

Southern California Museums & Gardens

February 1 – 6, 2011

Presented by

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum starts off its 2011 lineup of tours with a winter break to Southern California, featuring San Diego and Los Angeles. We'll explore the gardens and culture of beautiful San Diego, tucked away in a near-perfect climate just north of the border. We're returning to San Diego to visit the Old Town, the Mission, and to take in the sights at the San Diego Zoo, arguably one of the best in the country, and Balboa Park. We'll explore its Spanish heritage, view some private gardens and visit the San Diego Botanical Gardens just north of town.

Then it's on to Los Angeles, where we'll spend three nights while we explore the gardens of Los Angeles. While we're there we'll visit the Huntington Estate and Gardens, with its library and art collections in addition to the gardens, the Los Angeles Arboretum, and the beautiful Descanso Gardens, containing the largest collection of camellias in North America, and a beautiful Japanese garden as well.

Additionally we'll visit both the Getty Museum and Getty Villa.

All in all, this short break in Southern California is just what you'll be looking for as the Midwest winter grinds on, and a sure-fire cure for the winter blues.

The Arboretum tours are always fun, relaxing and above all, interesting, with enough gardens mixed in to appeal to the casual as well as the serious gardener. In addition, our tours appeal to those interested in art, history and architecture. Our groups are kept small by design, with couples, single travelers, friends and relatives of all ages, traveling together.

Our hotels are well situated in the areas where we visit so that you have the opportunity to go out and explore the area on your own, allowing you to find your choice of restaurants in the evening.

One of the highlights of our tour is a visit to Huntington Gardens, officially known as the The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, located in a residential complex established in 1919. The formal gardens include agricultural displays, native California plants, lily ponds, subtropical plants and Japanese gardens. In addition you will be able to visit the new Chinese garden on the premises. Forty full-time gardeners and over 100 volunteers maintain these grounds.



The Descanso Garden is home to North America's largest camellia collection—more than 34,000 plants and more than 700 camellia taxa, including species, varieties, cultivars

and hybrids, growing on 20 acres. Many of these camellias are more than 20 feet in height!

Camellias at Descanso bloom from early autumn to spring, with the most dazzling floral display in winter, from January through February. Also blooming at this time are the magnolia trees, daffodils and cherry trees.

Join your tour host, Peter Olin, on this delightful odyssey to the warmth and beauty of Southern California in the dead of winter – and join your fellow garden lovers as you enjoy the gardens of Southern California.

MEMBER'S TOUR PRICE: \$2,195*

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$375 extra

*. *Note: Non-members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum add \$100 to the tour cost.*

TOUR ITINERARY

Tuesday, February 1

Twin Cities/San Diego

Depart on morning flight from Minneapolis to San Diego. Upon arrival in San Diego, we are met at the airport where our guide will direct us to our waiting coach for transfer to our San Diego hotel. After check in at the hotel, we will depart for an afternoon tour of Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo. Lunch is available at Balboa Park (on own). Return to our hotel in the late afternoon. Our hotel is located in the historic Old Town section of San Diego, so there are plenty of options for you to have dinner on your own in this lively part of town.

Wednesday, February 2

Mission Tour/Wine Tasting

Today we begin our touring in San Diego with a visit to California's first mission, the Mission of San Diego de Alcalá. You'll see how the early settlers of San Diego worshipped, and get a sense of the culture surrounding the early days of this Spanish port at the recreated mission. Following our tour here, we travel out to the Orfila Vineyards and winery, an ultra-premium boutique winery nestled in the picturesque San Pasqual Valley, approximately 30



minutes from San Diego. The winery produces award-winning Rhone-style wines from grapes grown on its hillside estate located approximately 15 miles from the Pacific Ocean on hillsides that rise to 700 feet. In fact, California's multi-billion-dollar wine industry traces its roots to San Diego County. The Mission Fathers of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, visited earlier, began making wine in the 1700s near the mission. Since its opening in 1994, Orfila Vineyards has been the recipient of more than 1,300 medals in major national and international competitions - a testament to the complexity, grace and opulence of its wines. After our tour, we'll sample their wines and enjoy lunch overlooking the 70-acre estate. After our lunch, we return to our hotel in Old San Diego, where you have the evening free for dinner on your own

B
L.

Thursday, February 3

San Diego Botanic Garden

This morning we depart San Diego and head for Los Angeles. En route, we stop at the San Diego Botanic Garden. With over four miles of garden trails, you will enjoy restful vistas, flowering trees, majestic palms, and the nation's largest bamboo collection. Thanks to the mild climate, plants from all over the world thrive here. The garden's diverse topography provides a variety of microclimates giving one a sensation of going from a

desert environment to a tropical rainforest, all within 37 acres. Located 30 minutes north of San Diego in

Encinitas, the San Diego Botanic Garden features numerous exhibits, including rare bamboo groves, desert gardens, a tropical rainforest, California native plants, Mediterranean climate landscapes, succulent gardens, an herb garden, firesafe landscaping, a subtropical fruit garden, and native coastal sage natural areas. While we're in the area, we'll visit some private gardens, personally arranged by the Director of the San Diego Botanic Garden, followed by lunch (included). After lunch, we'll continue on to Los Angeles, where we check into our hotel located in Pasadena. Dinner is on your own tonight. **B L**

Friday, February 4 *The Huntington/Descanso Gardens*
Today's touring includes a visit to The Huntington—Art Collections, Library and Botanical Gardens--founded in 1919 by Henry E. Huntington, an exceptional businessman who built a financial empire that included railroad companies, utilities, and real estate holdings in Southern California. He was a man of vision – with a special interest in books, art, and gardens. During his lifetime, he amassed the core of one of the finest research libraries in the world, established a splendid art collection, and created an array of themed gardens with plants from a geographic range spanning the globe. Among the treasures for research and exhibition in the library are the Ellesmere manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, a Gutenberg Bible on vellum, the double-elephant folio edition of Audubon's *Birds of America*, and a world-class collection of the early editions of Shakespeare's works. The Huntington Art Gallery, originally the Huntington residence, contains one of the most comprehensive collections in this country of 18th- and 19th-century British and French art. It serves as home to Gainsborough's *Blue Boy* and Lawrence's *Pinkie*. The Botanical Gardens are an ever-changing exhibition of color and a constant delight. Covering 120 acres, more than a dozen specialized gardens are arranged within a park-like landscape of rolling lawns. Among the most remarkable are the Desert Garden, the Japanese Garden, the Rose Garden, and the Chinese garden. Other important botanical attractions include the Subtropical, Herb, Jungle, Camellia and Palm gardens.

Lunch is included at the garden, and afterwards, we travel to Descanso Gardens, with the largest camellia garden in North America, containing over 34,000 plants growing on 20 acres, along with a number of other specialty gardens as well, including a Japanese Garden, daffodils, and cherry and magnolia trees. Return to hotel for dinner (on own) and overnight. **B L**

Saturday, February 5 *Getty Museums/ LA Arboretum*
Today's visits include an outstanding tour to the Getty Center as well as a visit to the Getty Villa. The Getty Center, located in Los Angeles, presents the Getty's collection of Western art from the Middle Ages to the present against a backdrop of dramatic architecture, tranquil gardens, and breathtaking views. The Getty Villa in Malibu is an educational center and museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. We'll visit both museums during the day, with lunch scheduled enroute from one site to the other. Following our visits here, we end our touring with a look at the Los Angeles Arboretum, located near our hotel in Pasadena. Occupying the heart of the historic Rancho Santa Anita, The Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden is a unique 127-acre botanical garden and historical site. It's also home to plant collections from all over the world, including many rare and endangered species. The Arboretum also houses outdoor historical landmarks representative of the major phases of California history. We return to our hotel for our final night, with dinner on your own. **B L**

Sunday, February 6 *Return flights home*
After breakfast this morning, we check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our flights home. **B**

B – Breakfast L – Lunch



To book this tour, contact Jim Glad at Glad To Travel -- 612-724-1915, e-mail:gladtotravel@earthlink.net-- or Peter Olin at the Arboretum -- phone 952-443-1412, e-mail: olinx002@umn.edu.

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express San Diego Old Town

Located in San Diego's historic Old Town, the hotel is just steps from the fascinating adobe homes at Old Town State Historic Park, great shopping at the Plaza del Posado, and close to the restaurants and night life of Old Town. The hotel itself is surrounded by swaying palm trees, Spanish fountains and brilliant bougainvillea. Nearby is the San Diego Trolley, and you are minutes away from beautiful Mission Beach and Belmont Park.

With 125 air-conditioned rooms, the Holiday Inn Express San Diego Old Town offers outstanding amenities, such as complimentary wired and wireless Internet connection, microwave oven, refrigerator, and coffee and tea maker, cable/satellite TV, with in-room pay-per-view movies in all guest rooms, work desk, with a comfortable chair, task lamp and dataport, and a dual-line cordless speakerphone in each room.

Enjoy a complimentary breakfast buffet every morning, with a choice of cereals, eggs, cheese omelets, bacon, cinnamon rolls, along with fresh fruit, juice, and coffee.

Courtyard by Marriott Pasadena Old Town

The Courtyard by Marriott Los Angeles Pasadena/Old Town is located in the heart of Old Pasadena. This Southern California jewel of the Los Angeles area has everything you want in a modern but historic city. The Courtyard by Marriott® Pasadena Old Town is an upscale full service 314 unit hotel featuring deluxe guest rooms and suites with complimentary high-speed Internet access. The Paseo Colorado outdoor shopping plaza is five blocks from this city center hotel. Each room has workstations, 2-line phones with voice mail, comfortable bedding, and complimentary in-room coffee/tea maker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, and deluxe bathroom amenities. Rooms feature TVs with cable/satellite, radio, and an iPod dock.

The Courtyard Café offers a breakfast buffet, featuring eggs cooked to order, along with a quality selection of a la carte items freshly prepared, and is included for our tour group. The Café is open for dinner as well, and there are numerous restaurants within walking distance of the hotel, with cuisine ranging from Italian, Mexican, and Mediterranean to Afghani, along with a nearby English pub.

This outstanding value includes the following:

- Round trip air transportation from Minneapolis
- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily plus four lunches as indicated
- Sightseeing as described in the itinerary
- Pre-departure information
- A tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum
- Hosted by Peter Olin

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposit due with booking: \$500 per person

Final payment due: December 31, 2010

Member's Tour Cost:

\$2,195 per person, double occupancy

\$375 additional, single supplement

Note: Non-members of the Arboretum add \$100

In order to qualify for the member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. For information on becoming a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, please contact the Arboretum membership office at 952-443-1440.

Cancellation Policy:

Prior to November 1	No penalty
Nov. 1 – Dec. 15	\$500 per person
Dec. 16 – Dec. 31	\$1,000 per person
Jan. 1 or later	No Refund

Cancellations must be received in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office. Trip cancellation insurance is available and is strongly recommended. Ask for details.



