

# COURIER

DELIVERING BUSINESS ESSENTIALS TO NTA MEMBERS

JUNE/JULY 2018

## Stop and stare

**National parks give visitors reasons  
for pause ... and applause**

PAGE 24

**JORDAN: MEANINGFUL AND MAGNIFICENT**

PAGE 16

**CITY SPOTLIGHT: OOH LA LA LAND**

PAGE 31

**PREVIEW (PRE-BREW?) TO MILWAUKEE**

PAGE 20

Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve





# BE SURPRISED!

# LaGrange

GEORGIA



## COMBO TICKET

With advance reservations, tour groups enjoy a special discount ticket price. **Big on the "wow" factor and tiny on your budget,** a **\$50 ticket** includes admission to **Hills & Dales Estate** and the **Biblical History Center**, including the popular Biblical Meal.

# A PLACE FOR ALL SEASONS

## DISCOVER LAGRANGE

Conveniently located just a short drive from Atlanta, LaGrange is the perfect year-round destination for your tour group.

A visit to Hills & Dales Estate and the Biblical History Center provides a full day of beauty and historic exploration. When the day is complete, settle in at the new Courtyard by Marriott in downtown LaGrange. From there, you can enjoy unique shopping and savor a great dinner at one of the locally owned restaurants. You'll #BeSurprised by all LaGrange has to offer. Plan your journey our way at [visitlagrange.com](http://visitlagrange.com) or call **706.884.8671**.



## IN LAGRANGE, HISTORY LIVES AND INSPIRES.





# COURIER

June/July 2018

HILLY DOBNER/ISTEX



**They shoot horses, don't they?** Kentucky visitors—and Lexington locals—land at Keeneland Race Course to photograph horses, enjoy the races and tour the grounds. Turn to page 44 to read about Keeneland and other hot spots in Kentucky and Tennessee.

## Features



### Tourism Cares with Jordan

As one of 70 industry professionals on a nine-day journey, *Courier* editor Bob Rouse accepted a challenge to discover “the Jordan brand.” He found a meaningful, magnificent answer.



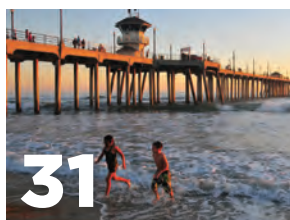
### Preview to Milwaukee

Some call it Brew City, but NTA members call it a *new* city for Travel Exchange this November. Several experts—a local culinary writer, a VISIT Milwaukee staffer and an NTA exec—provide tips and insights.



### North America's National Parks

From underground exploration to flightseeing rides, plenty of adventures await at U.S. and Canadian national parks.



### City Spotlight: Los Angeles

Writer Patti Nickell shares why she views the City of Angels as “one big delight in—as they say in the film industry—cinemascope and technicolor.”

## Compass

### 36 Mid-Atlantic U.S.

Maryland's new brews

Da point in seeing the du Pont family home

Line up to see what's on the factory line in York

The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum is so fly

The hotel show-and-tell

### 44 South Central U.S.

Let's talk Tennessee

See what's shakin' in Lexington

### 48 Deep South

The Deep South delivers military memorials and museums

Anchors, adrenaline and aquatic life in Atlanta

From sea to food in Mississippi

Pitching oranges in Central Florida

### 53 Pacific Northwest

A whale of a time in Victoria

Attention, aviation aficionados

Lots to see at Sea Lion Caves

### 56 Germany and Switzerland

What's new in the old town?

This way to Oeschinensee

## NTA President

Pam Inman pam.inman@ntastaff.com

## Editorial

**Editor in Chief** Bob Rouse bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com

**Managing Editor** Pat Henderson pat.henderson@ntaservicesinc.com

**Writer** Kendall Fletcher kendall.fletcher@ntaservicesinc.com

**Writer** Gabe Webb gabe.webb@ntaservicesinc.com

**Contributors** Ellaine Deeken, Donald Leadbetter, Patti Nickell, Lucy Saunders, The Signal Group

**Graphic Design** Jeff Quire

## Advertising

**President, NTA Services Inc.** Kami Risk kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com

**Senior Account Executive/Eastern U.S. & International** Beth Engel beth.engel@ntaservicesinc.com

**Account Executive/Western U.S.** Kelley Burchell kelly.burchell@ntaservicesinc.com

**Account Executive/Central U.S. & Canada** Bond Milburn bond.milburn@ntaservicesinc.com

**Senior Manager, Marketing** Ashley Fish ashley.fish@ntaservicesinc.com

**Billing Inquiries** Mary Catherine Dorsett marycatherine.dorsett@ntaservicesinc.com

## PLANNING AHEAD

To view the 2018 editorial calendar, visit [NTAonline.com/advertising](http://NTAonline.com/advertising). NTA members can submit tour product information or editorial queries to [bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com](mailto:bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com). And for advertising information, call +1.859.264.6559.

### ► OCTOBER ISSUE

#### DESTINATIONS

##### New England

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

##### China and Vietnam

##### India

##### City Spotlight: Durango, Colorado

#### SPECIAL COVERAGE

Travel Exchange '18 (Milwaukee)

Guide: Theaters and Broadway Shows

#### DEADLINES

Space: Aug. 3 | Material: Aug. 13

### ► NOVEMBER ISSUE

#### DESTINATIONS

##### America's Historic East

Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia,  
Washington, D.C.

##### Atlantic Canada

New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador,  
Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island

##### Caribbean

##### Egypt, Israel and Jordan

#### SPECIAL COVERAGE

2019 Distinguished Dozen

#### Shopping

#### DEADLINES

Space: Sept. 7 | Material: Sept. 17

## NTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

#### Chair

**J. Chris Babb**

The Group Tour Company  
[chris@grouptourcompany.com](mailto:chris@grouptourcompany.com)

#### Vice Chair

**Paul Larsen**

Ed-Ventures  
[pcl@ed-ventures.com](mailto:pcl@ed-ventures.com)

#### Secretary

**Dennis McDonnell**

Alaska Coach Tours  
[dennis@alaskacoachtours.com](mailto:dennis@alaskacoachtours.com)

#### Immediate Past Chair

**Jay Smith**

Sports Travel and Tours  
[jay@sportstravelandtours.com](mailto:jay@sportstravelandtours.com)

#### DMO Director

**Frances Manzitto**

Visit Clarksville  
[frances@visitclarksvilletn.com](mailto:frances@visitclarksvilletn.com)

#### Tour Supplier Director

**Jim Magrath**

Delta Air Lines  
[jim.magrath@delta.com](mailto:jim.magrath@delta.com)

### Directors

#### Jennifer Adu

Wyoming Office of Tourism  
[jennifer.adu@wyo.gov](mailto:jennifer.adu@wyo.gov)

#### Debra Asberry

Women Traveling Together  
[debra@women-traveling.com](mailto:debra@women-traveling.com)

#### Dan Flores

Maverick Aviation Group  
[dflores@maverickaviationgroup.com](mailto:dflores@maverickaviationgroup.com)

#### Edita Kronic

Select International Tours  
[edita@select-intl.com](mailto:edita@select-intl.com)

#### Cory Mace

North Central Group - Hilton & Marriott Hotels  
[cmace@ncghotels.com](mailto:cmace@ncghotels.com)

#### John McGlade

Euro River Cruises  
[jmcglade@eurorivercruises.com](mailto:jmcglade@eurorivercruises.com)

#### Dave Nitkiewicz

Experience Grand Rapids  
[dnitkiewicz@experiencegr.com](mailto:dnitkiewicz@experiencegr.com)

#### Chase Poffenberger

Academic Travel Abroad  
[cpoffenberger@academic-travel.com](mailto:cpoffenberger@academic-travel.com)

#### Jerry Varner

Making Memories Tours  
[jerry@makingmemoriestours.com](mailto:jerry@makingmemoriestours.com)

#### Jim Warren, CTP

Anderson Vacations  
[jwarren@andersonvacations.ca](mailto:jwarren@andersonvacations.ca)

### Director at Large

#### Kelly Dean

Ottawa Tourism  
[kdean@ottawatourism.ca](mailto:kdean@ottawatourism.ca)



PUBLISHED BY NTA SERVICES, INC. Email: [kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com](mailto:kami.risk@ntaservicesinc.com)

**COURIER** (USPS 602270, ISSN 0279-4489)(Vol. 45, Issue 5) published nine times a year by NTA Services, Inc., 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509. Periodicals Postage Paid at Lexington, Kentucky, and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate is \$60 per year.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *Courier*, 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509.

**COURIER** is the official licensed publication of NTA®, an international trade association of the packaged travel industry. Copyright© 2018, NTA Services, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means, electrical, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission of *Courier*, except for quotations made for purposes of a review. All inquiries should be sent to *Courier* magazine, 101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350, Lexington, KY 40509, +1.859.264.6559. Additional subscriptions can be purchased by calling +1.859.264.6559. Printed in USA.

Advertising rates are available upon request. For a change of address, subscribers may notify *Courier* directly, by email or letter.

#### 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.



*Courier* is printed on 100% recyclable material





- 4 From the Editor
- 6 Voices of Leadership

## Business

- 8 **InBrief**  
Faith Travel Association announces product development trip | Spending at U.S. national parks tops \$18 billion in 2017 | Early bird is about to fly
- 9 **An update on park entrance fees**  
Get the latest details regarding the proposed increases to admission prices at U.S. national parks.
- 10 **Sharing America's best idea**  
The U.S. National Park Service's Donald Ledbetter reflects on how the increasing popularity of park sites presents both opportunities and challenges for the travel industry.
- 11 **Tourism Cares for New Orleans—times 3**  
As Tourism Cares looks ahead to its September event in the Big Easy, take a look back at the impact of the previous two projects NTA's official philanthropy organized in the city.
- 12 **NTA Working for You**  
How can you make the most of Travel Exchange in Milwaukee? A longtime tour operator, a sponsoring tour supplier and a first-timer from the San Antonio event share their insights.
- 14 **What's On**  
The fun never ends at Omega Park | Drink up the past in The Mob Museum's newest exhibit

## Community

- 58 **Meet the Members**  
Don't Forget The List | Montana Office of Tourism & Business Development

- 60 **Introducing ...**  
Detroit Metro CVB | Welcome to Harlem | Embrace South Africa Tours | National Museum of the Marine Corps | Amadeus Video Solutions | Airtel Plaza Hotel | UMS Ticketing powered by UMS Banking | The Offstage Group | U.S. Bank

- 62 **New Members**
- 63 **Ad Index/NTA Events Calendar**

- 64 **AfterWords**  
Members who headed to Charleston for Contact '18 reveal their in-flight entertainment preferences.



## MYRTLE BEACH OCEANFRONT

# TOP RANKED BY TRIPADVISOR.COM

Featuring 6 oceanfront pools (with hot tubs and heated pools), spa, fitness center, golf and more. Spacious accommodations include 2-bedroom family suites with kitchenette, oceanfront master bedroom, and separate kids' bedroom with bunk beds and a queen-size bed.



### OCEANFRONT RESORT

1801 South Ocean Boulevard, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
[www.HamptonInnOceanfront.com](http://www.HamptonInnOceanfront.com) or call 1-800-HAMPTON



*Courier* has used images existing in the public domain or made available from sources including, but not limited to, Flickr and Wikimedia Commons under a Creative Commons Attribution Generic License. The full text of the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License is available at [bit.ly/1gDYjzM](http://bit.ly/1gDYjzM). Images used may have been altered by cropping or adjusted for contrast, saturation, size, color, clarity or otherwise digitally manipulated to meet design specifications. *Courier's* use of Creative Commons and public domain images does not constitute or suggest the licensor's explicit or implied endorsement of *Courier*, its content, staff, contributors, advertisers or any other use by *Courier*.

**Bob Rouse**

Editor in Chief  
101 Prosperous Place, Suite 350  
Lexington, KY 40509 USA  
+1.859.264.6548  
bob.rouse@ntaservicesinc.com

ON DERBY DAY—the top day on my Kentucky calendar—I woke up much earlier than I should have. But unlike in 1992, when the number of the soon-to-be winning horse flashed before my just-opened eyes, this year I awakened with travel on my mind.

In particular, I was thinking about the bonds that people forge when they travel together, connections that are sometimes more enduring than the journey itself. These deep friendships formed through a shared experience can be surprisingly powerful and intense.

I shouldn't be surprised, though; I've been experiencing it since I was a kid going to church camp. Whenever I returned home after a week in the wilderness, I missed my camp friends terribly. I went through withdrawal: a physical and emotional hurt.

I continue to have significant bonding episodes as an adult, but instead of going to camp, I go on trips.

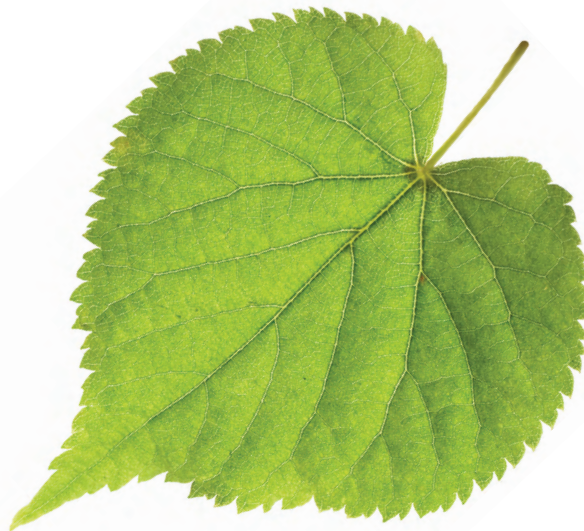
I'm not sure that it warranted a 5 a.m. internal wake-up call, but what I woke with that May morning was a way to quantify a bonding experience—or at least to identify its components. Think of a LEAF.

Length: It takes a few days for a group to gel.

Emotion: A shared emotional experience—with a requisite depth of engagement—binds people together.

## June/July Courier Destination Index

<b>Alabama</b> 48	<b>Montana</b> 58
<b>Alaska</b> 26	<b>Nevada</b> 15
<b>British Columbia</b> 53	<b>New Jersey</b> 43
<b>California</b> 28–29, 60	<b>New Mexico</b> 24
<b>Delaware</b> 38	<b>New York</b> 42, 60, 61
<b>Florida</b> 52	<b>Ontario</b> 14
<b>Georgia</b> 50	<b>Oregon</b> 54–55
<b>Germany</b> 56	<b>Pennsylvania</b> 40–41
<b>Jordan</b> 16–19	<b>Québec</b> 14
<b>Kentucky</b> 24, 46–47	<b>South Africa</b> 60
<b>Los Angeles</b> 31–34	<b>South Carolina</b> 48
<b>Louisiana</b> 48	<b>South Dakota</b> 24
<b>Manitoba</b> 30	<b>Switzerland</b> 56
<b>Maryland</b> 36	<b>Tennessee</b> 44–45
<b>Michigan</b> 60	<b>Virginia</b> 60
<b>Milwaukee</b> 20–23	<b>Washington</b> 54
<b>Mississippi</b> 50	



**Adventure:** Taking a risk together—from conquering an outdoor challenge to tasting a wacky local dish—tightens the knot of fellowship.

**Fellowship:** You won't get much bonding among a bunch of duds. Personality and compatibility matter.

So there you have it. I'm available for theorizing on other matters, too, with a slight upcharge for a snappy acronym.

But you've got a magazine to, um, leaf through, so let me introduce you to this issue.

You can judge this book by its cover: We not only revel in North America's national parks—with a story by Pat Henderson on pages 24–30—we also look at the recent focus on fees at U.S. sites, pages 9 and 10.

We spotlight destinations in features: Los Angeles, by Patti Nickell, on pages 31–34; and my take on Tourism Cares with Jordan, pages 16–19. (Lotsa LEAF in that trip.) And we start warming up to Milwaukee, our Travel Exchange host city, starting on page 20.

Our Compass coverage of NTA members is extensive. Writers Kendall Fletcher, Gabe Webb and Pat and Patti showcase itinerary ideas from the Atlantic to the Pacific (with a nice nod to Europe)—from pages 36 to 56.

I'm hitting the road again soon. You, too? If you're traveling with a group this summer, I hope you enjoy the camaraderie. And look for the LEAF.

Read on,

### On the cover:

On-the-water experiences at Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve range from tranquil canoeing trips to adrenaline-fueled whitewater excursions.  
*Photo: State of Alaska/Jocelyn Pride*





# ESCAPE

TO A DESTINATION OF  
PREMIUM LUXURY.



Indulge in Washington's premier gaming destination.  
Luxury and excitement combine to promise an  
unforgettable experience - ***This is Tulalip.***

30 MINUTES NORTH OF SEATTLE  
[TULALIPCASINO.COM](http://TULALIPCASINO.COM)







THE NIGHT BEFORE a day-long meeting at DoubleTree by Hilton North Charleston—in conjunction with Contact '18—the NTA Board of Directors enjoyed a surfside dinner on an uninhabited island just off the South Carolina coast. Pictured, left to right, are Cory Mace, Dave Nitkiewicz, Frances Manzitto, Jerry Varner, Dennis McDonnell, Jay Smith, Paul Larsen, Kelly Dean, Pam Inman, Chris Babb, Jennifer Adu, Chase Poffenberger and Jim Warren.

A recurring theme during the many seminars and discussions at Contact was an increasing demand from group travelers for independence and flexibility within an itinerary. So *Courier* asked NTA board members: “How is this trend toward independence playing out with your business?”

### **Dennis McDonnell, Alaska Coach Tours**

We started a tour in Juneau where clients can reserve a Suburban with a driver for a flat rate, and it includes four hours of service with a driver/guide for up to seven guests. Guests can choose from a menu of highlights to visit, and they go where they want when they want.

### **Paul Larsen, Ed-Ventures**

It's more about building in time to let them explore and make decisions. In another country, language can be a barrier if you're not in a group, but usually, English is all to need to know. Some will need hand-holding, but others—especially repeat clients—want more time to explore on their own.

### **Jim Warren, Anderson Vacations**

We noticed the change in what our clients are looking for in a tour, so we added a new sub-brand to our Classic Tours. These new programs, Tours of Distinction, feature unique off-the-beaten-track destinations and focus on immersive cultural

experiences. They utilize smaller boutique hotels and lodges, unique/local restaurants and usually offer alternative activities each day. The groups are limited to a maximum of 21 passengers traveling in smaller, local vehicles, and the itineraries are designed to be flexible.

### **Dave Nitkiewicz, Experience Grand Rapids**

We have successfully introduced flexible tours around ArtPrize, a radically open art competition held in Grand Rapids every September. Groups can drop off and pick up in downtown Grand Rapids with as much—or as little—scheduled as the group wants. Every ArtPrize attraction, including the Gerald Ford Museum and the Grand Rapids Art Museum, is free and open to the public.

### **Jay Smith, Sports Travel and Tours**

We are adding “leisure time on own” to our tour programs in most cities where we stay two or more nights. By choosing downtown, city-center hotels, we can offer afternoon free time.

### **Jerry Varner, Making Memories Tours**

One of the things we are doing in certain cities is offering a free day with a pass for a hop-on/hop-off bus that has city narration. We also include in our mail-out packet a route map so they can research sites to visit or just get their bearings. They can explore as much as they are comfortable doing. We still usually include a step-on guide of the city, but this way our clients can fill in the gaps that are important to them on their free day.

### **Cory Mace, North Central Group – Hilton & Marriott Hotels**

From the hotel standpoint, we do a lot of things. We are very flexible with our cancellation and deposit requirements. When a group books with us, we don't require attrition, and we have a standard 30-day cutoff. We will honor group rates if the trip sells less than anticipated, and we don't have a minimum requirement.



AMERICA'S MOST MONUMENTAL EXPERIENCE SINCE 1846



Boats Depart from Niagara Falls, USA ★ [MaidoftheMist.com](http://MaidoftheMist.com) ★ 716.284.8897



COMPILED BY PAT HENDERSON

## Faith Travel Association announces product development trip



FTA is announcing its first-ever product development trip, which will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' *Mayflower* journey from England to Massachusetts in 1620 and their relationship with the Wampanoag Nation.

The PDT, set for this September, consists of two segments: Mayflower 400 in England and Plymouth 400 in Massachusetts. FTA tour operator members can participate in one or both segments. Each tour is limited to one person per company, and the same person can participate in both parts.

Mayflower 400 (Sept. 3–9) costs \$395 for FTA members and \$445 for NTA members. Plymouth 400 (Sept. 10–13) costs \$395 for FTA members and \$445 for NTA members. (NTA costs include an FTA membership.) Prices do not include air.

Both segments of this PDT include unique experiences that will help participants plan unforgettable tours on both sides of the Atlantic during the 2020 events. Additionally, they will take part in networking programs with local suppliers.

This trip is being organized by Mayflower 400 (UK), Plymouth 400 (USA), Rowena Drinkhouse of Reformation Tours, Gail Arndt of Tour Trends and Keith Somers of Select Travel Service.

To learn more/to apply, go to [ntaonline.com/events/product-development-trips](http://ntaonline.com/events/product-development-trips).

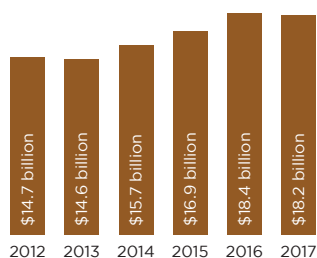
## Spending at U.S. national parks tops \$18 billion in 2017

The U.S. National Park Service manages some of the nation's most iconic destinations, places that attract millions of people from around the world. According to the organization's recently released Visitor Spending Effects Report, an estimated 331 million visitors headed to the parks in 2017, and they spent approximately \$18.2 billion.

Those expenditures provide a major boost to the economies of the parks and their gateway communities—areas within 60 minutes of NPS sites. The report also detailed some of the other positive impacts the parks had in 2017, such as supporting 306,000 jobs and contributing \$11.9 billion in labor income, \$35.8 billion in economic output and \$20.3 billion in additional value to the national economy.

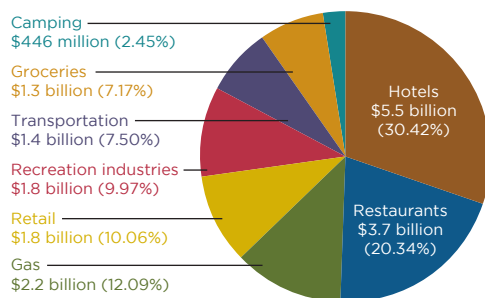
To see the full spending effects report and other information on how U.S. National Parks contribute to the national economy, go to [nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm](http://nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm).

Total visitor spending  
(all parks)



Source: U.S. National Park Service & U.S. Geological Survey's 2017 Visitor Spending Effects Report

2017 spending breakdown



travel  
exchange

Nov. 4–8, 2018 | Milwaukee

## Early bird is about to fly

The deadline to save \$300 on Travel Exchange registration fees for tour suppliers, DMOs, associates and tour operators attending as sellers is Tuesday, June 12. At the event, which will take place Nov. 4–8 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, you can book business, gain cutting-edge industry insights and connect with like-minded organizations.

"We had a blast and recommend it to anyone looking to expand their travel network," says Lisa Buie of Ohio-based Don't Forget the List, who attended Travel Exchange for the first time last year in San Antonio. "TREX totally exceeded our expectations in every way."

And getting in early helps everyone—full appointment-taking buyers are eligible for maximum rebate, and having an earlier registration date is a key factor to helping you receive better-matched prescheduled appointments.

Just visit [NTAonline.com/convention](http://NTAonline.com/convention) to register, view the schedule and learn more about NTA's annual convention. Cheers to NTA in MKE! 🍷



# RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

INSIGHTS ON U.S. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AND INDUSTRY TOPICS



## National Parks: Change is coming and we are affecting it

THE UNITED STATES' national parks offer the best of America to citizens and visitors alike. These arenas of breathtaking natural beauty located throughout the country provide an escape from the complexities of everyday life.

Reinvesting in parks has been a priority for the travel and tourism industry for several years, and NTA has been a consistent advocate. We have supported numerous bills in Congress that have advocated for more public and private investment in U.S. National Park Service sites and have advocated for more funding during Destination Capitol Hill and administration outreach.

Our message is that to ensure all visitors continue to have great experiences, we must invest in national parks to maintain historical preservation, provide recreational opportunities and retain the parks' contributions to the American experience.

NTA has been equally as loud in insisting that the burden of supporting the parks should not fall on the shoulders of visitors. The federal government has a role in investing in and protecting federal lands. NTA was dismayed, then, when it learned in an Oct. 24, 2017, press release, the National Park Service was considering raising fees at 17 of the system's high-traffic parks during peak season in an effort to resolve the mounting deferred maintenance backlog.

The proposal involved increasing admission pricing and road-based commercial tour fees. These hikes would have gone into effect within six months, causing uncertainty and high costs to be imposed on tours that were booked in the interim.

There was a limited public comment period, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 23, which NTA viewed as inadequate for addressing the complex and onerous nature of the proposed fees. NTA spearheaded a response letter to the agency on behalf of eight associations involved with U.S. national parks.



For the past 18 years, Zion National Park has used shuttle buses to limit passenger vehicle access and lessen environmental impacts on the park.

The letter expressed strong concern about the lack of a staged implementation period to equitably implement the fee increase into tour packages, thereby placing a significant burden on tour operators and users of the parks. We expressed concern about the reasonableness and size of the proposed increases, and also pointed out that each bus can take up to 55 cars off the roads, reducing the traffic congestion and negative environmental impact that personal vehicles can have at the parks.

Last year, the National Park Service celebrated its centennial anniversary. That same year, NPS recorded a whopping 330 million recreational visits, a significant increase from a record-breaking 307 million visits in 2015. We argued that if the proposed fee

increases were implemented, those record numbers would go stagnant.

Following our letter—and feedback from industry—NPS extended the comment period to Dec. 22. In total, 109,000 comments were logged, and many of them were against the proposed increase. NTA and several letter signees followed up and met with high-level representatives of NPS and the Department of Interior. We expressed concern about the impact the proposed increases would have on small businesses, such as NTA tour operators and local supplier members, and voiced opposition to the quick time frame in which the fees were to be implemented.

On April 12, NPS announced that instead of raising entrance fees sharply at the 17 parks originally chosen, the agency would instead implement only slightly higher fees, to be spread more broadly across the system. NTA is pleased that NPS officials responded to the concerns expressed by your association and by thousands of national parks visitors.

We recently submitted to NPS a request on behalf our members and other associations seeking clarity on a number of fee-related issues. While we support increased investment in the parks, we will seek remedies that are more timely and equitable.

Keep watching *Courier* and NTA's *Tuesday* e-newsletter for updates on this important issue in the coming weeks and months. 📍

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

# Sharing America's best idea

## National parks are more popular than ever, presenting opportunities for the travel industry

BY DONALD LEADBETTER, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



IN 2016 THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE commemorated its centennial, and park visitors turned out in record numbers to share in the celebration. Enthusiasm for the parks remains high, and

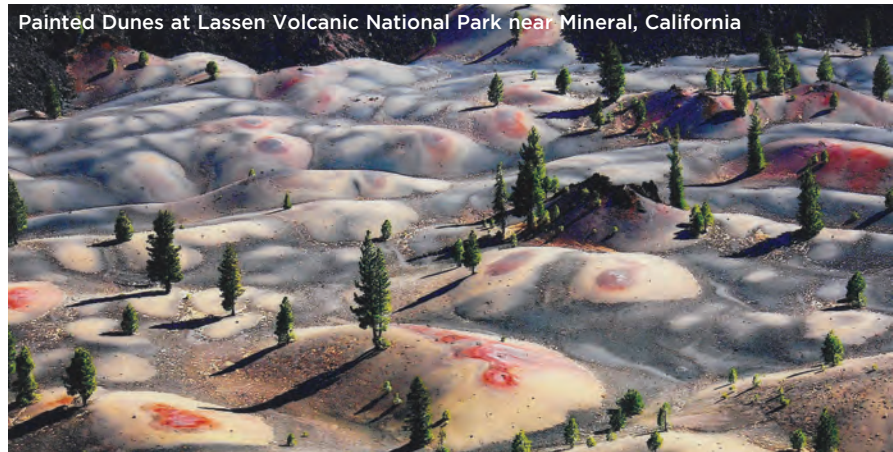
the National Park Service is working to balance conservation and preservation with high-quality visitor experiences.

Visitation to the national park system in 2017 was almost identical to the record-setting 331 million recreation visits in 2016, and many parks continue to experience significant growth and to set records. In fact, of the parks that report visitation statistics, 16 set records in 2017.

Increased levels of visitation are creating challenges in some parks, and the National Park Service is committed to providing high-quality visitor experiences while ensuring the conservation of these special places. There is an acute need for investment in the parks, and President Trump has proposed legislation to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to help address the maintenance backlog.

The National Park Service has also announced changes to fees for independent and commercial entry to the parks as well as to fees associated with commercial use authorizations. These changes reflect feedback received from the public and the travel industry in response to initial proposals released in October 2017. The funds generated will address critical infrastructure and maintenance needs, improving visitor experiences. For details about these changes, visit [nps.gov/tourismprogram](https://nps.gov/tourismprogram).

Several sites, including Acadia, Arches and Zion national parks, are establishing visitor use management plans. These plans may affect commercial operators, and the travel trade is encouraged to participate in the planning process and provide comments and feedback at



[parkplanning.nps.gov](https://parkplanning.nps.gov). You are also welcome to contact park staff or me to ask questions and stay informed.

National parks are important motivators of travel to and within the United States. According to the Department of Commerce, visiting national parks and monuments is the third-most popular activity for overseas travelers when they come to the U.S.

With global tourism volumes forecast to rise from 1.3 billion international arrivals in 2017 to 1.8 billion by 2030, the popularity of national parks, along with many other marquee sites and attractions around the world, presents a challenge to the travel industry. Destination managers and policy makers are applying a range of tactics to ensure great visitor experiences while maintaining the character of destinations and sites.

The strong growth in global travel also presents an opportunity for tourism product development, and the national park system includes dozens of spectacular, lesser-known sites the travel trade can consider for tours and itineraries.

Sites like Washington's Olympic National Park, Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve and Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts are close to gateway cities and offer great visitor experiences that are alternatives to busier parks.

California's Lassen Volcanic National Park, for example, is an incredible hidden gem, home to steaming fumaroles, clear mountain lakes and jagged mountain peaks, with a fraction of Yellowstone's visitation. There are 417 units of the national park system, with at least one in every state and five of the territories, plus thousands of historic and natural landmarks and national trails to consider for tour itineraries.

The possibilities are endless, and the National Park Service offers resources the travel trade can use to research parks, activities, and itineraries; a database of photos and videos, many in the public domain and available for commercial use (please check the rights of individual files); travelogues that highlight park essentials; travel ideas and trip advice; and centralized information about CUAs, park passes, events, accessibility, safety and more.

Explore the "Plan your visit" and "What we do" resources at [nps.gov/tourismprogram](https://nps.gov/tourismprogram). 📍

*Donald Leadbetter is tourism program manager for the National Park Service and has attended Travel Exchange to share the latest parks' information with NTA members. Contact him at [donald\\_leadbetter@nps.gov](mailto:donald_leadbetter@nps.gov).*



# Tourism Cares for New Orleans—times 3

BY ELLAINE DEEKEN, TOURISM CARES

THEY SAY the third time's a charm, but the first two weren't so bad, either.

On Sept. 20–21, Tourism Cares returns to the Big Easy for Tourism Cares for New Orleans. Here's a look back at what we gave (and got) during our 2004 and 2008 projects—and a look at what's ahead this year.

## 2004: Restoring a historic cemetery

More than 350 travel industry volunteers helped restore St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 in New Orleans—landscaping, cleaning and painting tombs in the city's oldest cemetery, which dates to 1789.

The hope was that our volunteer efforts would spur local groups to come out and do their own projects—which they did. School groups and the Tour Guide Association of New Orleans started regular preservation days, aided by the \$5,000 worth of supplies and equipment our group donated.

"St. Louis No. 1 is one of New Orleans' most treasured and toured landmarks, filled with history and legends of our city," says Stephen Perry, president and CEO of the New Orleans CVB. "Participants had the opportunity to

Cleaning tombstones in 2004



experience the culture and sites of New Orleans, while learning about the significance of the cemeteries and their place in our national heritage. It's an honor to have been chosen for this project."

Before the work began, the group kicked off the program in Jackson Square with breakfast provided by the legendary Café Du Monde and inspiration from a gospel choir. To further rally the volunteers, a Dixieland band led them in a procession through the French Quarter to Rampart Street, ending at the restoration site.

## 2008: Revitalizing Louis Armstrong Park

Between our first and second visits, the devastating Hurricane Katrina changed New Orleans forever. The need was overwhelming in the aftermath, but one small way we helped was by revitalizing Louis Armstrong Park, a gem located in the historical Tremé neighborhood. During the 1800s, enslaved and free African-Americans performed in this park on Sundays, the only day they could dance and sing in public.

But Hurricane Katrina threatened this cultural treasure. Floodwaters and hurricane winds damaged valuable electronic equipment and structural elements in the park's performance venues, rendering them unsuitable for use and significantly disrupting the Crescent City's performing arts schedule.

In 2008, our 320 volunteers painted fences, cleared debris and helped reopen Louis Armstrong Park for public use.

"It was great to help and do something for New Orleans," says 2008 volunteer Tonya Shipley, "It was a learning experience, and I enjoyed meeting the many people who came from all over the country to help—as well as the locals."

Thanks to many volunteers since then—and funding from the government for repairs—Louis Armstrong Park is still immensely popular.

"2008 was my first Tourism Cares event. I'm originally from New Orleans, and it was so meaningful to be able to assist with the city's recovery efforts," says Stephanie Roman, freelance writer and author. "I can't wait to volunteer again 10 years later!"

## 2018: Celebrating TC and NOLA

Our organization turns 15 this year, and at Tourism Cares for New Orleans, we'll celebrate in proper NOLA style. We'll adopt a neighborhood, and volunteers will work together to revitalize the area and support environmental sustainability. Our projects will help ensure that NOLA's distinct arts and culture continue to thrive.

Whether you were with us or not in '04 or '08, you can join us this September. Visit [tourismcares.org/neworleans](http://tourismcares.org/neworleans) for information and to sign up. ☕



# This is how we do it: 3 takes on TREX

NTA's annual convention is designed to maximize business opportunities for every delegate. *Courier* visited with three members who were in San Antonio—a first-time DMO attendee, a longtime tour operator and a sponsoring tour supplier—on how the show provides value for them and their organization. Registration for the Nov. 4–8 event in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is open at [NTAonline.com/convention](http://NTAonline.com/convention).



**Lindsey Seybert,**  
national sales manager  
Visit Albuquerque

**C:** After attending Travel Exchange in San Antonio, what advice would you give a first-timer?

**L:** Spend a few days prior to the event researching who you have appointments with—and who you'd like to meet while at the show. Put all your info in a binder for easy reference.

Travel Exchange is an opportunity to turn handshakes into profitable relationships. Despite it being an enormous event, I was provided numerous opportunities to meet colleagues, share commonalities, build relationships and learn invaluable information that I'll use for the rest of my life. Attend as many events as you can, wear comfortable shoes, bring lots of business cards and embrace the madness!

*"Travel Exchange is an opportunity to turn handshakes into profitable relationships."*

—Lindsey Seybert



**Jerry Varner,** president  
Making Memories Tours

**C:** Beyond the appointments, how does Travel Exchange work for you as a business owner?

**J:** There's a law that's just as profound and real as the law of gravitation: A business never stays the same; it's growing or dying—maybe slow, maybe fast, but it is moving. Coming to Travel Exchange puts me with people who do what I do. From the appointments, where I learn about new attractions and hotels, to the education seminars, which are pure gold for me, to just hanging out with fellow tour operators, I learn so much by just having a conversation with them. I can honestly say I've never come back from Travel Exchange and said, "Man, I should've just stayed home." If you're not there, you're missing out.

*"I've never come back from Travel Exchange and said, 'Man, I should've just stayed home.'"*

—Jerry Varner



**Angela Harness,** travel and  
tourism partnership manager  
Tanger Outlets

**C:** Some suppliers believe their DMO can represent them at TREX. Why do you choose to attend?

**A:** When you attend Travel Exchange, you not only are complementing your DMO's efforts, you're establishing your own relationships in the industry. It's extremely important that you create and foster relationships with the operators with whom you want to do business. By attending, you show the operators you're willing to make the investment in the group industry. Tanger knows the importance of relationships, and Travel Exchange gives us the face time to interact with our operators not only in a business setting, but also in a networking setting.

*"By attending, you show the operators you're willing to make the investment in the group industry."*

—Angela Harness

## Travel Exchange '18 at a glance

**When:** Nov. 4–8 | **Where:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin | **Web:** [NTAonline.com/convention](http://NTAonline.com/convention) | #TREX18

**Who:** NTA tour operators join with tour suppliers and DMOs who represent product from every U.S. state, Canadian province and 30-plus countries worldwide.

### Why register early?

- Seller registrants save \$300 on early-bird rates until June 12.
- Tour operators remain eligible for maximum rebate.
- Having an early registration date is a key factor for better-matched appointments. ☞

travel  
exchange





VIRGINIA BEACH

— LIVE THE LIFE —

ADVENTURES



## BRING YOUR GROUP TOUR TO LIFE

Make a difference on the shore, by the Bay, in a national park forest, marsh or waterway with hands-on field experiences and uncommon access offered exclusively for groups. Plan your Live the Life Adventure at [VisitVirginiaBeach.com/GroupTour](http://VisitVirginiaBeach.com/GroupTour).



COMPILED BY PAT HENDERSON



CC FLICKR/MARTIN CATHRAE: bit.ly/2GRb0v

## The fun never ends at Omega Park

As the seat of Canada's national government, Ottawa boasts a signature set of attractions and experiences for groups. Many itineraries include Parliament Hill and museums housing some of the country's most prized artifacts and valuable collections.

But according to Kelly Dean of Ottawa Tourism, groups can also head beyond the city's history-rich downtown area to visit Omega Park. "If you want to get up close to real Canadian wildlife, there's no better place to go than Omega Park," she says.

Located east of Ottawa in Montebello, Québec, the 2,200-acre nature reserve is home to elk, bison, caribou and four types of wolves, as well as many farm animals. A popular way to see more of the park is on one of the open-sided bus tours. Participants are encouraged to pick up carrots at the visitor center and feed them to the animals at certain points during the ride.

There are a number of other ways for travelers to get close to the animals, such as birds of prey demonstrations and daily wolf programs. Hikes along the Colonization Trail and the First Nations Trail also take them to additional wildlife habitats.

Omega Park complements the animal viewing with areas and exhibits that focus on Canadian history. At the Trading Post, costumed re-enactors share stories of the area's fur-trading heyday. Visitors can see fox, raccoon and otter pelts that would have been exchanged between Canada's Voyageur settlers and First Nations tribesmen.

Groups also can preorder carryout box lunches from the on-site restaurant. Guides offer suggestions for spots where the group can go to enjoy a picnic and be near deer, elk or other wildlife.

For more information, contact Dean at [kdean@ottawatourism.ca](mailto:kdean@ottawatourism.ca) or go to [ottawatourism.ca](http://ottawatourism.ca). —P.H.



Be inspired by the light of the Aurora Borealis. Renew your energy under the Midnight Sun. Experience the warmth of Fairbanks—Alaska's Golden Heart—and the gateway to Denali, Interior and Arctic Alaska.

 explore  
FAIRBANKS  
ALASKA

Call 1-877-551-1728 x3771 or visit [explorefairbanks.com](http://explorefairbanks.com) for free group tour information, itinerary assistance, visitor guides and maps.



## Drink up the past in The Mob Museum's newest exhibit


Located in downtown Las Vegas, The Mob Museum debuted a new Prohibition history exhibition, "The Underground," to the public in April.

The exhibition's centerpiece is a moonshine distillery, with the surrounding displays telling the stories of bootleggers, rum runners and the government agents who tried to take them down.

Designed as an immersive experience, The Underground allows visitors to see the working moonshine still and a speakeasy, all strategically located in the museum's basement. Even though Prohibition shut down thousands of breweries and distilleries, it did not quench the public's thirst for alcohol, thus creating secret watering holes that became some of the most glamorous gathering places. Maybe more significant, groups can learn how Prohibition, forcing alcohol production into illegality, contributed to the increase and rise of the mob in America.

On display are authentic artifacts from the era, including a beaded chiffon dress (circa 1926), an example of bolder fashions that became popular during the 1920s with the rise of the flapper culture and a 5-gallon whiskey still, a smaller still used to make alcohol inside a home.

The speakeasy, decorated in art deco-inspired motifs, features the museum's own house-distilled spirits (like genuine moonshine made from corn mash), house-brewed beer and Prohibition-era cocktails.

Visiting groups of 10 or more qualify for special rates, and the museum offers timed ticketing with express entry for groups. To learn more, call +1.702.229.2713 or visit [themobmuseum.org](http://themobmuseum.org). —K.F. 



CHRIS WESSLING

Moonshine distillery

  
You call it  
a fort tour.  
We call it  
time traveling.

...that's  
**SAVANNAH**  
- EST. 1733

 Old Fort Jackson

VISIT  
**SAVANNAH**  
EST. 1733

Let Savannah draw you in with its natural beauty, rich history and coastal cuisine on your next group getaway. Start planning your trip today at [VisitSavannah.com](http://VisitSavannah.com)!

     
[VisitSavannah.com](http://VisitSavannah.com)  
[#visitsavannah](https://www.instagram.com/visitsavannah)



# Meaningful and magnificent

Tourism Cares with Jordan made for a memorable journey

BY BOB ROUSE

“WHAT’S THE JORDAN BRAND?”

That’s the question Dr. Abed al Razzaq Arabiyat, managing director of the Jordan Tourism Board, posed to 70 of us in February at the outset of Tourism Cares with Jordan, an event designed to showcase the country and its social enterprises tourism program.

We represented many cogs of the travel industry: tour companies, associations, media, transportation providers and other related businesses. What we had in common was a love for travel and a spirit of goodwill.

Many of us were experienced Tourism Cares volunteers, and JTB and the Jordan Inbound Tour Operators Association joined with Tourism Cares to plan the Feb. 23 to March 3 event.

‘We have it all’

Dr. Arabiyat answered his own question: “Well, we have it all: history, culture, religion, adventure and wellness.”

I wondered: Is “all” enough, branding-wise? It sounded vague—even over-promising. Too close to “something for everyone.”

I knew Jordan had something for outdoor adventure. I had written in this magazine about the Jordan Trail, a spectacular 404-mile trek. And look, I like to hike as much as the next guy, but only if the next guy isn’t planning to walk for 38 days.

I also knew a little about Petra and the centuries of culture in Jordan from listening to Malia Asfour, who manages the JTB North America office and is active in NTA. She’s been telling me for years that I had to see Jordan for myself, and I was eager to do just that, especially on an escorted tour among like-minded people.

On that first morning in Amman, I would need some convincing to agree that Jordan has it all. Using Dr. Arabiyat’s branding advice as themes, I’ll share some of the “all” I found.

**Greg Takehara, Trip Mate**

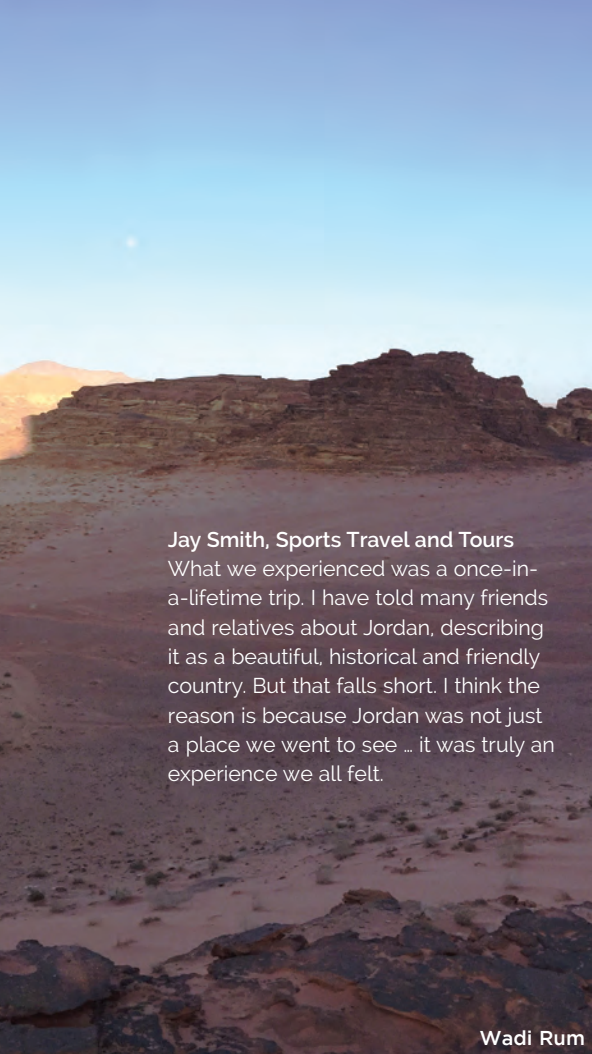
“I continue to marvel at the convening power of Tourism Cares and the travel industry at large. We took in the relevance of Jordan’s geography, the richness of its history, and the beauty and hospitality of its people. I felt at ease there. Like the salt in the Dead Sea, it lifted me up. It gave me some hope there will be peace in the Middle East and in the world.”



CATHERINE PRATHER

Greg with Kati Hagedorn and Kami Risk





Wadi Rum



BOB ROUSE

### Jay Smith, Sports Travel and Tours

What we experienced was a once-in-a-lifetime trip. I have told many friends and relatives about Jordan, describing it as a beautiful, historical and friendly country. But that falls short. I think the reason is because Jordan was not just a place we went to see ... it was truly an experience we all felt.

### Hadrian's Gate to history

Our first day of touring took us to Jerash, and Jerash took us back 3,200 years.

The city is one of Jordan's most visited sites and holds a startling array of archaeological treasures, covered for centuries by dirt and debris from

earthquakes. The oldest parts of Jerash, excavated as recently as 1976, date to the beginning of the Iron Age, 1200 B.C. In the centuries that followed, Jerash was occupied by Roman, Byzantine and Islamic civilizations.

Hadrian's Gate, a 36-foot arch completed in A.D. 130, is within a stone's throw of the Hippodrome, a huge arena built later in the second century. Our stroll through Jerash took us along colonnaded streets, up rocky hills and down ancient steps to view what remains of churches, fountains, temples and theaters.

It was a treat to walk with Dr. Monther Jamhawi, director general of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, and hear him explain how each structure we passed once served the everyday lives of Jerash residents ... a million days ago.

### Platefuls of culture

When I read, prior to our trip, about traditional Jordanian foods, I predicted I would

lose weight. Though I was familiar with hummus, I had not had the occasion to sample much baba ghanoush, falafel or mansaf (lamb with rice in yogurt sauce) at home in Midway, Kentucky.

Like most of my predictions, this one was not exactly accurate. Despite extensive walking (though far short of 404 miles), I gained a pound or two on the trip. The food and the fellowship were fantastic.

No Jordanian meal was more impactful than lunch at Bait Khayrat Souf. The business is staffed by local women—gracious and inviting—who now earn incomes for their families. Along with serving delicious local fare to groups passing through Souf in motorcoaches and on bikes, the women sell a variety of jams, herbs, coffee and other products.

Bait Khayrat Souf is part of the Meaningful Travel Map of Jordan, which includes 12 social enterprises that give visitors an authentic experience while channeling earnings to local residents.



JORDAN TOURISM BOARD

Hadrian's Gate



JORDAN TOURISM BOARD

Lunch at Bait Khayrat Souf

### Paula Twidale, Collette

"Jordan is an amazing and welcoming destination filled with history and culture. As it was my first visit, I had the joy of seeing Jordan through an unfiltered lens that showcased the creativity and determination of its people."

Collette currently offers Jordan as an extension from our Israel tours as well as our Arabian Peninsula tour. We are contemplating offering a stand-alone Explorations tour that features more of the Meaningful Travel Map sites that would appeal to a younger and more active guest. Social responsibility is one of our core values, so this type of product can fit into our future."





Jordan River

KAMI RISK

## In step with my religion

Jordan is primarily a Muslim country, but pilgrims (and backsliders) of many faiths—Christianity, Judaism and Islam—can visit inspiring spiritual sites, many of which are in the Jordan River Valley.

We stayed two nights at the Dead Sea, which is fed by the river. Our time there was magical. Even loaded with falafel and mansaf, I floated atop the sea, its salinity 10 times that of the Atlantic Ocean. I even slathered on some of the therapeutic mud (more for optics than for healing). And a traditional Jordanian banquet under the evening stars made us all feel like royalty.

Early on a Sunday morning, a short ride took us from the Dead Sea Marriott to Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, the place

**Pam Inman, NTA**  
 "The Tourism Cares experience provided me the opportunity to see travel in a whole different perspective: building a community by strengthening its women through employment in tourism. I now feel a spiritual connection to Jordan, one that makes me want to return to rekindle that emotion. I was captivated by Jordan—visiting the River Jordan, floating in the Dead Sea and snorkeling in the Red Sea—and each day brought more relaxing, memorable moments."

where John the Baptist lived and is believed to have baptized Jesus.

Archaeologists continue to uncover baptismal pools, churches and homes that put Old Testament passages in context, and many of the world's Christian denominations have built churches at the site to host pilgrims.

Standing on the bank of the Jordan River, I was surprised that it was no wider than the Elkhorn Creek, which runs beside my old Kentucky home. Seeing armed soldiers—Jordanians near us and Israeli soldiers 30 or 40 yards away across the river—reminded me of the region's strife.

Let me speak to that. Located in the Middle East, Jordan is surrounded by, as the locals say, loud neighbors. But Jordan is a quiet oasis, a stable country. I saw many security measures—metal detectors in hotels and soldiers at highly visited areas, plus we were always escorted by a tourism police officer—and I never felt unsafe.

## Chris Babb, The Group Tour Company

"We have been looking for a destination to launch our first international program for travel agents, and we are very excited to launch Jordan in 2019. Each program will be customized to an agency's brand and sold to their clients. Having spent 15 days in Jordan, I see country as a stand-alone destination, and clients should plan on spending between 10 to 14 days there.

We also think Jordan would be the perfect program for a family group. You have to build a program that satisfies everyone from grandparents and parents down to the grandchildren. It's our hope that combining historical sites with the experiences along the Meaningful Travel Map will allow travelers to get to know the country and its people in an authentic way."



BOB ROUSE



CATHERINE PRATHER

I felt something else beside the legendary river.

After hearing the guide's narrative, seeing the excavated sites and grasping the significance of Bethany-beyond-the-Jordan, I found myself humming a song from my days in the church choir:

*I walked today where Jesus walked ... in days of long ago.*



Petra

JORDAN TOURISM BOARD

## A perfect Petra adventure

Over the millennia, the ancient city of Petra has been occupied by nomadic tribes, Israelites, Edomites, Nabateans, Romans, Crusaders and Arabs. Spending two days amid the façades, monuments and caves carved into colorful sandstone seemed like a grain in an hourglass, but Petra grabs hold of you pretty fast.

The Petra experience begins with your first look at the wondrous stone walls amid the clamor of locals offering to transport you through the Siq canyon. An easy 20-minute walk stokes





anticipation for what you know is coming: the Treasury, the façade that is the face of Jordan tourism.

And then you see it. Through a narrow opening of the canyon walls, you spot a sliver of the impossibly intricate

and grand monument. It's breathtaking. Carved some 2,000 years ago, the Treasury, despite its name, is thought to have been used as a temple or tomb.

For my money, though, the Treasury is the second-best marvel of Petra. The Monastery, an even larger monument, offers more, but you have to earn it. The arduous ascent up 990 steps is not for the faint of heart nor the weak of knees. But you can rest along the way and relish the fantastic views of surrounding mountains and valleys.

You learn a lot about a person when you share a climb like this, and new friendships grew stronger as we hiked (and huffed and puffed) together. And we shared a celebration at the top, where we were rewarded with magnificent vistas and an enormous monument.

Two days weren't enough, but those 990 steps were plenty.

### Red Sea wellness

Touring is hard work, you know. After days of hiking through archaeological sites and sandstone marvels, overnighting in Wadi Rum at a Bedouin camp, and rocking a desert ride on camels, we coached south to Aqaba, Jordan's beach resort on the Red Sea.

Our rooms weren't ready, but our host hotel, Kempinski, graciously allowed us to shower and change from our desert camping clothes and prepare for an afternoon cruise aboard a gorgeous wood schooner.

The sun was warm, the food was fabulous and the drinks were cool and

refreshing. The water temperature, too, was cool, but I didn't pass up the opportunity to take a dip in the Red Sea, and several of my shipmates swam off with snorkeling gear.

I don't know if this was what Dr. Arabiyat meant when he spoke of "wellness" as a Jordan tourism brand, but I've never felt more relaxed and full of life than I did aboard that ship, surrounded by friends.

### Having it all

My Jordan journey was a dream trip. Experiencing this phenomenal country alongside exceptional companions made for a memorable and impactful expedition. The only challenge has been tempering my enthusiasm when I tell back-home folks about it. I don't want to be *that* guy, you know. So I don't gush.

What I do is riff on Dr. Arabiyat's brand statement. Do you want to see spectacular sights? Jordan has them. Get steeped in history? Yeah, it's *way* old. Relax at a seaside resort? Yep—Red and Dead. Step outside your comfort zone? Absolutely, a whole other culture is yours to explore.

Then you add warm, hospitable people and a national project that injects social significance into a travel experience ... and you have it all.

Here's how I finish, just short of gushing: If you've always been curious about the magical Middle East, but you've been a little afraid to venture there, Jordan is the answer. A meaningful, magnificent answer. ☺



BOB ROUSE

Malia (center) with Jessica Ahern and John Meyer

**Malia Asfour,**  
Jordan Tourism Board North America  
(and a member of the Tourism Cares  
Board of Directors)

"Organizing this event through two organizations was like planning 20 weddings at the same time.

One goal was to spotlight the Meaningful Travel Map and to expose people to new ways of travel that put dollars into the right hands and at the right places.

It was also a B-to-B success. Tour operators who had not handled Jordan before are now planning to feature the country. And companies that had featured Jordan are adding nights and changing itineraries to include social enterprise sites.

And on a personal level, it was awesome: We all went to Jordan as colleagues, but we left as family."

# Brew City:

## A new city for NTA's convention

In a few months, hundreds of NTA tour operators, tour suppliers, destination reps and other professionals will gather in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for what promises to be one cool convention, Nov. 4-8.

And while Travel Exchange delegates will get a good look (and taste) of the city during sightseeing trips, evening events, dine-around nights and DIY explorations, Milwaukee merits more time for soaking up culture and cocktails, food and festivals, sports and spectacular RiverWalk.

VISIT Milwaukee has a long list of ideas for any itinerary, from student to sports to seniors; here are three of them:

### Harley-Davidson Museum

Located on 20 acres in downtown Milwaukee, the museum offers a glimpse of American history and culture through the successes and trials of the iconic company. "This is much more than a nostalgia trip for motorcycle enthusiasts," says Brian Hutchings of VISIT Milwaukee. "Harley-Davidson motorcycles bring a bit of rebellion into the lives of everyone, and the museum's interactive, eye-catching exhibits present an unparalleled collection of legendary stories."

[harley-davidson.com](http://harley-davidson.com)



Pam Inman, NTA president, at the Harley-Davidson Museum

### Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

"This is Wisconsin's No. 1 tourist destination, and you'll find all of your nightlife needs under one roof: seven restaurants, entertainment and top-notch gaming," Hutchings says. "The hotel opened in 2014, and Potawatomi will open the doors to a second hotel tower in the spring of 2019, which will bring the room count to 500." The new addition will also include more meeting space and a deluxe spa to get pampered in before you head out to the casino floor. [paysbig.com](http://paysbig.com)

### Wisconsin Entertainment and Sports Center

The state-of-the-art Wisconsin Entertainment and Sports Center is scheduled to open this summer, promising NBA fans a stunning new venue for Milwaukee Bucks action, college basketball, concerts and more. The first acts announced for the arena include Maroon 5, Jim Gaffigan and Justin Timberlake. [wisconsinesc.com](http://wisconsinesc.com)

For more information about these attractions and other Milwaukee info, contact Hutchings at [bhutchings@milwaukee.org](mailto:bhutchings@milwaukee.org) or go to [visitmilwaukee.org](http://visitmilwaukee.org).

Join us in thanking  
our Travel Exchange  
'18 Sponsors!

#### PLATINUM

**BW** | Best Western  
Hotels & Resorts

Best Western  
Hotels & Resorts  
Registration Bags  
& Tourism Rocks

**BROADWAY**  
Inbound

Broadway Inbound  
NYC Center Stage  
Luncheon



Delta Air Lines  
Official NTA Airline  
Partner, Delta  
Lounge & China  
Market Sessions



Harley-Davidson  
Museum  
Icebreaker



Norwegian Cruise Line  
Wednesday Luncheon  
& China Inbound  
Operator Dinner



NYC & Company  
NYC Center Stage  
Luncheon



VISIT Milwaukee  
Host Destination  
& Activities

#### GOLD



Ed-Ventures  
FTA Breakfast &  
TBD Sponsorship



Hard Rock Cafe  
International  
Tourism Rocks



Las Vegas Convention  
& Visitors Authority  
Tourism Rocks



Tanger Outlets  
Appointment Clock  
& NTA Staff Apparel



Visit Tucson  
Thursday Luncheon



Voxnetwork USA  
Travel Exchange  
Headsets



# It's **ALL IN** Here!

**GATHER YOUR GROUP AND PLAN A TRIP TO  
THE MIDWEST'S #1 ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION.**

- Over 2,500 Slots
- Nonstop Bingo Action
- 100 Table Games
- Poker & Off-Track Betting
- 7 Restaurants
- Live Entertainment
- 19-Story Luxury Hotel



For day trip groups of 10 or more, contact Lisa Pederson  
at **414-847-7982** or **LPEDERSON@PAYSBIG.COM**.

For overnight stay groups of 10+ rooms, contact Sales  
& Catering at **414-847-8600** or **SALES@PAYSBIG.COM**.



**POTAWATOMI**  
— HOTEL & CASINO® —



LUCY SAUNDERS

## A six-pack of top spots

BY LUCY SAUNDERS

Milwaukee is the birthplace of beer tourism in the United States and its brewing heritage is now blooming again, with more than 20 new breweries and even more restaurants, hotels and historical attractions. As a long-time local beer writer, I'm still delighted by the sight of the limestone "Cream City Brick" brewery towers by Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee River.

Here is a six-pack of top spots to enjoy:

### Lakefront Brewery

The brewery on the banks of the Milwaukee River offers the city's most raucous beer tour—and one of the top five brewery tours in the nation, according to TripAdvisor. Lakefront offers suds-filled storytelling, with some agility required to clamber among the mash tuns. The beer may be deliciously sampled before, during and after the tour. Save room for the grilled sausages and beer-battered cheese curds.

### Milwaukee Art Museum

The inspiration for the VISIT Milwaukee logo sets its stunning white wings hovering over the lake: the Burke Brise Soleil, designed by architect Santiago Calatrava. The museum's permanent collection features over 30,000 works, and the award-winning Calatrava Café is a luminous setting where visitors can sample Wisconsin specialty cheeses and charcuterie, or the spicy roasted cauliflower and quinoa salad.

### Pabst Brewery

The old Pabst Brewery chapel has been renovated into a tasting room for the re-launched brewery, so it's now possible to get a fresh draft of the classic lager. Part of a fascinating urban redevelopment by the Zilber Company, the Pabst Brewery Complex includes a new film center, apartments and the nearby Brewhouse Inn and Suites, with its copper brew kettle-lined lobby.

### Milwaukee County Parks

Beer gardens abound within the Milwaukee County Parks, multiple locations that offer picnic areas, a nature center, hiking trails, bicycle paths and even golf courses on the bluffs looking over Lake Michigan. Though the beer gardens are seasonal, enjoy drinks and steamed mussels at the Bartolotta Lake Park Bistro, or venture to the harborside Colectivo Coffee's Lakefront Café.

### Twisted Path Distillery and Top Note Tonics

If you savor discovering new flavors, you'll want to tour the Twisted Path Distillery and Top Note Tonics. Located in the Fifth Ward, Twisted Path is a small distillery that makes certified organic spirits entirely from scratch, with an exceptional gin and dark rum. Nearby, Top Note Tonics offers cocktail classes using founder Mary Pelletieri's delicious mixers infused with ginger, gentian and more botanicals.

*Lucy Saunders is the author of five cookbooks and loves living near Lake Michigan in Milwaukee.*

## SILVER



Cracker Barrel Old Country Store  
Cracker Barrel Lounge



Deadwood Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau  
On-site Guide



Discover Klamath VCB  
On-site Guide



Explore Charleston  
Buyer Hand Sanitizer



Explore St. Louis  
*Travel Exchange Daily*



The Group  
Travel Leader  
Media Sponsor



Hilmar Cheese  
Company Visitor Center  
Happy Hour: Cheese



Historic Temple Square  
Refreshments



Milwaukee City & Food Tours  
Sightseeing Tours



Premier Travel Media  
Media Sponsor



Prevost Car Inc.  
Motorcoach Exhibit



Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum  
Refreshments & *Travel Exchange Daily*



Serendipity Media  
Media Sponsor



Sports Leisure Vacations  
Board of Directors & Past President/  
Chair Reception



Sweet Home Alabama  
Board of Directors & Past President/  
Chair Dinner





Team Texas  
Refreshments:  
Soft Drinks



Travel Oregon  
Refreshments &  
On-site Guide



Travel Portland  
Refreshments &  
On-site Guide



Virginia Beach  
Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
Buyer Appointments  
Table Gift



Visit Fort Worth  
Thursday Luncheon

## BRONZE



Academic Travel  
Abroad  
*Travel Exchange Daily*



Campbell County  
Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
Profile Form Notebook



Chattanooga  
Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
*Travel Exchange Daily*



Coral Castle  
On-site Guide



The Group Tour  
Company  
Government Relations  
Breakfast Bistro &  
Owners Network  
Reception



Newseum  
*Travel Exchange Daily*



Ocean City MD CVB  
Profile Form  
Notebook & *Travel  
Exchange Daily*



Space Camp at U.S.  
Space & Rocket Center  
Profile Form Notebook

HENRYK SADURA



# New for Travel Exchange

Take a good look at the pipe and drape pictured below in the appointment booths, because you won't see it in Milwaukee. Updating the Travel Exchange floor is the first of many recommendations from Minding Your Business, the research firm NTA hired to examine our convention.

"You'll see a more modern look with colorful signage and banners," says Katey Pease, NTA vice president. "We want to promote comfortable conversations without changing the function of appointments."

Pease adds that members will get what they've asked for: an energetic space that's conducive to sharing information and making deals.

NAIM HASSAN



## Sponsor much?

Listed on these pages are the Travel Exchange '18 sponsors. If you're considering joining them, know that your NTA sponsorship team wants to find a customized fit for your budget. Get started by emailing Laura McFadden: [laura.mcfadden@ntastaff.com](mailto:laura.mcfadden@ntastaff.com).

*"Sponsorship was the No. 1 thing that people mentioned to me in appointments. It's hard to beat that level of exposure."*

—Peter Waugh, Broadway Inbound



# Stop and stare



**National parks give visitors reasons for pause ... and applause**

COMPILED BY PAT HENDERSON



Sometimes, staring is just the best option. Not in a creepy sort of way, but rather in a mouth-wide-open-wow-I-can't-believe-what-I'm-seeing way.

Like when you get your first glimpse of the stunning turquoise waters at Alberta's Lake Louise.

Or when your eyes see the oversized eyes of Abraham Lincoln looking out on the National Mall from his namesake memorial.

Or when you gaze up at artistic stalactites adorning the interior of ancient Carlsbad Caverns.

These and thousands of other memorable experiences await at the more than 600 sites that are managed by the U.S. National Park Service and Parks Canada. Read on to learn more about some of these magnificent places.

## Caves to rave about

Underground exploration is front and center at the many caves found in North American national parks. When they visit the following three U.S. caves, groups can take part in guided walks that showcase the amazing rock formations or go for more demanding wild cave tours and spelunking adventures.

### Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Below the Chihuahuan Desert lie the remains of millions of years of erosion and sculpting. A quarter-mile trail leads to one of the New Mexico cave's signature features, the aptly named Big Room, which is 4,000 feet wide and 255 feet high. Carlsbad also is known for its night sky programs.

### Mammoth Cave National Park

Located in the hills of south-central Kentucky, this attraction is home to the world's longest known cave system. There are a number of ranger-led tours, which take groups to notable areas including Frozen Niagara, Grand Avenue and Fat Man's Misery.

### Wind Cave National Park

As they explore hundreds of miles of passageways, visitors can see Wind Cave's rarely found boxwork, a honeycomb-like pattern formed on the rocks. Above ground, bison, elk and other wildlife are visible among the rolling prairie of western South Dakota.

New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns is an underground world of magnificent stalactites, stalagmites and other rock and ice formations.

GAVIN NEWMANN/NPS



# EXPERIENCE UPSTATE CALIFORNIA



*Pictured (Above): Lassen Volcanic National Park*

*Pictured (Below, Left to Right): Sundial Bridge, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta Dam, McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park*



Located in the heart of Northern California, the picturesque city of Redding serves as an outdoor adventure playground for all group travel. Only a 2 hour drive north of Sacramento and 3 hours from San Francisco, Redding's wide variety of natural attractions with historical importance makes it an ideal destination for all ages and group sizes. Officially the sunniest city in California, Redding is surrounded by national and state parks, mountains, volcanoes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, caves, trails, and educational sites with informative guided group tours. Best of all, the lack of traffic and 2,000+ hotel rooms make for effortless tour bus accommodations and the 300+ restaurants offer a vast array to all tastes and appetites. Let us create a custom itinerary for your group today.



**Jennifer Fontana, Group Coordinator**  
(530) 225-4010 [Jennifer@VisitRedding.com](mailto:Jennifer@VisitRedding.com)  
[VisitRedding.com/GroupsAndMeetings](http://VisitRedding.com/GroupsAndMeetings)





McKinley Station Trail Walk

CC FLICKR/NPS-NATHAN KOSTEGIAN; bit.ly/2i401R



Sled dog team

CC FLICKR/JOSEPH bit.ly/2iNEbmo

## Discovering dazzling Denali

Let's be honest, there is no way to miss Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve.

For starters, the park is home to North America's highest point, the 20,310-foot Denali peak. Secondly, at a whopping 6 million acres, it is larger than five states (Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Rhode Island). But what those massive numbers don't account for is the massive beauty that awaits within its borders.

"The park's varied terrain includes brilliant mountains, pristine rivers and lakes, colorful tundra, alpine meadows, sweeping vistas and abundant wildlife," says Scott McCrea, director of tourism for Explore Fairbanks. "Along the way you may spot moose, caribou, Dall sheep, grizzly bears, wolves or any of the hundreds of other species that call the park home."

A visit typically starts at the main information center, which is open during the summer months. Groups can see an introductory film, check out exhibits about the natural and cultural history of the Denali area, and join a variety of talks from park rangers. The visitor center also is the departure point for the popular bus tours that head along the 92-mile-long Denali Park Road.

Two of the more unique ways to see the park are flightseeing excursions and rafting trips. Local outfitters offer tours in helicopters or small planes that take guests high above the vast landscape and allow them to see the rugged peaks of the Alaska Range up close. Rafting tours run the gamut from heart-pumping paddling adventures through raging whitewater rapids to float trips and canoeing outings on serene lakes.

McCrea says another aspect of local culture—sled dog racing—also can be explored. "Denali is the only national park with a kennel of working sled dogs, and (groups can) stop by to meet the dogs or attend a ranger-led mushing demonstration."

For more information, reach out to McCrea at [smccrea@explorefairbanks.com](mailto:smccrea@explorefairbanks.com) or visit [explorefairbanks.com](http://explorefairbanks.com).



**Come with a group,  
leave with yourself.**

**It's possible; in fact, probable.**

Forever Resorts' unique historic lodging and adventure tours ensure your guests a wonderful range of experiences in America's pristine wilderness.

**Lodging: 480.627.5308**

Grand Canyon Lodge-North Rim, AZ  
Rock Harbor Lodge, MI  
Chisos Mountains Lodge, TX  
Big Bend Adventures & Resort, TX  
Parry Lodge/Denny's Wigwam, UT  
The Lodge at Bryce Canyon, UT

**Snow Tours, WY: 888.734.8898**

**Hummer Tours, UT:  
435.644.5700**

**Southfork Ranch, TX: 800.989.7800**

**ForeverResorts.com**



Forever Resorts is an Authorized Concessioner of the National Park Service.



*Meet Me in*  
**TUOLUMNE COUNTY**  
3 VACATIONS, ONE INCREDIBLE DESTINATION!



**YOU'RE INVITED TO PLAN  
THE ULTIMATE GROUP GETAWAY!**

Visit [visittuolumne.com](http://visittuolumne.com), or contact Katie Kirkland,  
Communications and Tourism Manager, [katie@gotuolumne.com](mailto:katie@gotuolumne.com)  
for customized itineraries and details about our meetings incentive program.







## Redding-area parks boast volcanoes, waterfalls

National park enthusiasts who head to California have a seemingly endless array of experiences awaiting them.

They can be dwarfed by mammoth redwoods and sequoias at the big trees' namesake parks, experience the otherworldly desert environs of Death Valley and Joshua Tree, and stand beneath renowned rock formations, such as Half Dome and El Capitan, at Yosemite.

Adding to that diversity are two A-list spots situated in the north-central part of the state near Redding: Lassen Volcanic National Park and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

"The best part about coming to Redding is you can travel an hour in any direction and be surrounded by awe-inspiring natural beauty, including lakes, mountains, waterfalls and volcanoes," says Jennifer Fontana, industry relations and

group coordinator for the Redding CVB.

Lassen, which is an hour east of the city, remains one of North America's most active hydrothermal areas. The park's volcano last blew its top in 1915, and minor eruptions continued through the next decade. Things have settled down considerably in the ensuing years, but visitors can still see (and smell) a number of active spots—Bumpass Hell, the Sulphur Works, Boiling Springs Lake and Devils Kitchen.

For all of the park's bubbling and gurgling, it also is home to peaceful meadows, lush Red Fir and mixed-conifer forests, pristine high-altitude lakes, ever-present snowfields and even a section of painted dunes near Cinder Cone. Groups can see those features up close as part of driving tours, ranger-led programs and hiking excursions. For more active travelers,



At Niagara Falls State Park, you don't just see the Falls. You hear them, feel them and immerse yourself in wonder. Only here can you get closer than you ever imagined, making this moment impossible to forget.

Experience all 5 park attractions and save with the Discovery Pass.

[NiagaraFallsStatePark.com](http://NiagaraFallsStatePark.com)

SOAKING IT ALL IN



Hospitality by Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts, Inc.  
©2018 Niagara Falls State Park



Juniper Lake is a top spot for canoeing, and kayak rentals are available at Manzanita Lake.

When it comes to on-the-water experiences, the Redding region's main attraction is Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Crystal-clear Whiskeytown Lake is a prime destination for boating, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving, canoeing and fishing. Its more than 35 miles of shoreline also include large beach areas that are perfect for swimming.

Beyond the lake, travelers can stick with the water theme by hiking to Brandy Creek Falls, Boulder Creek Falls, Crystal Creek Falls and Whiskeytown Falls. In honor of its big four falls, the park has hosted Waterfall Week the past few years to commemorate National Park Week. Visitors receive a stamp for their waterfall passports after they've hiked to each site, and those completing all four during the mid-April event earn a special prize.

In addition to seeing Lassen and Whiskeytown, visits to state parks around Redding can round out a nature-based itinerary. Fontana says groups can check in for a lesson on California gold rush history at Shasta State Historic Park and check out the limestone caves at Lake Shasta Caverns National Natural Landmark. Another local favorite she recommends is McArthur-Burney Falls State Memorial Park and its namesake falls that were dubbed the Eighth Wonder of the World by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.

Contact Fontana at [jennifer@visitredding.com](mailto:jennifer@visitredding.com) or go to [visitredding.com](http://visitredding.com) to learn more.



CC FLICKR/RUBENGARCIA/PHOTOGRAPHY: BILLYZIVBCH

Whiskeytown's Brandy Creek Falls

# Visit the Grand Canyon

## Seeing is Believing!

- Grand Canyon National Park
- Hoover Dam
- Indian Country Grand Canyon West
- Grand Canyon Overnight Packages
- Group Charters
- Grand Canyon Overnight with the Grand Canyon Railway

Proud member of



**Grand Canyon**  
Tour & Travel

1-800-4-CANYON • 702-361-7628 • [www.grandcanyontourandtravel.com](http://www.grandcanyontourandtravel.com)



## Hitchin' a ride at Riding Mountain

Located 60 miles north of Brandon in the southwest Manitoba, Riding Mountain National Park showcases the beauty of area's forests, lakes, flora and wildlife.

True to the riding part of its name, the park is a top spot for horseback tours. Local outfitters offer a variety of options for expert riders and novices alike that take them out on popular

routes, such as the North Escarpment Trail, the Ochre River Trail and Central Trail. The 250 miles of trails throughout the park also are put to good use by hikers, bicyclists, birders and, in the winter, cross-country skiers.

As they head out on those pathways, groups can check out Riding Mountain's abundant wildlife. Animals to be discovered include everything from moose, elk and black bears to deer, wolves and owls. The park's resident bison herd, which can be found near Lake Audy, is a visitor favorite.

School groups have plenty of options when they visit, including indigenous interpretation programs such as Dancing on the Land, Speaking Circle and Sounds of the Anishinabe Fiddle. The nonprofit Friends of Riding Mountain National Park also offers a series of interactive, age-specific learning adventures.

Riding Mountain is unique in that it's one of only five Parks Canada sites that includes a resort town-site. Located along the shores of Clear Lake, picturesque Wasagamung oozes small-town charm with its blend of quaint shops, boutiques and restaurants.

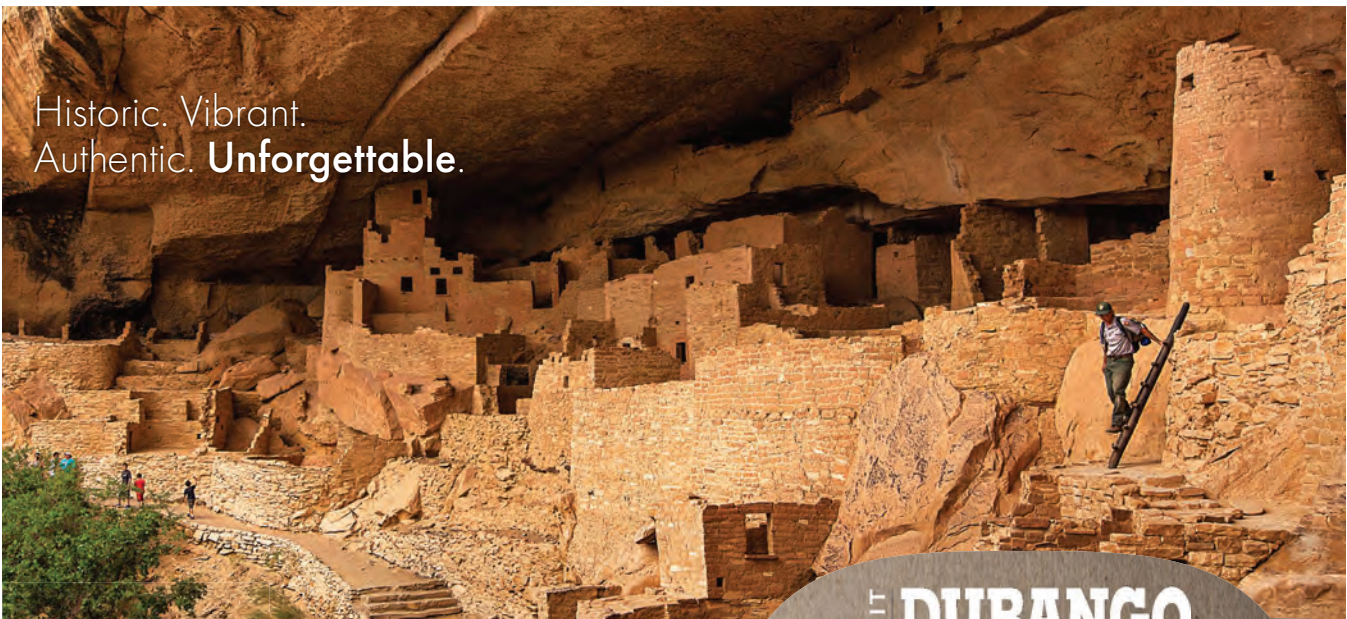
To learn more, contact Parks Canada's Jennifer Burnell at [jennifer.burnell@pc.gc.ca](mailto:jennifer.burnell@pc.gc.ca) or go to [pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding](http://pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/mb/riding). 📍

Bison herd at Lake Audy



CC FLICKR/NORM ANDREW: btl1/2/Fvot

Historic. Vibrant.  
Authentic. **Unforgettable.**



VISIT **DURANGO**  
COLORADO

Surrounded by stunning vistas, ancient dwellings, and historic mining towns, Durango is alive with adventure.

Visit nearby Mesa Verde National Park, ride the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, and immerse your group in the distinctive spirit of the Southwest.



Julianne Fredrick | [julianne@durango.org](mailto:julianne@durango.org) | 970-459-9055



## CITY SPOTLIGHT: LOS ANGELES

# Ooh La La Land

BY PATTI NICKELL

MOVIE MECCA, denizen of dreamers,  
Left Coast liberal haven ...

The vast sprawl that is Los Angeles inspires a lot of feelings from the rest of the country—many of them, it seems, negative. East Coast residents deride its “lack of culture.” Northerners, who judge a person’s mettle by how far below freezing it must go before he’ll put on a coat, sneer at L.A.’s succession of sunny, balmy days. Southerners and Midwesterners claim it’s Sodom and Gomorrah rolled into one godless megalopolis.

Methinks they all protest too much. L.A. may be spread-out and smoggy, glitzy and gritty, over-indulgent and opulent, kitschy and Kardashian-heavy. But it’s also one big delight in—as they say in the film industry—cinemascope and technicolor.

Los Angeles appears as a jumble of neighborhoods in search of a city. Where exactly does Hollywood become West Hollywood? Where is the dividing line between Beverly Hills, Bel-Air and Brentwood, and where does Westwood fit in? Is Santa Monica anywhere near Santa Ana? And does the city have anything resembling a core?

Determined to find out, I began my odyssey in West Hollywood, which is distinctly different from Hollywood. The latter often surprises first-time visitors with its slightly seedy appearance, but West Hollywood is hip and trendy, a glossy magazine spread of a locale.



Tour operators can do with a group what I did: Walking map in hand, I was off to see the Wizard. It was allegedly at an earlier incarnation of the Rainbow Bar & Grill on the famous Sunset Strip that the idea for “The Wizard of Oz” movie came to fruition. If that isn’t enough cinematic magic, it’s also where Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio first met on a blind date.

Seeking the darker side of celebrity, I stopped for a coffee at the legendary Chateau Marmont, a hotel whose famous clientele have exhibited behavior that’s alternately good (Humphrey Bogart tended a garden here), bad (members of Led Zeppelin rode their motorcycles through the lobby) and ugly (John Belushi met his end in one of the rooms).

Sadly, some of the Strip’s former landmarks are nothing but memories. The glamorous nightclubs of Hollywood’s golden era—the Mocambo and Trocadero—are gone; the art deco Argyle, once an apartment building whose famous tenants included Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable, is now a hotel; and all that remains of that 1950s TV address—77 Sunset Strip—is a commemorative plaque.

However, travelers of a certain age will be delighted to know that the carhops at Mel’s Diner still bring your burger, fries and shake on roller skates, just as they did in “American Graffiti,” and the infamous Whiskey a Go Go, an anchor on the Strip since the Swinging Sixties, is still a go-go-going.

*NTA members are listed in bold letters.*



## Next stop: Santa Monica

From the hills of West Hollywood to the beaches of Santa Monica is a mere 25-minute drive, but the two are separated by light years in lifestyle.

If West Hollywood is the epitome of hip edginess, Santa Monica is the definition of laid-back casualness. Life here really is a beach—miles and miles of it—and everything in this palm-fringed community seems to focus on it.

The main drag, Ocean Avenue, parallels the Pacific, and a lovely seaside park

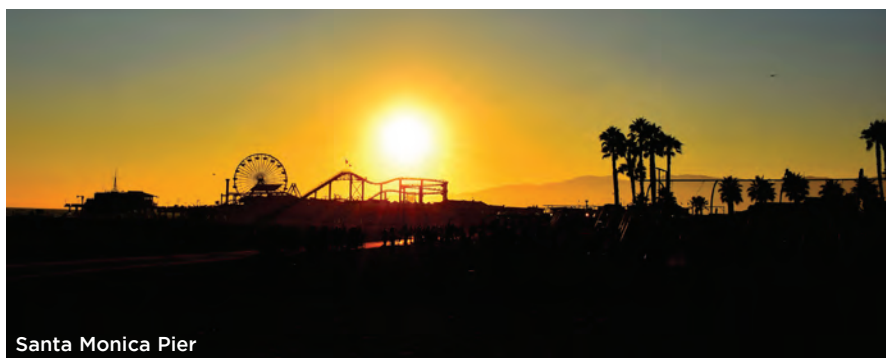
serves as the backdrop for a canvas of joggers, cyclers, skaters and dog walkers, all reveling in their own version of California Dreamin.' The centerpiece of Ocean Avenue is Santa Monica Pier, where your group can enjoy the thrill of a roller coaster ride, enhanced by what seems to be a near-plunge into the Pacific, and where they can snap photos of the usual carny types posing alongside surfer dudes and beach bunnies.

For those who think that in Los

Angeles, culture refers only to yogurt (I'm looking at you, East Coasters), a visit to the Getty Center in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains is obligatory. The J. Paul Getty Museum has five galleries situated around a courtyard, 86 acres of landscaped gardens and a promontory commanding sweeping views of the mountains, ocean and entire Los Angeles basin.

As with most great cultural centers, you could spend days at the Getty, but the museum staff has prepared an informative brochure for those who have limited time to explore.

Clutching my copy of "If You Only Have an Hour," I was able to get to three of the five galleries, seeing Correggio's "Head of Christ," Bernini's sculpture Neptune and Dolphin, Rembrandt's "Daniel and Cyrus Before the Idol Bel," Van Gogh's "Irises," and an extravagantly decorated set of vases made for King Louis XVI of France.



FLICKR/KILGARRON: bit.ly/24N1H

Santa Monica Pier

# POMPEII

## THE EXHIBITION

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO 79 A.D.

- Experience life in the bustling, ancient Roman city of Pompeii
- Marvel at nearly 200 precious artifacts, lost for nearly 2,000 years
- Relive the massive power of Mt. Vesuvius in 4D Eruption Theatre

Groups of 25 or more receive a group discount. Inquire today! [msalvesen@reaganfoundation.org](mailto:msalvesen@reaganfoundation.org) 805-577-2704



Tickets include admission to the Reagan Library, where you can touch an actual part of the Berlin Wall and climb aboard Air Force One!



40 Presidential Drive, Simi Valley, California 93065 · [REAGANLIBRARY.com](http://REAGANLIBRARY.com)





Catalina Island

## Further afield

If all you know about Pasadena is that it's home to the Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl football game, and as the setting of TV's "The Big Bang Theory," you and your group are in for a treat. Start by booking a tour at **The Huntington**, a magnificent museum/botanical garden/library endowed by railroad magnate Henry Huntington.

Marvel at the world-famous collection of British paintings, most notably Thomas Gainsborough's "The Blue Boy," in the Georgian mansion that doubles as the museum. Next, it's on to the library housing the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales," a Gutenberg Bible printed on vellum, and a collection of the early editions of Shakespeare's works.

Groups will also enjoy the extensive botanical gardens (16 specialty gardens with more than 15,000 plant varieties), and arrangements can be made for tea in the lovely Rose Garden Tea Room. (It's suggested that groups schedule this eight weeks in advance.)

Long Beach, a city in its own right, is also considered part of the Greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Located south of LAX, Long Beach and makes for an interesting day tip.

Book a tour of Rancho Los Alamitos, a one-time Spanish land grant that offers a peek into the history of early California. Next, check out the Aquarium of the Pacific for a journey across the world's largest ocean, from the California coast itself to the icy waters of the North Pacific to the colorful reefs of Mexico's Baja Peninsula and the tropical South Seas.

Groups can enjoy a sumptuous meal aboard the *Queen Mary*, once considered

the most luxurious vessel ever to ply the Atlantic and now permanently moored in Long Beach Harbor. They can tour her art deco public rooms and grand promenades, and then dine in Sir Winston's, the ship's gourmet restaurant, which offers haute cuisine as well as panoramic views of the Long Beach skyline. You can even arrange for them to over-night in one of the first-class staterooms.

If you and your group want to go even further afield, book passage with **Catalina Express** for the 22-mile cruise from Long Beach to Catalina Island, a slice of the Mediterranean in southern California.

Smaller groups can take advantage of specialty activities, such as the famous glass-bottom boat tour and jitney tours of the town of Avalon and surrounding area.

Another popular option is a guided tour of the landmark Catalina Casino. Built by William Wrigley of chewing gum fame, the white-columned rotunda overlooking the bay was never used as a casino, but as a movie palace and, on the second floor, a ballroom where top orchestras of the big-band era played on Saturday nights.

## Five tips (one TUT)

Tamy Martelli from the **Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board** has five suggestions for tour operators packaging the City of Angels:

1. Go to the California Science Center to see the KING TUT exhibition, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tut's tomb. Los Angeles is the only North American destination where visitors can view this extraordinary collection of artifacts. Tour operators can book through early January 2019.
2. Shop and dine at more than 200 shops and restaurants in Westfield Century City, an open-air destination that recently received a \$1 billion makeover.
3. Give your group a different perspective on Los Angeles at **OUE Skyspace LA**, the tallest open-air observation deck in California, with 360-degree views of the city and a unique glass slide 1,000 feet above sea level.
4. Explore L. A.'s diverse neighborhoods with specialty food tours on foot (Urban Adventures, Melting Pot Food Tours) or by bike (L.A. Cycle Tours). From tacos to tortellini to tikka masala, this is the way to "eat Los Angeles."
5. Get tickets for a major pro sporting event, be it basketball (Lakers and Clippers), baseball (Dodgers and Angels), football (Rams and Chargers), hockey (Kings) or soccer (Galaxy and L.A. Football Club).

For more tips, email Martelli at [tmartelli@latourism](mailto:tmartelli@latourism) or go to **discover losangeles.com**.



## Discover The Huntington

Group Tours Available | Pasadena Adjacent | [huntington.org](http://huntington.org)



## Downtown dynamo

If you still believe that Los Angeles doesn't really have a downtown, take your group to the place where the City of Angels started: Olvera Street, featuring a Mexican-style market, and the adjoining El Pueblo Los Angeles, established in 1781 as a farming community. Today it boasts 26 historical structures, 11 of which are open to the public.

Other downtown attractions range from the city's original Flower Market (avoid Wednesdays and Fridays, as they are the busiest days) to the Grammy Museum (group tours can be arranged) to MOCA, the main branch of L.A.'s Museum of Contemporary Art, housing thousands of pieces dating from 1940 from artists such as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

With all it has to offer, La La Land might better be called Oooohhh La La Land. 📍

Market on Olvera Street



LOS ANGELES TOURISM



### LA'S MUST-SEE ATTRACTION FEATURES

- California's tallest open-air observation terraces
- Unobstructed 360° views
- Digital interactive exhibits
- The thrilling all-glass Skyslide nearly 1,000 ft. above LA
- New Skyspace bar featuring locally crafted spirits and small bites

**OUE**  
**SKYSPACE**  
LOS ANGELES  
TRANSFORM YOUR VIEW

OUE-SKYPACE.COM | 213.894.9000 | @SKYSPACELA





DAVID BIRRI

Part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Oeschinen Lake, nestled just above Kandersteg in Switzerland, is a popular site where hikers can explore unspoiled nature and swimmers can take a dive in its calm, blue waters. Visitors can relax in the mountain lodges on the lake or race down the surrounding slopes during the summer toboggan run. To check out additional highlights near Kandersteg, flip to page 56.

Mid-Atlantic U.S.	<b>36</b>
South Central U.S.	<b>44</b>
Deep South	<b>48</b>
Pacific Northwest	<b>53</b>
Germany and Switzerland	<b>56</b>



# Mid-Atlantic U.S.

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER



Guinness Brewery



Guinness Brewery lobby



Guinness Brewery taproom

NEWGUINNESSBREWERY.COM

## Maryland's new brews

The opening of the Guinness Brewery near Baltimore this year is a nod to the state's history of bowing out of Prohibition.

"During that time, Maryland did not actively enforce the Prohibition laws, and a local editor declared that Maryland should secede from the Union to become a 'free state,'" says Rich Gilbert, travel trade sales manager with Maryland Office of Tourism. "With the popularity of craft breweries and local distilleries, I think it will be great to add a destination like Guinness into the local tourism mix."

Though the Guinness stout will still be brewed in its Dublin home (and shipped to the United States, of course), the Maryland location will produce styles like the Guinness Blonde American Lager. Resident Guinness brewers also will develop new creations on-site.

Gilbert says the brewery, an \$80 million investment by Diageo Beer Company, will be the first Guinness presence on U.S. soil since 1954, and the first-ever purpose-built Guinness

brewery in America. The new attraction is located on more than 60 acres southwest of downtown Baltimore in the historical Calvert distillery district. Guinness will host groups for full brewery tours beginning in August, where they can sample beers and browse Guinness merchandise.

Another new Baltimore-based attraction is Sagamore Spirit Distillery, a four-building complex that opened its doors in April. It includes a restaurant and event space, a 22,000-square-foot distillery and a 27,000-square-foot processing center.

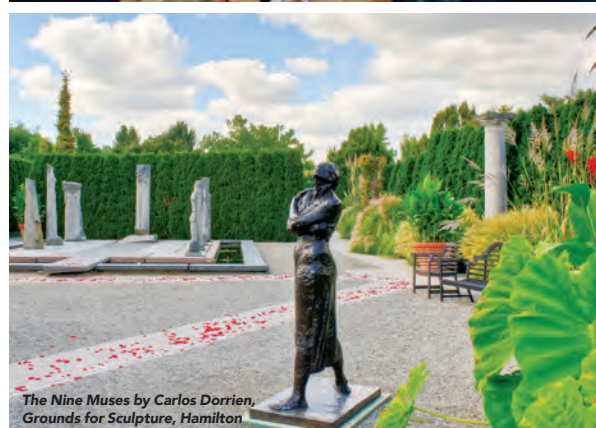
Adjacent to the distillery is the Rye Street Tavern, a new American restaurant featuring locally grown ingredients, farm-raised meats (including the chef's famous fried chicken) and lots of Maryland crab. Visitors can enjoy craft beers and wines while taking in views of the Patapsco River.

For more information, contact Gilbert at [rgilbert@visitmaryland.org](mailto:rgilbert@visitmaryland.org) or go to [visitmaryland.org](http://visitmaryland.org).





**New Jersey**  
*We're for groups*



## *We're for* good times and great memories.

New Jersey's diverse attractions range from exciting Atlantic City venues to Princeton's Ivy League charm, great daily-play golf courses to Cape May's Victorian grandeur. Add in over 50 local wineries, retro boardwalks, wild amusement parks and tax-free shopping on clothing and shoes, and you'll find everything you need to create an unforgettable itinerary for your tour group. If you're looking for designer labels or historic battlefields, farm-to-table dining or sculpture gardens, it's here for you—and so close to New York City and Philadelphia, too!



### **Plan your group tours now!**

View and download unique itineraries and discover other ideas at [visitnj.org/travel-agent-resources](http://visitnj.org/travel-agent-resources) or call 609.292.4239 for assistance.







## Da point in seeing the du Pont family home

It's in Wilmington, Delaware, that groups can learn the founding history of one of America's richest families—the du Ponts—and its impact on early industry.

“The Hagley Museum should be the first place to visit when traveling to Delaware,” says Jennifer Arrigo, tourism sales manager with the Greater Wilmington CVB. “It is where E.I. du Pont settled in America and started making gunpowder in 1802. The powder mills and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family along the beautiful Brandywine River begin the story and encourage visitors to learn more about the family.”

Groups can tour the powder yards and stone structures that once housed powder manufacturing equipment and see working 19th-century machinery, water wheels, an operating roll mill and black powder explosion demonstrations.

Overlooking the mills on the Brandywine River is the du Pont home, a Georgian-style house where five generations of the du Pont family resided. Museum-goers can tour the home and view collections of American folk art and furnishings from the last family member who lived there, along with heirlooms brought over with the family from France in 1799.

The residence complex, accessible by Hagley's tour buses, encompasses the home, a barn, the company's first office, Lammot du Pont's workshop and E.I. du Pont's treasured garden.

There's much to see and do at Hagley, and group tours are available year-round. The museum has ample motor-coach parking, and customized experiences are available.

For more information, contact Arrigo at [jarrigo@visitwilmingtonde.com](mailto:jarrigo@visitwilmingtonde.com) or go to [visitwilmingtonde.org](http://visitwilmingtonde.org).



Top to bottom at the Hagley Museum: the du Pont residence, a tour and a 19th-century water wheel



# FOLLIES ♦ *AND* ♦ FOUNTAINS

WINTERTHUR



Route 52, Winterthur, DE  
302.888.4600



LONGWOOD  
GARDENS

Route 1, Kennett Square, PA  
610.388.1000

## Two Great American Gardens *for* One Great Price

**Special Offer \$34 ♦ June 4–August 31, 2018**

This summer, enjoy the awe-inspiring fountains at Longwood Gardens and explore 13 fantastic and whimsical garden follies at Winterthur, including a guided tour of the Winterthur mansion, for only \$34 per person—a 20% savings off regular admission to both gardens! Delight in these glorious du Pont gardens, just minutes apart, nestled in the heart of the historic Brandywine Valley.

**Details at 800.448.3883 or [winterthur.org/folliesandfountains](http://winterthur.org/folliesandfountains).**

Clockwise: Ottoman Tent Folly; Longwood Gardens fountains, photo by Daniel Traub; illuminated fountains, courtesy Longwood; Latimeria Summerhouse Folly, photo by Bob Leitch.

Follies exhibition is presented by  and The Estate of Mrs. Samuel M. V. Hamilton.

**Longwood Gardens and Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library are located midway between New York City and Washington, DC.  
Take I-95, Exit 7, in Delaware.**





Revonah Pretzel

## Line up to see what's on the factory line in York

What's better than tasting the distinct flavor of Hershey's chocolate or a salty potato chip warm from the fryer? Well, eating them is probably the best part, but seeing how these edible delights and other unique products are actually made is a close second.

"From the pretzels we enjoy on game day to the unmistakable roar of a Harley to the pitch-perfect sound of an expertly crafted violin, we see, hear and taste part of York County every day," says Louise Heine, destination marketing director with the York County CVB in York, Pennsylvania.

York, in fact, is the Factory Capital of the World, and groups can take plant tours year-round at more than a dozen locations.

"We take pride in our artisanship, big and small," Heine says. "Visitors can make their own bath fizzies at Sunrise Soap Company or see some of the finest stringed instruments in the world built by the master luthier at Bluett Bros. Violins."

For more information, contact Heine at [louise@yorkpa.org](mailto:louise@yorkpa.org) or visit [yorkpa.org](http://yorkpa.org).



Sunrise Soap Company

YORKPA.ORG

**SPOIL ALL  
5 SENSES**

GROUP TOURS IN MARYLAND




**TASTE**



**SMELL**



**TOUCH**



**HEAR**



**SEE**

There's no shortage of things for your group to see here. There's no shortage of things to taste, touch, smell and hear, either. For group tour information, contact Rich Gilbert at 410-767-6288 or [rgilbert@visitmaryland.org](mailto:rgilbert@visitmaryland.org).

**MARYLAND**

LARRY HOGAN, GOVERNOR

[VISITMARYLAND.ORG/GROUPS](http://VISITMARYLAND.ORG/GROUPS)



## The line-up

York County, Pennsylvania, is the Factory Capital of the World. Here's a list of factories to see while you're there (or close by):

Bluett Bros. Violins – York

George's Furniture – Marietta

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Vehicle Operations – York

Hershey's Chocolate World – Hershey

Martin's Snacks – Thomasville

Perrydell Farm – York

Revonah Pretzel – Hanover

Snyder's of Hanover Factory Store – Hanover

Strasburg Rail Road – Ronks

Sunrise Soap Company – York

Sweet Willows Creamery – York

Utz Quality Foods – Hanover

York City Pretzel Company – York

York County Solid Waste Authority – York

York Time Institute – York



Martin's Snacks



Utz Quality Foods



Bluett Bros. Violins



*Ocean City, Maryland*



# We're more than JUST THE BEACH

Don't get us wrong. You'll love soaking up the sun on our free, 10-mile beach, or swimming and playing in the ocean. But that's just the tip of the sandcastle when it comes to Ocean City, Maryland. There's literally something for everyone:

- An award-winning three-mile boardwalk
- 200+ restaurants and exciting nightlife
- Indoor and outdoor sports facilities
- New Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center
- Year-round festivals, concerts and events
- Shopping, wildlife and historical museums
- 1,200-seat Performing Arts Center in the Roland E. Powell Convention Center
- Popular family reunion destination

**BOOK YOUR  
TRIP NOW!**

**Call Norma Dobrowolski**  
CVB Destination Sales & Marketing Manager  
**800.626.2326** | [ococean.com/group-travel](http://ococean.com/group-travel)





## The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum is so fly

The most recent addition to the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, New York, is the “Engine Factory Exhibit.”

The permanent display focuses on the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. factory and the engines it built in World War I, its evolution as the war progressed and the company’s most important products.

The museum itself is home to a collection of items related to early aviation, motorcycles and local history. It also celebrates the life and accomplishments of Curtiss, the father of naval aviation and a pioneer in motorcycle manufacturing.

The “A Call to Arms” exhibit, also new, features an assortment of antique firearms, many from collections of gunsmiths in the Finger Lakes region. Each item on display was used in battles between 1770 and 1945.

Scheduled for Sept. 15–16 is the Wings and Wheels in Hammondsport event, a celebration that includes the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum’s Seaplane Homecoming and the Hammondsport Classic and Exotic Car Show. Groups can see seaplanes taking off and landing at the lakefront, meet the pilots, and visit the souvenir and food vendor booths. Visiting pilots will take part in the “Salute to Glenn Curtiss” seaplane parade around Keuka Lake, extending their southern loop directly over Curtiss’ gravesite in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. The car show will feature classic and exotic vehicles including vintage autos and muscle cars.

The event goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and is free to the public.

For more information, contact the museum’s Benjamin Johnson at [director@glennhcurtissmuseum.org](mailto:director@glennhcurtissmuseum.org) or go to [glennhcurtissmuseum.org](http://glennhcurtissmuseum.org).



Glenn H. Curtiss Museum




Glenn H. Curtiss Museum seaplane



Glenn H. Curtiss Museum



RANDALL TAGG PHOTOGRAPHY - TAGGPHOTOGRAPHY.COM




# AMERICAN MUSIC THEATRE

## BIG CITY SHOWS SMALL TOWN CHARM

Located in the heart of Lancaster County, American Music Theatre delights over 250,000 guests and hosts more than 300 performances each year on our incredible, state-of-the-art stage. With productions ranging from touring concerts to original shows and comedy acts, our comfortable, convenient, group-friendly theatre has something for everyone.

The 2018 Christmas Show: The First Noel • November 1-December 30, 2018  
 The 2019 AMT Show: Ovation • May 1-October 6, 2019

800-648-4102 | [Sales@AMTshows.com](mailto:Sales@AMTshows.com)  
 2425 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster, PA | [AMTshows.com/Groups](http://AMTshows.com/Groups)

2017  
**BEST OF THE BEST**  




# The hotel show-and-tell

Two NTA-member casino hotels in Atlantic City, New Jersey, are hotspots to eat, play, sleep, shop and test one's luck in the heart of the city, all in one big, sparkly location for visiting groups (or two, rather).



RESORTSAC.COM

## Resorts Casino Hotel

With 100,000-square-feet of casino space, Resort Casino Hotel's gaming area is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it features more than 1,500 slot machines and table games. Offering both casual and fine dining and quick-bite options, the hotel houses eateries like Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville and Gallagher's Steak House. The resort's entertainment venues host headliners each month, including Abba in August, as well as revue shows and ongoing nightlife events. Staying at the hotel puts visitors just steps from the beach and boardwalk, and in 2018, the hotel is celebrating its 40th anniversary with events throughout the year.

For more information, contact Meg Lewis at [mlewis@resortsac.com](mailto:mlewis@resortsac.com) or visit [resortsac.com](http://resortsac.com).



TROPICANANET

## Tropicana Casino & Resort

Offering gaming, retail options, dining and entertainment, Tropicana Casino & Resort has recently launched the Tropicana app and also offers online gaming. The resort encompasses five towers, including the Chelsea, which the company recently purchased and remodeled with a skywalk that opened this spring. The Quarter, a three-story streetscape reminiscent of historical Havana, houses upscale dining spots, nightlife venues, retail establishments and a spa, with entertainment every Saturday from 6 to 10 p.m. The hotel offers group and overnight bus packages.

For more information, contact Wanda Sosa at [wsosa@tropicana.net](mailto:wsosa@tropicana.net) or visit [tropicana.net](http://tropicana.net).



## You will love our inlets. And our outlets.

Waterfront cruises. Dining. Museums. Maritime history. Now you can add Norfolk Premium Outlets and Waterside District to the many attractions your group will enjoy in our waterfront city. No wonder Norfolk was named "America's Favorite City!"

**Contact Melissa Hopper, Associate Director of Tour & Travel, to plan your next trip today!**

VISIT **Norfolk**

The heart of the Virginia Waterfront.<sup>SM</sup>





# South Central U.S.

COMPILED BY PATTI NICKELL

## Let's talk Tennessee

Tennessee is a treasure trove of travel experiences—ideal for groups—and *Courier* touched base with NTA members in four Tennessee towns. From urban chic to rural retreat, here's what you can find in the Volunteer State.



### Knoxville

Kristen Combs, director of communications and social strategies, Visit Knoxville

#### Tell us why Knoxville appeals to tour operators and their clients.

We are a very visitor-friendly city, full of Southern hospitality. Motorcoach groups especially find our destination easy to reach, as interstates 40 and 75 intersect here, and we are not far from Interstate 81. This makes it convenient to include Knoxville for multi-stop tours.

#### What are three of your marquee attractions?

1. Zoo Knoxville is known as the red panda capital of the world, and the zoo recently unveiled their Gibbon Trails and Langur Landing to round out the Asian Trek exhibit that opened in 2017.
2. The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame is the only museum of its kind, dedicated solely to the sport of women's basketball.
3. Ijams Nature Center in South Knoxville protects 300 acres of wildlife habitat and features watersport options and more than 10 miles of trails.

#### Tell us about any cool annual events.

USA Cycling is returning June 21–24, and this year the event will include three national championship races: Professional Road, Individual Time Trial and Criterium. The latter, which is a series of laps on a closed circuit, is new this year.

#### What advice would you give tour operators in regard to packaging your destination?

Our services at Visit Knoxville are truly a one-stop shop. We can customize packages to cater to a variety of ages and

interests. Step-on guides, hotel accommodations and restaurant reservations can all be arranged through our staff.

For more information, go to [visitknoxville.com](http://visitknoxville.com) or contact Heather Fawver at [hfawver@knoxville.org](mailto:hfawver@knoxville.org).



Chattanooga Choo Choo Complex

### Chattanooga

Shelda Rees, CTP, director of tourism, Chattanooga CVB

#### Give us a quick description of what makes Chattanooga special.

Chattanooga is fortunate to be known as the "Scenic City of the South," a blend of our beautiful surrounding mountains and ridges with the Tennessee River flowing right through our vibrant downtown. We have a wonderful combination of natural attractions and one-of-a-kind man-made ones. And the last 15 years have seen a transformation of downtown.

#### What are three top attractions?

1. The Chattanooga Choo Choo Complex hosts thousands of visitors each year, and with more than \$25 million in renovations, the terminal station is embracing a new generation of travelers.
2. The world's largest freshwater aquarium, the Tennessee Aquarium is located in downtown Chattanooga, along with its sister building next door, Ocean Journey, and the new IMAX 3D Laser Theater across the street.
3. Lookout Mountain and its famous attractions—Rock City Gardens, Ruby Falls, Incline Railway, Battle for Chattanooga Museum and the National Park's Point Park

#### What advice do you give tour operators who are packaging Chattanooga?

The Chattanooga CVB has a variety of itineraries that we can help tour operators customize, such as Trains and Treasures, Discover Chattanooga, and Tennessee with a Twist. And adding free time to your group's schedule is easy with our free electric shuttle. As a bonus, with each adult overnight stay, group members receive a free Chattanooga Bakery Moon Pie.

To get additional details from Rees, email her at [ssrees@chattanoogaacvb.com](mailto:ssrees@chattanoogaacvb.com) or visit [chattanoogaafun.com](http://chattanoogaafun.com).



Tennessee Museum of Aviation

### Sevierville

Amanda Marr, director of marketing and communications, Sevierville Chamber of Commerce

#### What makes Sevierville a must-see for groups?

Our area is absolutely gorgeous, and it offers a top-quality vacation experience with a wide variety of things to see and do at great value.

#### Tell us about three of those things to see at do.

1. Tanger Outlets Sevierville has more than 100 high-end outlet stores, providing visitors with a fun day (or two) of shopping name brand stores they might not have at home.
2. The Tennessee Museum of Aviation, the state's official home of aviation history, is a hidden gem. Groups will enjoy seeing flyable warbird aircraft and a fine collection of memorabilia and aircraft, from World War II through the Vietnam War.



3. Catch a ball game with the Tennessee Smokies, the AA affiliate of the Chicago Cubs. Group packages with outside dining beside the diamond are available.

#### Do you have a special event you can tell us about?

The 29th annual Smoky Mountain Winterfest will run Nov. 5 through Feb. 28, 2019, and will feature millions of twinkling lights up and down the parkway.

#### What advice do you give tour operators?

Sevierville and the surrounding area offer ample opportunities for themed packaging, whether it's a bucket-list tour filled with outdoor adventures or a Girlfriends' Getaway shopping trip with fashion consultant makeovers, visits to unique stores and sipping along the Rocky Top Wine Trail.

For more information, go to [visitsevierville.com](http://visitsevierville.com) or contact Tony Funderburg of the Sevierville CVB at [tfunderburg@scoc.org](mailto:tfunderburg@scoc.org).



## Jackson

Lori Nunnery, Jackson Tennessee CVB

#### What makes Jackson a great place for tour operators to package?

We are located halfway between Memphis and Nashville on Interstate 40, in the heart of the American Music Triangle. Jackson is where country music connected with the blues, and the sound of rockabilly was heard around the world.

#### Tell us about three top attractions in the area.

1. Hard Rock Cafe founder and Jackson native, Isaac Tigrett, opened the first Hard Rock Cafe in the United States in the local Old Hickory Mall, which was owned at the time by his mother. Bring your group here to get an authentic Hard Rock Cafe Jackson T-shirt.
2. Drive 20 minutes to Brownsville and check out the Flagg Grove School at

the West Tennessee Heritage Center. Have you ever heard of Nutbush, Tennessee? Tina Turner's childhood school here is available for group tours.

3. If your group is a music-loving one (and we assume it is), allow us to connect you with one of the many live music events. We gather all the music venues' events in our weekly *Music Newsletter*.

#### What's a unique activity that you offer?

If your guests are interested in horticulture, the University of Tennessee AgResearch Centers hosts their Summer

Celebration every July. Their calendar rocks with activities for groups.

#### What advice do you have for tour operators?

Jackson serves as a great hub and spoke for building your itinerary; check out our itinerary builder, where we've identified all the assets in Jackson and rural West Tennessee.

To get more details, visit [jacksontn.com/tourism](http://jacksontn.com/tourism) or contact Nunnery at [lnunnery@jacksontn.com](mailto:lnunnery@jacksontn.com).

## VISIT GRACELAND IN MEMPHIS

Featuring an  
All-New, Immersive  
Entertainment  
Experience

*Elvis Presley's*  
**MEMPHIS**  
— AT Graceland —



**GROUP  
RATES  
AVAILABLE**


GRACELAND.COM/GROUPS • 800-238-2010

© EPE. Graceland and its marks are trademarks of EPE. All Rights Reserved. Elvis Presley™ © 2017 ABG EPE IP LLC

# Discover Rutherford

STAY. PLAY. EXPLORE.

STONES RIVER NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD  
ANTEBELLUM HOME TOURS  
VIBRANT DOWNTOWN DISTRICT  
CULTURAL ARTS VENUES  
AGRITOURISM EXPERIENCES  
MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVALS  
NISSAN PLANT TOURS  
MORE THAN 4,200 HOTEL ROOMS  
OVER 300 RESTAURANTS  
FREE COUNTY-WIDE PARKING





800-716-7560

READYSETRUTHERFORD.COM

RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Murfreesboro • Smyrna • La Vergne • Eagleville *Tennessee*





Keeneland Race Course

JEFF ROGERS/ISTEX

## See what's shakin' in Lexington

Lexington, the jewel in the crown of Kentucky's Bluegrass region, provides a veritable bonanza for travelers wishing for an experience they can get nowhere else.

Horses help define the region, and two attractions offer the best in equine sightseeing. At Keeneland Race Course, a National Historic Landmark, it's all about the Thoroughbreds. Tour operators can choose from four personalized tours, ranging from the basics of racing to an inside view of the track's "backside."

On a Behind the Scenes Racing Tour, groups get a look at race day operations, including a walk through the barns and a stop at the jockeys' quarters (available only during race meets in April and October). The track's Behind the Scenes Sales Tour provides a look at the renowned Keeneland Sales Pavilion and auction ring (available during the September, November and January sales).

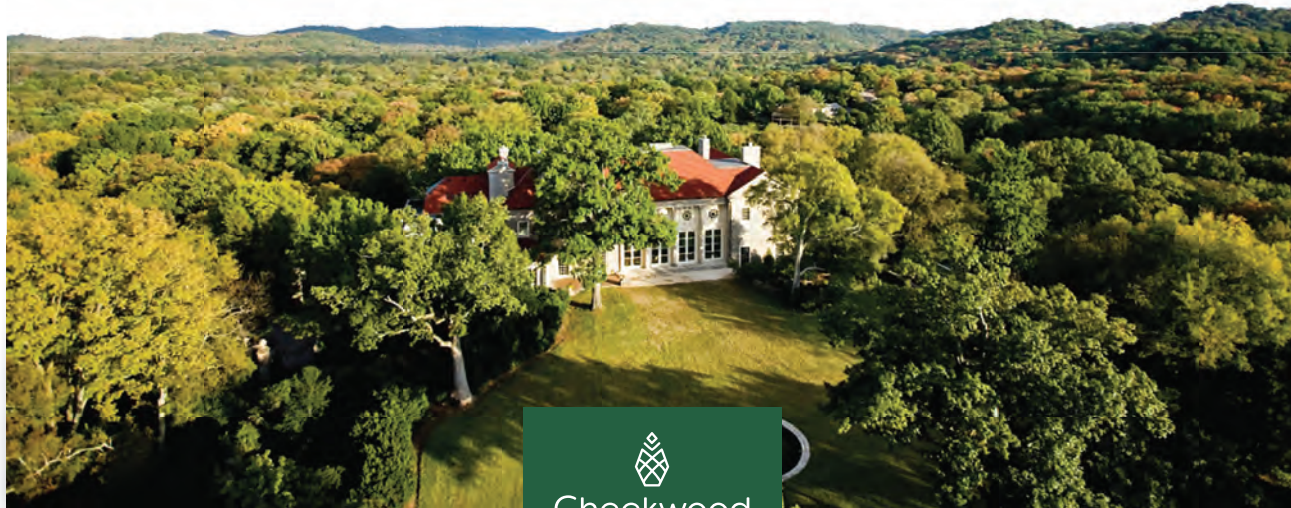
A second horsey attraction is the Kentucky Horse Park, the only park in the world dedicated exclusively to the noble steed. Horses of many breeds are on display here, and pre-booked groups of 15 or more receive discounted rates for an experience that includes the Smithsonian-affiliated International Museum of the Horse and the American

## MUSIC CITY SOUNDS A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT OUT HERE.

*Lose yourself in 55 acres of unforgettable gardens while experiencing the grandeur of a bygone era*

### BOOKING GROUP TOURS NOW

Special rates available for groups of 15 or more.  
cheekwood.org | 615-353-6971 | tours@cheekwood.org



1200 Forrest Park Dr., Nashville TN, 37205

cheekwood.org



Saddlebred Museum, as well as equine presentations such as the Parade of Breeds and Hall of Champions.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the park's opening, and there's no better way to experience it than through the Kentucky Sundown Program. Designed exclusively for groups, it's a private evening program that showcases the beauty and serenity of the park's 1,200 acres. It includes a variety of tours and several dining options.

If you've seen enough horses and are ready for some history, take the short drive to Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, a 3,000-acre tapestry of rock walls, rolling pastures and Shaker dwellings. Shaker Village is a fantastic group attraction because of the sheer number of unique visitor experiences available.

Guests can take guided tours of the Historic Centre to learn about 19th-century Shaker life, listen to traditional music in the 1820 Meeting House or enjoy a relaxing ride through the palisades of the Kentucky River aboard the 115-passenger Dixie Belle riverboat. They can dine on Shaker and Kentucky fare in the candlelit Trustees House Dining Room and stay overnight in a historical Shaker building.

Additionally, Shaker Village offers special activities throughout the year, from chamber music in a restored barn to arts and crafts fairs and beer festivals.


For a Lexington experience guaranteed to please, book your group for a performance of traditional bluegrass, country/



DAVID TOCZKO

western and folk music at Woodsongs Old Time Radio Hour, which, according to Becca Rogers, group sales manager at VisitLex, is "affordable, fun and unique."

Held most Monday nights at the historical Lyric Theater, Woodsongs is Lexington's version of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, complete with folksy chatter from host Michael Jonathan and live commercials delivered from the stage in between performances from musicians who are more interested in cultural integrity than chart-topping.

For more information about the Bluegrass' bounty of memorable experiences, go to [visitlex.com](http://visitlex.com) or contact Rogers at [brogers@visitlex.com](mailto:brogers@visitlex.com). 



Chattanooga is nestled along the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounded by scenic beauty, including historic Lookout Mountain. We are easy to find just off of I-75, I-24 and I-59. Your groups can explore our revitalized riverfront, world-famous attractions, rich history, great restaurants bursting with local flavors. *\*Spend at least one night and your adult groups get FREE MoonPies, just give us a call. See you in Chattanooga . . . this year!*

**CHATTANOOGA**

**ChattanoogaFun.com**  
[ssrees@chattanoogaacvb.com](mailto:ssrees@chattanoogaacvb.com)  
 423/756-8687 x 3039



# Deep South

COMPILED BY GABE WEBB

## The Deep South delivers military memorials and museums

NTA-member attractions in Louisiana, Alabama and South Carolina offer a snapshot of the daily lives and challenges of American soldiers during World War II. We reached out to learn about the unique experiences that await visitors at each museum.



### The National WWII Museum

New Orleans

The attraction gets top marks from TripAdvisor users, says Shelly Dupuy, the museum's group sales manager. "The immersive interactive exhibits are great for groups of all ages, and our large campus offers plenty of room for groups to visit all year long."

#### Just for groups

"The museum was designed to be self-guided, but we now offer group guided tours for 8-30 people. One tour is an exclusive two-hour experience that takes guests through our Road to Berlin and Road to Tokyo galleries with trained museum docents. BBs Stage Door Canteen is also a great experience for groups to get a taste of 1940s-style entertainment, with lunch, dinner and brunch show options."

#### Standout experience

"Our PT-305 boat is an original World War II-era boat that was built here in New Orleans by Higgins Industry. After a 10-year restoration that took place here at the museum, PT-305 is now restored to her former glory. She is currently on Lake Pontchartrain, where guests are able to visit the boat for deck tours and boat rides."

#### Coming up

"Our newest addition, which is set to be completed in November 2018, is the Bollinger Canopy of Peace. The canopy will be 150 feet tall, and it will unify the museum's large campus."



### Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

Charleston, South Carolina

The museum welcomes visitors to explore the USS *Yorktown* battleship with a variety of programs tailored to a group's age and interests. "It appeals to all ages, and it gives everyone a hands-on glimpse of maritime and military life," says Kayla Halchak, the attraction's marketing manager.

#### Just for groups

"For youth groups, we offer a variety of interactive lessons in astronomy, aviation, history and marine science. We also offer a new 'Shadows of the Ship' tour especially for our youth, where we take a group to a restricted-access area—all the way at the bottom of the ship—with headlamps and hard hats."

#### Standout experience

"The Vietnam Experience is a unique, three-acre permanent exhibit, and it is the only one of its kind in the country. Set in a Brown Water Navy support base and a U.S. Marine Corps artillery fire base during the Tet Offensive and Battle of Khe Sanh in 1968, the exhibit is brought to life through realistic holograms and sounds."

#### Coming up

"We have our renowned Fourth of July Fireworks Blast coming up, when you can celebrate Independence Day on the flight deck of the USS *Yorktown*, overlooking Charleston Harbor."



### USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park

Mobile, Alabama

The park is home to the World War II-era USS *Alabama* battleship and USS *Drum* submarine, and both allow visitors to see the lives of sailors during the conflict. "We [also] have our Medal of Honor Aircraft Pavilion, which features an impressive collection of historical aircraft, military vehicles and wartime memorabilia," says Rhonda Davis, director of sales and marketing for the attraction.

#### Just for groups

"We offer lunch aboard the USS *Alabama* in our Wardroom, the officers' dining quarters, as part of our group tour packages. We recommend spending at least two and a half hours to tour the park, so adding a meal here takes pressure off of tour operators to find a place to dine while traveling."

#### Standout experience

"Each compartment will tell a story about the jobs performed and the men who performed them. I love our chapel best. It is a quiet and serene space where church services were conducted. It's a surprise for many to find it aboard a ship."

#### Coming up

"Something visitors are finding very exciting is our Living History Crew Drills. Historical re-enactors take over the USS *Alabama* and USS *Drum* on the weekends five times a year. The men have a 'call to battle stations,' and the ship is [mock] attacked by real vintage airplanes."



# CORAL CASTLE

Museum & Sculpture Garden

- Continuous Live Tours!
- Coral Castle Cafe and Unique Gift Shop

“...guaranteed to be the highlight of your trip.”

Holiday Lettings from



Visit the world's most mysterious castle.



28655 S. Dixie Hwy • Miami, Fl. 33033 • 305-248-6345 • [www.coralcastle.com](http://www.coralcastle.com)

Sun - Thurs: 9am-6pm • Fri - Sat: 9am-7pm

Follow Us On   



## Anchors, adrenaline and aquatic life in Atlanta

NTA's Atlanta members include suppliers that showcase the city's diverse entertainment options.

### Andretti Indoor Karting & Games

Andretti's two Atlanta-area locations feature high-speed superkarts, state-of-the-art arcade games, interactive motion theaters, full bars and grills, ropes courses, and event space. The Marietta attraction features a two-story laser tag arena, while the Roswell spot includes a cosmic rock wall. [andrettikarting.com](http://andrettikarting.com)



ANDRETTI INDOOR KARTING & GAMES

### CNN Studio Tours

Visitors to the network's new Atlanta headquarters can see behind the scenes of a 24-hour newsroom. Tour guides share facts about newsgathering, show the work and tech that goes into TV production, and take guests to exclusive areas of the studio. [tours.cnn.com](http://tours.cnn.com)

### Georgia Aquarium

The downtown Atlanta aquarium holds more than 8 million gallons of fresh and salt-water in its five galleries. Creatures from around the world—including manta rays, piranhas, weedy sea dragons and whale sharks—are featured in displays representing the unique habitats these rare species inhabit. [georgiaaquarium.org](http://georgiaaquarium.org)

## From sea to food in Mississippi

The Gulf Coast is famous for its Cajun cuisine and seafood staples, and Visit Mississippi Gulf Coast has plenty of recommendations for tour operators looking to add the area's unique flavors to their itineraries.

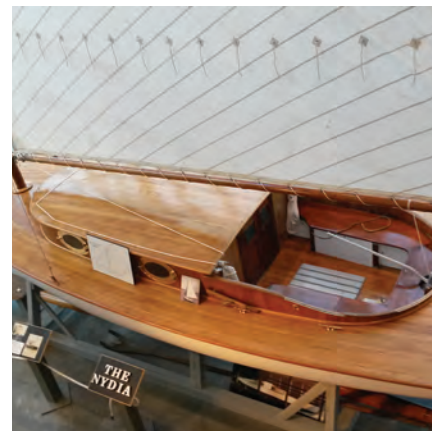
For more on these and other ideas, go to [gulfcoast.org](http://gulfcoast.org) or contact the DMO's Kristen Parker at [kristen@gulfcoast.org](mailto:kristen@gulfcoast.org).

**Gumbo Biology** This cooking class demonstrates the culture of preparing a seafood gumbo while introducing participants to the science of seafood. They'll learn from a representative of the University of Southern Mississippi about the habitats and unique nutrients of the Gulf's waters before partaking in blue crab, shrimp and other delectables.

**Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum** The attraction showcases the history of shrimping, oystering, shipbuilding and marine resource management in the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Visitors can see historical photographs, artifacts and boats. After learning about how seafood makes it from the water to their plates, they can take it from plate to stomach with a shrimp boil lunch.



CC WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/WOODLOT: bit.ly/2l85rrv



MARITIME AND SEAFOOD INDUSTRY MUSEUM




## The experience of a lifetime!

Call 1-800-637-7223 today to book a group for this unique STEM-based adventure.






SpaceCampUSA  
[www.rocketcenter.com](http://www.rocketcenter.com) • [www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com)





VISIT



TYBEE

Picture your group here. We can.  
Discover yourself on Savannah's Beach.  
Just 20 minutes from historic Savannah.  
[VisitTybee.com](http://VisitTybee.com)

Visit  
**Tybee Island**  
SAVANNAH'S BEACH



## Pitching oranges in Central Florida

BY BOB ROUSE

I spent a spring-break week in Central Florida this year to watch my son's college baseball team. As luck would have it, the Visit Central Florida office is located beside the ball fields in Auburndale, so I stopped by and chatted with Joni Allen to

get some tips for not only us baseball parents, but for NTA tour operators as well.


She recommends the area's top attractions: Bok Tower Gardens, LEGOLAND Florida Resort, Safari Wilderness Ranch and Circle B Bar Reserve.

"And if you don't have time for anything else during your stay, I highly recommend a trip to Ridge Island Groves in Haines City," Joni told me. "It's one of few places in Florida where visitors can go into a working citrus grove and sample various types of fruit. They also have homemade ice cream."

That's all I needed to hear. As soon as that morning's baseball game ended, my wife and I high-tailed it to Haines City. We took a quick tour of the groves and then—out of professional dedication—I sampled some soft-serve while chatting with co-owner Jill Ritch.

"We make our own ice cream from our fruit—blackberry, strawberry and orange," she said. "We also have fresh-squeezed juice, and we can ship fruit to your home."

Jill said the citrus fruits are picked October through May, blueberries and strawberries are ripe December through March, and May is peach month.

To get more information, go to [visitcentralflorida.org](http://visitcentralflorida.org) or email Joni at [joni@visitcentralflorida.org](mailto:joni@visitcentralflorida.org). 



Ice cream at Ridge Island Groves

BOB ROUSE

**STAY HAPPY**

**STAY LAFAYETTE**

Plan your escape to the Happiest City in America.

[LAFAYETTETRAVEL.COM/Groups](http://LAFAYETTETRAVEL.COM/Groups)



800 346 1958



# Pacific Northwest

COMPILED BY PAT HENDERSON

## A whale of a time in Victoria

Situated at the southern tip of Vancouver Island, Victoria blends natural beauty and maritime history with British charm. The city, which was founded by English settlers in 1843, is one of the oldest cities in the Pacific Northwest.

"In Victoria, we have countless diversions, from tame to thrilling," says Tourism Victoria's Sarah Friesen. "From whale watching, zip-lining and fishing to garden tours, shopping and nightlife, your group will want to check it all out."

Friesen says the following tours highlight the range of diverse options groups have in the Victoria area:

### Whale and wildlife tours

Local outfitter Eagle Wing Tours provides groups with a great way to get out on the water and enjoy some eco-adventure. Its guided boat tours offer a look at the area's abundant wildlife and detail Victoria's rich maritime history. The company's popular whale watching excursions take guests out on the Salish Sea, where they can see orca whales, humpback whales, minke whales, seals, sea lions and other marine life.

### Tours to The Butchart Gardens

The Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site, is a must-see oasis of countless colorful blooms. CVS Tours offers year-round departures from Victoria throughout the day, which allow guests to explore the expansive gardens and enjoy afternoon tea or another dining experience.

### Walking history tours

The knowledgeable guides from Discover the Past share Victoria's fascinating history, which includes First Nations, British Colonial and Asian traditions. As part of the company's flagship tour, Victoria's Story, groups spend 90 minutes walking around Old Town, Chinatown and the harbor area and hearing tales from the early years. A number of other themed tours, including Ghostly Walks, also are available.

### Culinary tours

There is no shortage of wonderful culinary experiences awaiting visitors to Victoria. Groups can get a taste of the island's cuisine by booking a guided walk with Victoria Food Tours. The two-hour tours of downtown Victoria include stops at several local eateries, where participants can sample culinary creations from top local chefs.

To learn more, contact Friesen at [sarah.friesen@tourismvictoria.com](mailto:sarah.friesen@tourismvictoria.com) or go to [tourismvictoria.com](http://tourismvictoria.com).



TOP RIGHT: EAGLE WING WHALE WATCHING

THE BUTCHART GARDENS

VICTORIA DISTILLERS



## Attention, aviation aficionados

While North Carolina “wrightly” makes the claim as First in Flight, based on the the Wright Brothers taking the inaugural manned voyage in Kitty Hawk in 1903, the U.S. Pacific Northwest states have made their mark in the aviation world over the ensuing 115 years. Groups heading to Washington and Oregon can explore the region’s aeronautical heritage at the following three NTA-member attractions:



### Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum

McMinnville, Oregon

NTA contact: Rob Zeh | [rob.zeh@evergreenmuseum.org](mailto:rob.zeh@evergreenmuseum.org)

The main attraction at the museum is the world’s largest aircraft, the *Spruce Goose*. In addition to seeing the mammoth World War II-era plane and 150 other air and spacecraft, groups can also see movies at the attraction’s IMAX theater, take part in educational programming, ride a dual-system flight simulator and more. [sprucegoose.org](http://sprucegoose.org)

### Future of Flight Aviation Center and Boeing Tour

Mukilteo, Washington

Toni Olson | [toni@futureofflight.org](mailto:toni@futureofflight.org)

Located just 25 miles north of Seattle, the center details the area’s deep connections to Boeing and the aviation industry. Groups can book a walk through the Boeing plant where 787 Dreamliners, 747s and 777s are assembled. Following the 90-minute tour, they can check out exhibits and vintage aircraft in the Aviation Center Gallery. [futureofflight.org](http://futureofflight.org)

### Museum of Flight

Seattle

Bethany Carrillo | [bcarrillo@museumofflight.org](mailto:bcarrillo@museumofflight.org)

The museum has more than 150 aircraft and spacecraft on display, ranging from the world’s first military fighter jet and commercial planes to the only NASA full-scale space shuttle trainer and the Apollo 17 Lunar Module. A number of themed tours are available, and hands-on activities take place at the Challenger Learning Center and Aviation Learning Center. [museumofflight.org](http://museumofflight.org)

## Harry & David

With deep roots in Southern Oregon’s Rogue Valley, Harry & David has been a leader in gourmet gifting since 1934. Take a tour of our main campus in Medford, Oregon, where attendees will have the opportunity to see the careful work and dedication that goes into growing our legendary Royal Riviera® Pears, creating our irresistible Moose Munch® Premium Popcorn, building gourmet gift baskets and towers, and more.



## TAKE A TOUR

*of a Southern Oregon icon*



### Schedule Your Tour

Groups of any size are welcome.

#### Call toll-free

877 322 8000, 8AM–5PM  
Monday–Friday, or email  
[tours@HarryandDavid.com](mailto:tours@HarryandDavid.com) anytime.

#### Tour times

Monday–Friday,  
9:15AM, 10:30AM,  
12:30PM, 1:45PM

#### Tours begin and end at the

Harry & David  
Country Village Store  
1314 Center Drive  
Medford, OR 97501

Harry & David is a dba of Harry and David, LLC.





## Lots to see at Sea Lion Caves

Since it opened in 1932, Sea Lion Caves has been a showcase for marine mammals and seabirds along the Oregon coast. During a visit to the attraction, which is located south of Newport in Florence, groups can check out the largest sea grotto in the U.S.

The cave is the height of a 12-story building and as long as a football field, and it can be reached via a short elevator ride. From the main viewing area, visitors can see the sea lions and other animals.

"We are not a zoo, so all of our wildlife is free to roam and live as they please," says Jim McMillan, the attraction's general manager. "Our guests can see different species of migratory birds, sea lions and other wildlife, all in their natural habitat. Plus, Sea Lion Caves is also a great spot for whale watching."

The cavern is a popular gathering place for thousands of Stellar sea lions in the autumn and winter months. Come spring and summer, which is the breeding season, the mammals often can be found on ledges just outside the cave.

The tour is self-guided, and McMillan says groups spend an average of 45 minutes in the cave. He also recommends saving some time for the visitor center. "Our gift shop has everything from clothing, glass art and collectibles to fresh popcorn and homemade fudge."

To learn more, contact McMillan at [jim@sealioncaves.com](mailto:jim@sealioncaves.com) or go to [sealioncaves.com](http://sealioncaves.com). 📍



STEVE SAUBERT

Named a Top 12 Global Wine Region to Visit, *Forbes*, 2017

GREAT PERFORMANCES DAILY

# Medford

AND THE ROGUE VALLEY

See itineraries at **TRAVELMEDFORD.ORG/GROUPS**

From *World Class Wines*  
to *Tony Awards*  
From *National Parks*  
to *Breathtaking Adventure*

Crater Lake National Park

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

**Sue Price • Group Tours • [suep@travelmedford.org](mailto:suep@travelmedford.org)**



# Germany and Switzerland

COMPILED BY KENDALL FLETCHER

## What's new in the old town?

Opened last month in Frankfurt, the new DomRömer-Quartier is a reconstruction of the German city's historical town that was once at the center of political, social and commercial life.

The "new old town" features 15 reconstructions of original buildings and 20 new buildings including shops, museums and restaurants. Tours of the area will be offered daily, June through October, then Thursday through Saturday in November and December, in both English and German. The quarter's opening ceremony will be September 28–30.



© #VISITFRANKFURT, HOLGER ULLMANN

"This is a wonderful addition to the city of Frankfurt because it extends the already existing cultural offer in a unique way, and it lets the old heart of Frankfurt beat in a new rhythm," says Charlotte Lockert Jakobsen, senior project manager with Frankfurt Rhine-Main region.

Tour highlights include the Hühnermarkt (the marketplace), the Römer (the town hall square), the Emperor's Cathedral St. Bartholomew and the Archeological Garden.

The region is full of cultural attractions, like Elvis Presley's European home in Bad Nauheim. Visitors can see the house Presley lived in during his military service in the 1950s and the shops where he purchased his musical equipment and can attend the European Elvis Festival, which takes place every August.

The organization has also put together suggested single-day tours, and some of those are:

**Historical Highlights** See Frankfurt's medieval town square, learn the history of leather production at the German Leather Museum in Offenbach and visit the Einhardsbasilika in Seligenstadt.

**A Day on the Rhine** Board a KD river boat in Wiesbaden-Biebrich for a cruise to Rüdesheim, where visitors can ride a cable car up to the Niederwald Monument.

**Health and Wellness Day** Visit the Kur-Royal Day Spa in Bad Homburg's Kurpark and visit Europe's largest Art Nouveau spa in Bad Nauheim.

For more information, contact Jakobsen at [charlotte.jakobsen@tourcomm-germany.com](mailto:charlotte.jakobsen@tourcomm-germany.com) or visit [frankfurt-rhein-main.de/en](http://frankfurt-rhein-main.de/en).

## This way to Oeschinensee

"The Oeschinensee is one of the natural wonders of the Alps," says Livia Wyssen with TALK AG (Tourismus Adelboden-Lenk-Kandersteg Co.) in Switzerland. "Beautiful mountain wildflowers, sheep and cattle herds grazing on the pastures and wildlife on the mountain slopes attract nature lovers to visit Oeschinensee at the gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage region."

The breathtaking waters of the Oeschinen Lake, about two and a half miles from Kandersteg in the Oeschinen valley, settles into the Alps' glaciers and pine forests, where visitors can swim or take a row boat across the deep waters for a picnic on the banks.

For a more extreme group activity, the Oeschinensee summer toboggan run is suitable for all ages.

"This incredible mountain coaster proves that you don't have to be a skier or a snowboarder for an adrenaline rush in the Alps," Wyssen says. "On a 750-meter track, you'll cover a total height difference of approximately 150 meters at lightning speed."

Keep that adrenalin pumping by taking the steepest bus route in Europe, which begins in Reichenbach in the Kandertal Valley, about 20 minutes from Kandersteg. The

Postbus route winds from the Pochten gorge to Griesalp at a 28-degree gradient. And while you're clutching your seat, there's lots of gorgeous scenery to take in.

To learn more, contact Wyssen at [livia.wyssen@be-welcome.ch](mailto:livia.wyssen@be-welcome.ch) or visit [kandersteg.ch](http://kandersteg.ch).



KANDERSTEG.CH



# COMMUNITY

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE NTA FAMILY



**Phone friendly** Don't think of a phone as a distraction, think of it as a tool for sharing everything from breaking news to recent selfies. At Contact in Charleston, NTA members made the most of shareable moments.

Clockwise, from top left:

Wendy Dobrzynski and Cory Mace

Jody Vinci (left) and Denise Olsen

Dave Nitkiewicz and Kristen Childers

Carrie Whitley, Jim Warren and Jay Smith

Meet the Members **58**

Introducing ... **60**

New Members **62**

Ad Index/NTA Events Calendar **63**

AfterWords **64**



# Meet the Members

PRESENTED BY **VISIT Clarksville**

## Don't Forget The List

MEDINA, OHIO

**NTA contact:** Lisa Buie and Holly Becht, co-owners

**Office phone:** +1.330.421.3980

**Website:** [dontforgetthelist.com](http://dontforgetthelist.com)

**NTA member since:** 2018

### What led you to start your own travel company?

**Buie:** Don't Forget The List was founded in August 2017, so we are fairly new to the travel industry. We first had the idea to start it at a moment in our lives when we were stressed out from the daily grind.

We wanted to go somewhere but didn't know where, so we threw a dart at a map and set out on a weekend adventure that took us through West Virginia and Kentucky. After recovering from that spontaneous road trip, the light bulb lit, and we decided we *had* to plan trips like this for other people.

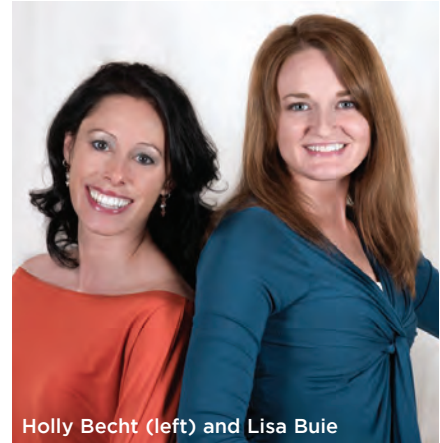
### What makes Don't Forget The List unique?

**Becht:** Our company is different in that we specialize in surprise travel and mystery tours, so if people book through us they get to experience the joy of discovery. Booking a surprise trip is like throwing a dart at a map, as we did, and going where it lands—only we offer the peace of mind that you'll end up on the perfect getaway tailored just for you.

### What were your early vacations like?

**Buie:** My grandma used to put my brother and me in the back of her station wagon and take us random places but would never tell us where we were going. In a way, she was a pioneer in mystery tours!

**Becht:** My parents always made sure we did something adventurous while



Holly Becht (left) and Lisa Buie

we were travelling. When I was young, my family and I would go every summer to my grandma's house in Niceville, Florida. We always drove, and along the way, we would stop at different places.

For more information, contact Buie at [lisa@dontforgetthelist.com](mailto:lisa@dontforgetthelist.com) and Becht at [holly@dontforgetthelist.com](mailto:holly@dontforgetthelist.com).

## Montana Office of Tourism & Business Development

HELENA, MONTANA

**NTA contact:** Kim Birrell, travel trade coordinator

**Office phone:** +1.406.841.2898

**Website:** [visitmt.com](http://visitmt.com)

**NTA member since:** 1975

### What's something new you're promoting?

We have been working with our American Indian tribes to develop tribal tourism in our state, hoping to increase tours and other activities that visitors can enjoy while learning more about our native heritage and culture. We also have been focusing more on promoting the unique and sometimes quirky attractions and activities in our small towns, things like doing an underground mine tour or ghost tour, providing local flavor that makes Montana memorable.

### What brought you to the area?

I came to work in Yellowstone about 20 years ago for what I thought would be

just one summer. I loved it so much that it turned into a longer stay, and I moved to Montana permanently. I love the outdoors, especially hiking, so Montana offers me endless places to explore.

### What do you like to do on the weekends?

During summers, my partner Kevin and I take our dog and hike, camp or explore ghost towns in Montana almost every other weekend. I am lucky enough to live in Helena, where there are many hiking and biking trails right on the edge of town—even in town—so I am able to hike a lot here.

### Have you binged on any television series lately?

I finished watching "Broadchurch" recently, and now I'm in the middle of "Peaky Blinders." My parents were Brits so I tend to gravitate to UK programming, especially mysteries.



For more information, contact Birrell at [kbirrell@mt.gov](mailto:kbirrell@mt.gov).

Visit Clarksville  
Frances Manzitto  
+1.931.245.4345 | 800.530.2487  
[frances@visitclarksvilletn.com](mailto:frances@visitclarksvilletn.com)  
[visitclarksvilletn.com](http://visitclarksvilletn.com)

From our picturesque and historic downtown to our rolling countryside, Clarksville welcomes you with open arms. Bringing your group to Clarksville means a trip full of Southern hospitality, unique attractions and shopping, great food and memories that will last a lifetime. Find out more at [visitclarksvilletn.com](http://visitclarksvilletn.com).





## It's a deal.

Buying from or selling to any segment of the North American travel market? Then you belong at Travel Exchange. It's here you'll discover product from every U.S. state, all across Canada and 30+ countries worldwide—all under one roof.

*"A supplier from my area sat in my booth the first day and business was booked!"*

—Delighted DMO Julianne Fredrick

*"I walked away with business for 2018 and very positive interest in 2019 and 2020."*

—Satisfied Supplier Joy Tevis

*"These contacts become critical in the long-term development of our success."*

—Blissful Buyer Ashley Landers

Registration now open at  
**[NTAonline.com/convention](http://NTAonline.com/convention)**

travel  
exchange   
Nov. 4–8, 2018 | Milwaukee



# Introducing ... NTA's newest members

## Detroit Metro CVB

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DMO

This 300-year-old city has made international headlines as America's great comeback story, and now it's GO time. New restaurants, entertainment districts, retailers and businesses are mixing with generations-old mainstays to create a fresh new travel experience.



**Kalynne Defever**  
Tourism specialist  
+1.313.202.1800  
kdefever@visitdetroit.com  
visitdetroit.com

*"I have been in the tourism and travel industry for a little over two years now, and we are excited to be a part of NTA!"*

## National Museum of the Marine Corps

TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA

Tour supplier

Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, the National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines. World-class interactive exhibits surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action.



**Pauline Bonilla**  
Theater director  
+1.703.649.2775  
bonilla@marineheritage.org  
usmcmuseum.com

*"I love working in this industry. I am originally from Scotland and have been married for 26 years with three kids, ages 25, 21 and 19."*

## Welcome to Harlem



NEW YORK CITY

Tour supplier

A full-service tour company operating since 2004, Welcome to Harlem specializes in showcasing the rich history and cultural diversity of Harlem. Offering smoothly run programs, the company can customize tours, special events and music programs for groups of all sizes.



**Carolyn Johnson**  
President  
+1.212.662.7779  
carolyn@welcometo-harlem.com  
welcometoharlem.com

*"Born and raised in Harlem, I love showing off my beautiful, culturally diverse neighborhood through walking tours, food and music. Block Strong, Harlem Proud!"*

## Amadeus Video Solutions

CHICAGO

Associate

Amadeus Video Solutions brings destinations and other travel products to life via an interactive and bookable video experience. The video player is the ultimate marketing tool, with engaging travel-specific overlays, live fares, video analytics and video SEO.



**Anthony Hadaway**  
Head of sales,  
North America  
+1.312.873.1172  
anthony.hadaway@amadeus.com  
amadeus.com

*"I'm a lifelong Chicagoan with a passion for travel and advertising. Between my career and my three handsome sons—ages 3, 1.5 and 4 months—there's never a dull moment."*

## Embrace South Africa Tours



PAARL, SOUTH AFRICA

Tour operator

Founded in 2001, Embrace South Africa Tours specializes in educational, faith and other special-focus tours. Guests can go on a safari in the African bush, watch the sunset with a glass of the best wine in the world and explore vibrant cities like Cape Town.



**Deon Kitching**  
CEO and founder  
+27.82.8383.298  
deonkit@mweb.co.za  
embracesouthafrica-tours.com

*"We believe that South Africa has a story of hope to tell the world, and we want to echo this message to all our groups."*

## Airtel Plaza Hotel

VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA

Tour supplier

You don't have to be an aviation buff to appreciate the world-class services of the Airtel Plaza Hotel at Van Nuys Airport. Tucked in the heart of the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, it features 267 rooms and 22,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor meeting and event space.



**Patricia Aquino**  
Sales manager  
+1.818.263.8309  
patricia@airtelplaza.com  
airtelplaza.com

*"As a multilingual foodie, I love that my job includes traveling the world—just like my mom did as a flight attendant!"*



## UMS Ticketing powered by UMS Banking

GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

Corporate partner

UMS Ticketing by UMS Banking offers NTA members options for affordable, flexible ticketing programs combined with a payment platform. With Social Boost technology, tour operators can exponentially increase their lead database and turn their customers into promoters.



**Chris Lake**  
Executive vice president,  
strategic partners  
+1.818.246.6767, ext. 140  
chris.lake@ums  
banking.com  
umsbanking.com

*"I've been here at UMS Ticketing by UMS Banking for over 10 years. I love creating new partnerships between businesses that create a win for both sides."*

## The Offstage Group

NEW YORK CITY

Travel planner

The Offstage Group produces exclusive cultural, artistic and lifestyle experiences for adult and student groups. Customized programs provide one-on-one interaction with celebrities and creative professionals in music, theater, dance, film, television, visual arts, culinary arts, literature and fashion—in all major U.S. cities and in international cultural centers.



**Leo Paolo L. Leal**  
Director of programs  
and operations  
+1.917.829.9894  
leo@theoffstagegroup.  
com  
theoffstagegroup.com

*"My love for travel and music has led me to work for this company for eight years, and I love being in the middle of everything in NYC."*

## U.S. Bank

MINNEAPOLIS

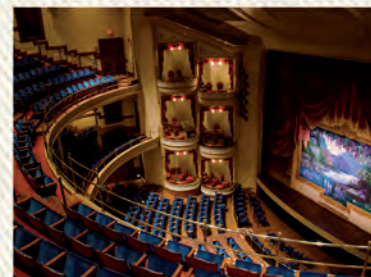
Associate

U.S. Bank offers payment solutions to companies and has a strong presence in the travel industry. The bank's physical cards and virtual cards are efficient tools that will save time and earn revenue share on each spend.



**Robin Dexter**  
Vice president,  
virtual payments  
+1.952.445.6515  
robin.dexter@usbank.  
com  
usbankpayments.com

*"I have been at U.S. Bank for 21 years, helping customers in the travel industry be more efficient. I love to travel with my family and enjoy the outdoors in Minnesota (most of the year)." 🍷*



EXPLORE THE  
HERITAGE & HISTORY  
of GALVESTON

  
GALVESTON  
★ ISLAND ★  
WWW.GALVESTON.COM

JUST 50 MINUTES FROM HOUSTON

866.505.4456



## 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

#### Arizona China Connect

Wei Chen  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254 USA  
arizonachinaconnect.com

#### BostonWise LLC

David Kang  
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA  
bostonwise.com

#### Clark Tours LLC

Randall Clark  
Ringgold, GA 30736 USA  
clarktours.net

#### DTA Bus Tour Inc.

Jianhong Zhou  
Walnut, CA 91789 USA

#### Embrace South Africa Tours



Deon Kitching  
Paarl, 7646 South Africa  
embracesouthafricatours.com

#### Galaxy Tour NY Inc.

Emily Wu  
New York, NY 11354 USA

#### Gallop Global Inc.

Lee Song  
Quincy, MA 02171 USA  
gallopglobal.net

#### J & J Global Travel Inc.

Jason Fang  
New York, NY 11358 USA

#### Joy America International Travel Inc.

Gejia Liu  
Orem, UT 84058 USA  
joyamerica.cc

#### LEYI America International Travel Inc.

Gary Meng  
City of Industry, CA 91748 USA

#### Mega Travel LLC

Fengning Wang  
Rockville, MD 20850 USA  
megatravelgo.com

#### Music Celebrations International

Kerry Young  
Tempe, AZ 85281-6905 USA  
musiccelebrations.com

#### NIS Transportation Company

Jack Dong  
El Sobrante, CA 94803 USA  
nistransportation.com

#### PPS Travel Inc.

Siyao Tian  
New York, NY 11358 USA

#### RV Trip LLC

Li Zhang  
Arlington, TX 76010 USA  
rvtrip.org

#### Starlight Tours Inc.

Stephen Chen  
Walnut, CA 91789 USA  
starlight-tours.com

#### TRIPOTOUR LLC.

Mete Gurel  
Alexandria, VA 22301 USA  
tripotour.com

#### Unisafe Tours



Vishal Gupta  
Agra, 282001 India  
unisafetours.com

#### Wannar Travel Inc.

Haobin Li  
San Jose, CA 95134 USA  
wannar.com

### TOUR SUPPLIERS

#### Airtel Plaza Hotel & Conference Center

Patricia Aquino  
Van Nuys, CA 91406-3425 USA  
airtelplaza.com

#### The Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Carrie Goulet  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0L5 Canada  
humanrightsmuseum.ca

#### Coakley & Williams Hotel Management Company

Mike Parent  
Greenbelt, MD 20770 USA  
cwhotels.com

#### Comfort Inn & Suites-Brattleboro

Amy Manning  
Brattleboro, VT 05301 USA  
choicehotels.com

#### Courtyard by Marriott Kauai at Coconut Beach

Jaye Gayagas-Youn  
Kapaa, HI 96746 USA  
kauaicourtyardresort.com

#### Greg Frewin Theatre

Serena Waldeck  
Niagara Falls, ON L2G 3P8 Canada  
gregfrewintheatre.com

#### Holiday Inn Golden Gateway

Cecile Xian  
San Francisco, CA 94109-4696 USA  
goldengatewayhotel.com

#### Holiday Motor Coach LLC

Jennifer Phillips  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101 USA  
holidaymotorcoach.com

#### Marin Suites Hotel

Matthew Andress  
Corte Madera, CA 94925 USA  
marinsuites.com

#### Mirvish Productions

Natasha Springett  
Toronto, ON M5V 1J2 Canada  
mirvish.com

#### National Museum of the Marine Corps

Pauline Bonilla  
Triangle, VA 22172 USA  
usmcmuseum.com

#### Old Town Trolley Tours of Nashville

Melissa Elliott  
Nashville, TN 37210 USA  
trolleytours.com

#### Ottawa Boat Cruise

Julia Oliveira  
Gatineau, QC J8T 2W3 Canada  
ottawaboatcruise.com

#### Sheraton Gunter Hotel San Antonio Downtown

Lisa York  
San Antonio, TX 78205 USA  
sheratongunter.com

#### SureStay Plus by Best Western Buffalo WY

Angela Bailey  
Buffalo, WY 82834 USA  
bestwestern.com

#### Taste Harlem Food and Cultural Tours

Jacqueline Orange  
New York, NY 10027 USA  
tasteharlem.com

#### Viel Marketing International Inc.

Francois Jean Viel  
Toronto, ON M2N 6M4 Canada  
viemarketing.com

#### Waco River Safari



Ryan Helm  
Axtell, TX 76624 USA  
wacoriversafari.com

#### Welcome to Harlem



Carolyn Johnson  
New York, NY 10027 USA  
welcometoharlem.com

### DMO

#### Visit Muskegon

Bernadette Benkert  
Muskegon, MI 49440 USA  
visitmuskegon.org

### ASSOCIATES

#### Amadeus

Anthony Hadaway  
Chicago, IL 60609 USA  
amadeus.com

#### The Group Travel Leader Inc.

Kelly Tyner  
Lexington, KY 40507 USA  
grouptravelleader.com

#### Herron Printing & Graphics

Randy Herron  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879 USA  
herronprinting.com

#### Outdooractive



Yan Baczkowski  
Immenstadt, 87509 Germany  
corporate.outdooractive.com/en

#### U.S. Bancorp

Chad Fitterer  
Minneapolis, MN 55402 USA  
usbank.com/index.html

#### UMS Ticketing powered by UMS Banking

Chris Lake  
Glendale, CA 91203 USA  
umsbanking.com

#### ViaTour Software

Roberta Moore  
Templeton, CA 93465 USA  
viatoursoftware.com

#### Whisper Trading & Services LLC

Leah Wilson  
Miami Springs, FL 33266 USA  
whisper-system.net

### TRAVEL PLANNER

#### The Offstage Group/Your VIP Pass

Leo Paolo Leal  
New York, NY 10105 USA  
theoffstagegroup.com

### New FTA members

The following is a list of NTA members that also have joined the Faith Travel Association since March 1, 2018.

### DMO

#### Fond du Lac Convention & Visitors Bureau

### TOUR OPERATOR

#### Tour Trends



## AD INDEX

NTA would like to thank the following *Courier* advertisers for their support of the association. Advertisers with a ★ are new advertisers.

<b>American Music Theatre.....</b> 42 amtshows.com +1.717.397.7700	<b>The Huntington Library, Art Collections &amp; Botanical Gardens.....</b> 33 huntington.org +1.626.405.2240	★ <b>Rutherford County CVB.....</b> 45 readysetrutherford.com +1.615.278.2014
<b>Argosy Cruises .....Back Cover</b> argosycruises.com +1.206.717.0741	<b>Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission.....</b> 52 lafayettettravel.com +1.337.232.3737	<b>Travel Medford ..... 55</b> travelmedford.org +1.541.621.2804
<b>Chattanooga Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau ..... 47</b> chattanoogaafun.com +1.423.424.4431	<b>LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce &amp; Tourism .....Inside Front Cover</b> lagrangechamber.com +1.706.884.8671	<b>Tulalip Tribes/Quil Ceda Village ..... 5</b> tulalipresort.com +1.360.716.6600
<b>Cheekwood Estate &amp; Gardens ..... 46</b> cheekwood.org +1.615.353.6971	<b>Maid of the Mist..... 7</b> maidoftthemist.com +1.716.284.8897	★ <b>Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau (Yosemite North)..... 27</b> yosemitgoldcountry.com +1.209.533.4420
<b>Coral Castle ..... 49</b> coralcastle.com +1.305.248.6345	<b>Maryland Office of Tourism Development ..... 40</b> visitmaryland.org/groups +1.410.767.6288	<b>U.S. Space &amp; Rocket Center ..... 50</b> spacecamp.com +1.256.721.7124
<b>Delaware North Companies Parks &amp; Resorts, Inc. .... 28</b> niagarafallsstatepark.com +1.559.253.5615	<b>New Jersey Division of Travel &amp; Tourism..... 37</b> visitnj.org +1.609.292.4239	<b>Virginia Beach Convention &amp; Visitor Bureau ..... 13</b> visitvirginiabeach.com/groupstour +1.757.385.6642
<b>Fairbanks, Alaska-Explore Fairbanks ..... 14</b> explorefairbanks.com +1.907.457.3282 (3783)	<b>Ocean City MD CVB/ Department of Tourism ..... 41</b> ococean.com 800.626.2326	<b>Visit Clarksville ..... 58</b> clarksvillecvb.com +1.931.245.4345
<b>Forever Resorts ..... 26</b> foreverresorts.com +1.480.998.7199 (7114)	<b>OUE Skyspace LA ..... 34</b> oue-skyspace.com +1.213.894.9000	<b>Visit Durango ..... 30</b> durango.org +1.970.247.3500
★ <b>Galveston Island Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau ..... 61</b> galveston.com +1.409.797.5128	★ <b>Potawatomi Hotel and Casino ..... 21</b> paysbig.com +1.414.847.7982	<b>Visit Savannah ..... 15</b> visitsavannah.com +1.912.644.6419
<b>Graceland &amp; Guest House at Graceland..... 45</b> graceland.com +1.901.332.3322	<b>Redding Convention &amp; Visitors Bureau..... 25</b> visitredding.com +1.530.225.4010	<b>Visit Tybee Island..... 51</b> visittybee.com +1.912.644.6471
<b>Grand Canyon Tour and Travel..... 29</b> grandcanyontourandtravel.com +1.702.655.6060	<b>River Street Riverboat Company .....Inside Back Cover</b> savannahriverboat.com +1.912.232.6404	<b>VisitNorfolk..... 43</b> visitnorfolktoday.com +1.757.664.6620
<b>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites Oceanfront ..... 3</b> hamptoninncoceanfront.com +1.843.946.6400	<b>Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum..... 32</b> reaganlibrary.com +1.805.522.2977	<b>Winterthur Museum ..... 39</b> winterthur.org +1.302.888.4694
★ <b>Harry and David..... 54</b> harryanddavid.com +1.541.864.2462		

## NTA EVENTS

Save these dates in 2018 and beyond to connect with new partners and destinations.

For more information on these events,  
click the EVENTS tab on NTAonline.com.



Milwaukee  
Nov. 4-8, 2018



Fort Worth  
Dec. 8-12, 2019



Tucson, Arizona  
March 27-30, 2019



Anchorage, Alaska  
March 18-21, 2020



# All consuming information

We all travel, but how do you entertain or inform yourself while you're on the road or in the air. We asked these Contact attendees during the icebreaker: "What did you read, watch or listen to on your flight to Charleston?"



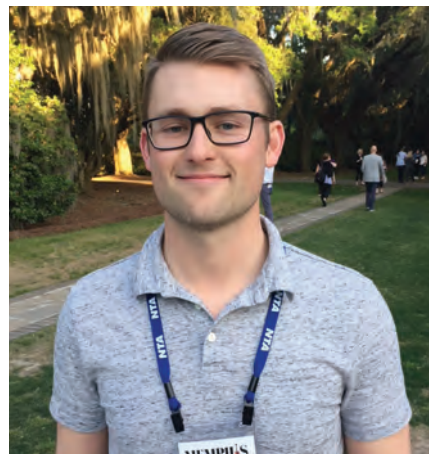
**Raena Rodgers,**  
**Discover Klamath**

"I read the airline magazine in the seatback pocket, and I listened to my music: Adele, Beyoncé, Pepper ... I like different types of music."



**Monique van Dijk-Seppola (left),**  
**with Anita Koot, Scandinavia Tours**

"We watched 'Phantom Threat' and 'Erin Brockovich,' and then we started a couple of bad movies we didn't finish."



**Fraser Neave, CTP,**  
**Wells Gray Tours**

"I watched 'The Shape of Water,' and I read a book I brought on Pearl Harbor."



**Peter Maidhof (left), Geni Priolo**  
**and Alastair McMillan-Bell, Aon**  
**Affinity | Travel Practice**

**Peter:** "I flew to Columbia then drove to Charleston. I went to school here in the late '80s, and I found the radio station I remembered—95 WSSX."

**Geni:** "I did crossword puzzles on my tablet."

**Alastair:** "I looked at some work papers then I read *The Economist*."



**Colleen Palmertree,**  
**Memphis CVB**

"I took two short flights. I read the Delta magazine, which Memphis has an ad in—awesome. Then I read *Glamour*."



**Jara Haas, Major Marine Tours &**  
**Harbor 360 Hotel; David Kasser,**  
**Visit Anchorage**

**Jara:** "I'm reading 'The Shipping News,' and it's very good. I started watching 'Churchill,' but the flight ended 20 minutes before the movie was over, so now I need to find out how World War II ended."

**David:** "I was on a redeye, so I started 'Gravity'—which I've seen 100 times—so I could fall asleep. Then I read a cruising guide in preparation for sailing my ship from Washington to Alaska." 📍





# SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISES

**THE BEST SOUTHERN CUISINE ABOARD**  
*the Grandest Entertainment Ship!*



*Savannah's #1 Dining & Entertainment  
Experience for Group Tours!*

## **NARRATED HARBOR SIGHTSEEING CRUISE**

Learn, Relax and View as you cruise along Savannah's historic Riverfront.

## **NARRATED HARBOR LUNCHEON CRUISE**

Experience Savannah through our local southern cuisine and tour of the famous Savannah River!

*\*Lunch options available: Southern style buffet or a la carte menu (lunch on their own)*

## **SUNDAY BRUNCH CRUISE**

Delight over an elaborate brunch buffet filled with breakfast and lunch favorites while listening to our Captain's intriguing facts and tales of Savannah!

## **DINNER ENTERTAINMENT CRUISE**

Enjoy a specially prepared, delicious buffet dinner, live entertainment and first class service as your group dines in Savannah's most unique and only true waterfront venue!

## **SUNSET CRUISE**

Breathtaking sunsets and captivating views from Savannah's largest, open-air top-deck patio. Your group can sit back and relax or get up and dance to the fresh sounds of our Riverboat entertainers. A sunset specialty menu and cash bar will be available.

## **MONDAY GOSPEL DINNER CRUISE**

Enjoy local Gospel entertainment and savory flavors of the South. A true cultural and culinary experience you don't want to miss!

## **ADD A UNIQUE TOUCH TO YOUR GROUP'S TOUR WITH A PRIVATE CHEF'S DEMO**

Our chef will delight your clients with a personalized cooking demo before setting sail for lunch!

*\*Pricing inclusive of sales tax and gratuity \*Student and Youth programs available \*Ask us about our bundled tour packages*

*\*Special Tour Operator rates \*Driver and Escort complimentary passes*

**Catering to tour groups since 1991—Savannah's Group Tour Experts!**

**For more details please contact our group sales department, 912.232.6404 or at [www.savannahriverboat.com](http://www.savannahriverboat.com)**





# TILlicum EXCURSION

**One-of-a-kind** island experience!



DISCOVER. EXPLORE. PLAY.



**ARGOSY CRUISES**™

*Your friend with a boat!*

**NOW BOOKING 2019!**

Contact [Sales@ArgosyCruises.com](mailto:Sales@ArgosyCruises.com) to book now!