

Double S Travel

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**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service
to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009**

Steve of Double S Travel's Factsheet for 7th July 2009

Today's Exchange Rates

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today:	£1 = 1.10641	worse than last week
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today:	£1 = 1.55481	worse than last week

Boating Holidays.

Forms of boating holidays.

Narrowboating

Narrowboat, 2 to 12 people, originally built to be towed by horse along canals, now built mainly for leisure. Great for first-time boaters or for those seeking relaxation. Relaxing, romantic, historical, landscape beauty

Riverboating

Cruiser, normally for 2 - 6 people. Much shorter and often wider than canal narrowboats. Cruise the country's rivers especially the Thames or the Norfolk Broads. Good for first-time boaters.

Houseboating

These are often floating houses permanently moored to the bank of a lake or river. The boat is not fitted with propulsion so cannot be moved except by towing. Especially popular on the Norfolk Broads.

Dinghy Sailing

Courses to suit all levels of experience are run in the UK and abroad. These courses normally culminate in the award of an RYA (Royal Yachting Association) certificate.

Caique Cruising

A caique is a form of wooden boat used mainly in Turkey which provides accommodation for up to 12 people. No sailing experience is required as the boat is fully crewed. All you have to do is enjoy the ride. 7 or 14 nights cruising Southern Turkey are the most popular.

Flotilla Sailing

This is usually a sailing boat which you crew and sail as a group of yachts together. Popular around the Greek islands.

Members of ABTA, Association of Cruise Experts, Leading Cruise Agent
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Proprietor: **SJ Pattenden TD, BA (Hons).** VAT Number 449 3040 53.

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2009, 2006, 2005.

Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006. Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2008, 2007.

Live-aboard Diving boats

A scuba-diving holiday taken aboard a specially commissioned diving boat. Crewed for you. Can reach dive sites not available to boats based in ports.

Ocean Cruising

Discover parts of the worlds other types of holiday cannot reach! From 3* to 5* luxury with itineraries all over the world. Large variation in size from 1000 to 150,000 tons. Often the various sizes of ship are classified as Boutique (1000-5000 tons), Small (5000-25000 tons), Mid-sized (25000-50000 tons), Large or Resort (50000-150000 tons).

River Cruising

Using a cruise ship to explore large rivers. Often luxury boats are used. Popular Rivers are the Rhine, the Danube, the Nile, the Yangtze and the Amazon. River cruise ships are normally shallow draught ships, indeed the shape of some makes the look square and ugly which belies their 5* interiors and facilities.

Coastal Cruises

These follow the coast and one of the most popular is the Norwegian coast or Fjordland cruises. Land of the midnight sun cruises or Baltic coast cruises. The Norwegian coastal cruises are sometimes on small ships that deliver white goods, post and food to communities along the fjords.

Exploration/Expedition Cruising

These use specialist small ships with ice-strengthened hulls that will take you to places that are off the beaten track and inaccessible to normal ships. Normally these ships have expert lecturers and expedition leaders on board. Such destinations include Antarctica, Greenland and the Arctic. Other expedition ships ply the Galapagos Islands

Steamboating

The most famous of all American river cruisers are the Mississippi steamboats. These are large steam driven paddle ships driven by a huge rotating paddlewheel at the stern.

Crossings

Crossings are cruises or passages that link two opposite sides of an Ocean. The most notable of these are Transatlantic crossings made famously by the 'Queen' liners.

World Cruises

Ships which sail a complete circuit of the globe. Passengers can either do the whole cruise or can book specific 'segments' of the cruise. For example Sydney to Dubai or Southampton to Capetown.

Space on board

To get an idea of the amount of space each passenger has there is a formula to guide you. This is called the Passenger Space Ratio. To work out the PSR simply divide the ship's tonnage by the number of passengers.

For more detailed information about all forms of boating holiday call Double S Travel Worldchoice on 01582 752 752 or go to www.doublestravel.co.uk and select the 'cruise researcher' section.

Always:

- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too. You can apply for a card at www.ehic.org Note: The EHIC does not cover you in the Channel Islands.
- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper counterpart) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old-style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need in order to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long-haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find your cards may be blocked. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through and agent.
- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.
- Travelling to or through the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel. www.usembassy.org.uk

In brief:

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group, we depart 30th January! Places are limited. Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at steve@doublestravel.co.uk for details.

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Our aim is to be your most trusted dream provider

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at www.upadeck.co.uk it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

Do you Twitter? Follow Double_S_Travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email steve@doublestravel.co.uk and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through an ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best, Steve Pattenden. steve@doublestravel.co.uk

Acknowledgements. DG&G Gazetteers for much of the destination information.

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