

Churchill & Turen Ltd.

WISHES FOR THE NEW TRAVEL YEAR

Well another New Year is rapidly approaching, and whether or not you're spending this really special night with Dick Clark, or several hundred polyester clad amateur drinkers pretending that they absolutely love Guy Lombardo and Spanky and the Gang music, I hope that your New Year is really memorable.

It may shock some of my dear readers, but this is and has always been, a column rather than a news outlet. So I suppose I am more of a small town columnist than a news reporter. And it is common, as you know, for columnists to all write the same basic New Years piece in which we express our New Years resolution wish list. As a fervent traditionalist, I suppose I should follow form:

I WISH

- 1/ that the airlines would initiate a new "cattle car" fare. No food, no drinks, no comfort all for a special price in coach. The advantage of this plan is that nothing would really have to change - except the price.
- 2/ that at least one airline would try a 34 seat pitch and discover how much the public really appreciates it.
- 3/ that rental car company's begin quoting all inclusive prices. And while we're at it, why not keep a record of each client's insurance coverage so the consumer doesn't pay for collision insurance - twice.
- 4/ that the state legislators in Springfield will move more quickly on the new International Napura Airport at the corner of 75th street and Route 59 in Aurora. My sources tell me that the one thing holding up the new airport is that legislators can't decide if the airport will actually have an Aurora or a Naperville mailing address.
- 5/ that hotels will forbid maids from knocking on a hotel room door before 10:00 am. And make them wear quiet slippers. And insist that they whisper. In fact, why not just hire Tibetan monks? So what if Richard Gere objects.
- 6/ that the Illinois legislature would pass a law making it illegal for any travel company to advertise any price that ends in nine. Let's start using easy number like \$50 and \$100. Why complicate life?
- 7/ that airlines will get permanently out of the food business. Let's face it guys - you can't prepare a decent hot meal at 33,000 feet. So let's fly over some real French bread and some good German sausage with 3 gallon drums of Dusseldorf mustard and make do with sandwiches.
- 8/ that the airlines eliminate all middle seats. We don't need them. They serve no purpose. Three is an odd number.

Churchill & Turen Ltd.

Copyright 1999 Churchill & Turen Ltd.

www.traveltruth.com

1-800-445-7979

Churchill & Turen Ltd.

- 9/ that we would stop coddling smokers. People who want to poison children's lungs with second hand smoke in restaurants, aboard aircraft, or in hotel lobby's, ought not to have rights. Instead, perhaps we ought to consider some jail time. Isn't it bad enough that most of Europe smells like one giant ashtray.
- 10/ that cruise lines will stop describing Jamaica as an "island paradise". It isn't. And Nassau isn't exactly the Garden of Eden.
- 11/ that "bait and switch" laws be applied to airline advertising. How about a new rule - if 50% of your seats aren't available at a particular price - they can't be advertised.
- 12/ that we either give Amtrak a few billion to do it right or stop fooling around with the thing. How clogged and polluted do our highways have to get before we figure out that a great nationwide rail system is the way to go? Has anyone been on an ICE train in Europe lately?
- 13/ that flight attendants be permitted to mace sexist or otherwise obnoxious passengers. Would you want to work three or four legs a day between Chicago and New York and put up with the abuse?
- 14/ that any employee of any hotel who ever suggests that a guest "have a nice day" be fired on the spot. In fact, why don't we just turn over the entire inventory of hotels in this country to Ritz Carlton and be done with it.
- 15/ that all rental car company employees in New York be required to intern at Nordstrom's - if you've rented in New York you will know why.
- 16/ that cruise lines be required to publish a photo of all of their passengers who actually paid the cruise price listed in the brochure - I'd like to see what these folks look like.
- 17/ that the price of a ticket on all airlines will begin decreasing in direct proportion to the time customers are kept on hold while trying to make phone reservations.
- 18/ that airlines stop punishing people who actually hold jobs by charging them more to fly during midweek. What's with these silly Saturday night stay rules? How many of these airline executives have actually spent a Saturday night in Deluth or Albany?
- 19/ that hotels place a decibel alarm on all floors. If a room gets too loud the alarm goes off and they are evicted. And the guests surrounding the room formerly occupied by the evictees, get a free nights stay.
- 20/ and finally, that each of you, dear readers, has the best year of your life, filled with health, true happiness, and the fulfillment of dreams delayed.

Churchill & Turen Ltd.

Copyright 1999 Churchill & Turen Ltd.

www.traveltruth.com

1-800-445-7979