



Travel Services Unlimited

March 2011 Tradewind

Special points of interest:

- Largest cruise liner sails into Falmouth, Jamaica
- Virgin Atlantic partners with JetBlue
- Take a trek to Harding Icefield
- Play our March Newsletter game

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Newly open Jamaica port welcomes huge cruise ship

KINGSTON, Jamaica – A new cruise ship port in northern Jamaica celebrated its official launch Tuesday with the arrival of one of the world's largest recreational liners.

Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas docked at the Falmouth pier in Trelawny with nearly

6,000 passengers aboard, the government said in a statement. The two-berth Historic Falmouth Cruise Port development is nestled between the resort cities of Montego

Bay and Ocho Rios. A \$220 million, three-phase project, it is being developed by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and the Port Authority of Jamaica.



tures. Although the port received its first visiting cruise ship in February, officials held the opening ceremony until Tuesday's arrival of the Oasis

of the Seas. A 16-deck, 225,000-ton (204,100-metric-ton) ship, it plans visits to Haiti and Mexico this voyage

It was originally scheduled to open in early January, but has suffered from delays. Work is still underway to construct retail stores and a historical center, among other fea-

before returning to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The number of cruise ship passengers visiting Jamaica dropped 1.4 percent last year to 910,000.

JetBlue partners with Virgin Atlantic

NEW YORK – JetBlue said Tuesday it has formed a partnership with Virgin Atlantic that will allow customers to fly on both airlines with a single ticket. Travelers on JetBlue will be able to connect through Boston, New York, Washington to catch flights to London Heathrow on Virgin

Atlantic. JetBlue customers connecting in Orlando will be able to fly to London's Gatwick airport, Manchester, England and Glasgow, Scotland. Passengers can purchase the JetBlue-Virgin Atlantic flights beginning this week. JetBlue already has

similar partnerships with Dubai's Emirates Airlines, Irish carrier Aer Lingus, South African Airways and American Airlines. These partnerships allow airlines to expand their available destinations without adding costs. They also feed more passengers into their respective networks.



Harding Icefield a find in Southcentral Alaska

KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK, Alaska – The first thing I noticed was the feeling of an ice-cream headache. It meant we were getting close. But the chill off the massive Harding Icefield and wind funneled through the surrounding mountains was part reward for the sweat-inducing hike to get there, and part reminder that we were entering a foreign landscape.

To many travelers, Alaska represents adventure, and my visit to this glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park with a friend was part of my first real road trip since moving to the state last year.

The trip, planned largely on the fly, included rigorous hikes amid sweeping, beautiful landscapes. We went from the marshy-grass tussocks and stark, brown-red, up-in-the-cloud

peaks of Denali National Park, where we encountered Dall sheep and were soaked to the bone on ridgetop trails, to Kenai in Southcentral Alaska, a few hundred miles away.

There we climbed rocks, hop-scotched across boulder fields and creek beds only partially filled with cold, late-summer water, and traversed snow and ice to get to the glaciers. Our first glacier and the highlight of the trip for me was Harding Icefield, which I'd read about from other backpackers online and was determined to experience. On our way up, we met hikers who turned back early, unable to keep going but who felt rewarded by what they did take in of the valley views and ice in the distance.

Those that did make it up raved about it. "It's worth it," one woman said, smil-

ing. Getting there takes some doing: It's nearly an 8-mile round-trip hike, one the National Park Service brands strenuous because it gains about 1,000 feet of elevation for each mile. Some stretches are fairly steep but the trail is in excellent condition, which helps with footing. The change in elevation also brings dramatic changes in scenery. Starting out, the surroundings were reminiscent of trails in our hometown of Juneau, which is located in a rainforest — all lush, vivid-green vegetation, with a fair share of pesky bugs in the late summer when we did our hike.

A couple of tourists warned us to keep an eye open for a bear they claimed they saw. Farther up, there were flower-filled meadows — I swear, I felt

“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”

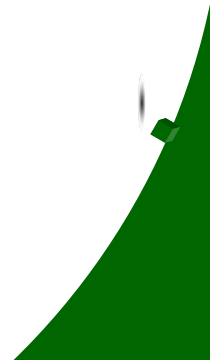
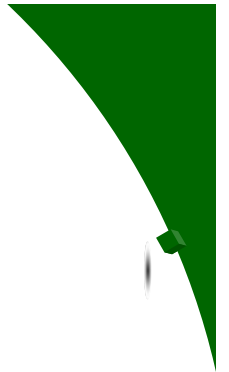


Harding Icefield a find in Southcentral Alaska

like Heidi traipsing up the trail here — and then, much starker landscapes: alpine tundra, stretches of soft snow, and barren brown rock leading to edge-of-nowhere cliffs. The cliffs overlooked the icefield and seemingly everything else — clouds, lakes, the valley, mountain peaks.

The only word that came to mind was other-worldly. I half-expected a pterodactyl or something else prehistoric to swoop down from one of the distant rocks. It was wonderfully desolate, stunningly quiet, except for the roar of falling water that we were able to hear in certain areas. I felt very small.

It was hard to leave — the payoff was so great — but the waning sunlight sent us on our way. On our way down, we encountered a small herd of mountain goats that were seemingly oblivious to our existence.



March 2011 Newsletter Game & Winners

February 2011 Newsletter Game Winners

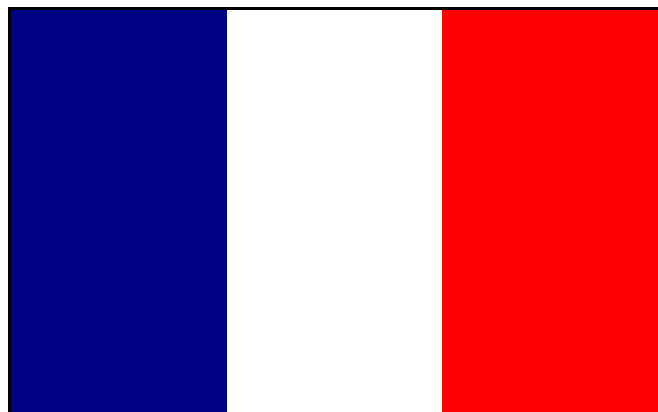
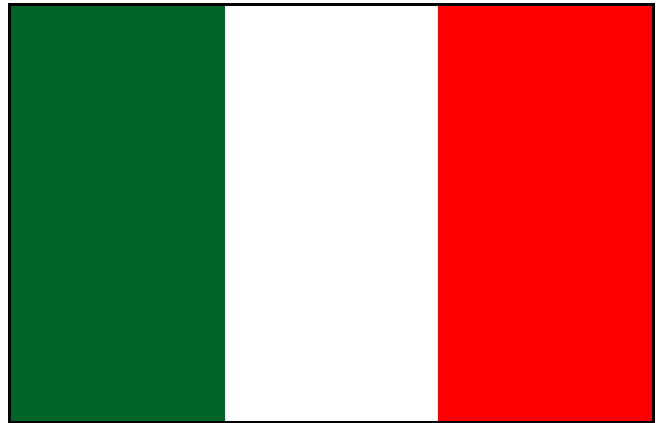
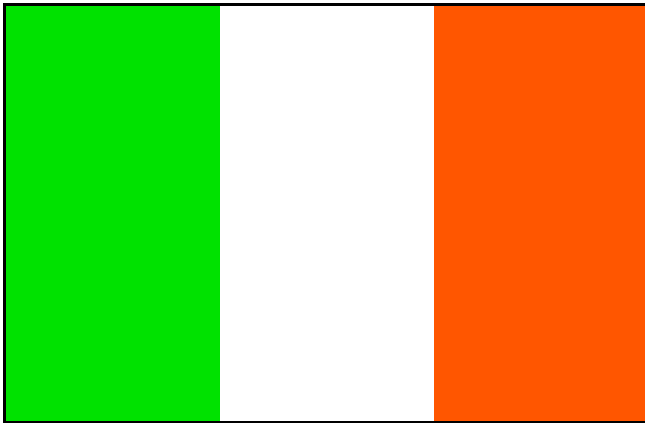


- 1) Anrette Bardox
 - 2) Isikiah & Donnalora Hatfield
 - 3) Jack Henderson
- Congratulations to our winners!

Name That European Country!

Fill in the blanks below and send back via email, fax or mail!

Winners will receive \$100 Off their next condo vacation!



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