

Travel via the Moon

Probably the only way we're going to save money when we travel is by going back to the original Conestoga wagons and leave the airlines behind....but, here's another way to save on your next flight ! Pass the baggage carousel and have the airline **deliver** you bag directly to your home? *Only* \$29.95 for one bag, \$39.95 (notice the *discount*) for 2 bags, or a really big saving,.... only \$49.95 for 3-10 bags. Those prices are for a distance of 40 miles or less from the airport....but you can have that same service for an additional \$1 per mile if you live further away. These fees *do not* eliminate the original baggage charge that you paid when you checked in to the airline at the beginning of your trip....remember....\$25 for the 1st bag, \$35 for the next bag and \$135 if you had more than 2 to check...and we won't even mention that some airlines are beginning to charge for "carry-on" bags. This service is now being offered at more than 200 airports around the country – no not international (yet)! You might try to "Google" and find the nearest Conestoga wagon dealer near you.

Remember *PeopleExpress* airline out of Norfolk? Well, east-coasters may have them back flying again to PGH, EWR, and FLL (that's Pittsburgh, Newark and WestPalmBeach) out of Newport News. PeopleExpress was one of the original 'no-frills' airlines that went under due to high fuel costs years ago. They still have money problems and are not yet approved by US government. For those fliers served by the previous *Allegheny* and *Piedmont* airlines (now *USAirways*), **American Airlines** is talking about merger with them....watch your newspaper this fall.

When we decide to travel, many of us who are not making the previous *high* salaries we made in the **USN**, try to get an idea of exactly how much will this trip cost us...or what size dent will this put on our bank account. Items that often are forgotten though are *tipping!* Tips don't compare to hotel, airline, cruise-fares, shopping or restaurants, but they do provide the reason our cash-flow seems a little higher than expected. *How much should we tip??* **Hotels:** Ask *Customer Service* or the *Concierge*. **Maid** service for \$1 per day (on the pillow when you leave the room) and always greet the maid when departing. If front lobby **baggage** people brought your bags up to the room \$2 per bag (maximum \$5) for more than one bag. **Concierge** got you "hard-to-get" tickets, or arranged for transportation or told you where to get something special....\$5-10 and a sincere "thank you". **Restaurant** service: Outstanding service should be 20% of your bill...ok service 15%...poor service.....**tell the manager**. When dining in many of the *international* locations....**CHECK YOUR BILL** for "service charge" (usually ~15% in Asian and European countries. If you feel you really had outstanding service, a couple of Euro's can be left on the table. In Italy and Spain an extra 10% can be added to the service charge for good service. *Suggested tips* as shown on your bill are just that...you have no need to comply. **Pubs** in Europe usually find Americans tipping \$1 per drink...or 2 drinks=1 Euro. **Taxi** in USA 10-15% above the meter ... this is where the hotel *Concierge* can get you a better "no meter" price, and 15% is thanks for a good/no delay driver. In Europe, round up the fare to the nearest Euro or Pound.

Tour Guides, if you are happy about what you heard during your tour, \$2-5 per person. Many tourist seem to forget the driver of your vehicle...a couple of bucks handed to him when he helps you off the bus is always appreciated. In Europe, 3 Euro's to the tour guide is usually shared with the driver. **Parking** lot attendants are satisfied with \$1-2.

One place you don't have to worry about the correct tip is *China*....it is **forbidden** by the government.

We didn't mention tipping for a *massage*. Again, 15-20% may be customary, but if your *spouse* gave you the massage, you better decide on a little more or you'll never get another one. **Enjoy your travel...you deserve it.**