

**Press Contact:**

Alicia Buonanno

[Gregory FCA](mailto:Gregory.FCA@friendlyplanet.com)

610-228-2096

[Alicia@GregoryFCA.com](mailto:Alicia@GregoryFCA.com)

**Company Contact:**

Leora Hafri

[Friendly Planet Travel](http://www.friendlyplanettravel.com)

215-572-9594 ext. 303

[LHafri@FriendlyPlanet.com](mailto:LHafri@FriendlyPlanet.com)

**Friendly Planet Travel Unveils New Line of Independent Travel Packages to Europe**

*New travel packages combine air, transportation, and lodging for a high-quality, low-cost way to experience Europe*

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.—July 8, 2014—**Imagine eight days in Tuscany for as little as \$1,099. Or how about sightseeing in Barcelona for six days for an astonishing \$1,199?

Leading international tour operator [Friendly Planet Travel](http://www.friendlyplanettravel.com) has released two additions to its line of independent European travel packages. Using the company's deep industry expertise, unique bargaining power, and superior customer service, it has packaged two ultimate European experiences for independent travelers. The [Tuscany Fly & Drive](#) and [Breathtaking Barcelona](#) packages feature negotiated airfare, hand-selected lodging, and transportation, removing the guesswork that comes with traveling internationally and ensuring travelers receive quality accommodations and 24-hour customer support during their entire trip.

“The Internet has made it easier to find travel deals to almost every city in the world, but what remains difficult for travelers is assessing and comparing the quality of each offering, and finding personalized 24-hour customer support that too often is a thing of the past in the online travel industry,” said Peggy Goldman, President of Friendly Planet Travel. “Our independent packages remove the guesswork from booking an international vacation while meeting the high standards for value and service that we are known for. We meticulously research the hotels to ensure they are centrally located, clean, and comfortable. Through our decades-long partnerships in the industry, we are able to secure excellent cost savings on behalf of our travelers to provide a complete air, transportation, and lodging package that often costs less than the price of an airline ticket.”

At the same time, travelers have the comfort of a 24-hour telephone support line and customer service. “These packages are especially appealing to travelers because they know that if an issue arises, someone is always there to answer their questions and assist them,” said Goldman.

Friendly Planet Travel's new [Tuscany Fly & Drive](#) offers round-trip airfare from JFK Airport in New York City, six-night stay at the Hotel Sovestro—highly rated on TripAdvisor—in picturesque San Gimignano, and a seven-day car rental. For travelers who wish to fly from other cities, inexpensive through fares are available on request. Travelers then customize their vacations according to their own interests, opting to visit Pisa, Siena, Genoa, Florence, and other beautiful towns and villages in Tuscany. It's up to you to create the itinerary of your dreams.

The [Breathtaking Barcelona](#) package is just as customizable. Fly from JFK or Newark Airport (or opt for another gateway that works better for you) and enjoy a four-night stay at the K+K Hotel Picasso which is newly upgraded and highly rated on TripAdvisor—featuring an excellent location, modern rooms, a rooftop pool, and a late night bistro-café. Then, create your own

itinerary. Choose to explore [La Sagrada Familia](#), the unfinished church designed by Antoni Gaudi, stroll [La Ramba](#), a meandering boulevard filled with colorful shops, outdoor cafés, and street performers, or just wander about at leisure, enjoying the ambience of Spain's most popular city.

The Tuscany Fly & Drive and Breathtaking Barcelona packages are the latest offerings in Friendly Planet Travel's line of [independent travel packages](#), which also features trips to Costa Rica, Greece, Brazil, and Japan.

“We're discovering that while many of our first-time travelers appreciate the convenience and security of traditional group travel that we offer, many travelers revisiting European destinations are often ready to explore on their own,” said Goldman.

The [Tuscany Fly & Drive](#) package includes all fuel surcharges, taxes, and fees, and breakfast daily in addition to the features listed above. The seven-day car rental, which can be upgraded, includes some insurance coverage, taxes, and fees. The [Breathtaking Barcelona](#) package also includes fuel surcharges, taxes, and fees; breakfast daily; and a one-day Hop-On-Hop-Off bus tour pass. Travelers can also purchase an optional Paris extension package, starting at an additional \$549.

#### **ABOUT FRIENDLY PLANET TRAVEL**

Friendly Planet Travel makes high-quality exotic travel affordable for everyone. Since 1981, Friendly Planet Travel has been arranging all-inclusive escorted discount vacation packages and cruises to the most exciting destinations in the world at the lowest possible prices.

Each year, Friendly Planet Travel offers more than 30 different group travel packages to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South America—at discounts of hundreds of dollars off similar vacations. With no hidden charges, add-ons, or surprises, Friendly Planet Travel vacations include convenient flights and airfare; carefully selected, first-class and superior hotels; knowledgeable, English-speaking guides; many meals; planned itineraries; as well as friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Friendly Planet Travel offers its extensive, economical travel services to private groups, including universities, religious institutions, alumni associations, and families. Groups who wish to travel together can count on Friendly Planet Travel's three decades of experience to operate their group travel program expertly and always at the very best possible prices. Visit the company at [www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com](http://www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com). You can also follow Friendly Planet Travel on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

###