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***Educators and Directors here are "Travel Trends, Tips and Great Destinations for your Group!"***

For over 35 years MET Tours has been honored to manage group travel and entertainment programs for Alumni, High Schools, Parks & Rec Departments, City sponsored programs, Tour Operators, Group Leaders, Church, Hospital and Bank travel clubs, Performing Groups (Band, Dance and Singing) among others.

Our experience and broad reach allows us to offer unique travel programs for your group and we can combine many smaller groups that do not have enough interest to fill their own tour.

As the Tour Operator for many of our tours you receive direct pricing that saves your group money. We are also a licensed agency for all major cruise lines, river cruises and national tour operators. With the high number of groups that we send on cruises and tours we do receive the best value for your group.

We are also honored to be the Official Tour Operator for Irish singing sensation, Daniel O'Donnell. We have managed his Fan Club Travel from all over the world on our Daniel O'Donnell Concert Tours. We have also managed in-person his Ireland and UK Concert tours since 2010.

Our many years of Entertainment Experience provide the expertise needed to manage performing groups. These Group Directors and Educators have to focus on their performances and members. They do not have the time or expertise to book theater venues, hotels, buses, flights, local guides, etc. We can also provide staff escorts to assist them on the tour, but many Directors and Educators enjoy working with our long-time local tour managers.

**Our European Specialties**

Ireland, England, Scotland and France. We use our bus company based in Ireland to operate these tours. It keeps the costs lower and we have our long-time drivers that add a lot to the trip. The bus travels between the countries on massive sea ferries that carry 100's of cars, buses and trucks. There are restaurant and lounges on board for the passengers who really enjoy the cruise.

Switzerland, Italy, Austria and Germany. We have bus companies and long time guides in Austria and Switzerland. As Switzerland is on the expensive Swiss Franc, we usually use our Austrian buses which are on the Euro to keep prices lower.

Tulip Time Tour in Amsterdam by land or river cruise. We have a great local tour manager who lives in a Canal Townhouse in the city center. She has brought groups to her house to show them how the "locals live."

We are a EuroRail Pass Agency and have many groups that love traveling by rail throughout Europe. With a great combination of High Speed and Sleeper Trains, you can travel between Capital Cities at night on a Sleeper Train and wake-up in a new exciting city. (Great value as well, no hotel costs.)

## River Cruises

European River Cruises are the most popular destination for mature American travelers. Your River Boat is your "floating deluxe hotel and restaurant." You don't pack and unpack and experience historic and exciting River Towns. Itineraries now feature late night or overnight stays in these River Towns so that passengers can experience the local night life!

We have had many groups on Viking and Avalon, also a few groups on the other lines, but Viking is the most well known and Avalon is part of Globus Tours who we do a lot of business with. Both Viking and Avalon are English speaking, non-smoking and most of the ships have an elevator. Some lines are German and they still smoke onboard.

Amsterdam to Basel is our most popular but we have done most of the rivers in Europe and a couple large groups on Viking to China which was excellent.

With proper planning and marketing we have had groups that have almost filled an entire River Boat. As most only carry 150 passengers or less, this is a special opportunity to offer an exclusive Cruise to your members.

## Ocean Cruises

Most of our groups go with Princess and have for years as their members love Princess. We also have younger-mixed aged groups cruise on Royal Caribbean. Other popular lines are Holland America, Cunard Lines, Celebrity, and Regency. Azamara Club Cruises offer very unique itineraries on smaller ships. Alumni, Bank and Hospital travel clubs like to promote them. The new Viking Ocean Cruises are popular with many groups, especially those groups that have been on a Viking River Cruise. They are loyal to Viking!

"No Fly-Cruises" We can bus groups to Baltimore, the closest Seaport to the Midwest. Here your group can board a New England-Canada Cruise, Bermuda or other popular destinations.

We can train groups to Los Angeles for our "No-Fly Hawaii" on Holland America and Princess. This is a 20 day trip at a great price!

Re-positioning Cruises are always a great value. Our most popular are the spring and fall cruises to and from Europe.

## Alaska

Becoming more popular and busier every year. Our low price inside-passage cruises from Seattle are great as you do not need a passport, and flights to Seattle are much less than to Vancouver. Southwest Airlines does a great job. Most groups do like to combine the cruise and the land tour with the train rides and parks. Our most popular is a 7-night land vacation followed by a 7-night cruise.

## Panama Canal ....also very Popular with new third Canal now open

Our most popular Panama Canal is our 10-day roundtrip from Ft. Lauderdale on Princess. Great dates for January, February and March 2019 are booking right now.

For groups with more time and budget we have the full transit cruises from 15-20 days.

## **Australia-New Zealand**

We operate one in the first quarter of the year. It starts with a 2-day pre-cruise stay in beautiful Sydney then a wonderful 15 day cruise on Princess with all the top ports-of-call and cities ending in Auckland, New Zealand. Our groups love it, it is the best value for both the cruise and the flight. People really like to up-pack once and see the "Downunder."

## **Bucket List Trips**

Very popular is our "British South Africa Cape Town and Safari." We have escorted them and it is a life changing tour to get to see "the Big Five" and stay at the luxury lodges.

Our groups are also very pleased with our Galapagos Island Cruises and Land Tour.

South America and the Amazon River are unique and very popular.

China, (like we do with Viking) is a completely different experience but very secure.

South Pacific Cruises are exotic and affordable.

Cuba is easy to do, we took a Shriners group there in January with no issues and they really enjoyed it.

The best way to go to Cuba is on a Cruise Ship. No worries about hotels or restaurants.

Greek Isles and the Mediterranean are awesome, we have a great land and short cruise package and the regular Princess cruises.

Dubai and the Emirates - Arabian Gulf Cruise and Land tour. Visitors to our newest destination - Dubai and the Emirates - won't help but marvel at the stunning beauty, rich history and brilliant promise as one of the world's fastest-growing luxury travel destinations. There's plenty to explore, including Dubai's sprawling Mall of Emirates featuring more than 200 shops and an indoor ski slope that you must see to believe. We use Royal Caribbean and can add a layover in London if we are using Virgin Air.

## **Caribbean and Mexico**

We are agents for Sandals Resorts, Moon Palace, Divi, and most of the top all-inclusive resorts.

## **Air Line Notes**

We work with Air Canada Groups for many of our European trips and have found that it is less expensive flying out of Windsor, Ontario. The flight goes to Toronto on a 100-seat jet and then Trans-Atlantic on new wide-body jets. We have traveled with groups on Air Canada to Dublin, Munich and Zurich and all were great.

We also get excellent rates on Aer Lingus (the National Airline of Ireland) from Chicago to Dublin and beyond. We also bus our golf teams to Chicago to take Aer Lingus direct to Ireland so there will be no lost golf clubs. The price is much less from Chicago and there are two flights a day to Dublin.

Our newest Partner Airline is Iceland based WOW Air. They are a "Game Changer" with roundtrip fares under \$500 to Iceland on a new fleet of Jets. As Iceland is a very popular destination in itself, WOW also has connecting flights around Europe. We have also partnered with a fellow NTA Tour Operator in Iceland to offer our groups a variety tours there and we can add Ireland and UK to the tour as well. Very Exciting News!

**Domestic**

As not all groups travel internationally and others want to offer domestic trips as well, we have many awesome trips. Napa Valley Food and Wine, California Coastal, Island Hopping in the Outer Banks, Amelia Island Concours, River Cruises on the American Queen, National Parks, Virginia Beach, Gulf Shores, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, San Antonio Fiesta and many more.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance to you and thank you for a great 2019 and beyond. We have bookings into 2020 for the Passion Play in Germany for several Church groups already!

Kevin Lonseth (36 years)  
Group Sales



Kevin (far Left) on Safari in Africa with Aultman Doctors Group

JoAnn Hauenstein ACC (25years)  
Cruises Sales

Barb Toth (23 years)  
Office Manager - Church Group Sales

Susan Richbough (26 years)

Sumner Lonseth (7 years)  
Social Media - Tour Escort



Barb (seated) in the MET Tours Office



JoAnn (right) on the ROYAL PRINCESS



Sumner on Tour in Edinburgh

