Traveling is one of the most valuable and enriching experiences in our lives increasing our knowledge, opening our minds, enriching our spirits, extending new moral values; and you can find many destinations in the world that would fulfill your desires. But, if what you are looking for is a unique and memorable experience that will give you the opportunity to learn about another culture through art, cultural events, historical cites, and archeological treasures, a place to visit is certainly Italy. Among many places in the world where you can relive the past, Italy is certainly the most charming place. This little country in the middle of the Mediterranean represents the cradle of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance, and offers an incredible number of opportunities for people eager to learn about an ancient civilization that shaped the history of many cultures. Moreover, “according to UNESCO” (“United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization”), Italy is the place where you can find 66% of the “world’s historical artistic heritage”, which is an incredible number if you consider that Italy is only “116,346.5 sq mi” (“Art Cities”) (“Italy”). Although every little corner of this country will be unforgettable to you because all of its towns and cities are “…veritable living museums” (“Art Cities”), there are two cities that you cannot miss because of their beauty and their historic, cultural, and artistic value, and these cities are Rome and Venice.

Rome is a large city in the middle of the Country and historically was the center of the Roman Empire and of Christianity; today the center of the Catholic Church of the entire world is in the Vatican City, which although it is considered a separate state, is located in the center of Rome (“Rome”). Rome is also the capital of Italy and has “two and a half thousand years” (“Rome”) of history and art in its buildings and museums, offering cultural visitors the opportunity to learn about architecture, art and many aspects of western civilization through guided educational tours. Many of the historic sites and museums can be reached by foot once you have reached down town, and I would suggest taking a walk, if it is possible, because not only will the famous historical landmarks amaze you, but also the urban architecture is worth a view. Although there are many things to see in Rome, some of the most popular sites to visit are the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, the Forum and the Vatican museum, which includes Leonardo and Raphael masterpieces and Michelangelo’s famous fresco: “The Last Judgment” located in the Sistine Chapel. For all of them you can either plan a personal visit or arrange a tour with a group. In both cases you will have a guide that will explain all the features of these wonderful works of the past and their roles in the life of the
ancient Romans. For instance, did you know that the Colosseum that you see in pictures of Rome was constructed starting in “72 AD”, and it was there that gladiators fought to the death (“Colosseum”). This and even more is waiting for you in Rome. Not to mention that between one visit and another you can always enjoy great Italian food, which is considered one of the finest cuisine. Moreover, as one of the most visited cities in Europe, Rome provides tourists with many opportunities to experience cultural events; many of them are especially made for international visitors to show the customs and traditions of the region. Often, there are food festivals, traditional music festivals or parades, depending on the time of the year. A list of events can be easily found on the Internet or in many information centers around the city, which display useful directories translated in several languages. To conclude, Rome is the largest city in the Country and, probably, one of the most attractive cities in the world and its history is beyond anything people from the USA are used to seeing and experiencing because Roman history dates back 2000 years. Therefore, Rome is an ideal destination for cultural travels eager to learn about the ancient culture.

After your tour in Rome, which will leave you tired but very pleased, you can comfortably rest in a railway car that, in only 4 hours, crossing a beautiful part of the country will take you to Venice, the most unique city in the world. Venice is an amazing city in northeast Italy built on more than 100 islands (“Venice”). The palaces, the innumerable canals with buildings sinking vertically into the water, the numerous artistic bridges, and the long tradition in family owned craft businesses which produce masks, laces, and beautiful glass works, make this city a perfect destination for travelers who wish to enrich their lives with memorable experiences. The center of the city, San Marco
square, includes the prominent Doge’s Palace built in the gothic style and the Bridge of Sighs, where the convicts coming from the Doge’s palace would walk and say good bye through the stone bars to wonderful Venice before entering the prison (“Doge’s Palace”) (“Bridge of Sighs”). Next to the palace is San Marco’s Basilica, a great example of “Byzantine and Gothic architecture” (“St Mark’s Basilica”). The Basilica is also known as the “Church of gold” because of its luxurious design and its mosaics covered with golden dust. Finally attached to the Basilica stands the red tall campanile, symbol of Venice. Of course, this is not the only place to visit. There are many other churches, bridges, palaces and museums to see that cannot be easily listed. But what makes this experience unique is that you will be able to admire some of this beauty comfortably sitting on a ferry or, maybe, on a gondola enjoying an educational and relaxing tour of the city. Guides tell interesting stories and legends about the many bridges and narrow canals that will fulfill your curiosity. Moreover, if you want to learn where glassblowing came from and the story that brought this wonderful craft to the New World, you must visit Murano Island, which has a long tradition in glassmaking dating back to 1291 (“Murano, the Glass Island”). Or maybe your hobby is making beautiful laces; in this case Burano Island is the place to see where beautiful lace works are displayed, from table linens to wedding dresses. Finally, during the two weeks before Mardi Gras (around February and March), Venice turns into a world of bright colors and mystery on the occasion of Venice Carnival, and if you have the chance to visit the city during this time you will see the most beautiful and famous Venetian craft masks. As you probably noticed Venice provides many opportunities to cultural travelers to enrich their lives; learning not only
about history, art, and architecture, but also about some local business traditions that had a significant influence on the past.

In conclusion, I believe that Venice and Rome are without any doubt a perfect example of what the Italian peninsula can offer because of their historical and artistic heritage and their unique, romantic, and magical look. Most of the world’s historical sites are in Italy, and an incredible number of masterpieces from the Renaissance period, like Michelangelo’s and Raphael’s works, are preserved in Italian museums. Moreover, Italy, is one of the most popular destinations for cultural tourists; therefore you can find exactly what you are looking for: educational tours and cultural entertainment. So, if this is what you have always desired, make your dream come true and live a once-in-a-life experience in Italy.


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Author: Diyang Qiu

Family travel to Beijing

Beijing is a good place to travel for educating youth to learn about Chinese culture, which combines their latest achievements with ancient history. As it is known to all, Beijing is the capital of China, which has been acting as the Chinese political, economic, cultural, and educational center for a long time. In addition, Beijing provides a wide range of modern and ancient places for family trips including the Beijing Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Beijing Olympic Stadium, and Hou Hai Bar Street. (“Beijing Travel Guide”)

If you want to learn about the Chinese history, come to visit Chinese ancient buildings first. Chinese buildings not only have their unique characteristics, but
were also built for different purposes from each other. As time passes by, the Great Wall has become the symbol of China, since it played an important role of defending invasions through Chinese history. In fact, the purpose of construction of the Great Wall was to defensive the invader from the north of China hundreds years ago. It is said that the Great Wall is the only building that can be seen from outer space. It’s really a fantastic place to travel for the youth, which let tourists feel the ancient Chinese wisdom and daring in this great architecture. On one hand, parents could educate their children about the world out of America. On the other hand, they could take a really valuable trip since the price of visit is not expensive at all. Moreover, there are also several Chinese ancient building to travel like the Forbidden City, the Summer Place and the Temple of Heaven. ("Beijing Travel Guide")

In the 2008 Olympic Games, Beijing showed the world something so special that everyone was surprised by Beijing's hi-tech elements combined with its ancient culture. If you only know that Beijing has a long history, you have just touched a part of Beijing. Beijing has changed a lot in these years; the development of Beijing was been happening in a high speed. Modern Beijing will give you a big shock when you arrive there; many hi-tech buildings have been constructed over the years in Beijing. For instance, the Beijing National Stadium, also being called the bird's nest, was the main stadium for the 2008 Summer Olympics, which host to the unforgettable Opening and Closing ceremonies. Many new technologies are used in the building; it looks outstanding no matter inside and outside. People could see a huge bird nest in a distance, which actually was built by steel bars. What a wonderful shape it has! Likewise the unique outer side, the inside of the bird’s nest is also integral multi-
technologies. Try to image you are in a huge bird’s nest, when you go into the Beijing National Stadium. Therefore, youth travelers will see the advanced technologies and get the special feeling here. For parents, you don’t need to worry about your children, because the Beijing National Stadium is not only a absolutely safe but have completely special fun place.

Beijing has so many places for travelers to visit, which succeed to Beijing’s traditional culture and develop their own characteristic. It is not only an ancient and mysterious one but also a modern and advanced one. Most importantly, Beijing is a wonderful place for family travel that well-combined the two faces of Beijing and China.

Author: Anirudh Agarwal

In today’s fast moving world everyone is busy with their own daily life; one or the other is always unable to fulfill their social obligations. In such a situation Family tourism is a great way to spend time with all the family members and have a blast together. Family tourism is fun because it acts as a stress buster by keeping us away from our daily schedule and providing entertainment for the whole family. Some of the values and beliefs which the families, having members between the age group of 16 to 45 are, importance for money and safety concerns. This is mainly
because they are traveling with young adolescents. Although there are many places around the globe which act as great tourist destinations, hill stations in Uttaranchal have holiday packages specially dedicated to family travelers. Uttaranchal is a perfect place to begin your family holiday since it has a wide variety of activities which can be done in groups. Another major advantage is that Uttaranchal is not a very expensive place, thus one can enjoy to the fullest by having very little to pay. Two of the major tourist places which have been attracting tourists for decades are Mussoorie and Haridwar.

Mussoorie is one of the most beautiful places in India. It is known as the queen of the mountains in Uttaranchal. It is a great place for family travelers because it has many resorts and hotels with cheap accommodations. Some of the budget hotels are, Hotel Ashoka Continental, Sterling Resort and Hotel Hill Queen ("Mussoorie Hotels"). Mussoorie also has a very cool climate all around the year [7.2°C (max); 1.1°C (min)], which makes the holidays even more enjoyable. Mussoorie is also known for its apple orchards which are a site to see during the spring season because they are full of apples and look beautiful. One of the major advantages of visiting Mussoorie is that it is well connected with roads, trains and buses so the journey becomes very enjoyable and is not hectic ("Uttaranchal Tourism"). Mussoorie is also the only mountain range in Uttaranchal which has a trolley going to a hill named the Gun Hill. This is a flat place on the mountain and has a market which looks like a carnival because, it is very colorful and even has my rides for children. This place draws a lot of family tourists since it is a very cheap
and active place. The young adolescents especially like this place due to its glamorous look.

Haridwar is another city in Uttaranchal which is busy with tourist all year round. It is based along the Ganges River and has a moderate climate. People usually take a dip in the Ganges River and after that get their body massaged on the bank of the river. They do so because many trained masseurs and masseuses are available near the river. Children especially like to swim in the river and play a lot of water games. Because of this purpose, the government has spotted special points and made barriers to reduce the heavy current so people can swim with out any danger. A lot of family tourists love to come here as this is a good place for relaxation and also having fun. Haridwar is one of the oldest cities in India and is very famous for its Lassi (a kind of butter milk) and a lot of other food items like, chapatti (a kind of wheat tortilla) and sabji (curry). This food is very appealing to many tourists because these dishes are specially made in this city; and, even though many other cooks can make them, the one made here are considered the best. This place is also famous for its ancient temples which are located on low hills. Some of the major temples are, Chandi Devi Temple, Mansa Devi Temple, Maya Devi Temple, Daksha Mahadev Temple (“Haridwar”). The word ‘Devi’ means goddess and most of the temples in Haridwar have this name because, it is believed that the place was boomed by many goddesses.

In a nutshell, it can be seen that Uttaranchal is the perfect destination for all family travelers as it is full of entertainment for all ages of people between 16 to 45.
Now it's time for you to experience the beautiful mountains and the ancient Ganges of India. So pick up your phone and book your tickets before you get too late.

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Author: Kaan Ozkilic

Turkey is a country in southeast Europe. There are a lot of interesting and beautiful things in Turkey, and one of them is the city called Antalya, which is on the south coast of Turkey right by the Mediterranean Sea. Like the author of “Antalya Holidays” mentions, Antalya has long and clean beaches, crazy night life, delicious food, and as much freedom as you want (Antalya Holidays). That’s why every year millions of people from all around the world visit Antalya. You probably have never heard about
Antalya or you don’t know much about it, but it is a wonderful place to visit if you want to have fun, but don’t want to spend a lot of money because it is a cheap place to visit; I can guarantee you that you are going to have one of the best times in your life, and even though, everybody in Antalya has a lot of freedom, it’s a really safe place. (Independent Travel)

You might think “Why would I go to Turkey for those reasons when there are places like California and Florida in the US?”, and yes, you are right; they are much closer to you, but don’t forget that you can have the same or better time in Antalya while spending one fifth of the money that you would spend at California or Florida and there are a lot of things you can do in Antalya that you can’t do in Florida or California. You can find five star hotels starting at $70 a night and you can get drinks at clubs for cheaper in Antalya, for example, two dollars for a beer or three and a half dollars for a glass of Bacardi cola. Moreover there are no laws that can stop you from having fun like age-limits for drinking. And there is even more than that; you can party with people from all around the world at the clubs, taste Turkish food, the best food in Europe, enjoy the clean water of Mediterranean Sea; trust me it is much better than the ocean, dance at the one of the biggest out-door clubs in Europe (Club Ally, Club Aura, Club Celly, Club Inferno, Club Turkuaztan), and night life in Antalya is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you feel like dancing during the day, there is clubs, where it doesn’t matter what you are wearing, on the beaches; you can even go there right after you get out of water, and you can sunbath while you are dancing since you can dance with your bikinis or swimming trunks under the sun. No one cares about who you are, how much money you have or anything like that in Antalya because people who come to Antalya just want to have fun and like most of the people say: that’s one of the best thing about Antalya.
Some people think that Antalya is a place like Amsterdam, but Antalya has beaches, it is cheaper and most importantly it is a safe place (Amsterdam Best Town To Live In Despite Top Crime Rate). Antalya has a really low crime rate because safety is really important for Turkish people, so you can feel safe at any time of the day. Turkish people are really friendly and helpful people, so even if you get lost, you can ask for the direction to anyone, and the best part is they will probably not just give you the directions; they will walk with you and make sure that you find the place that you are looking for.

As I mentioned before you can have as much freedom as you want, and not just because of the laws. You can start your day at the center of the city to shop from local businesses and maybe get a general idea of the life style of Turkish people by walking around the city. Then you can get in to a bus or a taxi for very cheap, and you can go to anyplace you want; you can go to tourist towns just half an hour away from to the city center or if you are tired of city life or people, you can go to the camping areas in the woods and stay in a air conditioned tent or a tree house, and don’t worry, you can still go the clubs at night because there are clubs in the woods with nature theme.

It might be hard to believe all the things I said, but there is proof; every year around 8 million people from all around the world visit Antalya, and I think this is enough to prove that Antalya is one of the best places to visit and have fun. So if you want to have a cheap, safe and really fun vacation, call your travel agencies right now to get more information about Antalya.
Author: Xiaoshi Li

China is famous for its long history and mysterious culture. Therefore, it’s a great choice for people who are interested in different cultural experiences, or cultural visitors. Cultural visitors are people who have special interests in cultural activities, for example, different styles of artistic works, mysterious ethnic habits, and traditional food
or interesting celebrations. (‘cultural Visitor Profile’). China can satisfy a variety of demands culture travelers have. China offers a chance to experience both diverse minority cultural and old Chinese civilization.

Yunnan province, located in southern China, has the most minorities in number in China (‘25 Minorities Of Yunnan’). So you can experience a lot of cultures in one place. One of the most interesting things is their traditional clothes. All the clothes of these minorities are closely related with their culture. Take Bai nationality, as an example, love white colors which is the same as meaning of their name in Chinese, white. They believe white color can bring good luck. Their clothes are colorful, but white is always the main color. Every Women in the Bai nationality has a beautiful “headdress”, they tell others whether they are married with different type of “headdress” (“The Bai nationality”). Traditional clothes are also an important art form of every minority cultural. For example, many minorities like to have many silver things on the clothes; it’s not only for beauty, but also a convenience method to carry wealth. Moreover, travelers can rent or buy those clothes at a low price which will be a precious memory and gift. Another great experience is festival events in different seasons. As Yunnan has so many cultures here, it has many celebrations here too. The “Water-Splashing Festival” of the Dai nationality is a famous and funny festival in China. It happens in spring time and lasts for several days. People splash water on others on that day because they think water can bring good luck (“Water-Splashing Festival”). However, it looks like a water fight which makes it a fun festival. Furthermore, you should never miss traditional food wherever you travel in China. Minorities here are good at using tools and materials
around them to make delicious food, including some special fruit and meat here. Your trip in Yunnan will be a great cultural experience with so many different cultures.

Pingyao is an amazing place for cultural visitors because it has completely remained the “Old City” (“Attractions”). When you walk on the street in Pingyao Old City, you will feel like you are in the ancient time. Everything looks like it did hundreds of years ago, including the outside and inside of the buildings. It’s like “a huge historical museum”. Some important landmarks, for example bank, temple and government office, offers a good sample for historical education (“Attractions”). These buildings show people what a bank looks like and how government worked hundreds of years ago, which is quite different from today. There is so much information waiting for you to discover in those old buildings. The wonderful paintings on the wall and windows still keep colorful. People designed houses according to the natural environment and religion. For example there’s always a second door after the entering door here. The second door is not use for a door. People here believe wind blow into the door can take away their wealth, so they built another door to stop wind. Those houses also show the condition of people’s life, poor or rich. There’re small houses for normal citizens, and big houses, as large as a palace, for wealthy people. You can not only visit those old houses, but also live in them! Because all the buildings here are old ones, hotels are built in those old houses too. Living in the classical old buildings in northern China, and trying traditional food in northern China, will make you feel like part of the life in this fantastic place. In addition, as a famous travel destination in China, Pingyao offers good travel guide services. Visitors can hire a professional guide who can speak English for a low price. Pingyao
gives people a great chance to go back into the mysterious history and experience traditional Chinese cultural.

China is always an ideal location for cultural visitors because it has diverse cultures and long history. It offers everything cultural visitors want. And you will have a great time experiencing Chinese cultures.

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