



For Immediate Release
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Grand Canyon, Galapagos Rank as Top Family Destinations for Vacation Packages, Tours says US Tour Operators Association

In the wake of a new PBS series on America's National Parks, the Grand Canyon was cited as a top destination for family vacation packages, according to an informal member poll conducted by the U.S. Tour Operators Association.

The Grand Canyon's natural wonders "that leave adults and children in awe," along with parents' desire to show their children their own country were cited as major draws by companies such as Collette Vacations and Tauck World Discovery.

Farther afield, other popular destinations were:

- The Galapagos Islands.

"Our clients tell us that taking their children (and even grandchildren) to the **Galapagos Islands** is an immensely rewarding experience, and it has become our most popular family destination. Often a family's interest starts with what the children are studying in school, and then an outing to the Darwin exhibit, or the Galapagos 3-D IMAX fires their imagination," says a spokesperson for Abercrombie & Kent.

- Australia

Unique cultural heritage and wildlife, absence of language barrier and safety as a destination, attracts families, according to Goway Travel.

- River cruise trips in Europe

Amsterdam to Basel and **Amsterdam to Paris & Normandy**, are particularly popular for families, largely due to the fascination of castles which capture the imagination of children and parents alike, according to Uniworld River Cruises.

More information

For a list of USTOA member companies offering family-friendly vacations is available at www.ustoa.com or www.ustoa.travel. USTOA members have met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program, which, among other things requires each member company to set aside \$1 million security to protect consumers' payments in case the company goes out of business.

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