



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For more information contact
Lisa Scholin, bluefly PR
503-977-0483 (Office)
503-320-9379 (Mobile)
lisa@blueflypr.com**

10 Hidden Gems of Europe

Escorted tour directors reveal their favorite less-trodden travel spots

Lake Oswego, Ore., December 13, 2007 – As travel pros, tour directors know their stuff when it comes to the popular, must-see sites. After all, they spend each day helping their clients experience these places, teaching them about the history and culture. But professional tour directors also know what lies in the nooks and crannies and can offer an opportunity to explore amazing undiscovered places in Europe as well.

Hans Sohlstrom, president of Grand European Tours, specialists in escorted tours for boomers and beyond says one client described it as the “the golden key,” because of the access she had to the places others might miss.

That access, along with the greater experience a tour director offers is one of the big reasons many select an escorted tour, Sohlstrom says.

Grand European Tours recently asked a group of their seasoned tour directors to share some of their favorite hidden gems, here is the list.

10 Hidden Gems of Europe

1. Waterfront town of Itea, Greece
Located in the region of Fokida in central Greece, Itea is a small seaside town boasting a stunning waterfront filled with restaurants and tavernas. The town is bordered by ocean on two sides, offering spectacular scenery. It's rarely visited by tourists as it is shadowed by the dominance of nearby Delphi.
2. Platamon Castle, Greece
Located in the little village of Platamon at the foot of Mount Olympus, this castle is one of the most important buildings in the area. Built in 1204 by German Crusaders, it offers magnificent views of the area, yet it is hidden from most tourists.
3. Montserrat L'Escolania Boys Choir, Spain
One of the oldest little boys' choirs whose roots can be traced back to the monastic schools of the Middle Ages. Dressed in white and black gowns, they sing the "Salve" everyday, at 13:00 in the Basilica of Montserrat. This choir is rather unknown though to U.S. travelers and a treat for anyone who can see them in this small concert.

-More-

HIDDEN GEMS OF EUROPE/PAGE 2

4. Leon Cathedral, Spain
One of the glories in the town of Leon is the gothic cathedral that dates from the 13th century. This cathedral which took over 200 years to build boasts more than 250 remarkable stained glass windows, totaling over 1,800 square meters of glass. The oldest glass is from the 13th and 15th century.
5. Albi, France
Often called the "Pink City of Albi," this town is entirely made up of brick. With all shades of brick from red to pink, the whole town basks in a wonderful warm tint. And unlike some its neighboring brick towns (Toulouse), Albi doesn't see crowds of tourists. The beautifully preserved town features a unique cathedral which is a masterpiece of southern French gothic architecture.
6. Ephrussi de Rothschild Villa, France
Built on the narrowest part of the Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat promontory, this sumptuous palazzo is one of the finest listed buildings on the French Riviera. The villa was inspired by the great Renaissance palaces of Venice and Florence and features seven themed gardens of exquisite beauty. It's the only French Riviera home open to the public offering a taste of the magnificent summer residences built by the very wealthy during the Belle Epoque.
7. Lacock Village, England
Lacock is a picturesque Cotswold village where time stands still, and not a stone has been moved in several centuries. The entire village was owned originally by the nuns of Lacock Abbey and later by one family from about 1640 until 1943 when it was willed to the National Trust, which looks after it with loving care. The pub has had a license since 1361 – and they can prove it. The town was also the home of William Fox-Talbot the father of photography.
8. Whitby, England
This little 18th century whaling port on the Yorkshire coastline is the birthplace of Captain Cook and the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula. The towering cliff setting features quaint cobbled streets and picturesque houses all capped by the ruins of Whitby Abbey, where the Roman and Celtic Christians settled their differences and finally decided on a date for Easter.
9. The Victoria Pub in Chester, England
With its odd shaped doors, low roof and antique oak beams, there is nowhere else you can soak up the atmosphere of an English pub quite like the Victoria Pub. The pub is situated on the former site of the headquarters for the Roman Legion and first became a pub in 1269.
10. Loch Lubnaig, Scotland
This loch is known for its wild and dramatic scenery is located in the beautiful Trossachs of central Scotland. The Trossachs epitomise the best of Scotland, a land of high mountains, lochs and deep glens, myths and folklore, giants and legendary heroes.

For more information on tours that visit these hidden gems or to request a free catalog containing a complete listing of all tours, departure dates and prices, call 1-800-522-5545 or visit www.getours.com.

###

Grand European Tours

For over 29 years, Grand European Tours has provided travelers with an easy and enriching way to travel through their escorted tours. With over 45 itineraries to Europe and beyond, every trip includes a team of travel experts to guide your journey and help you discover the gems of each destination. Grand European Tours even offers an unconditional price guarantee that keeps tour prices low, even if exchange rates and fuel costs change. For more information, visit www.getours.com or call 1-800-522-5545.