



Contact '26 schedule

Tuesday, March 3

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- **Airport shuttle service from Charleston International Airport (CHS) to hotel**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands

Wednesday, March 4

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- **Airport shuttle service from Charleston International Airport (CHS) to hotel**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- **Sponsor exhibitor set-up**
Azalea Prefunction

8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

- **Executive Committee Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting & Working Lunch**
Sponsored by Badger Coaches
Magnolia

1:45 – 4:30 p.m.

- **Registration & NTA Information Desk open**
Azalea Prefunction

4 – 4:30 p.m.

- **SpritzCart open**
Sponsored by Asheville CVB
Conference center entrance

4:45 p.m.

- **Transportation to Reception and Icebreaker**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands
Depart from conference center entrance

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

- **Happy Hour Harbor Cruise**
with SpiritLine Cruises
Sponsored by Fort Sumter Tours/SpiritLine Cruises

7 – 9 p.m.

- **Icebreaker**
Sponsored by Explore Charleston and Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum
USS Yorktown

8, 8:30, and 9 p.m.

- **Shuttle service from Icebreaker to Hilton Garden Inn**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands

Thursday, March 5

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Registration & NTA Information Desk open**
Azalea Prefunction

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- **Breakfast**
Sponsored by Circle Wisconsin
Azalea BC

9:30 – noon

- **Morning Coffee & Tea**
Sponsored by Ottawa Tourism
Azalea Prefunction

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- **Opening General Session: “The Power of Unity Behind Great Experiences”**
Speaker: Chris Singleton
Sponsored by IMG
Azalea A

11 a.m. – noon

- **“AI for Tour Operators: Having a Strategic Plan to Optimize Your Business”**
Speaker: Dan Flores, Satisfi Labs
Sponsored by Fly My Group
Magnolia
- **“Mastering the Art of the Close”**
Speaker: Andrea Ross
Sponsored by battleface
Azalea A

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

- **Luncheon**
Sponsored by Visit Tulsa
Azalea BC

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

- **“The Legal Realities of Managing Your People, Your Customers, and Your Travel Partners”**
Speaker: Jeff Ment, The Ment Law Group
Sponsored by Travel Oregon
Magnolia
- **“2026 Travel Trends: Opportunities for the Taking”**
Speaker: Michelle Stark, Red Sage Communications
Sponsored by Experience Grand Rapids
Azalea A

2:30 – 5 p.m.

- **Afternoon refreshments**
Sponsored by A Closer Look Tours
Azalea Prefunction

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

- **“Make it Work(able): 3 Principles to Get Teams to Work Together”**

Speaker: Jon Yarian

Sponsored by Heritage Hotel Lancaster

Azalea A

4 – 5:15 p.m.

- **BizNet**

Facilitator: Bob Rouse, NTA

Sponsored by Sight & Sound Theatres and Delta Air Lines

Azalea BC

5:15 – 6 p.m.

- **Networking Reception (All attendees)**

Sponsored by SoIN Tourism

Azalea Prefunction

Evening

- **Dine-around**

6:45 p.m.

- **Dinner with Friends at Taco Boy**

Note: Dinner is self-pay with limited seating. You must sign up in advance.

Friday, March 6

7 a.m.

- **5K Run/Walk**

Fundraiser for NTA’s Government Relations Fund

Sponsored by Wyoming Office of Tourism and Unified Purchasing Group

Depart from Hilton Garden Inn Lobby

8:15 – 9:15 a.m.

- **Grab & Go Breakfast**

Sponsored by Dynamic Destinations

Azalea Prefunction

9 – 9:20 a.m.

- **Morning Mindfulness session**
Speaker: Heather Davis
Sponsored by Delta Air Lines
Azalea A

9:15 – 11 a.m.

- **Morning Coffee & Tea**
Azalea Prefunction
Sponsored by Ottawa Tourism

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

- **“The Transformative Power of Travel”**
Speaker: Sucheta Rawal
Sponsored by Biltmore Estate
Azalea A

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- **Sightseeing Tours**
Depart from conference center entrance
Sponsored by Explore Charleston
Transportation provided by Motor Coach Family of Brands

6 – 6:45 p.m.

- **Tour Operator Reception**
Sponsored by National Comedy Center and National Baseball Hall of Fame
The Lodge & Back Patio

6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

- **Dinner with Brooke: Tour Supplier/DMO Dine-around at Carolina Ale House**
Note: Dinner is self-pay with limited seating. You must sign up in advance.

7 – 8:30 p.m.

- **Tour Operator Networking Dinner**
Sponsored by Centaur Systems and Discover Carbon County
Azalea BC

8:45 – 10 p.m.

- **NightCap**
Featuring Todd Probus, NTA
Sponsored by Visit Anchorage
Magnolia

Saturday, March 7

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

- **Breakfast**
Sponsored by Explore Branson
Azalea BC

9:30 a.m. – noon

- **Morning Coffee & Tea**
Sponsored by Ottawa Tourism
Azalea Prefunction

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- **“From Foodie to Changemaker: The Next Wave of Culinary Travel”**
Speaker: Sucheta Rawal
Sponsored by Mount Hope Estate & Winery
Azalea A
- **“From Intention to Action: Operationalizing Meaningful Travel for Tour Operators”**
Speakers: Greg Takehara, Tourism Cares; and Christina Werner, Custom Holidays
Sponsored by Gateway Arch
Magnolia

11 a.m. – noon

- **Spotlight session: All-attendee Power Hour**
Moderators: Catherine Prather, NTA; and Michelle Pino, Northeast Unlimited Tours
Sponsored by Trip Mate
Azalea A

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

- **Luncheon**
Sponsored by Richmond Region Tourism and St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The

Beaches
Azalea BC

1:30 – 5 p.m.

- **Educational Outings (All attendees)**
Sponsored by Explore Charleston
Transportation provided by Motor Coach Family of Brands
Depart from conference center entrance

6 p.m.

- **Depart for Closing Event**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands
Depart from conference center entrance

6:30 – 9 p.m.

- **Closing Event**
Sponsored by Explore Charleston and Magnolia Plantation
Magnolia Plantation

8, 8:30, and 9 p.m.

- **Shuttle service from Closing Event to hotel**
Sponsored by Explore Charleston and Motor Coach Family of Brands

Sunday, March 8

4 a.m. – 2 p.m.

- **Airport shuttle service to Charleston International Airport (CHS) from hotel**
Sponsored by Motor Coach Family of Brands
Depart from conference center entrance

8:30 a.m.

- **Post-Contact Fam to Beaufort departs**
Depart from conference center entrance