

*Celebrate with us as we announce a new way to travel*



... from your armchair, the web, or your mobile device – we’re reinventing the travel experience as your one-stop for free insider **travel Tips, ePostcards, event listings** and convenient links to maps, weather, exchange rates, reservations, travel guides, and gifts.

YOU, the U in our URL, provide the endless creativity of locals everywhere, because every place has a story. *“Tell me the facts, I will forget them, tell me your stories and I will remember them the rest of my life!”* Blogs and articles are often too long for those on the go. Our info and photos are designed for the web as well as the small screens of mobile devices, so try [m.uratrip.com](http://m.uratrip.com) from your mobile, i.e. from our Hot Tips:

[4 hour layover at LAX? Hop a shuttle to Marina Del Rey for an oceanfront meal.](#) [Los Angeles CA](#)

Add YOUR travel tips – as text, or add a video clip, or an ePostcard others can send ...

...because soon travelers everywhere will be enjoying your tips and event listings and scrolling your photo gallery as they plan trips, and send e-greetings. What’s New? - With OneKey select a message (yeah! – no keyboarding).

*Is travel on your wish list ?*

Send your “Santa” a hint or two from our gallery of ePostcards



- *Run away with me?*
  - *Let’s go shopping in Monaco!*
  - *Meet me in Paris?*
  - *Vegas layover?*
- and many more...*

*In This Issue:*

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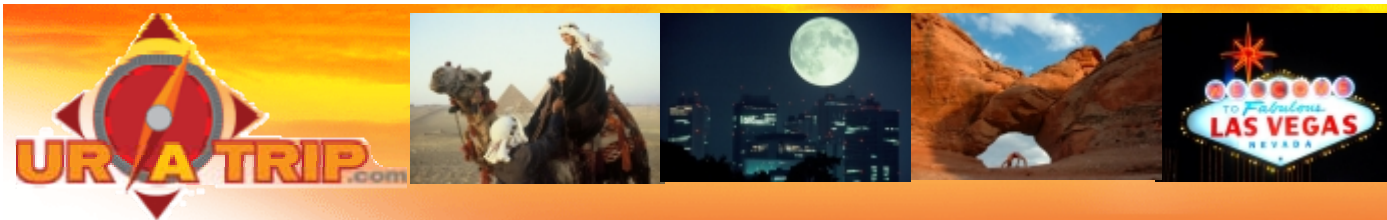
**Armchair Travelers** - try these links: [Spain](#) [France](#) [Arizona](#) [British Virgin Islands](#)

Use our photo gallery for some “armchair” travel and send - with OneKey - brief text messages – ooh what a list to choose from – have some fun, drop a shopping hint, surprise your friend with a proposal – all with OneKey so you don’t have to type on a tiny keyboard.

**Travel Professionals** - Do you have photos, tips and events to post? [Contact Us!](#)

**Photographers** – learn how to [promote your work](#). Featured photos in this issue by **M. Stinson**  
For more by this photographer, search “Stinson” from our Home Page.

**Travel Writers** – earn residual income from your writing. [Contact Us!](#)



**Travel Tails** - Hey, Chase here. One cool cat with my very own travel column. The animal lovers at URaTrip.com have asked me to keep you pet owners out there, up to date on all the best places which - not only welcome animals - but also offer special programs for pets to enhance your visit. So read on, and begin planning a great trip with your best friend.

Like many other cats, dogs and pets, I love to go on vacation with my family rather than stay at home. But it's not always easy for humans to find pet friendly lodgings and attractions. Traveling with pets requires special care and attention to our particular needs. URaTrip makes searching for these quick and easy. Just click onto the [Pet-Friendly Cities](#) to find luxurious lodgings like the Cypress Inn in **Carmel California**. Did you know it was owned by Doris Day? Planning a trip to Orlando? Check out **Paw Park of Historic Sanford** and if you are there for the theme parks don't miss **Disney's Celebration Town** where well behaved pets are always welcome.

Driving to Grandmother's house for the holidays requires special preparation if you are planning on bringing your four legged furry friend. For safety reasons pets should be confined to the back seat, either in a carrier or a harness attached to the car's seat belt. To help prevent car sickness, feed your pet a light meal four to six hours before departing. Never give an animal food or water in a moving vehicle, even if we beg. And don't forget to pack a flashlight for those late night walkies in strange places. [Magellan's](#) has an amazing one, the *Mini Dynamo*. A built-in battery charges when you crank the handle, you'll never have to worry about dead batteries again.

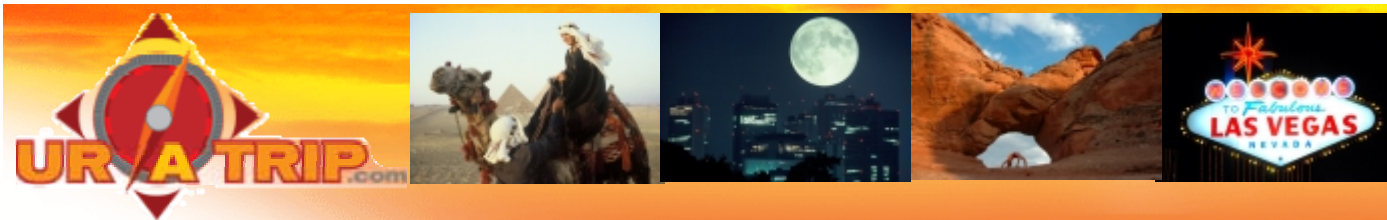
If you have a favorite pet related tip you'd like to share, just log onto [URaTrip.com](#) and [register](#) as a member, it's free and it's fun. Visit with me next month when I will be presenting my Meow Awards to the best pet travel locations.



**Ciao Bella** – Ciao and welcome to my new travel column. Thanks to those darlings at URaTrip.com, I can now share my insider travel tips as I globe trot around the world, first class of course. But now, a little about me. My name is Francesca DeConte and travel is my first love. My last husband just couldn't understand why I would rather be in Rome than preparing his dinner. Fortunately, the cosmetic company I started and then sold allows me to continue to travel in the style to which I have become accustomed, and you lucky people get to come along with me for the ride.

Nothing beats the combination of travel and shopping and I just love to find little out of the way places with very special items. When I am in Japan I search for traditional Japanese goods in Kyoto. The **Sannen-Zaka** pedestrian street near the Kiyomizu Temple is a favorite. Planning a trip to Vancouver? Don't miss **Yaletown**. It's filled with the most amazing boutiques; you can find almost anything here. And whenever I am in Buenos Aires on a Sunday morning I never miss the Flea Market at the **Plaza Dorego**. My favorite vintage bracelet came from one of the goodie-filled stalls. How do I find such treasures? I go to the Travel Tips [Shopping Category](#) at my favorite site!

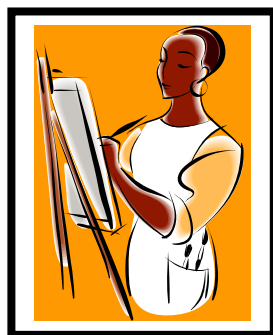
On those occasional quiet nights in a hotel when all the shops are closed, I like to do my shopping online. I see they've added [eBay](#) (a favorite) on the Convenience Menu and [Sony](#) where I picked out a new Cyber Shot digital camera, in hot pink. Now I will be color coordinated when snapping those ePostcards shots I plan to post.



If you are a frustrated travel photographer like I am you won't want to miss this opportunity to have your work published. Go to the [URaTrip home page](#) and [register](#).

As I am now dating again I definitely want the scoop on the [romantic sites](#) to share with the new Mr. Right. Watching the sunset behind the Malibu hills from **Manhattan Beach Pier** always leaves me weak in the knees. Holding hands at the East River and 57th Street in New York City, gazing at the moon and the bridge will put us right into a scene from Woody Allen's magical movie "Manhattan". Join me next month as I visit the best shopping spots and eat at the finest restaurants. I might even have a scoop for you on where to bump into that "someone special". Ciao Bella

**Joyful Journeys** – Hello. My name is Sierra. Welcome to my first column on travel and the arts. I believe that everyone is an artist. We all naturally create, whether it is a comforting home environment, a delicious batch of cookies, a sculpture or a song. As a busy working mom I am always trying to find ways of incorporating art into life.



Our family loves to travel; sometimes it's a road trip to visit relatives, other times it's business related and we take a family vacation as often as we can. **URaTrip** is my one stop shopping source to find all of the information we need to make the trip a success. In planning for a visit to **Philadelphia** this month I found a valuable tip; a two hour **trolley ride** exploring public art. And thanks to URaTrip.com I know we definitely need to visit **Longwood Gardens** to enjoy an array of **performing arts**.

I recently visited **Portland, Oregon** on business and URaTrip helped me plan my weekend. On Saturday I uncovered the largest **craft market** in the US. I bought some wonderful hand crafted items for Christmas gifts and picked up a few tips from local artists. My Sunday afternoon was spent sketching in the inspiring and world famous **Japanese Gardens**. The thriving art scene is evident everywhere in Portland, from the outstanding Museum of Art to First Friday's Art Quest in the funky neighborhoods of Brooklyn, Westmoreland and Sellwood where you can visit open studios, meet the artists and see new exhibitions.

In preparation for those long road trips this holiday season I will order a selection of our favorite songs and games from [iTunes](#) found on the **URaTrip Convenience Menu**. And to make lasting memories when we return we are planning a family scrap booking session. We'll gather round the dining room table and select from our collection of trip memorabilia. Ticket stubs, maps, dried flowers and ribbons – will add great interest and dimensions to our personal photos. Remember there is no wrong or right way to scrap book - it is all about pleasing you. The one rule is to always use archival adhesives and paper so the memories will last long after the trip. See you next month, Sierra. PS - Now that you have read my column, it's your turn. We want to hear about your favorite spots. Just register as a member to post your tips/photos. It's fun & free.



## About Us

URaTrip is for people who are ready to explore new ways to enhance their travel experience. We provide travel content produced by some of the best names in travel writing today and by ordinary people around the world who love to travel. URaTrip is a one-stop web-based growing source of insider information that can be used before you go and while you are there. We offer nuts-and-bolts information on how to make the most of your time in a place – whether it is just a few hours or several days. URaTrip offers free travel tips, electronic postcards, and an opportunity for anyone to become a paid travel writer. Our sites use up-to-the-minute technology while providing a safe and easy to use experience, and they are fueled by the endless creativity of locals everywhere – because every place has a story – and YOU are invited to share yours.