



Educational Travel Consortium  
*At the crossroads of lifelong learning and travel*

## **ETC's Annual Conference 2019**

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel, Montgomery, Alabama  
January 28-31, 2019

### **Newcomer Tips**

*Veteran ETC delegates shared tips to help you navigate your first ETC Conference*

#### **EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT**

- GO TO EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS! Learning is a top priority at the conference and one of the best ways to network – particularly in the focused subject tracks roundtable sessions, Intensives, Learning Labs, Hot Topics and BOLD Talks.
- With such a vertically rich professional development platform, a lot is happening in three days, so study in depth the online [Conference Agenda](#) and prepare ahead to maximize your educational experience.
- Educational session times and International Bazaar times are mutually exclusive. ***When educational sessions are offered, the International Bazaar closed*** so don't miss either opportunity for learning.

#### **NETWORKING**

- Networking is nonstop at ETC's Annual Conference! Bring lots of business cards.
- Take advantage of the informal opportunities to meet with colleagues by signing up for all the official evening networking and events. These are "ticketed" events, requiring you to sign up for these events in advance of the conference as tickets are not available onsite.
- Complete your organizational and member profiles online by the published deadlines to have access to a number of valuable conference opportunities, including the ability to request CONNECTS meetings.

#### **INTERNATIONAL BAZAAR**

- **CONNECTS** - The purpose of CONNECTS is to facilitate meetings between organizations which have an established business relationship and to meet with new potential partners in order to glean information on new destinations, products and determine if there is a good business fit. The ETC online connections system makes it easier to find and connect with colleagues during the conference for one-to-one meetings of ten minute duration.
  - *To make the most of CONNECTS study in advance of the conference the listing of attendees and their respective profiles, and request meetings using the*

*CONNECTS online meeting tool. Instructions on how to use this valuable research and networking feature online are posted on your member dashboard.*

- *Scheduling CONNECTS meetings is optional for every attendee.*
- *Be timely in your response to meetings that are requested with you by courteously responding with a confirm, decline or reschedule time message. The easy online system makes your response time quick!*
- *Planners not looking for new operators are strongly suggested to make CONNECTS meetings with attending destinations to expand their knowledge of destinations around the world. Note - Destination representatives attend ETC to educate interested attendees about their destinations; they are not tour operators and do not to sell or operate trips.*
- *Be on time for CONNECTS meetings you have confirmed.*
- *No shows are not productive for any individual holding a confirmed time slot with you.*
- Plan to meet one-on-one with business colleagues in the International Bazaar during the officially posted hours – typically two hours daily. The destinations, operators, suppliers and resources available in the International Bazaar are extensive and cover the globe.
- ***During the official Bazaar times, please refrain from scheduling meetings outside of the International Bazaar*** as this serves to undermine the conference wide effectiveness of CONNECTS for all delegates.

## **COMMUNITY PROTOCOL**

- Help us deliver a secure, respectful and ethical conference by wearing your badge at all times, and by meeting only with individuals wearing official conference badges. ***Any individual not wearing a conference badge is not officially registered for the conference.*** For security reasons, access to sessions, events and the International Bazaar requires displaying an official conference badge. If an individual attempts to meet with you without a badge they are not a registered attendee.
- Share in the spirit of building community by making it a point to personally stop by Partner Boulevard display spaces in the International Bazaar and thank the official sponsoring partners that have helped make the conference possible by providing wonderful venues, Bold Talk speakers, audiovisual support and great conference printed collateral.
- Only sponsoring partners are offered the option of hosting private invitation venues (breakfasts, cocktail parties, dinners) at official times as listed in the Conference Agenda. Attending and/or hosting of private invitational parties, hospitality suites, dinners and receptions by non-sponsors is not an option as such venues serve to directly undermine participation in official venues funded by conference sponsors to the benefit of all attendees.

If you haven't signed up for a mentor, veteran delegates highly encourage you take this step in preparing for and navigating the conference.

[Log-in](#) and sign-up today!