

California Bloomin' – the Botanical Gardens of Southern California & More

March 29-April 6, 2017

- 4 nights at the luxurious Langham-Huntington in Pasadena
- 3 nights at historic Hotel Santa Barbara
- 1 night at Lucy and Desi's Indian Wells Resort in Palm Springs
- 18 tasteful meals
- 6 signature botanic gardens
- plus museums, markets and historic houses



Day 1 – travel to Pasadena via a picnic stop at Joshua Tree National Monument; check in at the Langham-Huntington in Pasadena for this and the next three nights **L**



Day 2 – a full day at The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens with a behind-the-scenes tour followed by free time to explore the gardens, library and museum **B/D**

Day 3 – a tour of Descanso Gardens in the morning and one of Greene & Greene's California craftsman Gamble House in the afternoon; before we break for the day, there will be time for a stop at the nearby Norton-Simon Museum, one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled **B/L**



Day 4 – a visit to the LA County Arboretum, then lunch at LA's culinary adventure that is the Grand Central Market followed by shopping at Hashimoto and Yamaguchi Bonsai Nurseries **B/D**

Day 5 – a full day at The Getty with a morning tour of its distinctive architecture and gardens and free time in the afternoon to discover its galleries; this evening we check into the Hotel Santa Barbara **B/D**

Day 6 – our morning tour of the native and naturalistic Santa Barbara Botanical Garden leaves plenty of free time for exploring the heart of downtown Santa Barbara **B/L**



Day 7 – we're off to commune with nature on the high seas with a whale-watching excursion in the Channel Islands **B/L/D**



Day 8 – last but not least is our tour of Ganna Walska's exotic Lotusland, a touch of botanical Nirvana; after lunch we head for Palm Springs, the Indian Wells Resort and a farewell dinner **B/D**

Day 9 – following a tour of the mid-century architecture of Palm Springs, we head home to Tucson **B/L**





YOUR HOST AND GUIDES:

Stephen Bernier/President of South of the Border Tours. *Stephen began working to advance the tour and charter segments of Arizona Coach Tours/South of the Border Tours in 1984, and he's been producing and escorting motorcoach groups in the Southwest U.S. and Mexico since 1993. His list of clients includes the University of Arizona Elderhostel Program, Arizona Historical Society Docent Council, Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists, Heard Museum Guild, ASU Retirees Association, Tohono Chul and many other organizations throughout the country.*



Greg Corman/Landscape Designer/Artist/Owner of Gardening Insights. *Greg is recognized as a regional expert on aridlands plants and is regularly asked to share his knowledge with botanical garden docents, master gardeners and the public. His experience includes thirty years of horticultural and design work, mostly in desert areas of Australia, the Middle East, and the desert Southwest, including the Tucson Botanical Gardens and Tohono Chul. He is currently focused on creating sculpture for wildlife and humans, functional objects crafted from recycled materials and useful indoors and out.*



Lynn Hassler/Birder/Naturalist/Author of "Birds of the American Southwest;" "The Raven: Soaring through History, Legend, & Lore;" and "Hot Pots: Container Gardening in the Arid Southwest" among others. *Lynn's experience ranges from a continuing monthly column on birds and gardening for Bird Watchers' Digest to 14 years at Tucson Botanical Gardens as Director of Education and Director of Horticulture. A birder for nearly 40 years, her travels to observe nature have taken her to all seven continents. She currently teaches classes and leads trips for Desert Botanical Garden, Tucson Audubon, and Tohono Chul.*

DEPARTURE LOCATION & TIME: Departure is from Tohono Chul's staff parking lot off Paseo del Norte in Tucson (map will be provided); departure time to be announced later.

PRE-TRIP DOCUMENTS: The confirmation of departure time and location, pertinent trip information, participating hotel numbers and the final itinerary are sent at least one month prior to departure date.

TRAVEL POLICIES: South of the Border Tours, Inc. (hereinafter SOBT) is responsible to the participants for supplying services and accommodations offered to the participants as stated herein. However, as to all services furnished, including motorcoach transportation, in absence of their negligence, the operator, it's retail agents and cooperation organizations, each and all expressly disclaim all damage, loss, or injury to property or person due to any cause whatsoever occurring during a tour under their management, sponsorship, procurement, or otherwise. SOBT shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages or losses (including death, personal injury and property loss) caused to any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, theft, vandalism, mechanical or construction failures or difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions, or developments, or any other action, omissions or conditions outside SOBT's control. SOBT reserves the right to change tour components, substitute hotels or alter the itinerary (either before departure or en route), and to make any other changes deemed necessary to carry out and maintain the quality of the tour in good faith to the participants. SOBT also reserves the right to cancel the tour prior to departure to for any reason, including insufficient participation. SOBT's liability is limited to refunding of monies received by client. The refund of all payments received shall release SOBT from any further obligation or liability. SOBT reserves the right to remove a tour member if that member's conduct becomes injurious to the pleasure and welfare of other tour members. If a participant is removed from a tour because of misbehavior, the participant must return home at his/her own expense and no refund is made.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All deposits are refundable, less a \$100 per person handling fee, with written notice of cancellation received by October 15, 2016. Cancellations received between October 16, 2016 and February 1, 2017 will result in forfeiture of 50% of the trip cost per person. Cancellations received after February 1, 2017 result in NO REFUND unless your space can be filled. ***These cancellation policies are strictly enforced. We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to safeguard yourself in a medical situation before or during a tour.***

TRAVEL GUARD INSURANCE: Travel Insurance is a contract between you and the insurance company. If you choose trip insurance, your premium covers trip cancellation, interruption, travel delay, medical expense (\$10,000) Emergency Medical Transportation (\$20,000) and other useful benefits. Once you are covered by Travelguard and its trip cancellation policy, your fare is fully refundable (less insurance premium) should you not be able to participate in the tour. A copy of the Travel Guard brochure will be mailed ONLY upon request. You have choices in travel insurance and are not obligated to choose Travel Guard; it is your choice.

cost is **\$3150 per person / double occupancy (\$875 single supplement)**

Questions? Contact Jo Falls at 520-742-6455 x 228 or jfalls@tohonochul.org