Come travel with THE ARBORETUM!

In 2008 the Arboretum will offer a wide variety of destination tours. We will visit countries we have not visited before, explore more of the world’s fabulous gardens and meet some of the people who created those gardens.

A very popular tour to Buenos Aires will be repeated in February (summer in the southern hemisphere). In March we will go to San Diego and Palm Springs to see some fascinating desert gardens. Both these will include private as well as public gardens.

At the end of March there will be a delightful river tour down the Rhine River, stopping at river towns along the way in France, Germany and Holland. The tour ends in Amsterdam where we will drive to the countryside to see tulips in full bloom at the famous Keukenhof Gardens.

In June we will travel to Long Island, one of the garden paradises of our country. We will see wonderful public gardens and some of the many private estate gardens that you read about in the Great Gatsby.

In July we take a river cruise on the beautiful Danube from Germany to the Black Sea. We will visit towns in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Austria.

August brings us to Sweden and Norway for a tour of the north country, Uppsala, the mountains and the fjords, Stockholm and Oslo. And finally, we will end the season in November with visits to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

I look forward to seeing you all as we take these fun and learning trips.

— Peter J. Olin
Arboretum Director

Gardens and Culture of BUENOS AIRES
February 7 – 14, 2008

Our tour here in 2006 sold out! Buenos Aires is one of the most European cities in the Americas. It is a city so vibrant and alive that you can’t help but feel its vitality pulsating throughout its streets.

The city is dominated by its most well-known export, the Tango. You’ll see this dance performed on street corners, in parks, and in the milongas (tango halls) of Buenos Aires.

We’ll visit an estancia (ranch) where the cowboys of the Argentinian pampas still work. We’ll cross the River Plate to Uruguay, visiting Sacramento del Colonia, originally built by the Portuguese in the early 1700s, and today relishing in its mixture of the Spanish and Portuguese styles.

We’ll tour several of the gardens in Buenos Aires, including the beautiful Japanese garden along with the Botanical Garden.

And at the end of our week, there is an optional extension to Iguazu Falls – the world’s widest waterfall and one of the natural wonders of the world.

Gardens and Highlights of SAN DIEGO AND PALM SPRINGS
March 8-12, 2008

Take a break from winter with this tour to San Diego. We will see the San Diego Zoo, famous for its rare animals, and diverse natural landscaping. We will visit the Japanese garden and Museum of Art in Balboa Park. Our hotel is next to Old Town San Diego, with historic buildings, shops, and restaurants for you to explore on your own. We also stop at the San Diego Spanish Mission for a tour of the outstanding collections at Quail Botanic Garden.

A visit to a winery in the Temecula Valley leads us across the scenic Santa Rosa Mountains to the desert city of Palm Springs. Here we tour The Living Desert, a remarkable combination botanic garden, zoo, and natural history museum. Our hotel is adjacent to the shops and restaurants of renowned Palm Canyon Drive, and we will stop at the sophisticated shops of El Paseo. A spectacular aerial tramway takes us to dinner at 8,500 feet altitude on Mount San Jacinto, with a breathtaking view of the desert valley floor.

The many sights of this wonderful region will make this a memorable trip.
Join us on a river cruise on the Rhine River from Strasbourg (France) to Amsterdam. This is the season of tulips in Holland, and at the end of our journey we will be in Amsterdam to visit Keukenhof, with over 7 million bulbs planted.

Our journey begins with two nights in Strasbourg, in the Alsatan region of France. Strasbourg is best known for its Gothic cathedral, but the city center is a World Heritage site, and the typical architecture of the city reflects the Germanic half-timbered Rhineland style.

We'll travel the Rhine River through the Rheingau region, one of Germany's most famous wine-producing regions. We'll overnight in Koblenz, after sailing through the most beautiful part of the "Romantic Rhin" valley. You'll admire the beautiful castles nestled in vineyards, and pass the legendary rock of the Loreley. We'll visit Cologne, with its impressive cathedral, and finally cruise into Amsterdam.

We spend two nights in port here before our cruise ends. Our evenings will be free to explore the city at leisure, and daytime tours include the famous flower auction in Aalsmeer, Keukenhof Gardens, and the gardens and palace of Het Loo.

This cruise/tour gives you the best of the heart of Europe in the springtime.

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Discover the superb attractions on the Long Island's north shore. Dubbed the "Gold Coast," the region attracted many of New York's wealthiest families who built stately mansions with splendid gardens. Here we find 409-acre Planting Fields Arboretum, with the magnificent Coe Hall, a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion reminiscent of Asheville's Biltmore. Here sits Theodore Roosevelt's family home Sagamore Hill, William Vanderbilt II's natural history museum, the Nassau County Museum of Art, and the culinary school at De Seversky Center. Arguably the greatest of all the estates is Old Westbury Gardens, a 1906 Charles II-style mansion amid 160 acres of formal gardens, landscaped grounds, woodlands, ponds and lakes.

We will visit the Garden Conservancy's John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, and make a day trip to the Hamptons. We will visit the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a horticultural and botanical jewel, and the outstanding art collections of the adjacent Brooklyn Museum. We also make a brief visit to Manhattan.

Please join us on this exciting new tour.

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An exciting new destination this year is a cruise on the Danube River aboard Peter Deilmann's 5-star luxury ship, the MV Casanova. Our 2006 Elbe cruise received rave reviews, so we are confident that this cruise through Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria will be sure to please.

The Danube connects ten countries from the Black Forest to the Black Sea. We'll have time to explore the art, history, culture and gardens of several of Europe's most celebrated cities — including Budapest and Vienna.

We fly into Munich, and depart the next day for Passau and our ship on the Danube. We'll make stops in Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade and other ports before reaching our final destination in Tuzla, Romania. En route, we'll view the rural life of the Balkans in Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria.

At the end of our journey, we board a chartered aircraft for a return trip to Frankfurt, where we overnight prior to our return flights home.

We are pleased that we can offer this delightful cruise tour in 2008.
Gardens and Beauty of SCANDINAVIA
August 12 – 21, 2008

Stockholm, Oslo and Bergen, and the fjords of Norway are the features on this mid-summer tour.

We’ll visit the garden of botanist Carl Linnaeus in Uppsala, the Bergius Botanical Garden in Stockholm, and the Vasa Museum, and take a cruise in Stockholm harbor.

We’ll also visit the castle and gardens at Drottningholm, the residence of the Swedish royal family.

We’ll take a scenic rail journey from Stockholm and spend two nights in Oslo, and spend two nights in Norway’s capital city. While in Oslo we visit the Viking Ship Museum, the delightful sculpture park Frogner Park, the Kon-Tiki Museum, and the Oslo Botanical Garden.

From Oslo, we will take one of the world’s most famous rail journeys on the Myrdal-Flam line. From the glacial heights at Myrdal, the train descends to sea level in Flam, and along the way the views going down are spectacular! We’ll stop in Flam, and then travel by boat on the Sognefjord directly to Bergen, where we spend our last two nights.

You’ll truly enjoy this taste of Scandinavia.

The Gardens of SOUTH EAST ASIA
November 7 – 19, 2008

Our journey to the Far East is unlike any we’ve taken in the past, visiting Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), and Bangkok. We will tour historic sites such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and vacation areas like Da Lat in the Vietnamese highlands and Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai, in the Thai highlands.

The city-state of Singapore has a botanical garden and an Orchid Garden which contains over 3,000 species of orchids.

Ho Chi Minh City is the heart and soul of Vietnam – the largest city in the country, and its economic and cultural center. The streets, where much of the city’s life takes place, are a jumble of shops, cafes, and sidewalk vendors. It has an exhilarating vibe, yet the city retains its timeless traditions and the beauty of an ancient culture.

Da Lat, in the Vietnamese highlands, is a popular destination appreciated for its temperate climate, beautiful sights and abundance of flowers and vegetables. In the early mornings, the city arises to mystic fog over the lake.

In Chiang Mai, we’ll visit the Queen’s gardens as well as the special gardens built for the King’s 80th birthday. An optional extension in Bangkok is available for anyone who wishes to extend the vacation to this vibrant city, one of the best values in South-East Asia.

Arboretum Travel Tour
INFORMATION

In the coming months, additional details will become available for each of these tours. There are several ways for you to get more information:

➢ Watch for the Arboretum’s new web site in late Fall of 2007 (www.arboretum.umn.edu). You will be able to view and print tour itineraries and reservation forms, and sign up for the Arboretum Trips mailing list.

➢ Attend free travelogues – slide lectures given by Arboretum Director Peter Olin – in January and February at the Arboretum.

➢ Contact Pat O’Brien at the Arboretum at obrie060@umn.edu or 952.443.1443 to receive additional trip information when it becomes available.

Members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum receive a discount on Arboretum Travel Tours. On some trips, a discount will be offered for early reservations.