

GOLDEN GAPPERS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

HOLIDAY GROUP REPORTS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

GOLDEN GAPPERS CROATIA CRUISE – April 25th to 29th 2016



29 Golden Gappers all climbed on the coach to Gatwick and the stage was set for a wonderful holiday in Croatia organised to perfection by Maureen Sanders. Arriving in Split, we boarded our boat, Dionis, (pictured left) and settled down for our first night on the water. A cold start we had of it too – cries of “More blankets!” echoed across the deck but the morning broke sunny and warm and we were off on a holiday of a lifetime. Highlights for me included: the Dioclesian Palace in Split; the lovely little town of Milna on Brach; the atmospheric streets of Trogir and splendid square of Hvar; the joy of entering each port from the sea and the friendly yet professional

crew. Another plus was the fantastic quality of food provided for us by the Dionis chef working in such a confined space. Truly, a wonderful experience.

Jenny Watling

Here are a few quotes from Golden Gappers that sum up our experience:

“The holiday was made by the friendliness and camaraderie of the group.”

“New experiences, new friends.”

“Croatia is the trendy, up and coming tourist hot-spot. Nice to see Belper U3A at the cutting edge of style and taste.”

“Good fun and companionship. Great crew and Good locations. Can we go again, please, please, please!”

“It was wonderful sailing into a new little harbour every day.” See the above view of Hvar from the Dionis porthole.

“Good place, good company, good food, good ol’ Maureen!”



GOLDEN GAPPERS TRIP TO NORMANDY – JUNE 23rd to 27th 2016

Well, this holiday has come and gone. It was considered a great success and we all came back with good experiences and memories. Honfleur was a pretty seaside town where we were surprised to find that the locals congratulated us on the referendum vote rather than castigating us!



Monet's Garden was a joy and, as one of us kept saying 'it is a privilege to be in such a beautiful place'. Rouen was an interesting city to explore with excellent galleries and museums. The churches were great – the large, bleak but historically evocative Cathedral, and the modern Church in the centre to the memory of Joan of Arc. The Bayeux Tapestry was wonderful – it

seemed to link past and present with its comic book layout! The clarity and quality of such an old piece of embroidery was almost unbelievable.

By the afternoon we were 'battle-fatigued' of the Normandy Beaches memorabilia and mostly escaped to the beach for an ice-cream! In the evening we had a group meal in a very typical Normandy restaurant with food to match. A really unexpected delight was a son et lumière show played onto the frontage of the Cathedral (pictured right). Most of us saw it over 3 nights at 11pm and it was breathtaking, filling the square with light, colour and action for nearly an hour, illustrating the history of Normandy with soldiers climbing the walls, a snake encircling it, destruction by fire and so on. It finished in a more gentle way with images of the Impressionists. On the way back to Calais the next day, we called at Fecamp and visited the Benedictine Monastery to see the Bishops Palace – full of treasures, the Distillery to see how the liqueur is made, and finally the café to taste it!



Maureen Sanders

Golden Gappers – Holiday Group News of Possible Forthcoming Trips

For enquiries or more information click the mail envelope on the Travel – Golden Gappers Page.

Just thought I would keep you up to date with ideas and possible plans for the future. If you think you might be interested in any of these trips, I would like to hear from you and I will make sure you get full and early details.

December 8th-12th, 2016 – Barcelona at Christmas

We have got 34 people on this trip. It is possible that there are more places. As I said before, we used up our allocation of 32 at the original flight price, and thought that any after that would be at a much higher cost. However, we booked 2 more people last week and got seats on the same flight at a cost of only £10 more than the original price. So – if you are interested, you could ask. We are planning a memorable holiday to get in the mood for Christmas – Markets, Fountains, Palais de la Musica, Sagrada Familia, Gaudi architecture, Shopping, Eating, and much more. For details about the trip, ring or write to me.

May 2017 – Croatia Cruise

So many people enjoyed our first holiday, which was a private charter cruise in a boat carrying 30 or so passengers around the Croatian Islands that we are considering repeating it, but with a different itinerary. Our main aim for this group is to enable single passengers to have a lovely holiday with friends, and it worked beyond all expectations. Rob from the Travel Company is working hard to find something similar, but different, to offer us for next year. At the moment, favourite could be a cruise starting and finishing in Dubrovnik, visiting different islands. But he also has the Greek Islands in his head! Ask to go on the mailing list if you want to be kept informed.

July 2017 – Riga

The Baltic States are a great destination, and Latvia is my favourite. Riga is a quaint old city, with a tradition of craft work, a relaxed atmosphere, an elegant State Theatre which puts on high quality opera and ballet performances, good food at all levels, etc. We will probably be staying at a 4* hotel which is on the other side of a park which separates it from the town centre. The Opera House is in the park, as is also a 'Tea House' in which to relax. We are looking at July for this idea, and I will circulate details when I get them. The summer is a lovely time to visit, and my memorable day was a trip out of the city to the Latvian [Ethnographic Open Air Museum](#) where you can spend the whole time wandering through a country park with working examples of farms, occupations, crafts, cooking, living and leisure of the country of Latvia. We have some great ideas for the programme, so ring or write for a fuller description of this holiday.

September 2017 – Troyes

A coach trip. This is an unusual one. Not a lot of people know about Troyes and its surrounding area! It is a lovely small town in the champagne region of France which gives the feeling of walking into a centuries old setting. All cobblestones, timbered buildings and higgledy piggledy passageways. It is famed for its collection of wonderful stained glass windows in the many churches. We would hope to include some of the best features of a previous trip there – free day in Troyes, visit to a small family champagne winery, picnic in the nearby wood by a lake, visit to Voltaire's house and a National Park and a stop in Rheims. We are looking at the option of a different programme for travelling and sightseeing to make it more restful and interesting. Watch this space!

Maureen Sanders