

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connect Travel Marketplace is moving to Kissimmee in 2019

ATLANTA, April 2, 2018 --- Connect Travel is pleased to announce that Connect Travel Marketplace 2019 will be held February 20-22, 2019, at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Kissimmee Florida. Connect Travel Marketplace brings decision makers from top international travel buyers together with North American travel industry suppliers in the company's signature reverse-style trade show format.

Connect Travel Marketplace combines a robust educational program with efficient, effective, prescheduled one-on-one appointments that enable buyers and sellers to expedite the sales process and close business.

The inaugural Connect Travel Marketplace, held in Orlando, facilitated 11,773 individual meetings between Destination Marketing Organizations, hotels, resorts, attractions and tour operators from 20 countries.

"Connect Travel Marketplace works because we host the right people from the largest international tour operators, at the right time of the year for them to build their North American product offering, and in a format that is tailor made for business development," said Connect Travel Marketplace General Manager Shari Bailey. "Based on the feedback that we have received from buyers and supplier alike we anticipate that the show will grow significantly in 2019," continued Bailey.

"International visitation to our region is vital and the inaugural Connect Travel Marketplace was extremely productive for Experience Kissimmee and for our partners," said DT Minich, president and CEO with Experience Kissimmee. "We are very excited to host Connect Travel Marketplace 2019 and to showcase Kissimmee to over 200 international tour operators from around the world."

To take advantage of guaranteed appointments with top decision makers, inspirational and informative educational sessions and fun networking opportunities, please contact Shari Bailey, General Manager, at SBAILEY@CONNECTTRAVEL.COM or Mamai Karneh, Sales Manager, at MKARNEH@CONNECTTRAVEL.COM or register at connecttravel.com/events/marketplace.

What 2018 Connect Travel Marketplace attendees are saying.

"Thank you for an excellent show, perfect time of year and well put together. Looking forward to attending next year," said Julian Stockdale, Head of USA Contracting, Thomas Cook UK & Ireland.

"It was such a wonderful and successful event. The education was quite remarkable. The Marketplace appointments gave us the best opportunity to meet US tourism service providers, and particularly on the destination and attractions less frequented by Chinese. Thank you for organizing this very successful event and being a great host. Truly appreciate you and your team's hard work to make our trip very the best. Look forward for Connect 2019! – Vollin Fan, Shanghai New Comfort International Travel Co., LTD

Connect was a great show! Full appointment scheduled and the Connect Staff were very helpful with any questions – Mick McCollum, Machine Gun America

Connect Travel Marketplace is a wonderful opportunity to get face-to-face time with qualified International Tour Operators and FIT contacts. I was able to secure NEW business for my property who is looking to grow our FIT market. This is a great show that is very well organized and really gives you a bang for your buck. Thank you for all the effort that was put into this event....definitely well worth it. – Victoria Chavez, Crowne Plaza Dallas Downtown

Great job on getting a new set of Chinese buyers out the southeast region~! – Anne Chen, Explore Gwinnett

A worthwhile and very well organized event. As a supplier I appreciated the amount of meetings we had with receptive tour operators and others. – Christopher Follenus, Balmoral Resort Florida

Connect Marketplace is the place to be for your International FIT market!!!! Awesome quality appointments. It's a quick couple of days but one of the most productive trade-shows!!! Thanks Connect team for creating this opportunity. Can't wait for the next... – Jennifer Costa, Go Elizabeth

The idea of the international buyers being seated and easy to locate and follow-up with was fantastic. – Jerry Schwartz, Receptive Tours Group

It was a great first show and having 51 appointments, while a bit overwhelming was perfect for a first show. Great speakers and the food was wonderful! I'll be back next year! – Beth Gendler, Gulf Shores Tourism

As a new and smaller destination this show was a great way to get in front of an international audience. Many seemed interested in our destination which is exciting! – Lori Konkler, Visit Eau Claire

ABOUT CONNECT TRAVEL

Connect Travel creates efficient and effective environments to expedite the sales process by connecting tourism professionals with the products, services, people and ideas that allow them to thrive in a rapidly evolving and highly competitive global marketplace. For more information, visit ConnectTravel.com.

ABOUT CONNECT

Connect is a leader in the meetings, travel and tourism industry. Specializing in destination marketing, the company produces a full suite of digital programs, online and mobile solutions, meetings business and travel magazines, trade shows and consumer events, travel guides for newspapers and leisure magazines, and destination information, which is distributed through broadcast and custom programs. More information about the company's brands and services is available at ConnectMeetings.com.