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

Travel to the Earth's Most Exceptional

Grand European Tours offers trips globally to UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Lake Oswego, Ore., October 9, 2007 – Around the world, there are sites both manmade and natural that are a source of inspiration and education to us all – irreplaceable treasures that are a part of our world heritage. Since 1972, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has sought out these locations, and worked to protect and preserve places that are of outstanding value to humanity. Currently, there are 851 designated UNESCO World Heritage sites around the globe.

Grand European Tours, specialists in escorted tours for boomers and beyond, is honored to offer a series of trips to discover some of these gems. They currently offer 13 tours that explore UNESCO World Heritage sites as unique and diverse as the Pyramids of Egypt, the United State's Mesa Verde National Park, China's Classical Gardens of Suzhou and the 4,000-year-old Croatian town of Trogir.

"We give travelers an insider's view of our world's treasures and bring these places to life so they can remain relevant to future generations," says Hans Sohlstrom, president of Grand European Tours. The company organizes full-service escorted tours to Europe and worldwide.

Every tour is a learning opportunity as participants travel alongside an expert tour director, who provides background on history and culture, and is a catalyst for opportunities to discover more about the places they visit. Tours may include a chance to take in a lecture, eat with a family in their home, make a craft, or a chance learn about local foods, for instance.

Here is a sampling of the tours currently available for 2008:

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UNESCO Heritage Site Tours

1. Grand Tour of Croatia and Slovenia – 18 days from \$3,899

As part of this 18 day tour of Croatia and Slovenia, explore three UNESCO World Heritage sites. Journey to the 4,000-year-old town of Trogir and view its beautiful Romanesque churches and outstanding Renaissance and Baroque buildings from the Venetian period. Then tour with a local guide to explore Diocletian's Palace, built between the late 3rd and the early 4th centuries A.D. Its ruins are found throughout the city of Split. Finally, enjoy the breathtaking coastline and city of Dubrovnik, the "Pearl of the Adriatic," dotted with beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque buildings. The tour also includes a chance to learn about Croatia's economy since the collapse of Yugoslavia from a local resident expert as part of the Explore and Discover™ series.

2. Central and Eastern Europe – 17 days from \$3,599

Journey through Central and Eastern Europe on this 17 day tour and explore two UNESCO Heritage sites. Visit Krakow, a 13th-century town and former capital of Poland. The town is situated at the foot of the Royal Wawel Castle and features Europe's largest market square and numerous historical houses, palaces and churches, as well as the medieval site of Kazimierz with its ancient synagogues in the southern part of town and the Gothic cathedral where the kings of Poland were buried. Then, travel along the banks of the Vltava River to discover the medieval town of Cesky Krumlov. It's an outstanding example of a small central European medieval town whose architectural heritage has remained intact thanks to its peaceful evolution over more than five centuries. An optional tour to a third UNESCO site, the Wieliczka Salt Mine near Krakow – one of the first 12 World Heritage sites – features famous works of art with altars and statues sculpted in salt.

3. Enchanting Danube River Cruise – nine days from \$2,219

Visit three UNESCO Heritage sites along the Danube on this nine day river cruise. Explore the UNESCO Heritage site of Budapest where the remains of monuments such as the Roman city of Aquincum and the Gothic castle of Buda can be found. Cruise through the heart of the picturesque, vineyard-rich Wachau Valley, with its abruptly rising hills, and nestling baroque villages. And enjoy a walking tour of Salzburg's Old Town. This World Heritage site is known for its well-preserved medieval town core and for its musical heritage.

4. Grand tour of Egypt – 13 days from \$2,969 (optional Abu Simbel trip \$224)

Discover Egypt and its wealth of UNESCO Heritage sites. Visit Cairo, one of the world's oldest Islamic cities where you will see the Egyptian Museum and dine with an Egyptian family. After a flight to Luxor, you'll visit the Temple of Luxor before embarking on a seven-night cruise along the Nile. The cruise begins with an excursion to the Valley of the Kings and proceeds with stops at some of the most ancient and magnificent monuments on earth. The amazing and mysterious Pyramids of Giza await your return to Cairo. The Great Pyramid has stood for 46 centuries near the enigmatic Sphinx. An optional tour to Abu Simbel is available to view the four colossi of Ramases II that were carefully salvaged under UNESCO supervision.

For more information on tours featuring UNESCO World Heritage sites 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. The Web site also features current discounts and promotions.

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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 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 or call 1-800-522-5545.