

## *Travel via the Moon*

If you were traveling during the months of January and February you may not have heard about the terrible weather we had back here in the USA....weather we don't get every winter.....yes, that's right....it got up into the 80's here in southern Calif....it was awful after high-noon on some days. There was also a rumor that on the other side of the Rockies, there were 77000 cancelled flights with more than 6 million stranded and another 43 million on delayed flights. During periods like this when you're going to these areas of bad weather, call or email your airline before leaving the house/hotel and confirm that they ARE flying your flight.....in most cases, if your flight is in fact cancelled, there is *no charge* for rebooking on a following flight...but confirm that with the airline when you call. The 5 worst airports to be stuck in are IAD (Washington Dulles) LaGuardia (LGA), Atlanta (ATL), Philly (PHL) or (BOS) Boston... reason being...no place else to go, few hotels or easily over-crowded, few shops/restaurants...and to many folks, lack of free Wi-Fi to let other people know that you are stuck. But now the bad weather is over, right? Well, maybe not quite. Thunderstorms and tornadoes are still possible at many airports during the summer causing delays and going to "alternate" airports. Quite often the airline will pay for hotel reservations at your unexpected alternate airport and/or charter local buses to take you back to your destination, but weather does put a crimp in many travel plans. And finally, one other weather happening that many airline passengers don't consider – turbulence!!

In the past couple of months, numerous news articles mentioned the flights with people injured because of severe turbulence in the US...isn't it just as easy to sit in your seat with the seat belt **around you** (*loose* is OK) and not risk the close-up view of the ceiling when unexpected turbulence occurs. The thinking that most turbulence occurs when the flight attendants come around with the food-cart – this has not been proven, but they could be related.

Airlines are expecting 2014 to have record profits. Your ticket price is not expected to go up as much as previous years and your choice of "low-cost" airlines continues to grow. So where do the profits come from? Well, how about choice of seats on some aircraft...roomier area between those in front and behind you, refundable fares (yes you can buy those...at slightly higher cost), or baggage charges that were unheard of years ago. But be aware of this and **SHOP for lower priced tickets** by calling different airlines and compare the prices (and ask the airline person if they don't have a better price). And

*This is a "biggie"....buy your refundable ticket at the **right time** months in advance. Airline prices are lowest January to early April and then climb to their highest till mid-Sept and then decrease a little till early December. Planning can make a difference. Travel agents can help get you lower fares, but you will also pay them for their service.*

But regardless of where or when, **GO and ENJOY**.