

TAA CARRIBEAN CRUISE WITH A DIFFERENCE

JOIN THE LUXURY LINER MV DISCOVERY FOR A 2 WEEK BREAK FROM 27TH NOVEMBER UNTIL 11TH DECEMBER 2016

Background:

It is 50 years ago or thereabouts since the last trainees attended the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture ICTA or as it evolved into in later years, the University of the West Indies UWI. The qualification obtained was the Diploma in Tropical Agriculture and those of us who were fortunate to obtain this postgraduate award, subsequently enjoyed employment around the world putting the skills learned into practice. We were effectively working ourselves out of a job as the developing Countries now have their own skilled people many of whom benefited from our input.

To celebrate this anniversary a visit is being organised, which should appeal to all those who trained in Trinidad but is open to anyone with an interest in Natural Resource Development on the islands. Unfortunately it has not been possible to include Trinidad in the itinerary but among the islands to be visited are Barbados, St Vincent, Antigua and Montserrat (the latter for those who wish for the longer stopover) whilst those who stay on the ship will visit St Maarten, St Kitts, the British Virgin Islands and then return to Barbados. Those who stayed ashore in Antigua will fly to Barbados to rejoin the ship for the second week of the cruise visiting Grenada, Dominica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St Lucia and Barbados. CARDI are putting together a programme for the island visits, which will be available in due course.

Anyone interested should contact Tim Roberts asap who will send full cost and booking details for the cruise. The company Thompson, who runs the cruise, have agreed that those who wish may leave the ship for the extended stay in Antigua and Montserrat and then rejoin the cruise in Barbados for the second week.

Summary of Visit

Flying from Gatwick to Barbados the trip will include an optional 5 night stay on the islands of Antigua and Montserrat with day visits to other islands including Grenada, Dominica, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St Vincent and St Lucia.

On Antigua and Montserrat, Jane Guise ex Chief Executive of the Royal Bath and West Society who is currently resident on Montserrat will make the arrangements for accommodation and visits there.

On each of the other islands CARDI will arrange visits to places of interest from an Agricultural or Natural Resources perspective.

Itineraries will be flexible and the whole trip may be shortened or extended with extra time in Barbados if wished.

Please get in touch with Tim Roberts - Phone:01761 470455(home), 07854 605567 (mobile) or email: robtimk@btinternet.com for more information.

Note that the Thompson cruise liner Discovery has recently been refurbished and is likely to be very popular, so early booking is advisable.

31/ 5/ 2016

Details of TAA Caribbean Visit November/December 2016

This will take place from Sunday November 27th until Sunday December 11th with two consecutive cruises starting and finishing in Barbados. Flights will be to and from London Gatwick on those days.

The [Cruise Ship 'Discovery'](#) is operated by Thomson the travel operator and full details can be found in their general Cruise brochure. Ten cabins have been provisionally booked by myself and the booking reference is 0178/041034 organised by Thomson Keynsham branch tel: 0117 9862103.

The itinerary is as follows: Sun 27/11 sail from Barbados, Mon 28/11, Bequia(St Vincent), Tues 29/11 Antigua, Wed 30/11 St Maarten, Thurs 1/12 St Kitts, Fri 2/12, British Virgin Islands, Sat 3/12 At sea, WEEK 2: Sun 4/12 Barbados, Mon 5/12 Grenada, Tues 6/12 Dominica, Wed 7/12 Martinique, Thurs 8/12 Guadeloupe, Fri 9/12 St Vincent (main island), Sat 10/12 St Lucia, Sun 11/12 Barbados.

The cost of the above for the basic cabins is £3,400 for two persons, which includes flights. You can get full information from the Thomson website or better pick up a brochure in your nearest store. A deposit of £250 per cabin will be required on booking; a further deposit of £350 per cabin 8 weeks after the initial booking and final payment will be due 3 months before departure. Best method of payment is by debit card as credit cards incur a 1.5% surcharge. Only building society cheques are accepted. Booking will only be made when the initial deposit is received. This may best be done by ringing the Keynsham branch number above or can be made at any branch quoting the booking reference number. You should mention my name as well. This will guarantee the party being together on the ship.

TAA members special arrangements: Thomsons have agreed that those who wish, may get off the boat in Antigua on Tuesday 29th and rejoin in Barbados the following Sunday 4th December. Jane Guise ex chief executive of the Royal Bath and West Society is currently putting together a package for a stay on the islands of Antigua and Montserrat (where she is currently resident). The all in cost for the 5 days is likely to be in the region of £800 + £100 for the Sunday 4th December flight from Antigua to Barbados. It will partly depend on how many wish to take up the offer but is highly recommended. Those who choose to stay on the ship will pay no extra.

After rejoining the ship for the second week day trips will be arranged on each island to places of particular interest for TAA members. Of course everyone will be entitled to join these but no costs or programme have yet been advised. These

will be optional and no decision is required at this moment.

THE IMPORTANT ACTION IS TO MAKE THE BOOKING FOR THE TWO WEEK CRUISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I APOLOGISE FOR TAKING SO LONG TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE BUT JANE AND I HAVE EXPLORED ALL OPTIONS INCLUDING CHARTERING A LOCAL BOAT, USING FERRIES BETWEEN ISLANDS (carting luggage around!) etc. THIS IS THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE METHOD BY FAR. EFFECTIVELY WE ARE USING THE DISCOVERY AS A LUXURY FLOATING HOTEL!

For any query please do not hesitate to contact me: email robtimk@btinternet.com or Tel: 01761 470455. Prices are liable to increase so it is suggested we book by Sunday 19th June - an ideal Father's Day present!

TKR 8/6/2016



MV Discovery