

# great adventures

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## FEATURED ADVENTURE

### Burgundy & Paris Multisport

June 12 - 18, 2006 / \$1950

**W**e have been running our Burgundy Multisport and Paris Skating trips for years. Both are fantastic in their own unique way. This year, we have combined the two to create an even-better Burgundy & Paris Multisport Adventure!

Burgundy, in southeast France, is simply incredible. The wines are superb, the food is delicious, and the scenery is enchanting. One of the best meals of all Zephyr trips takes place on the first night of the Burgundy Adventure and you will never be the same “culinary you” again. We spend four and a half days in Burgundy, biking on country roads, hiking through forests and vineyards, and skating on flat paths along a canal or through the countryside.

And then we transfer to Paris. We hit the streets by participating in the 12,000-strong Friday Night Skate! For a skater, this is probably the peak experience you will ever have on eight wheels. It is absolutely amazing to see people pouring out of the local cafes two minutes before the start time. And keep pouring. And keep pouring. The Friday Night Skate is not really difficult or dangerous and is a thrill for everyone.

After the Friday Night Skate, we spend the next day and a half touring Paris on skates. This is one of the best ways to see this magical city.

Walkers get tired tramping the miles of pavement. Bicycles have to be stored when you enter a museum or restaurant. The metro provides no views and a car is impossible in Paris! Skating is really a superb means of touring the city and we learn about Paris, its history, and its people as we go. Plus, there is always time for a cup of melted chocolate before ducking into the *Musee d'Orsay*.

Whether it is a concern about skating in Paris or hesitation about traveling in France, we know some are reluctant to go on this adventure. You shouldn't be! We strive to make it perfect for everyone. If you don't skate, you can bicycle on all skating days except the Friday Night Skate. We provide you with exact instructions on getting to the tour start in Burgundy and have even reserved a block of rooms for the night before the tour. The French outside Paris are incredibly nice and even those in Paris are pleasant when you have our French guide at your side!

Join us in France and make this the year you see Burgundy and Paris by skate, bike, and foot!



# The Future of Zephyr

This is the kind of article we only send to you, our appreciated Zephyr alumni. We see you as members of the Zephyr family and good communication always makes for a good relationship!

As you may know, Zephyr was started in 1997 as Zephyr Inline Skate Tours, the world's first inline skating tour company. Since then, we have added biking, hiking, family, and Multisport trips but our skating vacations are still 2/3 of our business. And we love skating through the great areas we run our adventures!

We plan to keep growing our skating trips and beginner skate camps (now called Camp Rollerblade), adding new locations when possible and continuing to recruit new Zephyr skaters. And we will continue to be incredibly involved in the skating world. In some ways, Zephyr is now at the heart of inline skating in North America. Here are just some of the things we do:

- We are the only inline skating tour company on the continent.
- We have a key marketing relationship with Rollerblade, the world's largest skate manufacturer.
- We run Camp Rollerblade (see later article), a series of two-day weekend skate camps in major US cities.
- We run an online training program for skaters, **MarathonSkating.com** (see later article).
- We run **FreeSkateLesson.com**, a program that gives free skating lessons throughout the US.
- Zephyr's owner Allan Wright recently created an industry skating organization for those involved in the recreational skating business in North America.

So, in other words, we have the skating side of our business pretty well covered and situated for future growth. And what is the future direction, then, of Zephyr Adventures? We would like to continue growing our skating tours while significantly ramping up our non-skating adventures, so they become equal partner with our skating trips. So far, our biking, skating, and family

trips are attracting skaters who dare to cross over into new activities. However, to really grow these trips we will need to create the same sort of marketing programs in the biking and hiking arenas that we currently have in the skating world.

What those programs are, we are not yet sure! We plan to start by hiring a new Zephyr employee to help us grow our non-skating tours. We will then come up with a plan and see what we can do.

We know some of you are skaters who don't want anything to do with traveling by bike or foot. We understand that but we certainly encourage you to try a trip in Italy by bike or in Glacier National Park on foot to see what you might be missing. These are spectacular locations and you just can't get there on skates! However, we also want to assure you we are in no way leaving our skating roots. We are just expanding them.

## Hello... & Goodbye

Welcome to **Lydia Marchand**, the newest Zephyr guide! Lydia is a French native who spent many years in Florida before returning to Paris where she now lives. She has both cross country skiing and inline skating race experience and has taught both cross country skiing and aerobics in France. However, working out has to fit into her job as an office facilities manager for a large company based in Paris. You'll find Lydia on our French tours and sometimes in other locations, so come join us in Burgundy & Paris this year to meet her!

**Deborah Doyle** left Zephyr Adventures at the end of January to pursue another opportunity. Deb started work with Zephyr in January of 2003 as a full-time employee and many of you knew her either in person from a tour or over the phone from booking an adventure. We will miss Deborah's raucous laughter and wish her well!

# Think You Could Skate A Marathon?

**MarathonSkating.com** is a program run by Zephyr that helps inline skaters train to complete their first skating marathon or improve their best finishing time. The program is unique in the skating world and has been used by over 1000 participants during the past two years.

Unlike training for a running marathon, which can take three months or longer, our training program is only six weeks long. Simply put, because it only takes about 40% of the time and energy to skate 26.2 miles as it does to run that far, the training program is also shorter. You have no excuses!

Prior to the program, participants sign up for one of three ability or experience levels in three separate areas:

- Skating
- Strength & Stretching
- Nutrition

Each week of the program, participants receive an email directing them to content tailored to their ability level in five content areas: Training, Skating Technique, Strength & Stretching, Nutrition & Hydration, and Marathon Secrets. The weekly content provides a detailed training program, interspersing Long Slow Skates (LSS), speed work, strength training, cross training, and rest days. In addition, the weekly emails are filled with valuable information designed to help participants train properly.

Sounds like too much work? It is certainly true that the program is only as good as each participant makes it. Just reading the emails won't get you far! However, it is also designed to fit into a busy lifestyle where work, family, and fun are all equally as important as working out. The program costs \$70 and can be tailored to a specific marathon or start date. See **MarathonSkating.com** to register.

## Looking For That Special Someone

No, this isn't a personal ad. But we are looking for just the right person to join us at Zephyr! Someone who is athletic, has experience as a business developer, and can help our small adventure travel company kick it up a notch or two. If you know somebody who fits that description, have them visit our job description at [www.ZephyrAdventures.com/family.htm](http://www.ZephyrAdventures.com/family.htm)

# CAMP ROLLERBLADE™ Is On A Roll!

3 great adventures 888-758-8687

## First a little history.

During our first two years of running inline skating tours (1997 and 1998) we found a significant minority of our participants needed, shall we say, a little extra instruction. In response, we created a Minnesota Beginner Skating Tour in 1999. The participants on that trip told us, "We don't need a tour. Just teach us how to skate!" The next year we started running five-day Skate Camps.

However, we know it is daunting for many people to lay five days of vacation and almost \$1400 on the line for the opportunity to learn to skate. What if I don't like it? What if I stink at skating? Last June, we experimented with an answer: a two-day Camp Rollerblade Weekend held in San Francisco and led by former Zephyr guide (and still member of the Zephyr family) Liz Miller. The camp was a major success and sold out in two months with 25 participants. Obviously, people liked the opportunity to commit less time and money and to learn closer to home.



## Which brings us to the present.

In 2006 we have a series of 13 Camp Rollerblade Weekends set up in major cities across the US. Rollerblade is the sponsor. Zephyr handles all the promotion and registration. Local skate schools reserve the camp location and provide the actual instruction.

And it seems to be working. At the time of this writing, 90 people have signed up for the various camps and we expect to more than double that by the time the last camp is run. That is almost 200 people who would not otherwise learn to skate and, from our point of view, would never otherwise be able to take a skate tour in the future!

So if you don't skate yourself, have a non-skating spouse or friend, or even just want to tell your co-workers in the office, refer them to **CampRollerblade.com**. The camps run from March through August and cost \$239. Kids are welcome if accompanied by a participating adult. We still have our five-day Hilton Head Skate Camps, too!

# Hiking In The Spectacular Rockies

We have been offering a skating trip in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado for years. How is this possible, you might ask, in the mountains? We skate on paved paths that are almost entirely comprised of old railroad beds. Since railroads generally stuck to a maximum grade of about 3%, the paths we use often have a slight rise (or decline) but few steep hills.

While we think our Colorado Skating Adventure is fantastic, it does have limitations in getting our tour participants up to the beautiful terrain of the high country. It is really only on foot that seeing the true Rockies is possible: meadows filled with wildflowers, alpine lakes, and snowcapped peaks hovering over your picnic site.

Never fear! In 2006 we have two trips designed to allow you to see the Rockies up close and personal. We have revamped our Colorado trip to make it half hiking and half either skating or biking. We are pretty excited about this, as participants will have the benefit of skating (or biking) on some of the most amazing paths (including the remarkable Mineral Belt Trail in Leadville that reaches over 11,000 feet in altitude) while also seeing the mountains from a footpath view. This is really the best of both worlds.

Our second Rockies trip is in Glacier National Park, in the north of Montana and abutting the Canadian border. Glacier Park, as our catalog boasts, was rated the number one national park for best scenery, best trails and best overall park by Backpacker Magazine! That is a pretty good recommendation. We spend five days in and around the park, hiking on astonishing trails during the day and sleeping in luxurious hotels or historic park lodges at night.

The Colorado trip runs July 30 - August 3 and costs \$1400 while the Glacier adventure runs July 9 - 13 and costs \$1450. Come join us in the spectacular Rockies!

## Zephyr Adventures 2006 Schedule

Apr 23 - 27	California Wine Country	Biking	\$1,550
May 17 - 21	Hilton Head	Camp Rollerblade	\$1,350
May 18 - 24	Italy	Biking	\$1,950
Jun 4 - 8	Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard	Biking or Skating	\$1,550
Jun 12 - 18	Burgundy & Paris	Multisport	\$1,950
Jul 3 - 8	Yellowstone & Montana	Family Multisport	\$1,600
Jul 9 - 13	Glacier	Hiking	\$1,450
Jul 15 - 21	Netherlands	Skating with Eddy Matzger	\$1,950
Jul 30 - Aug 3	Colorado	Hike & Skate or Hike & Bike	\$1,400
Aug 6 - 11	Lake Tahoe	Family Multisport	\$1,700
Aug 12 - 18	Switzerland	Skating	\$1,950
Aug 13 - 17	Minnesota	Beginner Skating	\$1,450
Sep 5 - 9	Idaho Silver Country	Skating	\$1,550
Sep 10 - 14	Idaho Silver Country	Skating	\$1,550
Sep 17 - 28	Tibet	Trekking	\$2,400
Oct 25 - 29	Hilton Head	Camp Rollerblade	\$1,350
Dec 9 - 13	Florida	Skating with Eddy Matzger	\$1,500

# Trip Tidbits

Our *California Wine Country Biking Adventure* (April 23 - 27) has one spot open for a female. Interested? Call our office at 888-758-8687. .... Both of our *Idaho Skating Adventures* are currently sold out! However, if you add your name to our waitlist the chance of getting on one of the dates is fairly good. .... This might be the last year to trek with the yaks on our *Tibet Trekking Adventure*. In 2007 we plan to remove the trek and create a combined China & Tibet Hiking Adventure. .... The *Netherlands Skating Adventure with Eddy Matzger* has limited availability – one spot for a male at the time of this writing. The *Florida Skating Adventure with Eddy* is wide open, but filling fast. .... Both of our *Family Adventures* are popular this year. The Yellowstone trip over the Fourth of July has only four spots remaining while the Lake Tahoe trip in August has only seven spots. .... In your 30s or 40s and looking to travel with other young people? Our *Italy Biking Adventure* in May is our youngest trip this year (except for the Family Adventures), with almost half the group under 40. Of course, you are welcome regardless of your age!



*(above) Zephyr skaters enjoy the flat, smooth paths on our Florida Adventure. Our Florida trip ended our 2005 tour season this past December and will be our first of 2006.*



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The logo for Zephyr Adventures features a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans. The globe is surrounded by the words "Ride • Trek • Paddle • Learn" at the top and "Hike • Bike • State • Hike • Hike" at the bottom, arranged in a circular pattern.