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By Phil Marty, Special to Tribune Newspapers

8:36 p.m. EDT, September 19, 2013

Here are some of the more interesting deals, websites and other travel tidbits that came across our desk recently:

For bicyclists looking for a different destination, Ciclismo Classico offers the Gran Canaria tour, which explores the second largest of the Canary Islands with rides from sea level to 6,300 feet. The Dec. 29-Jan. 4 trip is priced from \$3,995 per person double occupancy and includes six nights' lodging, some meals, guide services, vehicle support and bike rental. 800-866-7314, tinyurl.com/nwxojqs

If a wintry visit to Ireland sounds appealing, GreatValueVacations has you covered with its Luxury Irish Villa and Dublin City package, priced from \$799 per person quad occupancy. That includes round-trip air from New York, five nights' lodging in a three-bedroom Adare Villa, two nights' lodging in Dublin and a manual-shift rental car. Price from Chicago starts at \$965. You must book by Sept. 27, and travel dates are available from Dec. 1-Feb. 6. 800-896-4600, tinyurl.com/ol28368

Geringer Global Travel is offering a 14-night tour of India that concentrates on exploring the country's textile industry through meetings with local artisans. Priced from \$3,479 per person double occupancy, it includes lodging, most meals, English-speaking guides and various cultural activities. Airfare is extra. 877-255-7438, tinyurl.com/ogbdmw2

BestPriceCruises.com has a seven-night western Caribbean cruise in January on **Norwegian Cruise Line** priced from \$549 per person double occupancy. Sailing round trip from **Tampa, Fla.**, it makes port stops in Roatan, Honduras; Belize City, Belize; and Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico. 800-344-0401, tinyurl.com/qjxvlsr

Guilin, China, is a new property from all-inclusive Club Med. Pricing in October and November is slightly more than \$1,200 per person double occupancy for a seven-night stay. Airfare is not included. 888-932-2582, tinyurl.com/og8hdzo

Hot-air balloons color the skies in New Mexico during the 2013 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Oct. 5-13. tinyurl.com/3j8exkp

Maps

- Ireland
- India
- Tampa, FL, USA
- Guilin, Guangxi, China
- New Mexico, USA
- St. Louis, MO, USA

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Affordable Health Plans

Compare & Save on NY Health Plans. Get a Fast, Free Quote Online Now!
EmpireBlue.com

Tour Beautiful Italy

\$2,609: 9-Day Tours Across Italy Including Air, Hotels & More!
www.Italy.GoAheadTours.com

The Missouri Civil War Museum opened this summer in historic Jefferson Barracks in **St. Louis**.

mcwm.org

Enter by Sept. 30 to win a Hong Kong getaway at **tinyurl.com/nodwlu9**.

The 10th Annual Alabama Coastal BirdFest is Oct. 3-5 in Fairhope, Ala., on the state's Gulf Coast.

alabamacoastalbirdfest.com

The Lake Geneva (Wis.) Cruise Line is offering its 2014 passports, which allow unlimited rides on its tour boats and can be used this year through Oct. 31. Cost remains \$74.95 plus tax. 262-248-6206,

cruiselakegeneva.com

CruiseCritic.com lists seven reasons to stay loyal to a cruise line at **tinyurl.com/owv8a78**.

Family Vacation Critic has downloadable free family vacation guides for Orlando, Fla., Disney World and the Caribbean at **tinyurl.com/ldz3wls**.

Prices include taxes and fees unless otherwise noted. Deals and websites listed here have been checked for availability as of press time, but the listings are not an endorsement.

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