

TOURS & CRUISES

FRANCE

World War I Voyage

European Waterways is offering a six-night river barge tour from Lille to Compiègne in northern France that visits World War I battlefields, museums and memorials dedicated to the Great War that began 100 years ago. The 12-passenger vessel visits the Somme and other key wartime sites as well as the forest in Compiègne where peace was declared and the Armistice signed on Nov. 11, 1918. Cost is \$5,090 a person, double occupancy. Departure date is April 12, 2015 (reverse itinerary departs April 5). Airfare to the start in Brussels and end in Paris is not included.

Info: European Waterways, (877) 879-8808, www.gobarging.com.

— MARY FORGIONE

SCOTLAND

Castles and clans

Are you a Maclean, MacKinnon or MacDonald? Or maybe a Campbell or MacLaren? Then this fall excursion into the heart of Scottish history could help you gain insight into your clan history. The Majestic Line, a Scottish small-ship company, is offering a six-night cruise that explores the castles and clans of the Hebrides. The ship, which holds 11 guests, departs from Oban on the west coast of Scotland. Stops include the Island of Mull, home to descendants of the ancient clans of MacDonalds, Macquarries and MacLaines, among others. On Mull, guests will have an opportunity to tour Duart Castle, the seat of clan Maclean, and visit the town of Tobermory and its museum and Tobermory Distillery. Other highlights include a tour of Castle Stalker, on Loch Laich, with links to the

Stewarts, Campbells and MacLarens; a stop at the Island of Lismore; and a cruise on Loch Leven and a visit to Glencoe. Six double cabins are available; two cabins are reserved on each cruise for solo travelers, with no single supplement.

Dates: Departs Oct. 11 and Oct. 18.

Price: About \$2,845 a person (includes 10% discount), all inclusive excluding alcohol. International airfare is not included.

Info: Majestic Line, 011-44-(0)1369-707951, www.themajesticline.co.uk.

— ANNE HARNAGE

ALASKA

'Flightseeing' Denali

Why climb to the top of Denali when you can go by plane? Though the climbing season on North America's highest peak officially began in May, visitors have another way to get to the top of the 20,237-foot summit (a.k.a. Mt. McKinley) this season. Northern Alaska Tour Co., based in Fairbanks, has expanded its "flightseeing" services to include a ride aboard a multi-engine airplane to the top of the mountain. You won't be able to stand on the peak, but you will be able to snap incredible photographs from your window seat and enjoy the surrounding mountaintops and ridges of vast Denali National Park and Preserve. The company is offering six departures each day from Healy, a small town north of the park's entrance, to a head-spinning 21,000 feet in elevation for a fly-by of the peak. Passengers who want to go on the flight must use oxygen during part of the 90-minute journey. (Before boarding, a pilot runs through a briefing about how and when to use the oxygen mask.)

Dates: Through Sept. 21.

Price: \$339 a person.

Info: Northern Alaska Tour Co., (800) 474-1986, www.northernalaska.com.

— MARY FORGIONE

MEXICO

Holiday adventure

Yes, it's June, but it's never too early start thinking about that winter vacation. With that in mind, Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic is introducing an eight-day expedition, "Wild Islands & Treasures of Baja California," with two December departure dates. The 62-passenger National Geographic Sea Bird embarks from La Paz, with stops at Isla San José and Isla San Francisco, Bahía Agua Verde and the seaside town of Todos Santos, where there is an opportunity to meet artists who live and exhibit their work there. Other stops include Isla Espiritu Santo and San José del Cabo, where the excursion disembarks. Activities cover a range of interests and fitness levels, making the trip suitable for families. Highlights include exploring desert islands known for their native species, rare plants and forests of cacti; searching for humpback whales; hiking a desert arroyo to view ancient handprints; and snorkeling at Cabo Pulmo and Los Islotes. Onboard are six naturalists, including two photography instructors and an undersea specialist.

Dates: Departures Dec. 20 and Dec. 27.

Price: From \$5,690 a person, double occupancy. Must book by July 31 to receive \$550 airfare credit.

Info: Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic, (800) 397-3348, www.expeditions.com.

— ANNE HARNAGE