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Upgrade Your National Park Experience

Escorted tours offer new perspective and deeper understanding of our nation's treasures

Lake Oswego, Ore., February 18, 2008 – If your last visit to a national park conjures up memories of station wagons, Mad Libs and marshmallows, it's well time you took another look. Many travelers are rediscovering the beauty, natural history and diversity of our national parks while traveling in style with an escorted tour.

Escorted tours mean you travel with an expert at your side, so you can experience your journey in-depth. And while others are pitching a tent for the night, you and your group enjoy gourmet meals and evenings in first class hotels. Rather than fumbling with maps, luggage and reservations, you are free to take in your natural surroundings while the details are taken care of by an expert tour staff.

"We offer travelers an insider's view of the treasures of our nation's backyard in a sophisticated and comfortable way," says Hans Sohlstrom, president of Grand European Tours, specialists in escorted tours for boomers and beyond. With hands-on experiences, special events and a Tour Director that provides interactive learning opportunities, Sohlstrom says clients are always amazed at what they gain with an escorted tour.

"We saw so much on our two-week trip, it would normally take a lifetime to see all these beautiful sites. Our Tour Director was exceptionally knowledgeable about the areas, always pointing out history and special facts," says customer Mary Hunt from Grandville, Michigan.

Grand European Tours added tours of North American to their roster of worldwide tours two years ago. After only one year, they boosted their offerings by 45 percent just to meet demand. Their 14-day Scenic Parks Explorer tour covers five national parks and seven states with stops for other significant highlights along the way.

At the heart of every tour is the Tour Director who is part teacher, part guide and part concierge.

As you drive in through the landscape, rather than simply admire your surroundings, you are infused, for instance, with an understanding of the geologic nature of the land you're viewing, and through stories from your tour director you can envision how things looked to your predecessors thousands of years ago.

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"I make each traveler's journey come alive through experiences, stories and information you won't find in a travel book," says Greg Martin, Tour Director for the Scenic Parks Explorer tour. Martin, who has 19 years experience guiding tours, says the best part of his job is teaching clients something new.

The Grand European Tours Scenic Parks Explorer trip includes 20 meals, lodging, entrance fees, guided tours, a full time Tour Director and more. Departures are available May through October with prices starting at \$2,499 per person.

Grand European Tours currently offers a dozen other North American tours, including Autumn Colors, Historic Highlights, Northwest Coastal Adventure and Wonders of the American West.

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

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE: Opportunities to talk with expert tour directors, clients and company representatives are available, please contact Lisa Scholin at 503-977-0483 for information.

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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.