

Step inside the gleaming coaches of the Orient Express, and you feel like royalty from another era--Lounge on a private sofa, sip scotch, puff a cigar, open a letter (no irritating e-mail to intrude on you here), or simply soak in the splendor of pine-forested valleys and snow-capped Alps ...

After more than a hundred years, you can still experience one of the world's greatest adventures aboard this famed steam train... If you take the time to savor it ...

Journeys for the Uncommon Traveler

**Leave the tourist traps behind...
Discover the romance...the intrigue...
the ART of travel...**

Dear International Living Reader,

Have you noticed how frantic modern tourism has become?

They roll you out of bed at ungodly hours and herd you onto a bus. Then you spend the entire day climbing down the steps, taking a picture, posing for a picture, climbing back up the steps--over and over and over again... and the only thing you really get to know on the trip is the fifth seat back, left side.

In this age of drive-through meals, microwave desserts, and instant coffee, travel, too, has become fast. Much too fast.

Don't get me wrong. I love the convenience and efficiency of 21st-century planes and trains, but whatever happened to the high-spirited adventure and sense of discovery that characterized travel in by-gone ages?

"The traveller was active; he went strenuously in search of people, of adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive; he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes 'sight seeing.'" --Daniel J.

Boorstin

Like Mr. Boorstin, do you hunger for more than the assembly-line vacations tourism serves up today? Me, too.

If you're interested in taking the best vacation of your life...in recapturing travel's romance and exotic appeal...in savoring the character of interesting places and people...in having extraordinary experiences you'll remember the rest of your life...and never again wasting your vacation dollars on over-crowded, over-priced travel packages...then allow me to re-acquaint you with a long-forgotten art.

Rediscover the Lost Art of Travel



In the 18th and 19th centuries, as part of their education, young British noblemen were expected to take a foreign sojourn, a

Grand Tour.

At that time, it wasn't about the where and how of the trip, as much as the *why* of it--the desire to interact meaningfully with other cultures and to retain a sense of the experience...to savor it slowly and to let it sink into the very fiber of their beings. It wasn't unusual for these trips to stretch anywhere from a few months to eight years.

Wow! That doesn't sound much like today's assembly line approach to travel, does it? After all, how far can 10 minutes sight-seeing and a fuzzy snap shot penetrate the fiber of our being?

On the other hand, who has months or years to spend on a single trip? I know I don't. Even so, you can still capture that same Grand Tour spirit in the trips you do take--even for a week or two.

As a matter of fact, I have a special FREE gift for you that could turn every vacation you take into a Grand Tour. It's a brand-new volume from *International Living* titled ***Style and Adventure in the 21st Century : A Modern-Day Grand Tour.***

Although modern transportation has drastically reduced travel time and made our journeys more comfortable, the essential spirit of yesterday's Grand Tour is still ours for the taking. And that means you can still ...

...revel in ultimate pampering on the world's most sophisticated ocean liner ...get an insider's view backstage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts on an intensive arts appreciation Grand Tour...toast spectacular sunsets aboard a hot air balloon--or a 4,000-pound elephant--if you've the nerve...search for pirate treasure in the Cayman Islands...and much, much more.

You'll find a unique journey to fit most every interest in *Style and Adventure in the 21st Century : A Modern-Day Grand Tour*. Even better, these are independent vacations for the savvy traveller. You're not locked into anyone else's destinations or schedules, so you can easily tailor them to fit your personal taste and time frame.

I'll tell you how you can get this new gift volume in just a moment. First let me introduce you to...

Your Personal Grand Tour Guide

He's an old friend of *International Living*--a former Contributing Editor, discerning traveller, bon vivant, and perhaps the most entertaining travel writer we know. His name is **William Chamberlayne**.

Around here we affectionately call him the "old curmudgeon." Not because he's out of step with contemporary travel...*au contraire!* Now retired, William globe trots more than he did during his working days...spying out guesthouses of character in Europe...lunching on steak and kidney pie at his favorite Thames-side pub...embarking on private safari in Kenya.

Rather, William's a guy with a whip-sharp mind and sharper tongue...prickling with attitude born from decades of world experience. Unlike most travel writers today, he refuses to join the crowds flocking to the newest tourist attraction or "in" restaurant. As far as he's concerned, if "everybody" wants to go someplace...that's reason enough to go elsewhere.

He doesn't care about being politically correct or making nice with the travel industry. In fact, he's downright petulant toward mass travel and overpriced tours.

According to William, "*Since the Victorians invented daring and romantic exploration-- battling through to Lhasa, discovering the source of the Nile--I have been obsessed by the notion that real travel should be a Road to Adventure!*"

So we consider it our great fortune that William has agreed to work with our venerable staff of world explorers on a new publication called *First Class Confidential*.

Together they'll lead you to the luxurious, the exotic, the offbeat, the high-culture...treating travel as an art to savor and not a commodity to consume...

Exclusive Travel Opportunities in Every Issue

Every month you'll eagerly rip open the envelope to read your latest *First Class Confidential* print issue and be rewarded many times over with expert reports and recommendations on **exclusive travel opportunities you can use to turn your vacations into Grand Adventures like these:**

- * "Indeed this is what soon struck me about Manila: the friendliness. I know of no other city that provides such a constant sunshine of smiles...I almost consciously felt myself lightening up, and getting into the Filipino spirit of things. I stopped thinking about my itinerary. Even more dangerously, I stopped thinking about when I should leave..." -**William Chamberlyne**
- * "One reason I like Chahar-Minar so much was because it was off the beaten track. Few tourists bother to look for it. Few locals take much notice of it either. Ancient monuments are a dime a dozen to Bukhara folk. The most ancient monument of them all is the Ark (no relation to Noah's vessel). This is the city fortress, parts of which date back 2,000 years..."--**William Chamberlayne**
- * "The idea of visiting Coron Island had come to me impulsively as soon as I set eyes on it. Hulking jagged cliffs loomed silent above the ocean's surface. Primeval dark-green jungle shrouded the interior mountain domes, while moody clouds and trails of mist clung to their peaks. It was a mysterious place...made all the more so by tales that powerful spirits haunted it..." --**Victor Paul Borg**
- * "Wrapped in a mantle of red, blue, and gold, wearing a headdress of white feathers, the miniature figurine resembles a dolly. However, it's no plaything. This sacred ritual treasure

accompanied one young Inca girl on her untimely journey to eternity..." --**Georgina Adams**

* "A stray camel lurched against the side of our jeep--trashing its wing mirror--peered at me through the windshield with sneering disdain, and then emitted an impolite noise. It seemed an oddly appropriate send-off to the quirkily named Little Rann of Kutch... It's a merciless environment but one where people and wildlife somehow manage to survive and it was my curiosity about them that brought me here ..." --**Peter Dunkley**

* "If you've ever spent time in Japan, then you may have noticed the national obsession with bathing. No matter where you are in the country, you can bask in the knowledge that you are never very far from an onsen (a natural hot spring). And, while sharing bath water with several nude strangers does take a little getting used to, it's almost impossible not to fall in love with..." --**Josh Conley**

And these are just the beginning of the world discoveries you'll make with *First Class Confidential*.

Unlimited Access to Private Research, Reports, Recommendations, and More

You'll gain unlimited access to the **private members-only section** of the *First Class Confidential* website where you can download special reports and past articles all archived and easily searchable online--ready and waiting to help you plan your own Grand Tour vacations.

"I have always been a fool for romance. And I always will be. And what better place for romance than the beach of Deyá, the island of Mallorca, the archipelago of the Balearics, the country of Spain. It is my favorite bolt-hole, my hideaway."

You'll also find **First Class Recommendations**--a virtual trove of our favorite places to stay, dine, purchase art and antiques, or savor a glass of good wine.

Be sure to check recommendations for places like the charming Irish inn that's worth a special plane trip just to stay there...where you can feast on the most succulent Wiener Schnitzels in all of Vienna...where in Moscow you can find beautiful original art for just a few dollars...a secluded island hotel where you can bunk with Agatha Christie...and many more too numerous to list here.

Follow in the footsteps of William and company as they travel the globe seeking Grand Adventures and they'll guide you to the travel experiences of a lifetime.

But I should warn you...these adventures rarely include lying in the sun at a luxury resort, sipping tall drinks, and nibbling on caviar hors d'oeuvres. I hope you're up to the challenge!

You may well find yourself saddling horses to explore Argentine mountains via four hooves instead of four wheels. Or you might discover the four wheels belong to a jeep that's bouncing over a rutted dirt track as it carries you to a 340-acre nature preserve in the jungles of Belize.

But then that's what First Class Confidential is all about--leaving the usual tourist trails behind, getting the chance to travel anywhere in the world you can imagine, and taking a first-hand look at foreign cultures before you get on the plane. If you're a seasoned traveller you can appreciate how valuable that kind of access is.

Plus, as the **sophisticated traveler's best-kept secret**--and your private roadmap to rewarding personal journeys you'll find each issue of *First Class Confidential* packed with...

- Ambiance. Intrigue. Élan. **Savvy globetrotters** know what they deserve and we'll show you those rare establishments around the world offering unique touches that make for extraordinary travel experiences.
- One cannot fully appreciate a place without an understanding of the forces that forged it over time--and this is where *First Class Confidential* distinguishes itself from all other travel publications. We go far beyond the nuts and bolts of "how to get there" and "what to do." We're dedicated to **educating and inspiring** our travelers with background settings that make for authentic, memorable experiences.
- There's no better way to embrace the rhythm of a country than by **experiencing its arts, antiquities, customs, and foods**. We'll introduce you to the locals, their traditions, work, music, culture...and, of course, their finest spirits and cuisine.

"First Class" Has Nothing to Do with Cost (It Has to Do with Judgment)

I should let you know that in some cases we cover expensive places and activities. But that's not what makes them "first class." It's the quality of the experience that counts. And where the cost is high, you'll find the experiential-value even higher. 

So I'm sure you'll understand when I say that if you're someone who's looking for bargain excursions... enjoys traveling in large groups to crowded attractions...or feels most comfortable staying in homogenized hotels and eating homogenized versions of "local" cuisine...*First Class Confidential* probably isn't the right journal for you.

As you can see, *First Class Confidential* is for the sophisticated traveler who prefers to follow adventure independently...not the novice on his first trip abroad. We will not--for example--give directions to London Bridge, the Eiffel Tower, or the Vatican. That's information you can find anywhere--on the Internet, in your local newspaper, or any pocket guidebook at Wal-Mart®.

Our goal is to show you those forgotten and misunderstood corners of the world that--though easier and safer to access today--still hold the promise of a Grand Adventure. [You can sign up for a charter subscription to First Class Confidential here.](#)

You'll get Inside Travel Tips You Won't Find in Ordinary Guidebooks

You'll be the first to know when we make a new discovery. As a matter of fact, *let me pass on this recent find from William...*

"A *new discovery for me is The Royal Horseguards Hotel in London*, which is conveniently located near Whitehall, alongside Parliament, and only a couple of minutes walk from Trafalgar Square. From the front door you can see the scarlet tunics of the horseguards on parade, with their drawn sabers and shiny helmets, surrounded by a gaggle of tourists.

But that's not what makes this hotel remarkable. Rather, it's that it used to be something quite different--the National Liberal Club--in the days when the Liberal Party ruled the British Empire. The whole building still carries the solid air of a citadel of political power...complete with a sweeping marble staircase, wide high-ceilinged corridors, and paintings of the great British Liberals.

I was particularly fond of the hotel's Gladstone Library; a great cavern of a room, with leather bound volumes up to the ceiling and a gallery around the wall where you can sit reading in deep old leather armchairs or write at a big dark desk."

Because we answer only to you, our reader, we'll tell it like it is. We'll point you to fascinating places around the world, but we'll also tell you when a place doesn't live up to its reputation.

For example, this report just in from William on safari in Massai Mara ...

"The only evening entertainment was Maasai warriors dancing. This consisted largely of watching them jump up and down with their spears as they shrieked, believing that they would appear more intimidating to the lions they are no longer allowed to hunt. After the ball was over, the warriors became salesmen, selling brightly colored beaded goods made by their womenfolk.

Maasai may appear romantic with their red robes, mud hair-dos, and tall spears, but they have become the traveling clowns of Kenya, turning up everywhere to show themselves off to visitors."

Let Our Team of World Explorers Guide You to a Grand Experience

Meet Our Team of World Class Explorers... William's Protégés and Fellow First Class Confidential Scouts

Georgina Adams is a consummate professional, with the right measure of idiosyncrasy to make her one of the best travel writers out there. Her favorite cities include Vienna, Austria and Granada, Spain and her burning passion is Italy. **Elise Warner** worked and traveled as a singer and actress before getting hooked on writing. Her

Think how much easier...how much more delightful and rewarding your trips will be if you have a scout go before you and give you the lay of the land as it were--before you invest your travel dollars and your time. You can sign up for a charter subscription to this exclusive journal here.

I don't know about you, but my vacations are too important to spend on boring, run-of-the-mill tours. So why squander your precious vacation time on the usual tourist traps?

Instead, now you can rely on world-class experts to bring you first-hand, accurate recommendations--on everything from slashing through the red tape of foreign travel bureaus to local sites and activities off limits to the tour groups.

Indispensable knowledge only well-seasoned, unbiased experts can bring you--that's just the kind of knowledge *First Class Confidential* shares. Knowledge that will help you plan better vacations but will also give you an education on the history, culture, and the gastronomy of the places our team of experts explore.

A Super Deal Just for

articles have appeared in The Travel Section of *The Washington Post*, and in magazines such as *Historic Traveler*, *Literary Traveler*, and *The Gold Prospector*, as well as travel e-zines.

Victor Paul Borg has had more than 500 articles published around the world, as well as two guidebooks on Malta. He also writes two ongoing travel columns--a series on food and travel for *Lifestyle & Travel*, and another series on inimitable encounters in Asia for *Cape Argus Times*.

Eoin Bassett recently joined *IL* as Editor of *First Class Confidential* after returning to his native Ireland from a long sojourn throughout Mexico, Cuba, and Spain, writing for a host of Irish and English publications on everything from politics to art. Fly-fishing for trout is one of his passions--whether casting into mountain streams, or drifting upon limestone lakes.

International Living Readers

I suppose you could pay a travel agent to put together jungle safaris, Asian temple visits, or Umbrian artist vacations. Or you could spend several months and hundreds of dollars researching them yourself. But, frankly, there's no way travel agents and guidebooks can give you the kind of first-hand impressions and experiences you'll find in *First Class Confidential*.

That's because the one thing that's missing from these sources...the one thing that will turn your next vacation from "just another trip" into a Grand Adventure...is the very thing you'll find only in *First Class Confidential*. The why of going--the inside-look at history, culture, art, antiquities, and people at the heart of a place that make it worth seeing.

So how much will you pay for such specialized information? Before I give you the details, I want to tell you about the gift I mentioned earlier...

Style and Adventure in the 21st Century: The Modern-Day Grand Tour

"We wanted something thoroughly and uncompromisingly foreign--foreign from top to bottom...foreign inside and outside and all around...nothing anywhere about it to dilute its foreignness...And lo! In Tangier we found it."

What wonder Mark Twain must have felt when he penned those words during his Grand Tour 130 years ago.

It's hard to imagine finding places that inspire that kind of wonder nowadays.

After all with satellite TV running 24/7, the Internet downloading the world into your computer, and jets travelling to all corners of the globe... it seems the world just keeps getting smaller and smaller. And in some ways less exotic and appealing.

Until now that is ...



Welcome to the Modern-Day Grand Tour...where you can take advantage of modern travel conveniences, yet still have opportunity to slow life down a little...- experience that same sense of discovery as Grand Tourists of old...immerse yourself in the richness and foreign-ness of other cultures...and, perhaps, be changed by them forever.

To arrive at the kind of in-depth understanding the Grand Tour aimed at, early travelers understood one must travel as what I've come to describe as an un-tourist (Twain's records never mention anything about tight schedules or perky tour guides herding him from place to place).

So I'd like to offer you a few suggestions on present-day excursions--where you'll have truly inspiring and authentic experiences you'll carry with you long after your return home--in our new volume *Style*

and Adventure in the 21st Century: The Modern-Day Grand Tour.

- * ***Follow your muse.*** What better way to nurture the artist in you than by immersing yourself in a city where the very air seems to whisper, "people-watch...write...paint... stroll...create!" Artistic camaraderie is one of the most remarkable qualities to be found in this city; the unspoken sense of "we're in this together." We'll lead you to parks, cafés, bookstores, markets, museums, even churches where you can rub elbows with fellow artists, or sit quietly and let your creative juices flow.
- * ***Walk in the footsteps of Plato and Aristotle.*** Under the tutelage of noted archaeologists (who may let you in on some of the treasures they've uncovered in the past), this walk through history includes a chance to climb Mt. Olympus. In addition to visiting sites, you'll also experience present-day Greek life as you come to know the locals, their customs, work, music, and food. What's more, you'll take an academic pleasure cruise of the northern Greek islands. This Grand Tour is loaded with fascinating insights, so you may want to brush up on your shorthand.
- * ***Satisfy your cravings.*** The fresh, tangy scent of a Menton lemon. The silky-sweet taste of a vine-ripened tomato. The bracing chill of that first sip of rosé. On this Grand Tour, you'll have a chance to cook at famous haute cuisine restaurants under the tutorship of a gourmet chef. And you'll learn secrets here that will last a lifetime as you take in Cannes, Monaco, and Nice's old town. You'll also have a chance to participate in local dances and songs.
- * ***Trek to adventure.*** Take in the Himalayas in Bhutan or the hills of Tuscany; explore secluded enclaves along the Dalmatian Coast; hike in a national forest or simply stroll through a quaint village. While you explore new terrain, assisted by professional guides, you'll meet the locals, sample local cuisine, and study the history of the region. If you're looking for an in-depth way to experience new cultures a trekking Grant Tour is a must.

These are but a few of the experiences awaiting you in *Style and Adventure in the 21st Century: A Modern-Day Grand Tour*. Whether you actually take one of these Tours or simply discover them from the comfort of your favorite armchair is all up to you. Either way, you'll enjoy uncommon adventures the ordinary tourist can only dream of.

But that's not all ...

William Chamberlayne has been travelling the world nearly all of his life. As he puts it himself, *"I have seen more than I remember, and remember more than I have seen. So it was a wise decision, made early in my wanderings, to keep a record of the most exceptional and memorable hostelries, hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and specialty shops I've come across... And I've built up quite a collection. Now I've been persuaded to offer up my special favorites to you."*

As William's personal gift to you, he's agreed to send you a FREE copy of his private collection in William Chamberlayne's ***Little Black Book*** with your subscription to *First Class Confidential*. This is William's private rolodex of contacts, friends, associates, and resources around the globe. The people he wants to remember...the places he wants to revisit...

- ** A 16th-century English cottage where you can "R & R" in the ultimate country setting... sit in the summer sun and watch a cricket match, or take a stroll into the village amid wild flowers, grazing horses, and emerald-colored pastures. (p. 9)
- ** The premium French cigar shop where you can get Havanas so perfect--Brits cross the channel just to stock up (p. 29)
- ** Private booths, candlelight tables, and a menu for locals--not tourists--make this the best

place in all of Austria to cozy-up for an intimate dinner (p. 23)

** Italy's best antiques market where you can find antiques, collectibles, new articles, or curious old miscellany from all over the world (p. 29)

** If you're nervous about face-to-face encounters with monkeys, monitor lizards, and flying lemurs, you might want to accept hotel transport to this fabulous jungle restaurant--but it's far more fun to follow the 985-foot, lamp-lit track through the rainforest (p. 24)

** The street in London where you'll find world-class clothiers and tailors to dress the part of the classic gentleman and a good old-fashioned shave to top it off (p. 27-28)

** Live like a king at this medieval Spanish palace complete with manicured courtyards, orange trees, fountains, "red-carpet" service, and a savvy sherry connoisseur who will happily share his favorite finds (p. 11)

** Where you can enjoy a private dawn breakfast in the jungle at a fabulous bird-watching site (p. 13)

** The most elegant digs in all of Panama city (p. 17)

As you can see William Chamberlayne's *Little Black Book* is a real "Whose Who" in good taste--gathered over decades of relentless search for the best travel experiences the world has to offer.

And now it's your FREE...along with our Grand Tour volume...when you respond to this special charter offer. [You can sign up for a charter subscription to First Class Confidential here.](#)

"Nothing is as boring as international food, the kind served in five-star international hotels from Delhi to Dusseldorf. And even more lacking in local color is international drink: Coca-Cola, Heineken, Vat 69 on the rocks, a vodka martini shaken but not stirred (or is it stirred but not shaken?)."

Reading *Style and Adventure in the 21st Century: The Modern-Day Grand Tour* and William Chamberlayne's *Little Black Book* are like getting your own high-style education without going to the university of hard knocks. You gain from the expertise of William and our *International Living* team of world explorers.

These volumes normally sell for \$37.50 each but today you can receive both gifts--FREE! Just for giving *First Class Confidential* a try.

There's absolutely no risk to you, no obligation. And if you don't find an adventure...courtesy of William and company that you'd like to take? No problem!

I'm positive you'll find at least one adventure within the pages of *First Class Confidential* that you'd love to take. In fact, I guarantee you'll find at least one...in EVERY single issue...or your money back.

That's right. If you don't find at least one tantalizing trip every month...or should you decide for any other reason that *First Class Confidential*--and all the benefits that come with it--aren't absolutely amazing value...you can cancel at any time and we will return your payment in full on all un-mailed copies.

No "restocking" fees...no "cancellation" fees...no explanation required. I think you'll agree that's a pretty fair deal.

Plus, whether you choose to continue your subscription or cancel, the volume *Style and Adventure in the 21st Century: The Grand Tour* and William Chamberlayne's *Little Black Book* are yours to keep,

with our compliments.

An Even Sweeter Deal if You Act Now

Let me make you an irresistible offer just for charter subscribers...

Simply reserve your subscription to *First Class Confidential* today and I'll give you the new volume *Style and Adventure in the 21st Century: The Modern-Day Grand Tour*-FREE. I'll give you William Chamberlayne's *Little Black Book*--FREE. Plus I'll also give you a special charter subscription savings of \$50 off.

First Class Confidential normally sells for \$149 per year--a drop in the bucket compared to the commissions a travel agent would make selling you these trips...or the cost of books, magazines, international phone charges, and other fees to research them yourself.

When you think about it, that's a great deal. But today I'm going to sweeten the pot even more--and offer you an introductory charter subscription for just \$89 (a full \$60 off our regular subscription price). Plus as I mentioned earlier, I'll give you the \$75 in FREE gifts, as well as unlimited access to private research, reports, and recommendations at our members-only website.

Now that's an unbeatable deal! So I urge you to act now and reserve your charter subscription while they're still available.

Please [click here](#) to activate your charter subscription now.

Sincerely Yours,



Kathleen Peddicord
Publisher, International Living

P.S. Here's your opportunity to see the world from a vantage point no other publication brings you. Committed to a style and a perspective that 21st-century travel writers seem to disdain, William and our team of explorers approach the world and every place in it with a nod to the past, an appreciation of the present, and an eye on the future.

Discover for yourself the romance...the adventure...the art of travel...awaiting you in the pages of *First Class Confidential*...

"Before crossing the threshold--a bridge over a massive moat--the universally recognizable façade and thick walls of Angkor Wat fill your senses with a heady mix of culture, history, and mystery... Away from the bustling, leg-stretching, tour-bus groups--but not too far from the enthusiastic drinks vendors--a more rewarding and authentic experience can be found amount the complex's 1,000 or more temples..." --**Brian Carty**

"Given a chance to create Utopia, any fly fisherman would opt for the dream stream: cool clear water rushing from snow-capped mountains, tumbling into rocky torrents, sliding serenely through wild flower meadows, and teaming with fish hungry for his fly. The river Irati, which crashes down the Pyrenees Mountains to Pampalona, Spain--a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway--is one such dream..." --**Graham Mole**

"The museum tells the story of the Irish influence on the world's wine trade through the use of posters, antique bottles and decanters, sculptures, and portraits. Beginning in the first

century AD, Irish tradesmen were journeying to distant lands to trade hides and cloth for wine and spices..." --**Elise Warner Bernard**

You'll not only read about adventures like these in every issue...we'll give you all the information you need to make them your own.

I urge you to act now. **This special charter offer is available one time only.** It will not be offered again. So don't wait another moment, reserve your *First Class Confidential* journal now.

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