



THE SHOESTRING TRAVELER

December 1996

Courier Combines Package Deals with Bucket Shops for Bargain U.S.-Euro Tour

By Eugene A. Hannan

IAATC Member, Burlingame, California

Earlier this year I took a courier flight from San Francisco to Tokyo and Thailand. For my next trip I had planned to visit the East Coast of the U.S., but when I realized I could squeeze in an extra week of travel I looked for a courier flight to Europe. I checked the *Air Courier Bulletin* and found that *Micom* had a seven-day turnaround between JFK and London-Heathrow. I called Jackie and she faxed me the courier application. I mailed it back to her with \$250 for the round-trip flight.

The first leg of my vacation was planned by *Preferred Holidays*, a subsidiary of *Avis Rental Cars* (Tel: 800-990-1919). They offer seasonal packages to selected destinations that include one-way air with an eight-day car rental. I flew from San Francisco to Orlando, picked up my car and drove north. Between Florida and Massachusetts I stopped to visit friends and family at seven different towns along the way. On the eighth day I returned the car at La Guardia Airport; the cost of the one-way flight and car rental was \$350.

Good Hotel Choice

The *Pan American Motor Inn* (79-00 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY. Tel: 800-937-7374 or 718-446-7676) is located between JFK and La Guardia and offers IAATC members the same rate as airline personnel: \$62 for a single. I used their free airport shuttle from La Guardia, and received a clean, well-lighted room. The hotel is convenient to downtown Manhattan, located just 20 minutes away by subway. I prefer to travel light, so I left my extra luggage at the hotel for a fee of \$5, which included locked storage and a claim check for retrieval. My flight to London was in the evening, and the hotel allowed me to stay several hours past checkout at no additional charge.

The *Micom Air* representative met me near the *American Airlines* desk at JFK, and advised me where to meet the London rep. at Heathrow. I cleared immigration and customs

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London-Cyprus Speedbird Flight

Courier Finds Cyprus is Friendly & Uncrowded

By Penelope May

IAATC Member, Capistrano Valley, California



The courier flight from London to Larnaca, Cyprus, landed at night. We knew we wanted to get to Pafos, and made the mistake of taking a regular taxi for the outrageous price of US\$70. But we knew better by the time two wonderful weeks had passed, and made the same trip in a *service taxi* for US\$8 each — a total of \$16.

I had to go to London for a real estate conference and there was another conference in Cyprus just after that which I wanted to attend. Before leaving California for London, I looked in the *Air Courier Bulletin* and found that *British Airways Travel Shops* runs courier flights to the island as part of their Speedbird courier service. I called them, we did all our business by fax, and I was set. My mother bought a regular *British Airways* ticket on the same flight, and we sat together from London to Larnaca.

Warm & Friendly

Cyprus is glittering. It's sunny, warm, friendly, affordable and undeveloped. The beaches are uncrowded and the entire island is crime-free. I was able to leave our apartment door open without the fear of anything being taken. When I swam on the beaches, I could leave my things in the sand and know that they'd be there when I came back. It was a relaxing and pleasant change from so many other places I've visited — always watching over myself and my belongings.

We stayed at the *Theseas Hotel Apartments* (1-3 Jason St., PO Box 400, Pafos; Tel: 06 235511; Fax: 06 248333). For the price of 16-30 Cyprus pounds (we paid US\$20 per person, per night), you get more than the standard room — you get an entire apartment. It is clean and the owners are the most friendly and helpful hotel persons I've ever met. They can't

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