



**For Immediate Release  
January 5, 2011**

### **Glimpse into Cultures Around the Globe with USTOA**

Travel with an Egyptologist and learn about recent Egyptian discoveries, try the ancient Chinese art of Tai Chi , sample an authentic Tuscan meal set among olive groves, experience life in a rural Costa Rican community, or explore history and eat pizza in New York City. Whether you are a student or adult traveler, a variety of tours and custom vacations from U. S. Tour Operators Association members offer a glimpse into archeology, food, history, and culture around the globe that may be hard to find independently.

Five examples, ranging from 4 to 12 days, are cited below, with travel dates into 2011.

#### **Longer Trips**

**Egypt: Learn about recent archeological discoveries  
Splendors of the Nile, 12 days/ 11 nights**

An Egyptologist provides travelers with insight into current archeological finds and ancient Egyptian history during a Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventures “Splendors of the Nile” 12 day, 11 night escorted tour from Collette Vacations. With dates through 2011, highlights of this learning tour include Cairo, Pyramids, Memphis, Sakkara, Luxor, Valley of the Kings and Queens, and Aswan, with a four night Nile River cruise. Price begins at \$1,699 per person, land only. For reservations phone 1-800-528-9917, or visit [www.collettevacations.com](http://www.collettevacations.com).

**China: Take Tai Chi lessons  
Historic Cities and Yangtze River SuperValue, 12 days/11 nights**

Take Tai Chi lessons on a 12 day, 11 night “Historic Cities and Yangtze River SuperValue” tour with Pacific Delight Tours. Travelers also learn about Chinese history and culture through educational lectures and traditional performances . The tour, priced from \$1,899 per person, includes Shanghai, Xi’an, Beijing, and a Yangtze River Cruise. This tour can be booked anytime for travel through March 1, 2011. For reservations phone 1-800-221-7179 or visit [www.pacificdelighttours.com](http://www.pacificdelighttours.com).

**Italy: Sample authentic Tuscan cuisine  
Italy Bellissimo, 11 days/ 10 nights**

Travelers enjoy an authentic dinner in a Tuscan countryside restaurant set among olive groves on Brendan Vacations’ “Italy Bellissimo” escorted tour to Rome, Capri, Assisi, Venice, and Montecatini. Through April 1, 2011, this 11 day, 10 night tour is priced from \$2,125 per person, with airfare additional,. Reservations can be made anytime , based on availability. For reservations phone 1-800-421-8446 or visit [www.brendanvacations.com](http://www.brendanvacations.com).

## **Shorter Vacations**

### **Costa Rica for students: Experience rural life**

#### **Costa Rica: Sun & Service, 9 days/ 8 nights**

Students on an Explorica “Costa Rica: Sun and Service” educational tour can experience rural life in Santos, Costa Rica through volunteer activities like painting at the local school or preparing a garden. Students also visit Poas Volcano, Arenal, Coastal Puntarenas, and Manuel Antonio National Park, and go on a bio coffee adventure. The price for this 9 day, 8 night tour, which includes round-trip air fare, varies by group size and gateway. For reservations phone 1-888-310-7120 or visit [www.explorica.com](http://www.explorica.com).

### **New York City: Explore history, eat pizza**

#### **Only in New York, 4 days/ 3 nights**

On Travel Bound’s 4 day, 3 night “Only in New York” -planned vacation, you can discover Manhattan and delve into the history, landmarks, and famous movie locations of Brooklyn while sampling pizza at two different locations. Priced from \$784 per person, this custom itinerary offers accommodations at the four-star Loews Regency Hotel on Park Avenue, a three hour full circumnavigation cruise of Manhattan Island, and “A Slice of Brooklyn Pizza Tour” by bus. Book anytime for travel through March 31, 2011. Air fare is additional. For reservations contact your travel agent.

## **More Information**

All prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Restrictions and additional security fees, departure and local taxes and fees may apply. Prices may vary based on departure date.

For more information and a list of member companies offering travel throughout the world, visit: [www.USTOA.com](http://www.USTOA.com), or [www.USTOA.travel](http://www.USTOA.travel).

USTOA member companies have met the travel industry’s highest standards, including participation in the association’s Travelers Assistance Program, which among other things protects consumer payments up to \$1 million in case the company goes out of business. USTOA is the premier association of companies providing vacation packages, tours, and custom travel itineraries for more than 11 million people yearly.

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Editor Note: Information was provided by individual companies and was correct at time of writing. International prices may vary from time of writing, based on currency fluctuations.

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