

UNION NEWS

Friday, April 29th, 1966

SERVICES SECTION SUPPLEMENT

STUDENT

R

A

V

E

L

'66

A guide to N.U.S. Travel Tours, Winter and Summer Holidays and how and where to book

IN THIS SUPPLEMENT

THE big N.U.S. news travel story at the time of writing is without doubt the fantastic success of organized tours. The success of these tours is unprecedented and there are great hopes that this could be the most successful year in N.U.S.'s travel history. The full story on this appears on this page and is continued in columns 1 and 2 of the fourth page of this supplement.

On pages 2 and 3, Mike Hollingworth and Connie Kinnear write about the thousands of places you could go with N.U.S. These articles are different from normal travel material because they aim at three especial aspects of a holiday: economy; different ways of travelling, and unusual places to visit.

On page 4, Mike Hollingworth writes about the Union's Services Section . . . where it is and what it can do for you. Also on page 4 is an article about Winter holidays, would you sacrifice a summer vac for two weeks in thick snow?

STUDENT TRAVELLER 1966

THIS free booklet gives the essential details of all the student charter flights and student train groups operated between the major tourist centres of Europe. Many students seem unsure of the position vis a vis concessions on travel so it is necessary to state that these concessions are not generally available except on special travel facilities organised through National Student Organisations and available only to members of these organisations.

The air-line companies will give a 25 per cent. reduction on fares on regular services to students who are travelling between their home and a place of study abroad. Otherwise, the full fare applies. Whilst regulations vary from country to country, train travel is reduced only for parties of a certain

number, as is the case with British Rail.

Wise Plan

It is essential to book early as there is considerable pressure on flights, shown by the fact that N.U.S. issue booking reports on a weekly basis to student travel bureaux. It is a wise plan to give as many alternative dates as possible to ensure that you do eventually achieve a booking.

of the reasons why the

THE 1966 travel season has quickly shown the trend for the long vacation. With an unprecedented volume of early bookings from the more experienced travellers, two facts have emerged.

This year it is "See the sun year" and it is the programme tours which are being booked most heavily.

Explained elsewhere in this supplement in our value for money section are some of the reasons why the

programme tours have become so popular.

CHOICE

Many of the tours to Greece and the Greek islands and also Spain are 75% booked up already, with Italy and the South of France not far behind. Malta was fully

booked within four weeks, so time is running out for anyone who has not booked yet. Services Section can give you the day to day booking position and if you are hesitating over the problem of the available dates fitting in with your own timetable, a booking subsequently cancelled in reasonable time will only lose you a £1 cancellation fee. Better to lose a £ than forfeit the holiday of your choice.

(Contd. on back page)

TOURS BOOM



Oslo City Square touring by night.

1,000 PLACES TO GO

Written
by
Connie Kinnear,
Programme Tours
Organiser
of N.U.S.
and by
Mike Hollingworth
of Services Section



Try Russia by Truck

AND 100 WAYS OF GOING



Surprising what you can find on holiday with N.U.S.

SUN AND SAND? — Imagine great stretches of golden sand — miles of aquamarine sea all warmed by the summer sun. The French Riviera, the Italian Riviera, the Adriatic coast, the Costa Brava, sunny Israel, or for a change, sunbathing on the Black Sea. Think of a glorious sunset at Cape Sounion on the tip of Greece. All this and more is available to you in the 'Long Vacation'.
EXERCISE? — Why not go walking and canoeing from Salzburg to Vienna or, closer to home, along the Wye Valley. Sail on Lake Coniston or Lake Llangorse. Take a Pony Trekking holiday through the Black Mountains or travel in a four berth caravan replete with horse through the Emerald Isle. Paddle the River to the sun,

canoeing along the River Rhone from Vernaison to La Couronne on the Riviera.

CASTLES AND MOUNTAINS? — You will find plenty of them in Switzerland and Austria — and sunshine too.

Long Vac

CITIES? — Venice anyone? Paris: Vienna: Prague: Leningrad: Copenhagen: Berlin: Athens: Munich: Madrid: Rome: Florence and Naples: Moscow and Tel-Aviv: New York: Oslo. Amsterdam: Lisbon: Stockholm: Budapest: Brussels: Istanbul. All this and more is available to you in the 'Long Vacation'. Spain is a wonderful country — and all that sun too. The Andalucia tour takes you for 15 days to all the interesting spots — Madrid, Granada, Cordoba, Malaga. The not-to-be-missed bullfights, Spain's national sport is there for the asking.

Plovdiv and Sofia

Something different? Join with Hungarian students and spend a few idyllic days on the shores of Lake Balaton followed by a visit to bustling Budapest. Maybe a trip to Bulgaria this year — Sofia, Plovdiv with a week at a youth centre on the Black Sea at Primorsko.

Tropea on the Calabrian coast is an ideal spot to 'get away from it all'. Sun, sand and sea bathing. Perhaps you would like to try some skin diving or underwater fishing this year or take an excursion far out to sea in the early morning or late evening to watch the sea fisherman at work. All this and more is available to you in 'Long Vacation'.

A SAFARI TO SCANDINAVIA? — Visit the 3 Northern Capitals or cruise through the peaceful fjords of Norway and enjoy the breathtaking Norwegian scenery.

ANCIENT GREECE? — Ride a bicycle on the paradise

isle of Kos or cruise through the White Islands. Turkey this year? Combine the fascinating city of Athens with a week in Istanbul, the gateway to the Orient opening up a whole new area to be discovered. Twenty days in Istanbul and Anatolia will be an unforgettable experience.

Russia

RUSSIA — Take a fascinating trip to Moscow, Erevan, the capital of Armenia, and way down south to Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Leningrad, Riga, Odessa and Kiev are all there for your holiday this summer too. What's your pleasure? Ask in Services Section for a copy of 'Long Vacation' and choose for yourself — but hurry up and book soon, many holidays are 50% booked already, so make a second choice to avoid

missing out altogether. NUS Holidays are deliberately not "highly organised" so that you may maintain your own independence if you wish. Sightseeing trips and excursions, where included, are designed to give student orientation in the respective localities and where NUS feels it can provide something at a lower cost than individuals can normally obtain. BUT, rest assured that there is ample free time for independent activities.

AT first glance the "Long Vacation" booklet prices seem to be a lot of money. £50 for three weeks in Greece starts a lot of students off on a search for a do-it-yourself holiday to the same destinations, usually based on the "Student Traveller" information and the lists of hostel accommodation given in the "Student hostel and restaurants handbook".

On the other hand many students have asked for the same task to be undertaken by N.U.S. Travel Department. This demand produced the booklet "Long Vacation".

Obviously if travel can be made cheaper by block booking of transports the same is true of accommodation. Rooms are cheaper when you hire a complete hotel or hostel than just an odd room. Prices drop accordingly.

Mule rides

Even by student chartered travel the journey to Greece and back will cost you around £40. To equal the cost of the programme tour for say "Athens and the White Islands" means you have only £10 left to obtain food and accommodation, transfer transport, inter island steamer fares and excursions for fishing, mule rides to the mountains etc. Always assuming that these facilities are still not fully booked. Remember that particularly in the less developed tourist countries, services are not limitless, demand being much greater than supply. You will also be usually competing against wealthy tourists who are quite prepared to Dutch auction you out of the picture.

Many a student poring over the pages of "Student Traveller" and the "Student Hostel book" will eventually go to, say Italy or Austria, travelling on the same transport, staying at the same hostel and then going to visit the same places as one who simply booked Holiday XYZ 123 — but paying more for the privilege.

Beneficial experience

If that was purely the case then it could be argued that you would probably benefit from the experience of arranging all the details for yourself, but unfortunately there are other factors involved which seem to be as follows.

Booking for travel and accommodation separately may not coincide as far as availability is concerned and when the letter returns marked "fully booked" it may be too late for a further permutation.

Saving the pennies

Time is saved both before and during the holiday and as most of the tours have the services of a host student guide, you will have the benefit of their inside-knowledge on saving the pennies, the best places to visit which are still untainted by tourism and so on, saving more time and money.

Finally, you will meet students from other countries with whom you will be able to converse at length whilst you are sharing common experiences, which will enlarge your own viewpoint and enable you to appreciate at first hand what it is like to be unable to express yourself in your usual fluent manner because of your lack of linguistic ability.

BY PLANE OR TRAIN?

The "student Traveller" booklet is divided into two sections, flights and train groups. The fullest possible details are given for each transport and you will find that there are usually three or four destination points for each country listed. Often the principal cities of these countries are covered both by rail and plane services, the train group fare being usually 15 to 20% cheaper than the flight fare.

In PRACTICE however there is really very little difference especially on long journeys, for example, London-Athens flight £20; train group £16/12/0. But it is three days and nights on the train as against seven hours inclusive by plane. On a return trip this could mean losing five or six days from one's holiday.

Choice

Perhaps this is the reason why so many students are going abroad by air this year. In any case you can always go out by rail and return by air or vice versa, fares are usually quoted for single journeys as there is no reduction for return fares. You pay your money and you take your choice.



VENICE—a city with a difference



The Alps are worth a visit at any time of the year

A BUMPER TOURS YEAR

Continued from page 1

The situation on student travel is that demand is starting to exceed supply and early booking is becoming imperative. Leeds is fortunate in having its own travel bureau providing the fullest possible service on travel. All bookings can be made direct with Services Section who will handle the whole transaction for you, in most cases being able to tell you straight away whether your booking is available or not.

The story is much the same

with the "Student Traveller". "Student Traveller" bookings opened only a fortnight ago and already some flights are getting well booked up. With most available student accommodation abroad long since fully booked by the European national student associations' tours operators, the best way of getting both travel and accommodation is through the selection offered in "Long Vacation". Don't delay much longer—time is running out.

You don't have to break your legs to ski

THE range of Winter holidays that N.U.S. offer are far more limited than their summer range. The reason is simply that most people never think about going away at Christmas and consequently the demand for winter holidays is fairly small.

There can be no doubt that if you do go away in Winter, the holiday you will have will be very different from a normal summer holiday. For example, in Summer a lot of people like to get about and see as much as they can, in Winter you are invariably bound to stay in one place for the length of your holiday.

The cost of a Winter holiday is often exaggerated and has led to the myth that skiing in the Alps is only for rich people. In fact, you can have

an all-inclusive two week skiing holiday for as little as £40, and that includes such things as skiing tuition and hire of equipment.

JANUARY TAN

For me the skiing is the real force that makes me often feel that I prefer a winter to a summer holiday. The sensation of skimming down mountains over thick, crisp snow, with the sun boiling down, is something indescribably marvellous. After two

weeks of skiing you can return back to your routine life with renewed vigour and vitality. Not only will you return home feeling healthier, but you'll most probably have a sun tan as well . . . which in January in England is even smoother than calling yourself 007.

Skiing is certainly not as easy as it looks. One doesn't just go to the top of a mountain, put your skis on, point them down the slope and go.

Most English people seem to believe that this is the way to ski. A great deal of these sort of people end up in hospital not long after they have first put their skis on.

If you go skiing with the intention of learning how to do it properly and have the

proper instruction, your chances of hurting yourself are very small. Skiing is like any other sport, it involves practice and tuition. Fortunately, it isn't too difficult to become a safe skier, and I don't know of any other sport which is quite so satisfying.

Go and try a winter holiday. In most resorts the night-life around Christmas time is fantastic. The cost of this kind of vac isn't too much. In every resort there are trained and properly qualified instructors. It really is the sort of holiday that one doesn't easily forget and that one really enjoys.

For further details, ask at Services Section or join the Union Ski Club.

WHERE TO FIND IT

STUDENT TRAVELLER 1966

Flights and Train Groups

LONG VACATION

Inclusive Tours

GO AS YOU PLEASE

Off Season Travel Facilities

STUDENT HOSTEL and RESTAURANT HANDBOOK

Accommodation and Food

Free from Services Section



Going up is no trouble, it's coming down that causes the problems.

What about Services Section ?

TWO exciting new features for 1966 in the charter flight programme are the flights to Istanbul for £22 and the weekly flights to Cairo for £32. Ask either of our two full time officers, Mr. Blood or Mr. Hollingworth, and although between them they have visited or lived in some of the twenty-odd different countries, they will tell you that visiting Egypt is one of the greatest travel experiences there is.

Europe tends to be much of a muchness, with dance halls, some form of "pub" type establishment, cinemas, shops, etc., being basically the same over most of the continent.

Egypt will put you into the way of life and the atmosphere of another continent. The great desert of the Sahara is at Egypt's doorstep, exerting its own special influence on a country striving to establish a sound economy in a modern world. Istanbul is still dominated by its unique geographical

position. Standing in a kind of inter-continental crossroads position, the varying influences of all three continents have merged to create an extraordinary atmosphere which can be tremendously and genuinely exotic.

Programme tours cover Istanbul as well, the Istanbul-Athens holiday being a real grand tour in the old tradition.

Newly featured in the programme tours is Hungary, where N.U.S. say that a great welcome is given to foreign students who arrive to sample the glorious scenery and

taste the full bodied wines of the area.

On the subject of drinking, it is well known among the experts that draught Guinness is at its best in some of the pubs of Ireland. The idea of taking advantage of one of the Union of Students in Ireland horse-drawn caravan holidays and touring the Irish pubs is a beautiful thought to a man with a mighty thirst. Ireland is also one of those rare places where rain somehow does not seem to matter and will not spoil the day but rather enhance it. Eire can also provide a measure of real solitude in some areas for those who want to really get away from it all.

All these holidays and many more long established favourites are all available through Services Section.

WHERE AND WHAT SERVICES SECTION was created nearly two years ago with the main function of launching a National Union of Students local travel bureau. It is situated on the Ground floor of the Union on the right hand side of the corridor leading from the Union to the

M.J. lounge. Every travel facility of the N.U.S. is available over the counter, providing a speedy and comprehensive service to the student for all travel requirements.

The section is controlled by, and the staff of three are employed by, Leeds University Union. Services Section issue free the International Student Cards to students travelling abroad. These cards carry a serial number which is the number to give in answer to the question on travel application forms "What is your NUS membership number?"

Eligibility for student travel is sometimes a problem for students with relatives, girl friends and wives. Services Section will explain the regulations and issue application forms for Associate membership of N.U.S. where indicated. The more you support your own travel bureau, the more the Union will extend the services already provided.

The Services Section Manager would like to thank the staff of Union News for their help and co-operation this session, and in particular thank Mr. Frank Vogl for his help with this travel supplement.

PROGRAMME TOURS AND INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL TOURS ARE ARRANGED AND ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS AND BOOKED THROUGH SERVICES SECTION



Mike Hollingworth in Service Section.