



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

### **Free Tools for Travel**

Grand European Tours offers trip planning resources to help travelers get more from their next journey

Lake Oswego, Ore., July 20, 2007 – When 110 tour directors at Grand European Tours were asked in a recent survey for their best travel tip, the most popular reply was, “Read up!” These pros – who spend their time helping travelers discover more about a destination – have seen the major benefits a little homework can bring to your next trip. And now, Grand European Tours, specialists in escorted tours to Europe and beyond, is making it easy to get smart before you depart with a series of free travel planning tools available for everyone.

“A little knowledge goes a long way when it comes to travel” says Hans Sohlstrom, president of Grand European Tours. “Even on a tour where you will be learning from an expert, you can enjoy your trip on a deeper level than those who have to acquaint themselves first.”

By providing background on the sites, people and customs unique to each destination – even tips to help you bring the right things – Grand European Tours wants to help travelers arrive prepared with these free resources:

#### **Online Trip Planning Tools**

It might be helpful to know that sandals are great picks for Italy’s warm days or that while visiting there, you’ll need to wear longer skirts or pants before entering a local church.

One visit to the Travel Tools section on Grand European Tour’s website ([www.gettours.com/traveltools](http://www.gettours.com/traveltools)) and you’ll be all set for these situations and more. Here you can review what to pack, local customs, climate conditions, safety tips and even transportation information.

The massive database of information is divided by country allowing you to locate quickly your exact destination. You can introduce yourself to each country with a brief overview of the sites, and then discover helpful planning tips divided by three stages of your trip: Preparing, Getting There and Experiencing. There are also tools you can use to check currency conversions, local time and even current weather forecasts.

-More-

### **Monthly Newsletter**

Each month, Grand European Tours treats their email newsletter subscribers to a free issue filled with background and photos of destinations to Europe and beyond. One popular feature is the monthly recipe section which gives travelers a chance to taste a traditional recipe of Europe right in their own kitchen.

Recipes vary from traditional tapas of Spain and unique treats such as Opfenkolatsche, a traditional Viennese cheese danish to Croatian cookies and English Toad in the Hole. It's a great way to share traditions of other countries with family, even grandchildren.

Sign up for the free newsletter at [www.getours.com](http://www.getours.com) or view information filled back issues at [www.getours.com/newsletters/list.html](http://www.getours.com/newsletters/list.html).

### **Packing Tips Book**

The best packing tips can be found in "Smart Packing for Today's Traveler" a book by seasoned travel veteran, Susan Foster. And for a limited time, Grand European Tours is making this valuable resource available to new customers that book a tour.

Experienced travelers and new travelers alike find this 248-page guide an invaluable source of information for reducing their suitcase load, while helping them prepare for any situation that may arise while away. Using her experience from hundreds of business and pleasure trips, Foster shares secrets in this book, along with detailed illustrations, that make the directions easy to follow.

To book a tour and receive a free copy, call 1-800-522-5545.

Sohlstrom also advises travelers to spend time researching the kind of trip they are taking. For tours, it is important to realize what is included for the price.

"Check what kind of hotels you are staying in, how many meals or inclusions you will receive, and most of all if your price is guaranteed," he says.

Grand European Tours has a 28 year tradition offering an unconditional price guarantee to their customers which means the price paid for a trip will not change for any reason, even if gas rates continue to rise. And all prices shown include airfare surcharges, so the price published will be the same price you pay.

For more information on Grand European Tours 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](http://www.getours.com). The Web site also features current discounts and promotions.

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**Grand European Tours**

For over 28 years, Grand European Tours has provided travelers with an easy and enriching way to travel through their escorted tours. With over 40 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](http://www.getours.com) or call 1-800-522-5545.