



How SWEET It Is

by Maria Rivers

The sweetest thing to hit the travel scene just celebrated its one-year anniversary! Sweet, a cruise line for gay women, by gay women, was conceived by Susan Wentworth and Jen Rainin in an effort to offer amazing and meaningful vacations for lesbian women while exercising eco-friendly tactics in travel. Sweet's mission is "to merge the best of lesbian

travel with social consciousness and environmental awareness."

Because cruise ships are so rich with lifestyle luxury, it's easy to overlook the potentially devastating effects these massive ocean party busses can have on the environment. Last year, Sweet partnered with CarbonFund.org to ensure that the carbon emissions from all of its business operations,

including car, air and sea travel, will be offset. CarbonFund.org supports reforestation projects around the world that reduce CO2 emissions in the atmosphere.

Sweet's big fall trip for 2009 is a western Caribbean cruise (November 8-15) departing from New Orleans aboard the Norwegian Spirit. It will visit Roatan, Honduras, Costa Maya, Mexico, Cozumel, Mexico, and Belize City, Belize. Monies donated by Sweet are specifically being used by CarbonFund to help support a five-year, 1100-acre tree planting effort along the upper banks of the Tensas River in Louisiana. Prior to departure, Sweet is offering a three-day, pre-departure package in New Orleans, giving approximately 100 guests the opportunity to plant trees in the city's devastated wetlands. It's a project Sweet organized in conjunction with



New Orleans-based Bayou Rebirth. Throughout the weeklong cruise, Sweet is working with a local agency in each port to develop a volunteer-oriented project, such as cleaning-up a beach or restoring a natural wildlife habitat. The Sweet philosophy: "Leave every port in better condition than before we visited."

What could be cooler than going on a cruise with tons of hot gay women for an eco-friendly cause? The price... Sweet understands that it's hard for some to pay for a cruise in advance, so they've created an interest-free, fee-free monthly payment program. The response has been tremendous. No hidden costs. The price you see posted for the cruise on Sweet's website is the price you pay, with no surcharges or port taxes, and their cancellation policy is one of the best in the industry.



In addition to a Sweet eco-friendly ride around the ocean, you get SWEET entertainment. An important component of the Sweet Caribbean cruise is its onboard entertainers, including several of the LGBT community's most popular and respected artists, such as the nationally renowned comedians Suzanne Westenhoefer and Erin Foley of "Last Comic Standing," singer-songwriters Jen Foster and Edie Carey, Club Skirt sponsored parties, and lesbian DJs Dirty Kurty, Trina J, Kathy V and Disco Bambina.

Meet Sweet people and have a Sweet time!