

DELIVERING BUSINESS ESSENTIALS TO NTA MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2018

Courier

GREATEST HITS

Music hot spots, festivals and
heritage at six destinations

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THE PILGRIMS' PILGRIMAGE

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Austin City Limits Music Festival



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FEATURES



The Pilgrims' pilgrimage

The Faith Travel Association's recent product development trip covered places in England and the United States that are significant to the Pilgrims' voyage on the *Mayflower* in 1620. Participants learned about product options as a lead-up to the 400th anniversary that will be commemorated in 2020.



Greatest hits

Every place has a song to sing and a variety of venues and voices that celebrate musical artistry. But what would it look like if a destination compiled an album of their greatest hits? We did it for six spots.

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DESTINATIONS

Atlantic Coast

Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia

Great Frontier U.S.

Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming

Western Canada

Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon

City Spotlight: Fort Worth

SPECIAL COVERAGE

Sightseeing, River and Big Ship Cruises

Guide: Sightseeing, River and Big Ship Cruises

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Four Corners U.S.

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah

Ontario, Québec and Niagara Falls

Canada and U.S.

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COURIER'S MISSION STATEMENT

Courier aims to facilitate member-to-member partnering by spotlighting member product and destinations worldwide, to provide information on current industry trends and issues, and to inform members about NTA initiatives, events and benefits.



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MISS IT



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PICTURED AT RIGHT is the only thing that trended down at Travel Exchange in Milwaukee. Exiting the convention floor for the last time, your NTA staff was exhausted ... and exhilarated.

The escalator went down, but everything else was on the rise: smiles, tweets, Contact registrations, compliments, hugs, CTP enrollments, thumbs ups, membership renewals, etc.

You'll see a few photos from Milwaukee on page 45, but we didn't have enough time to prepare our annual recap for this issue. So be patient, please. You'll see more images from Travel Exchange '18 in the January issue, which will include a full recap. And check out the online gallery of Norm Huberdeau's photos from Milwaukee: bit.ly/2B8TwbT.

You've got great stories in this issue. I've been hearing about the two halves of a product development trip my colleagues took, and now I've got it in writing. Kay Saffari and Kami Risk share highlights of their journey through history on two tours—in England and Massachusetts—that commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' voyage on the *Mayflower*. Their Plymouth/Plimoth memories are on pages 18 and 19.

I once composed a list of the Top 100 Songs of My Life, so it's only natural for me to imagine that any place could put together a greatest-hits album, except with venues and events instead of songs. I asked six destinations, and sure enough, they could. Big ups to our graphic designer, Jeff Quire, who really makes this feature sing (pages 20–24).

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For our next number, cue up the Compass section: Tour through the Gulf Coast states in Kendall Fletcher's story on pages 25–27. Read about Rocky Mountain states and provinces—courtesy of Gabe Webb—starting on page 28. And see what Pat Henderson learned from members in Spain, Portugal and Scandinavia, pages 32 and 34.

Following a thorough guide of NTA-member hotels, read what NTA staffer Laura McFadden discovered—or rediscovered—out west on her honeymoon.

Nearly the whole staff traveled to Milwaukee last month to put on a convention for you. As a writer, I'm all too familiar with the anxiety of investing mental and emotional energy into a project ... and then waiting to see how it's accepted. We go through a similar process as a staff when we plan for Travel Exchange.

Your smiles and hugs told us all we need to know. Pictured at right, we're waving ... to you.

Read on,



NORMAND HUBERDEAU

On the cover:

The Austin City Limits Music Festival made the (imaginary) Texas greatest hits album. See more collections in our music feature that starts on page 20.

Photo: Travel Texas



TOP 10 REASONS TO TOUR

COLORADO SPRINGS

Colorado Springs is a year-round tour destination boasting mild temperatures, more than 300 days of blue skies and spectacular scenery. Create intriguing tours at unforgettable destinations like Garden of the Gods Park and the U.S. Air Force Academy.



- 1 It's Colorado Springs** With unparalleled natural beauty, clients will be thrilled with the stunning scenery.
- 2 Western Heritage** Discover the deep roots of the Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush exploring old and active mines.
- 3 All Aboard** Trek through Cripple Creek and along the Arkansas River in the Royal Gorge on a historic train.
- 4 Cultural Experiences** Soak in the region's multi-faceted culture at museums, historic sites and festivals.
- 5 The Great Outdoors** Adventure is always close by with thousands of miles of trails and open spaces.
- 6 Arts Scene** Enjoy hundreds of public sculptures, galleries, art walks, classes and performances.
- 7 All Seasons** From colorful fall days to spring blooms, the region shines with a year-round mild climate.
- 8 Olympic City USA** See where Team USA dreams are born at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center.
- 9 55+** With more than 55 unique attractions, it's easy to plan multi-day itineraries in the Pikes Peak region.
- 10 Easy Access** Located in the center of the country, it's easy to drive or fly straight into COS, 15 minutes from downtown.



Pam Inman

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I'M STILL GLOWING from seeing all the great connections you made in Milwaukee—and seeing through your eyes a city that some had never visited before. What a great job Visit Milwaukee did to make Travel Exchange memorable! And your NTA Board of Directors and staff delivered an awesome experience with changes that gave you even more opportunities to build relationships.

During the annual business meeting at Travel Exchange, I shared exciting updates about programs NTA created in 2018 that will enable you to make even more meaningful connections with colleagues and partners. Here's a recap:

New programs

Loyalty Program: By staying involved with NTA, you can earn points that entitle you to significant discounts on events and membership.

China Preferred Partner Program: Launched in November as an add-on to regular membership, this program provides enhanced exposure to the Chinese travel trade, along with exclusive discounts and marketing assistance.

Concierge Program: For corporate supplier members and members with multiple properties, we'll make it easier for operators to find all your locations on NTA Online searches.

New connections

Engage: We launched NTA's virtual community platform during Travel Exchange, and your colleagues immediately started exploring ways to connect with each other to pitch product and discuss challenges.

NTAchinapartner.com: The China Preferred Partner Program, which I mentioned above, has its own website with tools and resources to help you tap into an ever-expanding market.

Courier online: We rolled out NTAcourier.com early this fall, and the team keeps adding outstanding original content—both new material and articles from past issues. It offers a great way to share info about your destination.

Events: Our website dedicated to Travel Exchange was a big help as members prepared for Milwaukee, and now you can learn about Contact '19 in Tucson: NTA contact.com has info about sightseeing, seminars and schedules for the March 27–30 event.

If you have questions about any of these exciting initiatives, email us (headquarters@ntastaff.com), and we'll give you all the details.

I'm grateful for the ideas and feedback you've shared during the past year, and we've got magnificent momentum heading into 2019.

Pam



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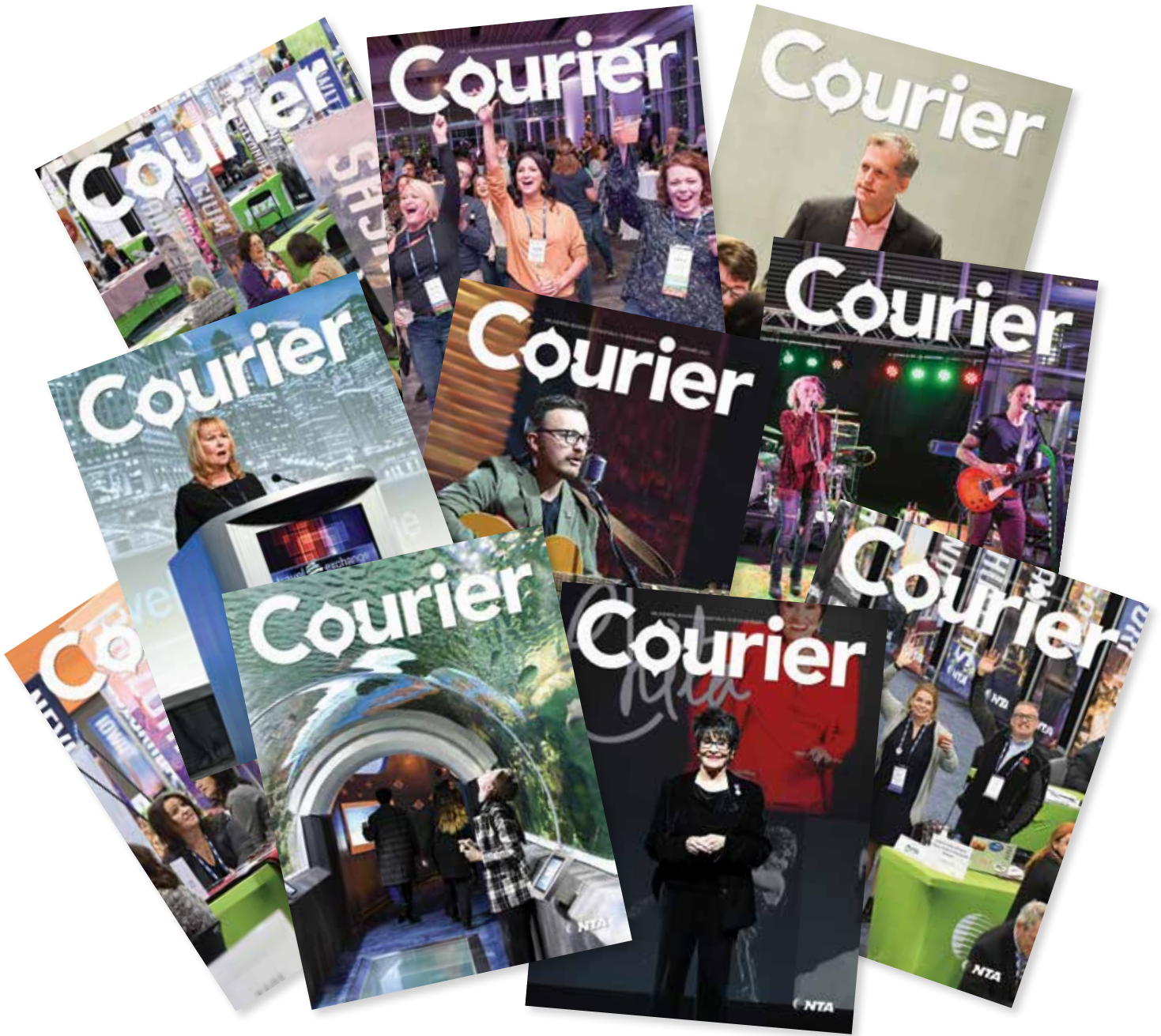
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We're covering Travel Exchange '18



We couldn't pull our Travel Exchange recap together in time for this issue, but watch for it in January. And to see the online gallery of images from Milwaukee—and there are lots of photos—visit bit.ly/2B8TwbT.

See? We've got you covered.

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

INSIGHTS ON U.S. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND INDUSTRY TOPICS



Ahead for advocacy

THE NATIONAL TOUR ASSOCIATION advocated for a number of different priorities during the 115th Congress: increasing funding for U.S. national parks, modernizing travel infrastructure, expanding aviation consumer protections, reauthorizing Brand USA and more.

National parks funding has recently had bipartisan support, which was encouraging to see in a Republican-controlled 115th Congress. The Restore Our Parks acts in the House and Senate, which were both introduced by Republican members and have accumulated 202 and 33 cosponsors respectively, are a positive indication of what could come during the next Congress. NTA will continue to advocate for legislators to unite on a bipartisan front to address the mounting maintenance backlog.

The new fee increases and Commercial Use Authorization permitting processes at national parks have proven to be burdensome for tour operators, in many cases forcing them to drop certain parks from their itineraries. NTA has been in constant engagement with the Department of Interior and the National Park Service on these issues and will work diligently to reduce the administrative and monetary burdens of these new fees and processes on tour operators throughout the 116th Congress.

During the 115th Congress, NTA advocated for robust funding streams for U.S. airports and for modernizing the country's travel infrastructure. While the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018, which was signed into law on Oct. 5, contained robust airport improvement program funding, NTA hopes to see a comprehensive infrastructure package in the 116th Congress.

With infrastructure poised to take on more significance in the new Congress, NTA will be at the forefront of

advocating for modernizing travel infrastructure across the country. While such improvements are generally a bipartisan issue, Democrats and Republicans have different views on how infrastructure investment should be funded.

President Trump's views on new infrastructure investment seem to align more with Democrats than with Republicans in several key ways. For example, President Trump has indicated his openness to the Democratic approach of the majority of investment coming from direct government spending. He also has expressed open support for the idea of raising the federal gas tax to pay for infrastructure, an idea Republicans have resisted. NTA will continue to send a message to Congress that a robust infrastructure package that makes further improvements to airports and modernizes travel infrastructure across the country would be beneficial to the travel and tourism industry as a whole.

With infrastructure poised to take on more significance in the new Congress, NTA will be at the forefront of advocating for modernizing travel infrastructure across the country.

NTA's advocacy for increased aviation consumer protections resulted in a big win. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 contained an entire title of air service improvements across the board. These changes included directing the FAA to



CC FLICKR/ROBERT EASTON: bit.ly/2ym0k2

set minimum leg room, width and length requirements for passenger seats on commercial flights; prohibiting cell phone calls and the use of e-cigarettes on commercial flights; and requiring air carriers to develop a one-page document—accessible on their website—outlining numerous passenger rights, including compensation offered in the event of a flight delay, flight cancellation and lost bags.

Brand USA was authorized in 2014 by a Republican House and a Democratic Senate to extend through 2020. The Trump administration has taken a less-forward-leaning stance on Brand USA, leading to an active push to drum up support of the reauthorization of Brand USA as the 115th Congress comes to a close. 2019 will be a critical year in ensuring that the public-private partnership formed under the bipartisan Travel Promotion Act of 2009 is reauthorized once again. NTA applauds the industry and Congress for continuing the dialogue on Brand USA and will continue to engage Capitol Hill on its importance to the industry.

While many of NTA's core issues gained traction this Congress, there is still much more work to be done at the start of the 116th Congress. NTA will continue to advocate on behalf of members, and the industry as a whole, in an effort to promote and ensure the continued vitality of travel and tourism. ☪

Signal Group is a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm retained by NTA to advise members about travel-related issues and legislation.



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4 ways to keep your group in the loop

BY CATHERINE HEEG



PICTURE THIS:
Your next group tour is all put together and nearly sold out. (Great!) Now you want to keep your group in the loop:

1. Relay information to avoid answering the same question over and over.
2. Provide a sense of community before your group departs—a key part of its success on the road
3. Make the itinerary available for all participants, 24/7.

I'll give you four ideas.

Groups on Facebook

While the pre-departure meeting and document party are mainstays in our industry, there's another way to grow that sense of community: Facebook Groups are a perfect tool to build a sense of belonging among group members.

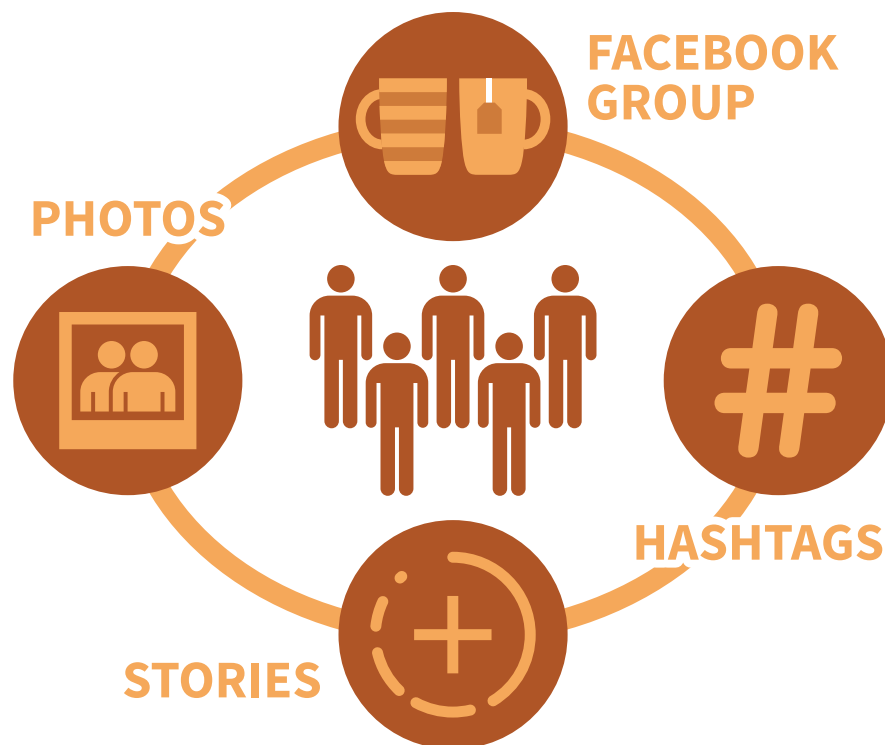
Simply start a private or closed group on Facebook and add each group member. (How to create: bit.ly/FBgroupTv1). Members can communicate with each other by asking and responding to questions as well as by posting photos.

- Include only tour participants in this group. This will keep the focus clear and help build relationships within the group.
- Post the itinerary as a document.
- Encourage group members to ask questions. You can answer one time and the whole group can see it.
- Invite participants to share photos within the group during the tour.

= Hashtags = Community

Starting a new hashtag—on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat—for each new tour departure gives group members a chance to stay up to date before, during and after their tour. Plus it's a great way for your travelers' family and friends to follow along, and it can entice new participants for future tours.

When considering a new hashtag, do a bit of research to see if it's already in



use. An original hashtag will stand out and be found by the right people.

During your tour, encourage passengers to use the hashtag when they post on their social sites. You can then search by this hashtag and share posts or add comments.

Stories that live longer

Did you know that Instagram Stories stay visible much longer than a regular photo post? What a great way to give the images from your group tour a longer shelf life so that passengers, as well as their family and friends, can stay in the loop.

Extending marketing opportunities and building community while on tour is easy with Facebook and SnapChat stories, too, and they operate in nearly the same way as Instagram Stories. Twitter Moments are similar in that you can provide a magazine-like view of tweets from your own feed, as well as from others.

Picture time

You can keep your group in the loop when you provide Kodak moments (OK, that's old-school term) or "Instagramable" opportunities.

We've all taken a group photo in front

of an iconic site. How about also creating a cardboard cut-out of a picture frame that tour passengers can hold up in a photo? Craft stores sell these frames, and all you have to do is add your company logo and the tour hashtag.

Toting this frame around gives your passengers the chance to post their own photos while providing you with a new-school marketing opportunity.

To gain even more traction with your photos, set up a geofilter for your Instagram or Snap users. Most destinations will have a geofilter you can use. If you want to create your own, just Google "geofilter."

Keeping your group in the loop is not only strategic, it's easy. There so many great ways to inform group members and to build community. Not only will you build stronger relationships with your clients, you'll extend your reach to a broader audience. ☺

Catherine Heeg, an international speaker and trainer, focuses on social media marketing strategies for the tourism and hospitality industry. Connect with her socially and at cmsspeaking.com.

Around the next turn



Life is a highway, and so is NTA. You hop on board because it's better than traveling alone. The trip is never dull, and the road is always changing. So what's next for NTA ... and you?

You're going to like where NTA takes you in 2019:

- A loyalty program with cost-saving rewards
- An online community platform, Engage, that will strengthen connections
- NTAcourier.com, where you can find and share articles ... about you
- The China Preferred Partner Program, exclusive to NTA
- A Concierge Program that helps multi-property members excel

The NTA road is changing for the better.

So keep your seat. Renew your NTA membership today and take advantage of everything your association has for you ... around the next turn.



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Make your move before January 1.

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER AND PAT HENDERSON

San Francisco serves up Disney, a dungeon and a submarine

Among the many compelling attractions awaiting visitors in the Bay Area, here are three educational spots that offer a look at unique aspects of local culture:

Submarine USS Pampanito The decorated *Pampanito* made six patrols in the Pacific during World War II, and she sank six Imperial Japanese ships and damaged four others. Currently docked at Pier 45, the diesel-electric powered submarine welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a year, and customized tours cover the vessel from bow to stern. Student groups can take part in Submarine Science School, a more immersive half-day or overnight program led by crew members.

Walt Disney Family Museum The remarkable life story of Walt Disney, the man whose innovation and vision created a distinctly American legacy, is showcased at the museum in the Presidio. Visitors can learn more about his legacy as they explore interactive galleries and state-of-the-art exhibits that feature early sketches, cartoons, short films, music, video screens and listening stations, some with narration from Walt himself. Hands-on workshops and talks from animators are available.

The San Francisco Dungeon The audience is part of the show during this 60-minute adventure that details San Francisco's storied history. Featuring numerous special effects, 360-degree sets and a cast of nine actors, the Dungeon experience exposes 200 years of the city's sinister side, from the Gold Rush days to gangs to the Black Plague that gripped Chinatown in 1900. Combination tickets add on a Big Bus Sightseeing Tour or visits to Alcatraz or Madame Tussauds.

For more information, contact Daniel Schwartz of the San Francisco Travel Association at daniel@sftravel.com or go to sftravel.com. —P.H.



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THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM



LACHLAN CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

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STEP BACK IN TIME AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE PAST

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4025 S. Hwy. 89-91 in Wellsville (7 miles south of Logan) • 435-245-3798 • awhc.org

Your tour begins with a guided wagon ride into an authentic American Plains Bison (buffalo) herd. View these majestic animals up close. Celebrate our Western heritage from 1820 to 1920 through the lives of mountain men, pioneers and turn-of-the-century farmers all dressed in period clothing. Hands-on



activities may include throwing tomahawks, writing with a quill pen, panning for gold, milking a cow, making rag dolls and more. Delicious Dutch oven meals available (barbecue chicken, cheesy potatoes, cobbler, etc.). Visitors Center boasts ample restrooms, historic exhibit, jaw-dropping view of the Wellsville Mountains and a small gift shop.

Daytime and Evening Tours: Tuesday-Saturday, flexible but recommended hours are 11a.m.-2 p.m. or 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Logan

www.explorelogan.com/brochures

Stroll through Logan's historic downtown for a glimpse of the past. Request a copy of the self-guided walking tour or download the app featuring 14 buildings. Fun shops and cafes. Local guides available.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Beaver Creek Lodge

Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway, U.S. Hwy. 89 • 800-946-4485 • beavercreeklodge.com • On the road to Jackson and Grand Tetons

Your guests will love exploring the Rocky Mountains on a guided off-road adventure. Polaris side-by-side RZR's (pronounced razors) and Ranger vehicles seat 4-6—a fun, safe and comfortable way to explore the back country. Then, continue your adventure along beautiful mountain trails on horseback like a true cowboy. Riders love the spectacular views, friendly horses and experienced guides.

Two-hour and four-hour options include the Sampler, where every guest has the opportunity to do both RZR riding and horseback riding, the best of both worlds. Or choose either an off-road RZR tour or a horseback ride. Four-hour options are identical, but also include a boxed lunch. The Sampler package is only available for tour bus groups and not the general public. Self-guided hiking trails are also available.

FUN FOOD OPTIONS

Beehive Grill

255 S. Main St. • 435-753-2600 • thebeehivegrill.com
Check out Logan's only root beer brewery. Their root



beer is the best! House-made gelato and a diverse Western menu. Open Mon.-Sat.

Chuck-a-rama

150 S. Main St. • 435-787-6241 • chuck-a-rama.com

Fresh buffet includes a variety of soups, salads, main dishes and desserts made from scratch. American classics with international options that change daily. Try three Utah specialties: scones (sweet frybread), fry sauce (a mixture of ketchup and mayo for fries and onion rings) and green Jello. Open daily.

The Bluebird Restaurant

19 N. Main St. • 435-752-3155 • thebluebirdrestaurant.com

It's the longest running restaurant in the state and opened in 1914. Items from the original menu include shrimp, pea and egg salad and teddy bear sundaes. Retro restaurant with marble soda fountain. Open Mon.-Sat.

Angie's Restaurant

690 North Main St., • 435-752-9252 • angiesrest.com

Classic American diner where every single thing is homemade. Famous for practically everything: giant cinnamon rolls, banana cream pie and especially the Kitchen Sink (mounds of ice cream, toppings and bananas served in a metal kitchen sink). Your guests will love it! Open Mon.-Sat.

Historic Downtown Logan

Let your guests scatter in historic downtown Logan. A dozen cafes, sandwich shops and restaurants within a few blocks.

HOTELS

New Hampton Inn opening January 2019. Other brands include Best Western Plus, Holiday Inn Express, Marriott Spring Hill Suites, Comfort Inn and more. University Inn on the Utah State University is another great option. Hotel rates are much more affordable than in Salt Lake City. If you're headed to Yellowstone, consider overnighting here your way back. The airport is 90 minutes away.

**Let us custom design your ideal itinerary.
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1-800-882-4433 | explorelogan.com



Stop your blubbering

The maritime history of southeastern Massachusetts can be discovered at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Located an hour directly south of Boston, the National Park Service-managed site is part of New Bedford's 13-block historical district.

The land that now includes the city was purchased from



New Bedford Whaling Museum

the Wampanoag tribe in the mid-17th century. Following the establishment of an English/Quaker settlement around 1700, the area became a hub for the whaling industry over the next 150 years. Today, the harbor supports New Bedford's primary industry, fishing.

At the heart of this district is the park's visitor center. Groups typically start in this historical building by watching a 20-minute introductory movie, "The City that Lit the World," and viewing the exhibits on the city and its whaling heritage.

Beyond offering a look at whaling history, the park's attractions also shine a light on the influences of Native Americans, African-Americans and the Quakers, as well as the impact local residents such as Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville had on New Bedford.

Ranger-led tours cover cultural sites in the downtown and harbor areas and include tales of seafaring whalers, escaped slaves seeking freedom and hundreds of years of life along the Massachusetts coast. As they roam the area's cobblestone streets, groups can see centuries-old buildings alongside modern galleries and contemporary restaurants.

The historical park is open year-round, seven days a week, except from Jan. 1–March 31, when it is open Wednesday to Sunday.

To learn more, call +1.508.996.4095 or go to nps.gov/nebe. —P.H.

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14 Courier December 2018

Cashing in on Fairbanks' thriving arts scene

Fairbanks, Alaska, is filled with artists and art aficionados, and is alive with art-centric events, according to Amy Reed Geiger, director of communications with Fairbanks, Alaska–Explore Fairbanks.

“Joyfully setting the stage for a wide variety of classic and contemporary art, theater and music events and exhibitions year-round, Fairbanks shines,” she says. “Local artists are captivated by the wilderness surrounding Fairbanks and create brilliant works of nature-inspired art. Our concerts and symphonies showcase prominent performers and concertmasters. Study-performance festivals attract instructors and students from around the world. Noted authors, illustrators and composers call Fairbanks home. There just is so much going in here when it comes to the arts.”

Some of Fairbanks' annual arts programs and events include:

Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre

With a mission to expand the audience and encourage performance of The Bard's works, the Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre provides high-quality Shakespearean and classical theater productions throughout the year. The organization also offers several summer camps for students aged 6 to 17.

Festival of Native Arts

This annual March event features art demonstrations, cultural films, traditional songs and dances and other performances by Alaskan Native peoples. What began in 1973 as a way to bring together artists and performers in a celebration of the various local cultures, has blossomed into one of the area's most highly anticipated festivals.

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

This two-week event, held in July, encourages personal growth and art appreciation. Festival-goers can take part in the event's more than 180 workshops and demonstrations, and see more than 100 performances in music, visual arts, dance, writing, theater, healing arts and culinary arts.

For more information, contact Geiger at ageiger@explorefairbanks.com or visit explorefairbanks.com. —K.F. ☎



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Festival of Native Arts



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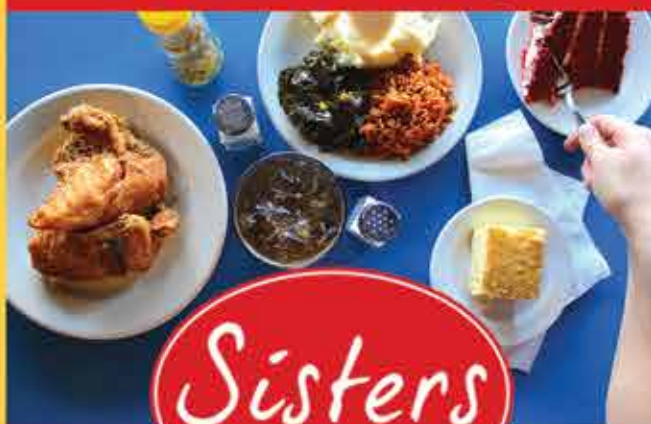
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THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

The Pilgrims' pilgrimage

THE FIRST-EVER Faith Travel Association Product Development Trip was a two-part journey in England and Massachusetts. The trip offered the opportunity for tour operators to experience destinations related to the Pilgrims, who set sail on the *Mayflower* in 1620, and it offered a preview of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary in 2020 of this historical journey.

Following the footsteps of the Pilgrims

BY KAY SAFFARI

Like most Americans, I have heard the story of the Pilgrims and their *Mayflower* journey since my kindergarten days, but as I landed in England for the *Mayflower* 400 tour, I realized that I really didn't know many details about the Pilgrims.

Luckily, this trip—sponsored by Emma Tatlow of U.S. Connections and organized by Keith Somers of Select Travel Services—was about to increase my Pilgrim knowledge exponentially, leaving me in awe of the courage and determination of this small group of people, so dedicated to their religious beliefs that they were willing to leave all they knew behind for a life in an unknown land—twice!

Although we visited 13 cities on the English leg of the tour, I focus here on the cities directly related to the Pilgrim story, from their origins to their departure for the New World.

Babworth

Here we visited the unassuming country church where Richard Clyfton, named church rector in 1586, shared his radical ideas from the pulpit and

drew worshippers from neighboring villages who walked for miles to hear him. Standing on the very path where the villagers once walked with our guide Sue Allan (in period attire), we were able to imagine their determination to hear Clyfton's controversial sermons.

Because Clyfton deviated from the Church of England's teachings, he was removed as pastor in 1605. He and other like-minded church members chose to "separate" from the church, thus becoming the Separatists and sparking the Pilgrim movement.

Scrooby

The Separatists began gathering and worshipping in 1606 at Scrooby Manor, where Pilgrim Father William Brewster lived. All that remains today of this once-glorious 500-acre property is the brick home built in 1493, but Scrooby Manor is significant to Pilgrim history because it was here that they planned their escape to Holland in search of religious freedom.

Boston

In 1607 the Separatists walked 60 miles to the port of Boston, where they had arranged to sail to Holland. Instead, they were betrayed, arrested and held at the Guildhall for a month. We toured the well-preserved rooms of the Boston Guildhall, built in the 1390s, including the tiny cells where the Pilgrims were imprisoned and the courtroom where they were tried.

Southampton

After 12 years in Holland, and ready to start anew in the New World,

the Pilgrims spent two weeks in Southampton gathering provisions prior to their departure.

We visited two historical buildings here: Tudor House, a restored 900-year-old home and the city's most important building, and nearby St. Michael's Church, built in 1070 and still in use today.

Despite the prominence of these two very old sites, Southampton had a more modern feel overall. That's because 80 percent of the port city's buildings were destroyed by German bombing raids during World War II.

Plymouth

The *Mayflower* set sail from Plymouth in 1620 with 102 Pilgrims onboard, and the Mayflower Steps, a columned archway right by the water, memorializes this departure point. We all wanted a photo of where the voyage began.

During our tour of Plymouth, we visited many places from the Pilgrim days: St. Andrew's Church, a Puritan church that welcomed the Separatists for worship; New Street, the oldest street in Plymouth; and the historical Barbican area.

Kay Saffari is coordinator of the Faith Travel Association at NTA. Reach her at kay.saffari@faithtravelassociation.com.



Scrooby Manor

LYNN



Tour participants in Southampton

KAY SAFFARI

Faith, family, fellowship ... found in Plymouth

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KAMI RISK

You're seeking religious expression, so you take your family and your belongings and board a wooden ship for a journey to an unknown world ... and it's 400 years ago.

Now try to comprehend what the native Wampanoag people, who'd lived in that world for thousands of years, must have thought when they encountered a new people—the Pilgrims—exploring the land they had farmed and hunted. It's hard to imagine—to *really* know what they felt.

Fortunately, there are historians and tourism professionals who are passionate about sharing the story of what took place in the harbors of Massachusetts back then. And, thanks to trip sponsor Gail Arndt with Tour Trends and tour host Rowena Drinkhouse with Reformation Tours and many others, I got to experience this inspiring place and people firsthand.

stroll. Starting from the Plimoth Grist Mill, we walked along Town Brook, stopping every so often to learn about the significance of this little waterway and the interaction it created between the Pilgrims and the native Wampanoag people. We also learned of water power, land division and the beginnings of self-rule and civil government for a new nation.



Step back in time

Next up was the nation's oldest continuously operating public museum, Pilgrim Hall Museum. It offers not only the story of the Pilgrims, but also that of the Wampanoag people. I could have spent hours reading and studying the artifacts and collections of the families who embarked on this journey, as well as the effect they had on the native people and the complexity of that relationship that still exists today. Pretty powerful stuff.



Mixing in a little modern

And when you're ready for a break, it's an easy walk down to the harbor to hop aboard a Captain John Whale Watching and Fishing Tours excursion. This long-time NTA member offers a variety of options, such as whale watching, deep sea fishing and sunset tours or setting sail on the *Pilgrim Belle* paddlewheeler

for a harbor tour, which is exactly what we did.

The bonus, though, was that our hosts arranged for a Wampanoag guide, Darius, to be with us. Darius described the topographical features of the region. He spoke of how his ancestors inhabited the land for thousands of years and how in the 1620s they taught the Pilgrims what and when to plant, ultimately leading to the first Thanksgiving.



Plimoth Plantation: A living history museum

There's something magical about this place. It could be the talented people at the NTA-member attraction, who give each visitor an authentic experience. Or it could be the strategy of the organization and its partners to make sure that travelers have the opportunity to learn the perspective of both the newcomers and the natives. It could just be that they are incredible at preserving history.

Whatever the reason, I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to explore this attraction. One of my favorite parts was the Wampanoag Homesite. The native people who staff this exhibit are incredibly knowledgeable of the history and culture of the people who have inhabited the area for thousands of years. But they will also speak to you about their modern culture, and that's pretty cool.

That was just the beginning of my journey. To read my full article about the Plymouth 400 celebration, be sure to check out the upcoming *FTA Trip Planner*, available on NTAonline.com. 📖

Kami Risk is president of NTA Services.
Reach her at kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com.



A hearty feast

As with any journey, you want to be sure you begin on a full stomach, and who could turn down a hearty feast from Hearth 'n Kettle, located in Historic Plymouth. We gathered here the first evening to enjoy a meal together and talk about our journey for the next couple of days.



A historical walking tour

The following day, Leo the Miller from the Jenney Museum, took us on a guided



GREATEST HITS

Crank up the volume on six destinations
that deliver music hot spots and heritage BY BOB ROUSE

EVERY PLACE HAS A SONG TO SING and lots of spots to celebrate musical artistry. The following six destinations have so many venues and voices, in fact, we imagined what compilations of their greatest hits would look like.

And what would they sound like? Well, you'll just have to go there ... and listen up.

venue | festival | music district | music heritage attraction | local music hero



Producer: Jenna VanOort
jvanoort@visitdenver.com
visitdenver.com

Cover art: Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre

The Denver music scene is scorching. On any given night, you'll find local and national artists playing a vast array of genres in clubs throughout the metro area. Music lovers travel to the Mile High City to attend some of the best concerts and music festivals in the state.

- Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre** A naturally formed, perfectly acoustic amphitheater hosts an outdoor summer concert series May through October
- Denver Day of Rock** Free rock concerts on five Denver stages every Memorial Day weekend
- Nocturne** Hip jazz venue in the RiNo (River North) Art District
- Performers' Hall of Fame** Recognizes every musical act who has ever played at Red Rocks
- The Fray** Contemporary rock band—debut album, "How to Save a Life," went double platinum
- John Denver** Singer-songwriter, born Henry John Deutschendorf Jr.
- Colorado Music Hall of Fame** Located at Red Rocks Park & Amphitheatre—honors Colorado musicians
- Velorama and Colorado Classic** Colorado Classic bike race and three-day Velorama music festival—August
- Dazzle** Authentic jazz club experience in the heart of downtown Denver
- Colfax Avenue** Eclectic mix of eateries, bars, shops and music venues
- Ophelia's Electric Soap Box** Former brothel turned restaurant and live music venue



Producer: Desiree Gibson
desiree.gibson@travelalberta.com
travelalberta.com

Cover art: Edmonton Folk Music Festival

From covert toe-tappers to head bangers and flower children, everyone comes together as one big, lip-synching family during Alberta's music festival season. Summer music events are so full of warm vibes, it almost doesn't matter who's playing. Pull up some lawn or throw down a tarp and meet your new favorite band.

- Ears to Edmonton** (the hottest spots in town) Rogers Stadium in the new Ice District, The Oasis Centre, Sugar Swing Ballroom, Yardbird Suite
- Beaumont Blues and Roots Festival** World-class entertainment from Canadian artists—June
- Calgary Chords** Studio Bell, Saddledome, Stampede Corral, King Eddie Hotel, The Blues Can, Garry Theatre
- Country Thunder** Top country acts, such as 2019 headliner Jason Aldean, storm into Calgary—August
- Beats in Banff/Lake Louise** The Banff Centre & Shaw Amphitheatre, Hoodoo Lounge, Dancing Sasquatch
- Banff Summer Concert Series** Artists and performers from around the world—June through August
- Jivin' in Jasper** Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge, The Stand Easy Lounge, Athabasca Hotel (The Atha-B)
- Tongue on the Post Festival** A full week of folk music in Medicine Hat—January
- Edmonton Folk Music Festival** More than 60 performers in a broad musical mandate—August
- Brett Kissel** Flat Lake native named 2017 Male Artist of the Year by the Canadian Country Music Association
- Calgary's Music Mile** Vibrant stretch of live music venues in the heart of the city
- Tegan and Sara** The indie-rock duo, twins born in Calgary, scored three Juno Awards in 2014

**"AN EMPOWERING MUSICAL
OF THE HIGHEST ORDER!"** Chicago Tribune



WAITRESS

THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL



Producer: Charlotte Jakobsen
charlotte.jakobsen@tourcomm-germany.com
tourcomm-germany.com

Cover art: Brothers Grimm Festival

What do you associate with Germany? Maybe you think of enjoying good food, wine and beer at a traditional festival. Or visiting stately castles and monasteries surrounded by beautiful nature. Along with all that, the Frankfurt Rhine-Main Region offers magical music experiences in unique and historical venues.

Rheingau Music Festival Summer concerts focus on classical music, but include jazz and cabaret

Johannisburg Castle Magical surroundings for all kinds of events, located in Bavaria

Brothers Grimm Festival The fairytales of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm come to life each summer in Hanau, birthplace of the Brothers Grimm

Old Opera House Majestic building in the city center of Frankfurt—a joy for the eye

Michaelismesse (St. Michael's Fair) Late summer folk festival, nestled between Miltenberg's medieval city center and the banks of the Main

Orangerie The focal point of social life in Bad Homburg since the mid-19th century

International Elvis Festival Celebrated each summer in Bad Nauheim, where the King of Rock 'n' Roll lived during his military service—August

Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet Charming museum in Rüdesheim holds the world's largest collection of self-playing instruments

Bingen Swingt International jazz festival in Bingen brings funky beats to this Rhine River city—June

Burgfestspiele in Dreieichenhain/Offenbach Concerts throughout the summer on an open-air stage surrounded by the medieval walls of Hayner Castle

Centralstation Built as Darmstadt's first electricity plant, it's now a top event venue

Aschaffenburg Guitar Festival Now in its fourth decade, Guitar Festival strums up everything from chamber music ensembles to flamenco concerts—Feb. 22–March 17

Frankfurt Apple Wine Festival Local bands provide music to sip along with as patrons enjoy a variety of apple wines, blends and cocktails—Aug. 9–18



Producer: Julie Hollist
julie@explorellogan.com
explorellogan.com

Cover art: Cherry Peak Resort Summer Concert Series

Play your way in Logan, Utah. Endless outdoor adventures await, plus fantastic music and performing arts, self-guided foodie treks and hands-on heritage experiences. Drive Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway to the breathtaking turquoise waters of Bear Lake. Explore Logan—less than a day's drive from Yellowstone National Park Jackson and Utah's five national parks.

Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre Company Operas, American musicals and concerts with performers from around the world—from late June to early August

American Festival Chorus & Orchestra More than 200 singers and a 65-member orchestra offer a vibrant musical repertoire throughout the year

Lyric Repertory Company Musicals, dramas, mysteries, farces, comedies and classics performed by professional and student actors

Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous Three-day event with Western musicians, cowboy poets, artisans, concerts and cowboy church—March

Utah Theatre Concerts and performances, as well as silent movies with live organ accompaniment, in a 1924 Art Deco theater

1923 Ellen Eccles Theatre Hosts local, regional and national touring productions—one of three venues in the newly designated Logan Theatre District

Logan Tabernacle Built by Mormon pioneers, offers free concerts at noon weekdays from June through early August

Summerfest Arts Faire Juried arts festival with great food, entertainment and headliner concerts—Father's Day weekend

Utah State University Live music and theater performances year-round—plus summertime music camps and courses. And enjoy famous Aggie Ice Cream while on campus

Celebrate America Show Fast-paced Broadway-style show that takes you back to the big band era of the 1940s—September

Cherry Peak Resort Summer Concert Series Brings popular musicians (the 2018 lineup included Clint Black, Restless Heart and Phillip Phillips) to perform live outdoor concerts in a beautiful mountain setting

Cache Valley Gardeners Market Live music, arts and crafts and local produce—Saturday mornings, mid-May to mid-October



Producer: Debra Bustos
 debra.bustos@gov.texas.gov
 traveltexas.com

Cover art: Austin City Limits Festival

Texas is a state that breeds talent, and it's the home of legends like Stevie, Janis and Buddy. Every night you'll find the same passion alive and kicking in every dancehall, nightclub, festival and lounge across the state. There's something for every music lover here, from techno to Tejano and every style in between!

- 📍 **Billy Bobs** Amazing live music and live bull riding in an authentic Texas atmosphere (Fort Worth)
- 📍 **Austin City Limits Music Festival** Different genres of live music and entertainment in the Live Music Capital of the World—October
- 📍 **Buddy Holly Museum** Memorabilia from the iconic Texas singer's life includes stage clothing, fan letters, postcards and audio-visual graphics (Lubbock)
- 📍 **Gruene Hall** Built in 1878, Texas' oldest continually operating—and most famous—dance hall (Gruene)
- 📍 **Old Settler's Music Festival** Classic festival with a taste of great music, food and drinks and event camping around the area—April (Tilmon)
- 📍 **Toyota Music Factory** New—opened in 2017—but still considered the soul of the DFW Metroplex with diverse music, food and movies (Irving)
- 📍 **Selena Museum** A remembrance of the short but impactful life of singer Selena Quintanilla Perez (Corpus Christi)
- 📍 **Sixth Street** Austin's historical entertainment district, home to live music, food trucks and iconic bars where you can dance the night away
- 📍 **Roy Orbison Museum** Features memorabilia from the singer's boyhood and his musical career, including record albums and Orbison's trademark sunglasses (Wink)
- 📍 **Round Top Festival Institute** Students from around the world join distinguished artists in summertime performances of orchestral, chamber and solo music. (Round Top)
- 📍 **Willie Nelson** One of the most recognized artists in country music, born in Abbott
- 📍 **Beyoncé** Singer and actress, has sold more than 160 million albums worldwide (solo and with Destiny's Child), from Houston
- 📍 **Janis Joplin** Among the most widely known rock, soul and blues singers and songwriters of the late '60s, born in Port Arthur



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Producer: Laurel Bennett
laurel@visitmusiccity.com
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Cover art:
Disc 1 Chris Young
Disc 2 Chris Stapleton and Kings of Leon

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-  **The Bluebird Café** Up-and-comers, along with hit songwriters, perform in an intimate setting—more than 70,000 visitors annually
-  **CMA Music Festival** The ultimate country music fan experience, hosted by the Country Music Association—June
-  **Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum** The world's largest popular music museum, showcasing country legends and today's stars
-  **"Grand Ole Opry"** The world's longest-running broadcast, with more than 90 years of history
-  **Printer's Alley** Where musicians once gathered at a day's end to play jazz and rock 'n' roll—music that's still heard today
-  **Ryman Auditorium** The "Mother Church of Country Music"
-  **Historic RCA Studio B** Famous studio where Elvis recorded more than 250 songs
-  **Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival** The largest festival of its kind in the world—April
-  **Patsy Cline Museum** Celebrates the life of the legendary songstress and her indelible mark on country music
-  **Exit/In** Decades-old club that makes room for alternatives to country music: "rockers, rappers, punks, DJs, metalheads, etc."
-  **Musicians Hall of Fame** Honors performers from all genres of music—home to The Grammy Museum Gallery
-  **Jack Daniel's Music City Midnight** New Year's Eve live music, fireworks and a Music Note Drop at midnight to ring in the new year
-  **Johnny Cash Museum** Featuring the most comprehensive collection of Johnny Cash artifacts and memorabilia
-  **Jefferson Street Jazz & Blues Festival** Builds cultural awareness and commemorates the historical corridor with jazz, blues, funk, gospel, soul and R&B
-  **Let Freedom Sing! Music City July 4th** Free live music and family fun, including one of the country's largest firework shows
-  **Honky Tonk Highway** The hub of entertainment, where Music City was defined
-  **The Station Inn** Headquarters for bluegrass music
-  **Midtown** Where locals go for the restaurants and bars, live performances and karaoke
-  **Music Valley** Known for outstanding entertainment, fun activities and great shopping
-  **The Listening Room** Several singer/songwriters play in-the-round and share the stories behind their songs
-  **George Jones Museum** Offers a thorough and intimate look into the life and career of the musical icon
-  **Elvis Presley** Recorded more than half of his catalogue of songs in Nashville, including his first hit, "Heartbreak Hotel," in 1956
-  **Dolly Parton** One of the most honored female country performers of all time
-  **Fisk Jubilee Singers** Touring in England in 1873, the group played for Queen Victoria, who stated they must have come from "Music City" 

MIX TAPE

The hits just keep on coming at NTA-member music venues—including these four:

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American Music Theatre Concerts and Broadway-quality shows in Pennsylvania Dutch Country
Alyssa Keshel | sales@amtshows.com | amtshows.com

The Stratford Festival Musicals, dramas, classic works and new plays—April to November in Ontario
Heather Martin | hmartin@stratfordfestival.ca | stratfordfestival.ca

Carnegie Hall Breakthrough artists and veteran singers perform in this New York City landmark
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Gulf Coast

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER

Texas, train tracks and tranquil rivers

For a unique railroad experience and a substantial glimpse into Texas train history, Texas State Railroad has multiple accommodations and lots of stories to tell.

"The fact that this rail line started out in the late 1880s as 1.7 miles of track to facilitate farming and industry within the walls of the Rusk, Texas, prison to now being 25 miles of Texas history makes us very proud to be operating it," says Vice President of Passenger Services Teresa Propeck.

During the four-hour excursion aboard a vintage 1920s

train car, passengers travel between the Rusk and Palestine depots. The 25-mile ride goes into the scenic Piney Woods and hardwood creek bottoms, passes over 24 bridges (one is more than 1,000 feet long), and cruises by wild forests, tranquil rivers and peaceful ranchlands that blend with mid-century architecture and vintage transportation.

She says the options most popular with groups are:

Presidential Class This adult-only experience features comfortable, oversized seats, intimate tables for easy conversation, large picture windows and a private outdoor viewing platform. A complimentary champagne toast and appetizers are served, and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.

First Class This passage includes comfortable upholstered chairs, a personal car attendant, a champagne toast, beverage service and complimentary appetizers in climate-controlled cars that are ADA accessible.

Open-Air Coach This historically correct mode of travel includes vintage wooden bench seats in cars with no windows so the east Texas air flows directly through the car. This option is limited to certain seasons.

For more information, contact Propeck at teresa@texasstaterailroad.net or visit texasstaterailroad.net.



Presidential Class passage

TEXASSTATERAILROAD.NET

Shoreline shopping in Jefferson Parish

Known as the shopping capital of Louisiana, Jefferson Parish features many bustling blocks of great shopping, of the familiar brand and local kind.

"(Our) diverse culture lends to a variety of shopping experiences, from independent boutiques along posh Metairie Road to outdoor farmers and art markets in the quaint historical districts, and to modern shopping malls," says Paris Vinnett, marketing communications manager for Visit Jefferson Parish.

It's home to the Lakeside Shopping Center and Clearview Center in the metropolitan district; Oakwood Mall; Terrytown; and The Esplanade Mall in Kenner. These places offer always-on-trend brand names like Coach, Steve Madden and Kendra Scott, and Mignon Faget, one of New Orleans' premier fine jewelry designers. Unique spots include the newly opened Lego store and Zara. Jefferson's historical districts of Gretna and Westwego feature produce, handcrafted items and artwork depicting life along the Mississippi River.

"Whether you're a fashionista who enjoys shopping at chic boutiques and metropolitan malls, a foodie who enjoys fresh produce, or an art lover who can't resist gorgeous handcrafted

items, Jefferson Parish has a variety of experiences sure to satisfy your shopping needs," Vinnett says.

And with the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping program, Jefferson Parish has a refund center at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport where international shoppers can present their receipts and receive a cash refund on-site.

For more information, contact Vinnett at paris@visitjeffersonparish.com or go to visitjeffersonparish.com.



Gretna Art Walk

VISITJEFFERSONPARISH.COM

Only at Beau Rivage

Located on the coast of Biloxi, Mississippi, the luxurious Beau Rivage offers many services exclusive to the resort and to groups.

Buses can park beneath the parking garage connected to a motorcoach arrival lobby; it's the only Gulf Coast resort with this amenity. The lobby is staffed with motorcoach arrival personnel who do not tend the main front desk—they work coach arrivals only.

"We're pretty versatile with what a group can do while they're here," says

Leisure Sales Manager Linda Spruill. "If they want to do an historical trip, go shopping, do things on the water like kayaking, rest and relax, do gaming, nature-type things like bird watching, (we can do that). We literally take it from the beginning of contracting all the way to the very end. It's like a concierge service that we offer to those groups."

With 1,740 guest rooms, the resort has a European health club, spa and salon, a beautiful pool deck and lots of gaming options with its most recent addition of the Sports Book & Bar.

"We're one of four jurisdictions in America accepting sports betting," Spruill says. "If you have a group coming in the spring and they're thinking baseball, they can go ahead and place those bets while they're here, which is rather unique."

For more information, contact Spruill at lspruill@mgmresorts.com or go to beaurivage.com.



BEAURIVAGE.COM

Lots of learning along Florida's Gulf Coast

The following NTA-member attractions offer a look into the lives of a prominent figure in art history and two American inventors:

The Dali Museum St. Petersburg, Florida

This museum celebrates the life and work of artist Salvador Dali, housing more than 2,100 of his works and offering unique encounters for groups.



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Private docent-led tours can target specific areas of interest, like science, psychology and religion. The Provoca Tour focuses on the more provocative subjects of Dali's works. The tours are about an hour and are offered in several languages.

Free with admission are the architecture tours, which examine the unique structure of the museum, and the Mathematical Garden, designed for visitors to explore the relationship between math and nature.

For more information, contact Yvonne Marrullier at ymarrullier@thedali.org or visit thedali.org.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates Fort Myers, Florida

In the late 19th century, American innovators Thomas Edison and Henry Ford established homes in a place where they could find relaxation and, most important,



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warm weather. Visitors can now see the nine historical buildings on the property, abundant gardens, Edison's original botanic research laboratory and the 15,000-square-foot museum housing hundreds of inventions and artifacts.

Groups can take the behind-the-scenes Garden Tour, led by Edison Ford horticulturists, of the 20-acre historical gardens. Tours also are available each holiday season, when the estates are decorated with thousands of lights.

For more information, contact Lisa Wilson at lbuttoni@edisonfordwinterestates.org or go to edisonfordwinterestates.org.

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Marching to the beat of their own Drum

There will be a celebration in 2019 at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama, as the attraction recognizes the 50th anniversary of having the *USS Drum*, a National Historic Landmark World War II submarine, at the park.

On June 15, the *USS Drum* Living History Crew will perform reenactments on the oldest American submarine on display, and a new kiosk featuring photos and biographical information on the submarine's crew will be unveiled.

The park's director of sales and marketing, Rhonda Davis, says by using the self-guided tours aboard the *USS Drum* and the *USS Alabama*, visitors can experience what life was like as a sailor during World War II.

"Along with the battleship and submarine, we also have our Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion which houses military aircraft, like an airplane just like the Tuskegee Airmen flew. You will find vintage military vehicles, like a 1921 Model T in the WWI exhibit, 'The Great War,'" she says.

"For those interested in Vietnam artifacts, there is a PT boat and other military installations. The park is indeed a memorial to our military—all branches of service and all modern wars."

The diver's exhibit is the park's newest addition, featuring a newly restored diver's suit and the ship's first hologram. They're also in the process of installing sound effects in 27 compartments of the ship.



"The goal is to create an environment that tells the story of the day-to-day jobs of a sailor as well as telling the combat story. When you visit the ship's post office you will see letters and packages with reproduction V-mail postage. In the Gedunk, our ice cream parlor, you can see how important the simple pleasure of ice cream would have been to the men. The authenticity is amazing," Davis says.

There will also be WWII reenactments on select dates in 2019, where visitors can experience a call to the battle stations to defend the *USS Alabama* against aerial attacks by vintage airplanes.


For more information, contact Davis at rdavis@ussalabama.com or go to ussalabama.com.

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The Rockies

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Heritage Park rolls out a restored railcar

Heritage Park Historical Village is Canada's largest living-history attraction, and it excels at sharing the country's story with the world.

"As a Destination Canada Signature Experience product, we are fully export ready, and we provide a cultural experience while immersing guests in the history of Western Canada," says Sandy Wilde, group tourism specialist for the Calgary, Alberta, attraction.

"Heritage Park is equipped to welcome motorcoach groups, with complimentary bus parking and value adds for our guests," says Wilde. "All groups of 15 or more receive a complimentary guided tour, and our unique historical venues are available for group meals all year."

"This summer, Heritage Park unveiled the newly restored Colonist Car with our Journey of a Lifetime exhibit," Wilde says. "This railcar, one of only two of its type remaining, carried new settlers from where their ships landed in the east to establish lives in the new west."

Groups can also enjoy the River Forth Dining Car Experience. Participants dine on a lavish three-course meal on board a restored 1920s train car as they're pulled around the park by a steam locomotive.

"Our newest culinary experience, Spirits of the West, will allow guests to experience the 'essence' of Alberta history,"



HERITAGE PARK HISTORICAL VILLAGE

Wilde says. "This involves ghost stories, a gourmet meal and whiskey tastings from local distillers."

The attraction is also making improvements to its Natural Resource area, which will reopen in stages beginning in 2019.

For more, contact Wilde at swilde@heritagepark.ca or visit heritagepark.ca.

Mines, museums and Craters of the Moon in Idaho

Idaho scenery does not lack diversity, according to Laurie McConnell, senior tourism communications specialist at the Idaho Division of Tourism Development. "We offer everything from desert canyons to lush fields, and to rugged mountains, free-standing sand dunes, roaring rivers, crystal lakes and vibrant urban districts."



Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

The state's options for tour stops are diverse, too. She recommends these three:

- "The town of Wallace, in northern Idaho, is the self-proclaimed center of the universe." The entire town is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and local tours teach visitors about Wallace's mining history and the Big Burn of 1910, which is thought to be the largest wildfire in U.S. history.
- "The new Idaho State Museum, formerly the Idaho Historical Museum, just reopened after four years of renovation and expansion," says McConnell. The Boise attraction relaunched in October, and it now features 46 interactive experiences that illustrate Idaho's natural and human history.
- Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve was designated an International Dark Sky Park in 2017. The designation recognizes places around the world that have taken steps to preserve natural darkness, so visitors can expect to see stars. The park offers ranger-led full moon hikes in the summer, and its popular Star Parties in the fall and spring.

For more about Idaho tourism, reach out to Sarah Flick, tourism specialist, at sarah.flick@tourism.idaho.gov or go to visitidaho.org.

VISIT IDAHO

The ART of river rafting

Based in Cotopaxi, Colorado, Arkansas River Tours is a rafting and fly-fishing outfitter that has been in business for more than 40 years.

"We have roughly 100 miles of river we operate on, and we provide everything from exhilarating whitewater rafting trips to spectacular scenic float trips in the Sangre de Cristo mountain range," says Billy Marquis, the company's owner.

"We're a small company, so all of our trips are more personalized. Guests build a relationship with their guides and come back year after year, requesting the same guide."

But the company's longevity doesn't mean its staff members are content with rehashed river tours. They're often adding fresh trips for their guests.

"One new offering is a Yoga and Raft experience," says Marquis. "We start the morning with your yoga instructor, Emily Marquis,



who will guide you through an Anusara elements class with a riverside meditation at our Cotopaxi base." After yoga, guests enjoy a healthy lunch followed by a scenic or intermediate-level whitewater rafting trip.

Another popular group option is the Arkansas River Tours' River & Rail trip. "In partnership with the Royal Gorge Railroad Route, we offer a combination of a scenic rafting trip with a train ride through the Royal Gorge," says Marquis. In addition to sightseeing as they navigate the river, groups can explore Cañon City before boarding the train's traditional or open-air cars.

"This trip is geared toward families with children as young as four as well as to seniors looking for a relaxing experience in nature," says Marquis.

For more on these and the company's other rafting adventures, contact Marquis at billy@arkansasrivertours.com or go to arkansasrivertours.com.



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Taste and see the trails in Kamloops

"Kamloops is known as a hub community," says Lisa Strachan, director of destination development and trade relations for Tourism Kamloops. The British Columbia city is the intersection point for major Canadian highways and railroads, and it's served by its own airport.

"Only four hours from Vancouver, five from Jasper and six from Banff, Kamloops is the ideal midway point for tourists," but travelers should be sure to explore the city and its surroundings, says Strachan.

"[Visitors] are shocked by our climate and topography," she says. "Kamloops has a semi-arid climate, including an inverted treeline, prickly pear cacti and hoodoos."

These unexpected environs make for excellent outdoor activities. Strachan recommends a VIP tour of the British Columbia Wildlife Park.

"The park is an interactive wildlife experience specializing in rescue and rehabilitation of more than 45 indigenous species, and it's the most successful breeder of burrowing owls in the world." During experiences such as a cougar feeding, guests can view animals that are rarely seen in the wild.

Alongside Kamloops' hiking trails, guests can explore the city's wine trail. "The Kamloops Wine Trail showcases three diverse wineries pioneering a new wine region in the Kamloops and Thompson Valley area." The city also has several craft breweries, and will add two more brewpubs by early 2019.

To learn more about Kamloops attractions, reach out to Strachan at lisa@tourismkamloops.com or visit tourismkamloops.com.

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Montana's state parks celebrate a major milestone

"Montana can offer a wide variety of experiences, so a tour operator can customize a trip to a variety of interests," says Kim Birrell, travel trade coordinator for the Montana Office of Tourism, "A group can focus on historical events, such as Lewis and Clark's exploration, early settlers, Native American heritage, mining or ghost towns."

There's the state's immense natural beauty, too.

"Although we have two very popular national parks—Glacier and Yellowstone—our state parks also offer many unique cultural, historical and recreational experiences," says Birrell. The state's system of 55 parks will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2019.

"Some of our most popular state parks are Lewis and Clark Caverns, where you can take a two-hour underground tour in one of the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest."

Pictograph Cave State Park also prominently features painted images, with some drawings that date back 2,000 years. Other popular options include exploring Montana's best-preserved ghost town—at Bannack State Park—and the eastern Badlands of Makoshika State Park.

"Montana is big," Birrell emphasizes, "but so easy to travel around. Our roads are uncrowded and offer expansive, scenic views. No wonder it's referred to as Big Sky Country."

For more information, contact Birrell at kbirrell@mt.gov or go to visitmt.com. ☎

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Portugal and Spain

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The town of Haro in Spain's Rioja wine region

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The long and wine-ding road

Across Spain, DMC & Leisure Travel is a new NTA member that specializes in group and FIT packages in its namesake country. The company, which was founded in 2004, also includes neighboring Portugal and Morocco on its itineraries.

Thanks to a nearly endless stream of innovative chefs and heightened interest in its renowned wine scene, Spain has experienced a culinary renaissance over the past couple of decades. Across Spain's Marta Rios says that reality has resulted in an increased focus on wine-themed tours.

"American travelers are already great connoisseurs of Spanish culture and traditions," says Rios, "and our great diversity of climates and soils make Spain a popular destination for wine lovers and culinary enthusiasts."

While many people were familiar with the country's main wine regions—led by Rioja and Jerez—another eight to 10 areas have cropped up, due in part to new cultivation and processing techniques. And that expanded number of viticultural hot spots means travelers can take tours and do some wine tasting in most every corner of Spain.

"Many wineries offer interesting tours to enhance the knowledge of visitors," says Rios. "It depends on how deep a group is ready to dive in to the wine experience, as tours can offer a standard view or a serious, in-depth tackling of soils, grapes varieties, and food and wine pairings. These take place in our 12-15 wine regions like Catalonia, Rioja, Ribera del Duero, Madrid, Jerez, etc."

To learn more, contact Rios at mrrios@across-spain.es or go to across-spain.es.

A faith-filled Portuguese trio

2017 was a big year in Portugal, as the country's famed pilgrimage site, Fátima, celebrated its 100th anniversary. The events surrounding the commemoration brought thousands of new visitors to the Centro Region, which is promoted by NTA-member ACISO—Associação Empresarial Ourém-Fátima.

According to ACISO's Isabel Machado, while Fátima is its calling card, the area is home to other significant religious sites.

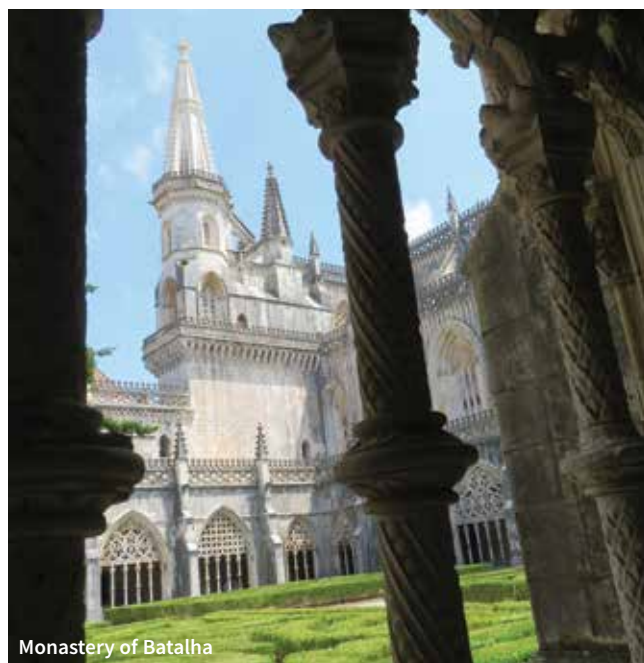
"The Centro Region of Portugal surrounding Ourém definitely has a lot to offer to groups apart from pilgrimages to Fátima," she says. "It is very close to three important UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Monastery of Alcobaça, the Monastery of Batalha and the Convent of Christ in Tomar."

The Monastery of Alcobaça is one of the first Cistercian monastic foundations in Portugal, and the site boasts a group of unique medieval buildings. The Monastery of Batalha, which took more than 100 years to build, is one of the most impressive Gothic-style structures in Portugal. Groups visiting the circa 1160 Convent of Christ can learn more about the fortress that served as the headquarters of the Knights Templar until 1314 and for the Order of Christ from 1357 onwards.

Machado says these faith-based sites are easy to combine with other local highlights.

"Groups can admire an outstanding coastline and sunny beaches like Nazaré, Figueira da Foz and the Berlengas Islands, but they also they can discover the forests, hills and vineyards that are dotted with luxurious places—from palatial spas to converted castles, convents and mansions."

Reach out to Machado at isabel.machado@aciso.pt or go to aciso.pt to learn more. ☺



Monastery of Batalha

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Hunderfossen Winter Park

'Frozen' adventures in Norway

According to Monique van Dijk-Seppola, owner of Scandinavia Tours, the winter is a wonderful time to visit Norway.

"In winter, much of Norway is usually transformed into a snow-clad paradise, and that means ideal opportunities for fun in the snowy landscape," she says. "Skiing has a special place in Norwegian culture and history and is the main thing, but there are plenty of other activities to enjoy."

The company found an audience for its "Frozen"-themed tours after the first movie came out, and it has packages that expand those offerings to other areas of Norway as a run-up to the November 2019 release of "Frozen 2."

"Scandinavia Tours offers a complete winter package in Norway inspired by the movies, and we have chosen Lillehammer as a base for our latest fairy-tale journey," says van Dijk-Seppola.

Lillehammer, which was the site of

the 17th Olympic Winter Games in 1994, offers a number of options for winter enthusiasts. One of the main sites is Hunderfossen Winter Park, where activities range from tobogganing and children's snowmobiles to indoor adventures in the Fairytale Castle and Caprino's Fairytale Grotto.

Another stop is Maihaugen, a place van Dijk-Seppola says is also geared for travelers of all ages.

"The whole family can enjoy a day out in Maihaugen's safe and beautiful surroundings," she says. "In this idyllic, traditional open-air museum, children can roam free and explore the old and new buildings. And, if conditions are right, we recommend borrowing a kick-sled—the best mode of transport on a sparkling winter's day."

To learn more, contact van Dijk-Seppola at monique@scandinaviatours.no or go to scandinaviatours.no.

Three tours, two seasons, one Iceland

Founded in 1929, Guðmundur Jónasson Travel Iceland has spent the last nine decades showcasing its native land to travelers from around the world. It offers a variety of pre-set itineraries, small-group/private tours and customized FIT packages, including the following three that are geared for groups:



Iceland Country Life This nine-day tour, available from June to September, includes visits to the turf houses at a folk museum and to a Viking Age Settlement museum. Travelers also will sail between floating icebergs on a glacial lake, go on a whale-watching excursion, bathe in a mineral-rich geothermal pool and take a stroll on black-lava beaches.



Guided Iceland Circle Offered in both the summer and winter, this bestseller provides a complete look at the island nation. As they follow Iceland's Ring Road, groups will go to major towns such as Reykjavík, Egilsstaðir and Akureyri. Along the way they will hike to waterfalls and a volcano, relax in the Mývatn Nature Baths and lay eyes on the spectacular Jökulsárlón Glacier Lagoon.



Northern Lights Exploration True to its name, this winter favorite is geared for those hoping to get a glimpse of the aurora borealis as it illuminates the night sky. Offered from September to April, the eight-day itinerary provides a 98 percent chance of seeing the northern lights by focusing on the more rural areas of western, southern and southeastern Iceland.

For more details, contact GJ Travel's Renato Gruenenfelder at renato@gjtravel.is or go to gjtravel.is.

Courier's Guide to NTA-member Lodging Properties



The NTA membership includes hundreds of hotels and resorts that offer a number of great amenities for groups—welcome receptions, special room rates, dining discounts and savings on other services. The companies on the following list represent many types of accommodations, ranging from national park lodges, quaint rural inns and oceanfront hotels to chic downtown properties and luxurious casino resorts.

Listings in this guide are based on a company's membership category or profile selections. The information was provided by the member contact and was current as of Oct. 22. Companies with more than one property are indicated by **M** (for multiple members—2 to 25 properties) and **C** (for corporate members—more than 26 properties). Please check NTAonline.com for updated information on these members and to learn more about the variety of services they offer.

CANADA

ALBERTA

The Crossing

Mike Fikowski
Lake Louise, AB
mike@thecrossingresort.com
thecrossingresort.com

Mountain Park Lodges **M**

Bernhard Schneider
Jasper, AB
bernhard.schneider@mpljasper.com
mpljasper.com

PURSUIT

Eliza Fair
Canmore, AB
efair@pursuitcollection.com
pursuitcollection.com

Ramada Inn & Suites Canmore

Rose Chobaniuk
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info@canmoreinn.com
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BRITISH COLUMBIA

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John Pritchard
Vancouver, BC
info@bluehorizonhotel.com
bluehorizonhotel.com

Hallmark Hospitality **M**

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Mayfair Hotels & Resorts **M**

Cecilia Lau
Vancouver, BC
cecilia@mayfairhotels.ca
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Royal Scot Hotel & Suites

Greg Greene
Victoria, BC
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NOVA SCOTIA

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nfcourtyard.com

Four Points by Sheraton Niagara Falls/Fallsview **M**

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Holiday Inn by the Falls

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tadams@holidayinnniagarafalls.com
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Holiday Inn Toronto Downtown Centre

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rodewayinnfallsview.com

Silver Hotel Group

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mpena@silverhotelgroup.com
silverhotelgroup.com

Travelodge Hotel by the Falls

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travelodgebythefalls.com

QUÉBEC

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dcote@hotelquebec.com
hotelquebec.com

Hilton Québec

Guy Godin
Québec City, QC
guy.godin@hilton.com
hiltonquebec.com

Hotel le Concorde

Jackie Dussault
Québec City, QC
jdussault@hotelleconcorde.com
hotelleconcordequebec.com

Hotel Le Voyageur

Helene Lacroix
Québec City, QC
reservation@hotel-voyageur-quebec.com
hotel-voyageur-quebec.com

Le Nouvel Hotel

Sistina Damasio
Montréal, QC
sdamasio@lenouvelhotel.com
lenouvelhotel.com

Québec's Casinos

Anie Beauchamp
Montréal, QC
anie.beauchamp@casino.qc.ca
casinos.lotoquebec.com

JAMAICA

SeaGarden Beach Resort

Tricia-Ann Bicarie
Montego Bay (St. James), Jamaica
tbicarie@seagardenjamaica.com
seagardenjamaica.com

UNITED STATES

ALASKA

Grande Denali Lodge/ Denali Bluffs Hotel

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Anchorage, AK
jmerrill@denalialaska.com
denalialaska.com

Grand View Inn & Suites

Chevy Sharlow
Wasilla, AK
chevy.sharlow@gmail.com
alaskagrandview.com

The Lakefront Anchorage

Greg Beltz
Anchorage, AK
greg.beltz@millenniumhotels.com
millenniumhotels.com/anchorage

Major Marine Tours & Harbor 360 Hotel

Jara Haas
Anchorage, AK
jara@majormarine.com
majormarine.com

ARIZONA

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations

Robin Marquis
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marquis-robin@aramark.com
lakepowell.com

Best Western Hotels & Resorts

Michelle Zajac
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Best Western Premier Grand Canyon Squire Inn

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Cliff Castle Casino Hotel

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Desert Diamond Casino Hotel

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Fairfield Inn & Suites East

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Red Feather Lodge

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ARKANSAS

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Holiday Inns of Fisherman's Wharf

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Hotel Zephyr at Fisherman's Wharf

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As the newest boutique hotel on Fisherman's Wharf, Hotel Zephyr offers stylish guest quarters that are outfitted with fun elements such as dart boards, backgammon and other modern amenities in select rooms, along with views of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and the San Francisco Bay. Spirited travelers enjoy the open community spaces throughout the property, including the hotel's 1,610-square-foot game room and 8,000-square-foot outdoor lounge and event space. Hotel Zephyr is also the closest hotel to PIER 39, Alcatraz, the Ferry Landing and the new cruise terminal.

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DoubleTree by Hilton Grand Junction

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Grand Vista Hotel

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Hampton Inn Durango

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At Hampton Inn, we pride ourselves on our personalized service. We are thrilled to host your group, and everyone is welcomed as a V.I.P. Named the coolest small town in America, Durango sits in sunny, southwestern Colorado, and it is a gateway for all your itineraries. Your group can enjoy Mesa Verde National Park, the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad or any of the outdoor activities that excite even the most novice adventurer. Leave it to us! We are here to help make yours the best trip possible.

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Strater Hotel

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Built in 1887, the historic Strater Hotel is one of the West's iconic hotels and a prominent downtown Durango, Colorado, landmark deep in the heart of the rugged San Juan Mountains and the San Juan Scenic Skyway. The Strater Hotel is adorned with beautiful handcrafted woodwork, period wallpaper and the largest collection of American Victorian walnut antiques, which are used to decorate the hotel and guest rooms.

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Rocking Horse Ranch Resort

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Courtyard by Marriott Gettysburg

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Heritage Hotel Lancaster

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Holiday Inn Harrisburg East

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Lancaster Arts Hotel

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Omni William Penn Hotel

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Quality Inn Gettysburg Battlefield/ Best Western Gettysburg

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Hampton Inn & Suites Oceanfront

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Strand Hospitality

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Greystone Lodge at the Aquarium

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UTAH

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Zion Lodge/Zion National Park

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WEST VIRGINIA

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WYOMING

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Mountain Modern Motel

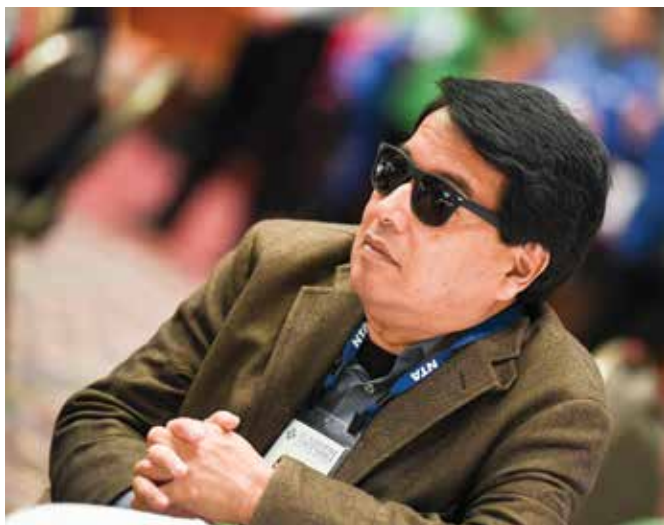
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Town Square Inns of Jackson Hole M

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Personality on parade

Travel Exchange is a great place to get more business and new ideas, but it's primarily a people place ... and boy, are they fun to watch. The images here spotlight the stars of the show—you and your colleagues. A full recap of the event is coming in the January 2019 issue of *Courier*.

Meet the Members

PRESENTED BY



John Hall's Alaska

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

NTA contact: Elizabeth Hall,
chief operating officer

Office phone: +1.651.345.1212

Website: kissalaska.com

NTA member since: 2012

Tell us about John Hall's Alaska.

We're a family company focused on packaged Alaska tours, with receptive services throughout the state, as we operate our own coaches. Our management team consists of my father (the founder), John Hall Sr.; along with my brother Joseph, our VP of fleet operations; John Hall Jr., our VP of marketing; and I'm COO.

What's new with your company?

This summer, our expansion included opening up a large-vehicle maintenance operation to service our coaches, as well as those of other tour companies bringing their motorcoaches north. We are excited about

the support from the group market with our receptive services, and we want to ensure that every organization visiting Alaska has the necessary resources to serve their clients.

What's your favorite place that you've visited?

New Zealand

You probably get this a lot: What do you like most about Alaska?

There is always a new adventure to show our visitors, and I want to make sure they love Alaska when they leave.

Visitors love Alaska, but what do you love?

I love dogs, I love sports and I love working with my family.

For more information, contact Hall at elizabeth@kissalaska.com.



Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau

WYTHEVILLE, VIRGINIA

NTA contact: Mary Jo Babbitt,
tourism development coordinator

Office phone: 877.892.3239

Website: visitwytheville.com

NTA member since: 1993

What's an attraction or event that makes Wytheville unique?

The Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre is a year-round venue offering a four-course meal followed by a Broadway-caliber musical production. Groups love the theater's entertaining schedule of "All Musicals, All the Time."

What's your favorite season in Wytheville?

Since Wytheville is surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, the fall brings majestic colors and breathtaking beauty.

What makes your job the best?

I not only have the ability to work for a

vibrant and visionary CVB, but I also have the opportunity to share and showcase our amazing attractions to the hundreds of group tours that visit Wytheville each year.

What do you like to do for fun?

This may sound unusual, but my job is fun! I love dealing with the many groups that visit us, and I enjoy planning their itineraries. I also serve as their step-on guide, so I not only plan the tours, I get to visit my attractions and build the relationships face-to-face. We are a family, and we love to have company!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

I will visit Italy one day. My parents were born there, and my dream is to visit each of their hometowns.



For more information, contact Babbitt at mjbabbitt@wytheville.org.

CayTours
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CayTours is a locally owned and operated tour company in the Cayman Islands with over five years of experience serving numerous new and repeat clients. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff is well versed in all things Cayman and really brings your tour to life as you pass through the streets of Grand Cayman.

NEW MEMBERS

The following list shows organizations that joined NTA recently. Companies that also joined the Faith Travel Association have an FTA logo by their name. To access complete information on each of these new members, log on to NTAonline.com and go to the member searches.

TOUR OPERATORS

2018 Event LLC

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Adventures to Tuscany

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Marian Pilgrimages

Mattie Henry
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NKAR Travels & Tours (Pvt) Ltd.

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Colombo, Sri Lanka
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Open Roads Tour & Travel Solutions LLC

Kevin Murphy
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Urban Adventures

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VALAIS Matterhorn Region

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YooYoo Tour Inc.

Jiazi Liu
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TOUR SUPPLIERS

The Bartolotta Restaurants

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Dundee Resort & Golf Club

Sandippal Singh Grewal
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dundeeresort.com

Rocking Horse Ranch Resort

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Trailsmen Lodge

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DMO

Destination Northern Ontario

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TRAVEL PLANNER

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NTA EVENTS

Save these dates in 2019 and beyond to connect with new partners and destinations. For more information on these events, click the EVENTS tab on NTAonline.com



Fort Worth
Dec. 8-12, 2019



Fort Lauderdale
Oct. 4-8, 2020



Tucson, Arizona | March 27-30, 2019



Anchorage, Alaska | March 18-21, 2020



Washington, D.C. | April 10-11, 2019



Dreams to follow

BY LAURA McFADDEN



Laura, during her first visit to Yellowstone National Park

THE TRAVEL BUG bit when I was in high school and my family and I took our first vacation “out west.” During our vacation from Kentucky to Idaho and back, we crammed 13 states, a few national parks, thousands of miles and a lifetime of memories into those 10 days in 2000.

We made two more trips to that part of the country as a family, and I officially fell in love with the western United States. In the gift shop at the Grand Canyon, at the front desk of the hotels in Glacier National Park, and in the dining rooms in Yellowstone, I noticed there were young adults my age from all over the world spending their summer working in national parks. I wanted to do that, but it seemed impossible. It was 2,000 miles away from my home, my family and all I had ever known.

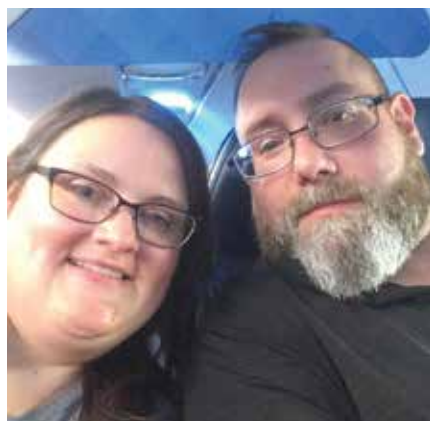
An interest in hospitality and tourism had taken hold, but there weren’t tourism job opportunities in rural Kentucky, so I took the safe route and studied accounting in college, even though I really couldn’t picture myself working in that field. I muddled through and was lucky to get a job right after graduation.

After a year or so, while all my college friends were still looking for jobs, I did the irresponsible thing and gave my notice. I simply had no passion for the job and no long-term interest, and I just wasn’t happy. I started another job search, but nothing else looked appealing.

I started thinking “what if”? If I was going to be changing jobs anyway, why not spend the summer working in Yellowstone, and then find a real job?

So that’s what I did, and it put my life on a path I could never have imagined. What I thought would be one summer turned into three years, and I made lifelong friends and lived in a place for years that most people only dream of visiting for a week.

I grew up. I matured. I became braver and my world widened. There is something about tackling crazy adventures and climbing to the top of mountain peaks that make you realize you’re much more capable than you thought.



The honeymooners, Laura and Josh

I worked in the reservation department for Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the official concessionaire of Yellowstone. That first year, I helped guests with their cabin, camping and sightseeing reservations. The second and third years, I sold small group packages. It was a job I *did* have a passion for, and it introduced me to the hospitality, tourism and travel world.

Ultimately, I believe, those family vacations and my work in Yellowstone led me

to NTA. I don’t think my resume would have stood out nearly as much without that work experience, and now I truly believe I am where I’m supposed to be.

In September, I went back to Yellowstone with my new husband, Josh, on our honeymoon. I showed him the place that was so special to me. We spent the last five days of our honeymoon in Paradise Valley, Montana, which is just north of the park. It is now the place that is special to us.

After the first day of floating and fly-fishing on the Yellowstone River, which flows through the stunning valley, Josh started saying he could live there. My first thought was that we would have to settle for repeat vacations because we could never live there.

But then I started thinking “what if?” again. What if I could work remotely? Josh is self-employed and can work from anywhere. Maybe when we retire?

While I can say with certainty that we won’t be moving to Montana anytime soon, the dream is there. And it’s there because travel opened my eyes to the possibility.

Through our day-to-day jobs in this industry, we allow guests, clients and customers to dream, and we open their eyes to things and places they may never have thought were possible.

And sometimes, those dreams rub off on us. ☺

Laura McFadden is events and meetings manager at NTA. You can email her at laura.mcfadden@ntastaff.com.



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A woman with a backpack, wearing a red jacket and black pants, stands on the edge of a rocky cliff. She is looking out over a vast, scenic landscape. The landscape features rolling green hills, a winding river with small islands, and a clear sky. The scene is bathed in the warm light of a sunset or sunrise.

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