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**The International Tour Management Institute (ITMI) Selects Tucson, AZ, as the Destination for its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium and Reunion November 2 – 6, 2018**

*The newly renovated Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort will be the host hotel for this event. Attendees include tour operators, tour directors, guides and other industry stakeholders.*

Sausalito, Calif., November 15, 2017– For over 40 years, ITMI has been a trailblazer in the training and certification of tour directors, guides, motorcoach drivers and travel staff. The annual symposium includes continuing professional education, thought leader presentations and job interviews. Familiarization tours provide attendees with an opportunity to acquire significant destination knowledge.

“We are pleased to showcase Tucson and the surrounding area to symposium attendees,” states Ted Bravos, CEO of ITMI. “The spectacular setting of the El Conquistador with its perfect blend of luxury amidst the natural wonders of the region will undoubtedly dazzle participants.”

“The Team at the El Conquistador Tucson, a Hilton Resort is excited to welcome ITMI tour and travel professionals and look forward to providing them a uniquely southwest experience,” said Ghee Alexander, general manager. “The ITMI motto of ‘making the world a better place through travel,’ fits perfectly with our objective: to showcase the beauty and culture of the Southwest.”

“Visit Tucson is delighted to welcome ITMI back in 2018!” remarked Jane Roxbury, director, convention services, Visit Tucson. “We look forward to showing attendees all the new features of our urban core, including Sun Link, our modern streetcar system and Maingate Square and 4th Avenue dining and shopping districts. Our vibrant city center full of breweries, distilleries and restaurants reflects with pride our designation as UNESCO’s only North American City of Gastronomy.”

The International Tour Management Institute (ITMI) Symposium is a major tourism industry conference that attracts tourism professionals from around the world. The symposium includes tours of the area and its attractions, master classes, professional development seminars and a marketplace for job interviews.

Hilton Tucson El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort: <https://youtu.be/1nrOXdhYZRE>

**About ITMI:**

Since 1976, ITMI has been America’s premier training and certification program for professional tour directors, guides, motor coach drivers and travel staff. For more information about ITMI contact Annemarie Osborne [Annemarie.Osborne@gmail.com](mailto:Annemarie.Osborne@gmail.com) 949-237-2906 or visit [www.itmisf.com](http://www.itmisf.com).

**About Visit Tucson:**

Visit Tucson's mission is to drive economic development by connecting visitors with their ideal travel & meetings experiences in Tucson and Southern Arizona. For more information about Tucson, contact Jane Roxbury [jroxbury@visittucson.org](mailto:jroxbury@visittucson.org) or visit <http://www.visittucson.org/>.

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