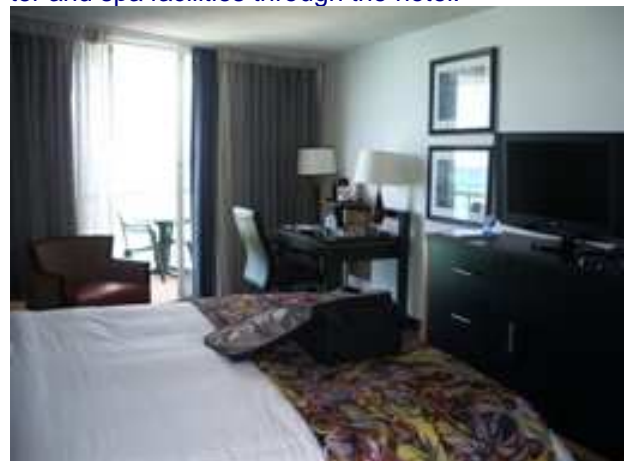
For the return there will be a fixed schedule for departures to the airport, but they will try to accommodate other requests if needed.

HOTEL:

The Wyndham Nassau Resort is well located with easy accessibility to the beach, shopping and sight-seeing. They have been undergoing renovations over the last several months and advise they will be finished well before our arrival. It is located on a beautiful beach and has a large swimming pool and water slide, as well as a hot tub, basketball hoops, table tennis, deck chess and lots of beach/pool lounges for relaxing.



The rooms are lovely, well maintained and nicely furnished. Many rooms have spectacular views of the Caribbean and sunsets. Each room has a safe and small bar fridge, hairdryers and iron/ironing boards. There is a USD 1.00 charge for local calls and long distance charges apply. The rooms are internet ready and the cost is USD 14.90 per 24 hour day. There is also a well equipped fitness center and spa facilities through the hotel.



The Organizing committee was able to negotiate a special rate with the Wyndham Hotel for 3 nights prior and 3 nights following the Interline Celebration:

USD 145.00 per Room, incl. Breakfast

Attached to the hotel is a shopping arcade as well as a large casino and adjacent to this is an entertainment lounge with an excellent local entertainer who keeps everyone dancing.

CHECKIN:

There will be a dedicated room, just off the lobby, for registration and hotel check in. There should be NO need to check in at the front desk on arrival. This room is big enough to also have an area to bring your charity donation materials. Please bring your items of children's books, educational and hygiene materials early, so arrangements can be made to visit the schools and hospital to deliver the collected items. There will also be a tour desk set up in the registration room to help with extra day tours on demand. A hospitality room will be set up and manned by the Airlines Club Bahamas. So come and meet new and long time friends and enjoy some Bahamian style hospitality.



REGIONAL NIGHTS:

The Regional Nights will be held in the Crystal Ballroom, which is a great facility. Your guest rooms are equipped with a small refrigerator, but if more space is required, the hotel will have extra space. Each person is allowed to bring into the Bahamas 2 litres of alcohol, 200 cigarettes, and 25 cigars. However, I found most well known brands of liquor to be cheaper there than at the Duty Free Shops in Toronto and think most of the departure Duty Free Shops coming to Nassau. There is a small liquor store in the Shopping Arcade of the hotel and other larger ones very close to the hotel. As well, there is a large Super Market close to the hotel and a short cab drive away. Tables, table cloths, bowls, glasses, trays, etc. are all available from the hotel and should be requested by the clubs well in advance of the AGA. The Bahamas Club advised they will supply disposable glasses.

The Wyndham Hotel and Resort is very centrally located and there is a bus stop in front of the hotel to go down town or other places of interest.

DON'T FORGET, we need your national flags as soon as possible to be sent to Ann Albury, President and Chairperson for the 2008 Interline Celebration and WACA Annual General Assembly.

TOURS:

There are two tours planned during the AGA as well as a Beach Party. The first tour is the Nassau City Tour on Monday the 29th of September and will cover the highlights and history of the island. The second tour on Thursday, 2nd October is of the historical Fort Charlotte, built by the British and also a tour of the Bacardi Distillery with lunch.

Wednesday is the Beach Party with a fantastic barbeque including drinks. Make sure you have lots of sun screen, bring our swim gear and get ready to party.



At present, there is only a post tour planned to the island of Eleuthera.

It includes: boat transportation to and from the island; 3 nights accommodation with breakfast; 2 lunches; 1 pool party; and 2 tours. Due to the size of the hotel, participation may be limited to 60 so book early and preference will be given to those attending the AGA prior. The cost of the Eleuthera Tour is 540.00 USD, plus the 10.00 USD WACA fee. All details are in the WACA Calendar of Events.

There was discussion about organizing a pre AGA Tour but so far, I haven't received any information regarding what is available from the committee. I will advise everyone should this change as soon as possible.

This "2008 Interline Celebration" promises to be an exciting get together and I can assure you that a special Bahamian Welcome awaits us.

Elaine Miller
Acting Vice-President International Events and Special Projects

Ancient Cambodia March 2007

As Travel Director, one of my duties is to encourage fellow-Interliners to participate in some of the excellent opportunities for travel offered by various clubs. Several Interline clubs (e.g. Bangkok, Jordan, Hong Kong, etc) are especially active in showing their part of the world to those who quest for knowledge, adventure, and good Interline companionship.



Although I just returned from a highly-recommended Jordan Adventure and Nile Cruise package (to be re-offered Nov 2008), I wish to share some thoughts from another package which will be repeated this March 2008, so you still have time to sign up...

What Lost City was "rediscovered" by Henri Mouhot in 1860? No, not Machu Picchu (that was Hiram Bingham in 1911).

Another hint: this spectacular city served as the exotic backdrop for one of the Tomb Raider movies, and is no less spectacular in real-life. The answer – ANGKOR !!

Although the name "Angkor Wat" is well-known, and conjures up images of a decaying temple in a lost jungle, actually it is the best-preserved temple ("wat"), in a complete ancient city of amazing temples, scattered across many square miles. It is probably best-compared to that other wonderful site, Bagan, in Myanmar (Burma), and I fail to see how it was NOT voted as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World in the recent Internet-based popularity contest. I have seen 18 of the 21 candidates, and Angkor Wat is one of the most beautiful and fascinating spots on the planet!

In March 2007, 2-dozen Interliners flew from Bangkok into Cambodia, a little-known country (to Westerners), full of history, and a photographer's dream. (You can see some outstanding photos on the Internet at either

<http://www.terrageria.com/asia/cambodia/angkor/angkor.html>

or

http://www.sacredsites.com/asia/cambodia/angkor_wat.html)



Cambodia is squashed between Thailand and Vietnam, and historically has been invaded by, and fought against, both. During the Vietnam War, its jungles served as cover for invading forces, so the trees were defoliated and its fields were sewn with land mines. After the War, its people suffered years of terror under a maniacal tyrant, Pol Pot, land mines maimed those who ventured off beaten paths, and occasionally insurgents made well-publicized trouble. Tourists stayed away in droves. Only now is it finally safe to go back, tourism is thriving (over a million visitors last year), and Cambodia is certainly well-worth the visit!



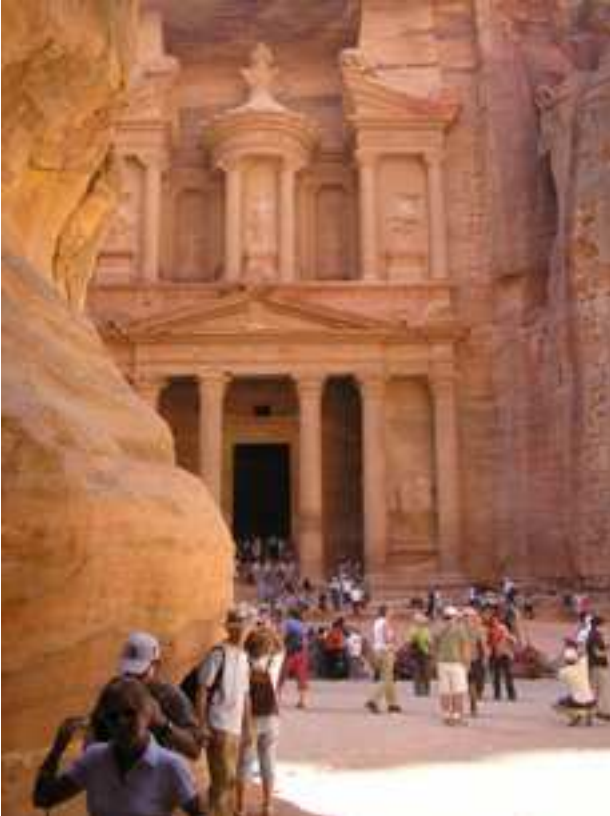
Look on the WACA web site, www.waca.org, under "Event Calendar" – you will see "Ancient Cambodia" scheduled for Mar 2-7, 2008. Remember how good the "good old days" were? This is a chance to relive those days again! Sign up! This is a wonderful trip! For MIC members, Thai Airlines offers zed-fare tickets on its non-stop from New York directly to Bangkok. If traveling all that distance for 1 week is daunting, you may want to combine this with either or both of the other 2 tours of s.e. Asia offered in conjunction with Cambodia. This is partly what Interlining is all about!!

Steve Charlton
Montreal Interline Club
(Text and Photos)

Jordan Adventure 23rd-28th of October 2007

Jordan, a young country dense with history, a well traveled bridge between sea and desert, east and west was interliners new destination where 17 interliners joined the "Jordan Adventure" that was took place between 23-28 October 2007.

Interliners were welcomed by the Jordan Executive committee on the welcome drink that took place on Crown Plaza Hotel where they celebrated the birthday of Ms. Janine from Zurich Club and Ms.Suzi from Jordan Interline Club.



First day was to visit Madaba, a small Christian town with its collection of extraordinary mosaics, including the great map of Palestine "6th century", discovered in 1896, and only fragmentary, it contains a good picture of Jerusalem. Moving on interliners investigated Mount Nebo, which is a pilgrimage centre for Christians principally because Moses is said to have seen the Promised Land from that summit. Then headed to the lowest point below sea level, the Dead Sea where interliners enjoyed their lunch on Movenpick Resort, later it was time for relaxing, enjoying an unforgettable swim at the salty waters and covering their bodies with Dead Sea mud.

Next day was to visit the Red Rose city of Petra, one of the new seven wonders. Petra is unique and unforgettable; a strange otherworldly place. Enhanced by the play of light and shadow, an altogether overwhelming experience. A guided orientation tour took the interliners to some key parts of that remarkable

site, and then lunch was served at Basin Restaurant. In the afternoon it was time to relax again where dinner and overnight were offered at Crown Plaza Hotel in Petra.

After an early breakfast, interliners proceeded directly to Aqaba and had their two sessions diving, swimming and enjoying the best snorkeling. After two hours shopping, interliners headed to the magnificent Wadi Rum and proceeded to the camp for dinner and overnight.

Next day started by exploring Wadi Rum" the moon valley" by 4WD vehicles for three hours. Then following one of the oldest trade routes in the world, the King's highway that once carried the richly ladder caravans of Solomon, interliners reached Karak, and visited its castle that was built in 1132 by Baldwin of Jerusalem, a Crusader King.

Interliners enjoyed their last night with oriental atmosphere and had their dinner at Haret Jdoudna in Madaba.



Finally, and as JIC WACA Rep. I would like to seize the moment to thank those who participated in our Jordan Adventure, and encouraging others to visit our lovely country Jordan.

Yours in interlining
Suhair Mahmoud
Jordan Interline Club

“Visit to the Roof of the World! Tibet – Spring 2007



For its size (equal to all of England, France, Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands), Tibet is virtually unknown and seldom-visited. To do so requires a special visa from the Chinese government. That's why it was extra-special for 12 Interliners to take this year's China tour, entitled "Visit to the Roof of the World", sponsored by the Hong Kong Interline Club. The Montreal Interline Club was well-represented – 4 of us! (Ruth Anderson, Chuck and Hanna Purm, and myself). There were 2 other Canadians from Calgary, 4 Swedes, and 2 ladies from Las Vegas. We were not disappointed! We flew (in 2 groups, from HKG and PEK) to Lhasa, the capital, where we stayed for 3 days to acclimatize ourselves to the high altitude. At over 12,000 feet, some of us started to feel the early effects of altitude sickness – shortness of breath, headaches, loss of appetite – but what a sight! On a huge promontory in the middle of the (surprisingly-modern-&-clean) city sits the Potala Palace, home of many centuries of Dalai Lamas, and the religious symbol that represents the Shan-gra-La we've all read about. Although parts of the Palace contain the crypts of past Dalai Lamas, other sections contain national treasures – articles of gold and silver, pieces of jewellery, and holy Buddhist manuscripts.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to Mount Everest Base Camp. We were able to drive within one day's distance of Everest on excellent paved highways, part of the modern infrastructure the Chinese are installing throughout the country. But the last day was on a terrible gravel road which switch-backed its way through the mountains, getting us closer and closer to the huge hulk of rock which is Everest. That evening was magical as we stood in awe, with the sun still-illuminating the north face of the world's highest mountain (28,028 feet). We had made it! Later that night, when I ventured forth to use the (not-to-be-described) outdoor facilities, out of the darkness I heard the tinkling of bells of some nearby

yaks, calmly grazing close to our Spartan 4-to-a-room bunkers. Here I was, at the top of the world, peeing by flashlight at an altitude of 17,000 feet - over 3 miles high! The oxygen content was 50% that of sea level. But at that altitude, the stars were so close and so bright – absolutely unbelievable, not like anything I've ever seen before in my life! Amazing! As Interliners, we are truly fortunate to be able to experience such moments!



Rather than flying back, we took a 48-hour train from Lhasa back to Beijing (although some disembarked early to see the Terracotta Warriors at Xi'an). It was modern, clean, and comfortable, with extra oxygen pumped into the cars for the first day. As I looked out the window, with the snow-capped Himalayas disappearing in the distance, I remembered many images I had collected in my mind over the 11 days – devout Buddhists prostrating themselves in front of the Jokhang Monastery, little leathery-faced old ladies spinning prayer wheels as they walked, countless happy children playing (and surrounding us, hoping for handouts, as we walked), the pristine Namco Lake (highest in the world), and herds of yaks grazing on the 14,000-foot-high treeless plateaux surrounded by the highest mountains in the world, and guarded by a nearby yak herder (with an ATV parked outside his tent and a cell phone on his belt). An ancient country slowly moving into our modern age. Are we really doing them a favour?

Steve Charlton
Montreal Interline Club
(Text and Photos)

“The 40th Annual General Assembly” Cape Town- South Africa, September 2007

A Rainbow Nation because of its diverse people and cultures, ranked as one of the most beautiful places to visit in the world were the reasons that AIM Region held the 40th Annual General Assembly in South Africa- Cape Town in October.

16 members from Jordan Interline Club participated in this event.

EC WACA Meetings were held and important WACA issues were discussed, lots of magical places were visited from the Table Mountain that offered the interliners spectacular views from the top, to the famous Robben Island, whose prison was once home to former South African President Nelson Mandela as well as many other black political freedom fighters, to the vibrant Victoria and Alfred waterfront that was built on top of part of the docks of the port of Cape Town which is one of the city's most popular shopping venues.



In the first day, we climbed the top of Table Mountain using the cableway. Once we reached the top, we followed paths to various look-outs, we used the telescopes that offered us spectacular views in all directions and gave us a bird's eye view of Cape Town. Later a tour to the city and the Atlantic Coastline was made, from Victoria & Alfred Waterfront we took the ferry to the famous Robben Island, where we had a guided tour to the island, visited the prison cell where Nelson Mandela spent many of his years in prison. That island became a symbolic not only for South Africa, but also for the entire world, the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship and adversity.



At noon the first regional night for AIM, Europe, Latin and Caribbean regions was held, where Jordan Interline Club offered on his table a traditional Jordanian Arabic breakfast, we enjoyed our first night dancing. Next day, regional meetings were held until noon, and for our group it was a shopping day in Green Market and V&A waterfront. At noon, it was the second regional night for FEA & North America.

Last day was amazing, as we had a 30 minutes bus drive to the winelands region of Stellenbosch, which is considered to be the oldest town in South Africa. We visited one of its wines factories and some of us tasted it, then we headed to Protea Hotel where we had the delicious lunch with African atmosphere and local band dancing.

After lunch, it was time to explore the Spier Estate with its variety of attractions, a Cheetah Rehabilitation Centre. Our trip was over and we left Cape Town with life time memories of its warm people & beautiful places.

Special thanks to AIM Region, Maga, Glenn, Jenny, Alison and our JIC President Mr. Yousef and all who made this trip a dream come true.



Thank you Interline
I'm grateful.

Suhair Mahmoud
Jordan Interline Club

“A Taste of Israel”

Praises for Aharon



Recently returned from your WACA tour "A Taste of Israel". I was able to take my daughter with me for probably one of the most memorable trips we have experienced in a long time, thanks to the efforts of Aharon, his WACA group, and his wife.



What a fine representative you have for Israel in Aharon. He has tremendous patience, tries to keep everyone happy, gives good advice as to where we should go and as a result, although I'm sure there is more to see, we covered territory from the Dead Sea to Massada. He has chosen the best tour guides and the best tours. He is an outstanding representative for WACA and provided all the information we needed before leaving the States. He directed us to the best, and chose a nice hotel close to the sea in Tel Aviv. They provided breakfast and dinner.



This was my daughter's first experience with WACA, and although I haven't been taking too many trips lately, I will definitely be watching for more of WACA's tours.

**Sincerely,
Laurene F. Quateman**

Good Bye to Poppy Shiakally Bowen



*Poppy was my Mediterranean Princess from
the far away Island of Cyprus.
May she rest in peace and forever flourish as one
of God's most celebrated angels.*

Roy J. Bowen, Husband

I was happy to be present at Poppy's funeral in Tampa as RVP NA and member of honour, Sandy Hutchinson accompanied me, Marie Scott Kosick, Auditor and Member of Honour was accompanied by her husband Ray-- also present was Ellie Masters.

The priest was a half hour late so Roy asked if anyone had anything to say--the people that spoke knew Poppy in Florida and they knew her while she was ill -- so they spoke of experiences with and about her illness.

I had the opportunity to speak and I was able to share what I knew about Poppy. The Poppy that was full of life and was such an asset to the WACA World --- I spoke of how Poppy will be missed by our members through all the regions of the world--- because that was where Poppy's friends were--Roy commented of how he had received hundreds of messages from the WACA world ---

There were many comments made to me- of how nice it was to hear about that part of Poppy's life. I was so happy that I could participate and represent WACA.

**Ann Gritis
RVP North America**

Charity Project Fikelela

Hello Maga, Rosemarie, Yousef and other members of the Executive Committee,
Greetings from the wonderful city of Cape Town to all of you

I am sending a short report to all of you about the distribution of the wonderful gifts that you had collected for us. The cash from the donation box R320.00, USD amount 193.00 = R 1,245.59 and the sales for t-shirts and badges R2,300.00, including the thanks to everyone -
The stationary items and toiletries were distributed to the following sites over the festive season in order for the children to use the stationary for the new academic year. If you would like a couple of stories from the children shared with your group, we can arrange that for you

1. Fikelela Children's Centre in **Khayelitsha**
2. Heavens Nest Children Centre in **Ottery**
3. Abafundi Bakayesu at Church of Christ/**Khayelitsha**
4. Christian Life Centre **Khayelitsha**
5. Eluvukweni **Old Crossroads**
6. God's Family Church **Khayelitsha**
7. Holy Cross **Nyanga**
8. St Andrews **Elsies River**
9. St Columba **Guguletu**
10. St Francis **Worcester**
11. St Mary Magdalene **Guguletu**
12. Fikelela Foster Moms in **Khayelitsha**



The distribution of these goods was done from our warehouse and I will go and retrieve pictures from them to forward on to you. I enclose a picture of the children of the Centre in Khayelitsha and Ottery

In terms of way, forward the stationary and toiletries are a wonderful project, if you would like to assist with that again, or our food parcel project, which goes out to our hiv+ adults at the end of the month. We require financial assistance for this. One food parcel costs about R55.00. If you are interested in assisting us with this project, it would be a tremendous support to us. We distribute it to the orphans and adults in the region 700 parcels per month but at average, we only receive about 500 parcels per month. This is a huge project and any type of assistance for this would be welcome.

Beverley Hendricks

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www.fikelela.org.za

"Use my energy never to belittle but to uplift
Never to devastate but to rebuild
Never to misguide but to light the way so that all of us can stand on higher ground"

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