

# Vacations Of A Lifetime

## 'Tis The Season To Travel

(NAPS)—Everyone has their favorite season. Some enjoy the chill of winter, while others like to bask in 80-degree weather. Whatever you prefer, indulge in your favorite season by traveling with an NTA tour company. Whether it's a summer vacation overseas or a one-day trip in the fall to a neighboring community or state, taking a group tour is a great way to celebrate your favorite time of year.

Let the chill of winter rejuvenate you during a trip to such American treasures as snow-covered Yellowstone National Park or the Smoky Mountains. For a more festive trip, kick off the holidays at Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade or complete your holiday shopping at Minnesota's Mall of America. Travelers yearning for an active trip can ski top-rated slopes at revered mountains throughout the world.

If you prefer the blossoms of spring, then visit the fabled Biltmore Estate, America's largest home. Inside and out, the home and its gardens reflect the very best of Europe's great tradition of palatial estate building. Besides Biltmore's Festival of Flowers, travelers of all ages can immerse themselves in spring's fragrance and color during Michigan's Holland Tulip Festival; discover the southern charm of Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, S.C., and tour Ontario, Canada's Botanical Gardens and Butterfly Conservatory.

Are you looking for a hot spot? The ultimate summer vacation is a tour of Europe. Discover the majestic palace and elegant gardens of Louis XIV in Versailles;



float away on a gondola tour of Venice; tour the United Nations in Geneva; sample Belgium waffles in Belgium; and cycle past windmills amid Amsterdam's countryside.

Fall foliage tours of the northeast United States offer travelers an ideal setting to see a kaleidoscope of colors. In addition to foliage tours, late autumn is a time to enjoy the spirit or spirits of Halloween. Visit the House of Seven Gables, the setting for Nathaniel Hawthorne's classic novel, or get spooked at the Salem Witch Museum. In November, take a trip to the Big Apple to see the floats and massive balloons during the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Group tours can take you to any of these places and more. When you shop for a tour company, look for the National Tour Association's logo. That logo means a tour operator holds at least \$1 million in professional liability, errors and omissions insurance and participates in the association's \$250,000 Consumer Protection Plan. You can look for an NTA member in your area on the association's Web site, [www.ntaonline.com](http://www.ntaonline.com).