



MEETINGS/GROUP EVENTS

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MEETINGS IN WALLA WALLA: MIXING BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE IN AN INSPIRING, PRODUCTIVE WINE COUNTRY SETTING

(WALLA WALLA, Wash.)—Meeting planners looking for an alternative to the sterile and uninspiring environment of traditional hotel meeting and convention facilities have a unique choice at their disposal—Walla Walla. Here, world-class wine country surrounds a charming and sophisticated town that is ideally suited to host groups ranging from intimate corporate retreats to large business or trade conventions.

And with daily non-stop flights from Seattle, Walla Walla is a quick and convenient meeting destination that feels like a complete escape. It's a place for clear, inspired thinking in the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, with all the amenities – including gourmet dining and diverse lodging options – of larger cities. With its sunny and dry climate, Walla Walla is also an escape from the gray skies and dreary weather typical of the Pacific Northwest.

- Groups up to 500 can be accommodated in a range of venues, including the historic Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center, which features 10,000 square feet of meeting space with full banquet and catering capabilities.
- Unique venues such as Whitman College, the Power House Theatre (a beautifully renovated coal and gas plant from the late 19th Century), and numerous winery-based venues make for truly memorable settings to host events or meetings for groups of 10 to 350.

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- Walla Walla is closer than you might think. Alaska Airlines provides daily direct flights to and from Seattle. By car, Walla Walla is just over four hours from Seattle and Boise, and even closer to Portland and Spokane.

A 2011 report released by Travel Leaders, North America's largest travel agency franchisor, found that some 65 percent of all business travelers annually combine at least one business trip with leisure. Walla Walla's 130 wineries, plus numerous cultural and outdoor attractions, provide ample opportunities to enjoy both. In addition to more than 130 area wineries, Walla Walla boasts a thriving performing arts scene and is a popular destination for golfers, hikers, cyclists and other outdoor adventure seekers.

And no one knows more about the area's amenities, meeting facilities, restaurants and attractions than Visit Walla Walla. The Meeting Planner link located at www.visitwallawalla.com provides detailed information on meeting and conference venues and group tour options.,

For more information about how to book a Walla Walla corporate retreat, meeting or business getaway, contact group tour sales manager Marcus Carney at mcarney@wallawalla.org or 509-540-2483.

About Walla Walla:

As the unofficial capital of Washington wine country, Walla Walla is home to more than 130 wineries, a nationally recognized culinary scene, access to an abundance of outdoor recreation, and an arts & entertainment scene that rivals cities many times its size. This community of just over 30,000 residents is known for many things, including its friendliness and hospitality, the quality of its wine, and of course the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onion. An easy and scenic four-hour drive from Seattle, Portland, or Boise, Walla Walla can also be accessed via Alaska Airlines daily non-

stop flights from Seattle. For more information and to begin planning a trip to Walla Walla, visit www.visitwallawalla.com.

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