



DISCOVER THE HEADQUARTERS OF
GRAND CIRCLE CORPORATION
347 CONGRESS STREET



ABOUT GRAND CIRCLE CORPORATION

When you step into 347 Congress Street you are not just entering the world headquarters of the Grand Circle family of travel companies. You may find yourself transported to the plains of the Serengeti ... a Costa Rican rain forest ... or along the great rivers of Europe ... or to a world of possibilities you might only have imagined before. Welcome. Come inside. Join our journey.

Filled with artifacts from around the world, our building reflects the many international communities that welcome our travelers. But more than that, it embodies our belief that travel is about more than physically transporting people from one



space to another. It's about changing people's lives through learning and discovery, and creating a better world as one by one, individuals like yourself make personal connections with people from all over the planet we share.

Grand Circle Corporation is a global enterprise committed to changing people's lives by

- offering high-impact experiences to our travelers
- creating a stimulating workplace for our associates
- providing financial growth for our stakeholders
- building local communities through philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, and volunteerism





Alan and Harriet Lewis

DID YOU KNOW ...

Alan Lewis shared his desire to purchase Grand Circle Travel with his wife Harriet during a walk along the beach on Captiva Island in 1985.



Ethel Andrus

Our travel family includes:

Grand Circle Travel (GCT)

offers distinctive international vacations for older Americans. Established in 1958 by Ethel Andrus, educator and founder of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), we view world travel as a powerful lever for lifelong learning. We make it accessible through trips that deliver comprehensive value, leisurely pacing, varied choice, and cultural discovery.

Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT)

offers unique small group adventures world-wide to Americans over 50. By land and sea, we explore on and off the beaten path with a resident OAT Trip Leader, enjoying unique modes of transportation and lodgings, and celebrating authentic cultures and great natural wonders that large groups just can't get close to.

Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises

serves both our GCT and OAT brands with an award-winning fleet known for exceptional value and high-quality experiences in Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, and Antarctica.

Custom-designed according to our travelers' specifications, our fleet includes 50+ small river and ocean-going ships that we own or privately charter.

Grand Circle Foundation

was established in 1992 to formalize the process of giving that our founders, Alan and Harriet Lewis, had made a part of our business model since purchasing Grand Circle Travel in 1985. Since its inception, our Foundation has donated or pledged more than \$50 million to educational, humanitarian, and cultural organizations worldwide.



A walk through our history

Our headquarters are located in Boston's historic Fort Point Channel district, named for the colonial-era fort that once presided over its harbor setting. Once an industrial zone of factories and warehouses, it's now a thriving artists community whose redevelopment includes the city's most popular new hotels, convention centers, historic HarborWalk, restaurants, and other attractions. The area was first developed in the early 1800s by the Boston Wharf Company to house its storage sheds for sugar and molasses. As New England's textile industry grew, these structures were later used as storage for the wool trade. The first tenant of 347 Congress Street was Chase & Co., a confectionery company that patented America's first candy machine.

In a bold move, Alan and Harriet Lewis moved Grand Circle Travel's headquarters here from New York when they purchased the company in 1985. The exposed brick and old timber beams gave the building a cozy, non-corporate feeling—a style still embraced by our current design. In 2009, a formal project was launched to enhance the building's décor to better align with our values and culture.

The lay of the land

In a roughly U-shaped layout, each of our six floors is designed to reflect a specific region of the world where we travel, with displays that include indigenous art and artifacts, architectural details, native textiles, and informational panels. Just outside the elevator landings are "region at a glance" plaques that note which GCT and OAT destinations are depicted on that floor, as well as the locations of our overseas regional offices for those areas.

Some floors also depict the type of activity that takes place there. For instance, the Finance area (on the fifth floor) has a floor embedded with currency from around the world; the sixth floor (the Executive area) is somewhat satirically "paved" with memos announcing reorganizations—an homage to both our fast and flexible culture of change, as well as our love of irreverence!

Other plaques and posters proclaim the values that drive our business: open and courageous communication, risk-taking, teamwork, thriving in change, speed, and quality. Our conference rooms are named after gutsy leaders who have inspired us, such as Sir Edmund Hillary, Theodore Roosevelt, and Nelson Mandela.



LOBBY: AN OVERVIEW OF GRAND CIRCLE CORPORATION

DID YOU KNOW ...

In Thai culture, white elephants are sacred and considered to be a symbol of power. The greater the number of white elephants a king owns, the higher his royal standing.



Do you hear bird calls? Greek bouzouki music? Buddhist chanting? That's just the sound system welcoming you (in many languages) to our world. The building's entryway is adorned with travelers' postcards from around the globe, giving you a visual image to match the acoustical welcome.

Once inside, visitors are greeted with displays highlighting

Grand Circle Corporation history, our culture, and awards. Our giant elephant, Raju, comes from Thailand and is made of teak. If you see a witch or an elf or a leprechaun behind our reception desk, never fear.... That's just the handy work of Laverne, our veteran receptionist and morale booster, who is famous for marking every holiday with festive flair.



WE HELP CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES





DID YOU KNOW ...

Up to 500,000 wildebeest calves are born in February and March each year, at the beginning of the rainy season. Calves learn to walk within minutes of birth.

2ND FLOOR: AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

OAT and GCT offer trips that span the continent of Africa, from north to south, as well as highlights of the Middle East. As you explore the display panels and exhibits on this floor, you'll view traditional costumes, and learn about the culture of the Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the great annual migration of wildebeest across the plains of East Africa.

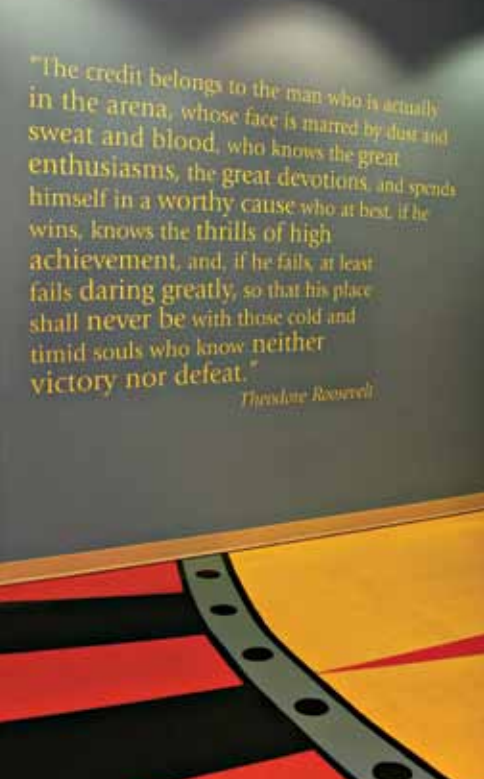


You'll also discover the wonders of North Africa, including what life is like in a Tunisian oasis, and see examples of pottery from Tunisia and Morocco, as well as a variety of camel blankets.

But it doesn't end there: If you've ever wondered about the history of the Suez Canal, you'll find

it here, as you explore the rich culture of the Middle East.





DID YOU KNOW ...

After being sent home early due to failing health on his first Antarctica expedition, Ernest Shackleton returned to the region in 1907 as leader of the Nimrod Expedition.

3RD FLOOR: GRAND CIRCLE SMALL SHIP CRUISES

In the mid-1990s, we regularly chartered space on popular river cruise ships in Europe, but even when we chartered the whole ship, we did not have complete control over the traveler's experience. We realized that by building our own ships, we could not only provide better comfort, convenience, and value, we could apply our expertise to offer the most unique, culturally enriching river cruises on earth.

It was a huge investment with many risks, but we forged ahead, building our first ship based on input from our travelers. It sold

out before it was even finished, as did the next one. Today, our award-winning small-ship fleet of more than 50 river and ocean-going vessels plies not only European rivers, but waterways and seas from the Volga to Antarctica and beyond.

As you explore the third floor, you'll read a summary of the history of Grand Circle Small Ship Cruises, and discover the inspiring story of Ernest Shackleton and his heroic expedition to Antarctica.

And as home to our sales team, we provide updated sales information and other motivational data throughout the floor.



Ernest Shackleton: A Remarkable Tale of Endurance

In 1914, while finalizing plans for his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, Sir Ernest Shackleton placed the following ad in The Times of London:

"Men wanted for hazardous journey. Low wages, bitter cold, long hours of complete darkness. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in event of success."

Amazingly, the explorer received more than 1,000 applications to join his expedition—the largest response in the venerable newspaper's history. Why were so many men eager to sign on, despite the uncertain outcome? Because Shackleton was hoping to make history, becoming the first explorer to cross the newly-discovered continent on an arduous 1,800-mile journey.

Ultimately, only a handful of applicants were chosen, and in early December of 1914, Shackleton and a crew of 27 set sail from South America aboard the Endurance. Six weeks into the trip, as they sailed among the frigid waters of the Weddell Sea, the ship became frozen in pack ice—"like an abandoned piece of refuse," according to one expedition member—within sight of the Antarctic coast.

With Shackleton's hopes of crossing Antarctica dashed, his crew grudgingly agreed to return home. To bring every member of his crew home alive. They began one of the greatest survival stories of all time.

After 281 days adrift, the increasing pressure of the pack ice began taking its toll on the Endurance. Shackleton ordered his crew to abandon ship, using three lifeboats with gear and provisions and setting up an "Ocean Camp" more than a mile-and-a-half

away from the wreckage. On November 21, 1915, the Endurance was crushed by press and sank in the Weddell Sea.

On April 16, the ice broke to sea and Shackleton and his men took to the lifeboats, setting sail for where they thought the nearest land would be. After five days at sea, they landed on remote Elephant Island. Realizing their chances of being rescued here were nil, they set sail again. Shackleton and five expedition members set off on April 24, 1916, to reach the nearest whaling station. A whaling station on South Georgia Island, more than 800 miles away.

Crossing the world's stormiest stretch of ocean, battling violent, 30-foot waves in their 22-foot-long lifeboat, the six men managed to reach South Georgia Island 17 days later. But success was not yet there. They had landed on the opposite end of the island from the whaling station, so Shackleton and two expedition members paddled to transfer a supply and communication range—which had never before been sailed without equipment—making for 26 miles before reaching Stromness Bay.

Against all odds, Shackleton and his men had persevered. By August 30, 1917, all 28 members of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition had been rescued.





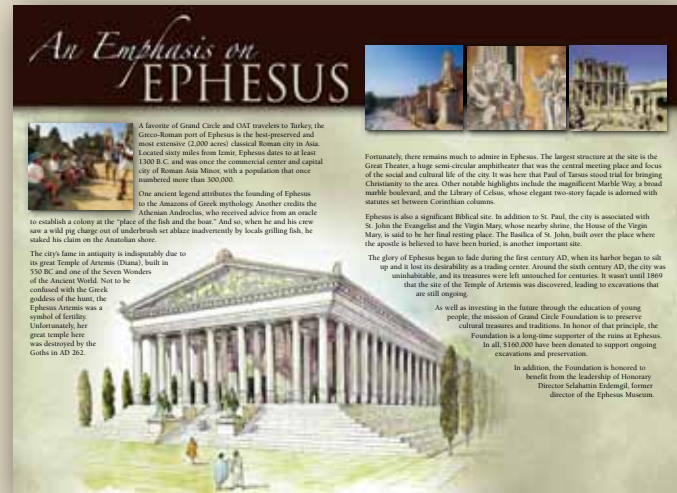
DID YOU KNOW ...

Ephesus is featured in the Book of Revelation as one of the seven churches of Asia—and it's even believed that the Gospel of John may have been penned here.

4TH FLOOR: EUROPE

In the early days of Grand Circle Corporation, Europe was by far the company's top-selling region, and it continues to remain popular

today. As you explore the fourth floor, you'll learn about Grand Circle's history in Europe, including milestone initiatives, such as changing the group tour model to offer extended stays in a single location, our Dine-Around program, and establishing our network of regional offices.



You'll also view a pottery display featuring some of our key European destinations, and learn about Ephesus—whose Greco-Roman



ruins are a favorite of travelers to Turkey—and Dubrovnik, a Croatian gem that is one of Europe's best-preserved walled cities.





DID YOU KNOW ...

Because the size of the locks determines the largest ship size allowed for passage, many international ships—known as Panamax vessels—are now built to the maximum allowance of the Panama Canal.

5TH FLOOR: THE AMERICAS

From Canada to Cape Horn, the Americas play an important role in the Grand Circle Corporation portfolio.

As you exit the elevator, you'll notice an original wall mural to your right. This is a unique montage celebrating the people, flora, and fauna of Latin America, painted by students from Artists for Humanity, a non-profit organization and Grand Circle Community Partner dedicated to inner city youth.



Continuing on, you'll learn about Central America's history and culture by reading the story behind the construction of the Panama Canal and viewing a display of Panamanian festival masks.

You'll also uncover fascinating facts about the rain forest, from Costa Rica to the Amazon, and see the remarkable wildlife of the Galápagos Islands and traditional Peruvian costumes.



An original mural painted by students from Artists for Humanity.



DID YOU KNOW ...
You are not able to view the Great Wall of China from space. Although this myth has been debunked many times, it continues to live on in popular culture.

6TH FLOOR: ASIA

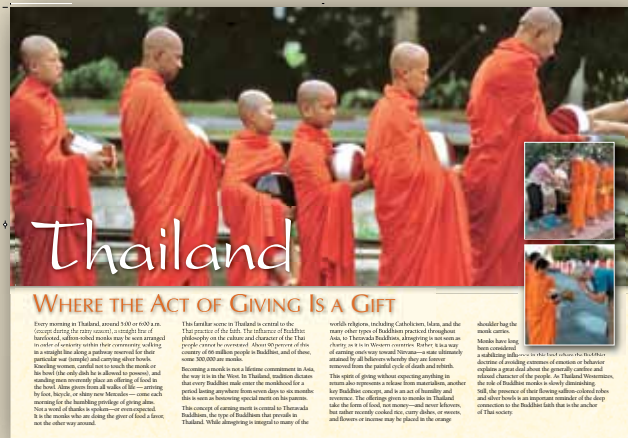
The sixth floor—our executive floor—features the wonders of exotic Asia, from Japan, China, and Nepal, to Southeast Asia. As you browse the displays on this floor, you'll view a sprawling rendition of the Great Wall of China, and see another original wall mural, displaying a vividly imagined tableau reprising themes and deities from Hindu and Buddhist cultures that we visit. It was created by students from Artists for Humanity, a non-profit organization and a Grand Circle

Community Partner dedicated to inner city youth.

You'll also learn about the traditions of saffron-robed monks with their alms bowls, and view hand-woven Hmong tapestries—also known as “flower cloth—from China and Southeast Asia, displayed on the walls.

And that's not all: You'll even see a replica of a

miniature junk, a traditional sailing vessel from this part of the world.



An original mural painted by students from Artists for Humanity.





DID YOU KNOW ...

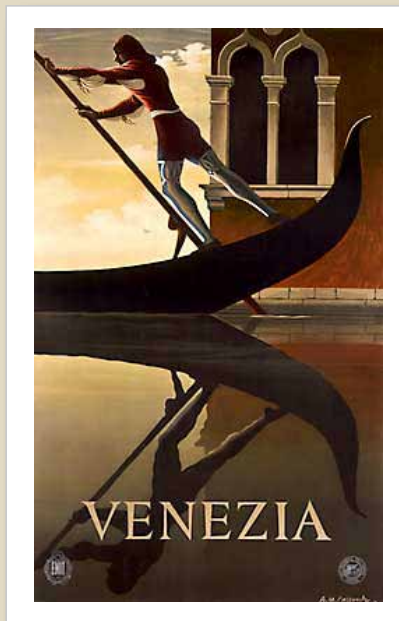
Thanks to French painter and lithographer Jules Chèret called “the father of the modern poster—the “three stone process” was created, allowing for the mass production of large color lithographs.

UNIQUE SPACES

In addition to traditional workspaces, 347 Congress Street has a basement floor that has been transformed into two unique areas that are available to special-interest groups, our travelers, and the general public.

Grand Circle Gallery

At the turn of the 20th century, breakthroughs in transportation—by sea, air, and land—allowed people at last to discover the joy of traveling for its own sake. What inspired them was a Golden Age of Travel that lasted until the outbreak of World War II—and that lives on in vintage travel posters. Grand Circle Corporation Chairman and Vice



Chairman Alan and Harriet Lewis have accumulated an extensive collection of travel posters dating up to World War II. They share their collection with the public through Grand Circle Gallery.

Through these posters, visitors to Grand Circle Gallery can relive that romantic age, when steamships chugged across seas and along the Scandinavian coast ... travelers rode camels across Egyptian sands to behold ancient wonders ... and people began traveling great distances to witness the Eiffel Tower and the Taj Mahal firsthand.

The gallery also features the photography of Bradford Washburn. An explorer, photographer, mountaineer, scholar, and director of Boston’s Museum of Science for 40 years, Mr. Washburn enjoyed a career as an aerial landscape photographer that spanned six decades. He was also a friend of Ansel Adams whose own innovative silver nitrate photographic images are spectacular and bold. We were honored to have the late Mr. Washburn serve as an Honorary Director of Grand Circle Foundation. In addition, select special exhibitions are featured at Grand Circle Gallery throughout the year.

Harriet’s Corner

An open and dynamic space, Harriet’s Corner captures the Grand Circle experience in a nutshell. It’s a living

museum that celebrates travel and the history and culture of our organization—in short, who we are, what we do, how we work, and how we give back.

We designed this space specifically as a gathering place for our travelers, visitors, and community partners. Its eclectic décor features cozy, family-style seating arrangements that encourage smaller groups or one-on-one conversations. In addition, tucked into a corner is a versatile meeting space complete with retractable screen, Internet access, projection and sound equipment, a remote keyboard and mouse, iPod® port, CD/DVD player, and flat-screen, wall-mounted TVs.





Local Restaurants and Cafes

Barlow's

241 A Street
617-338-2142
www.balrnowsrestaurant.com

Menton

354 Congress Street
617-737-0099
www.mentonboston.com

Channel Café

300 Summer Street
617-426-0695
www.channel-café.com

Papagayo

283 Summer Street
617-423-1000
www.papagayoboston.com

Flour Bakery

12 Farnsworth Street
617-338-4333
www.flourbakery.com

Yada Yada Café

34 Farnsworth Street
617-451-9232

Lucky's Lounge

355 Congress Street
617-357-5825
www.luckyslounge.com

For more information call **1-800-555-1212**

or visit us at www.gct.com or www.oattravel.com.

*The building is handicap accessible.
Ample parking is available nearby.*

MAP KEY

- 1. Grand Circle Gallery
- 2. The Boston Fire Museum
- 3. Boston Children's Museum

- 4. Made in Fort Point Store
- 5. Institute of Contemporary Art
- 6. The Fort Point Arts Community Gallery

- 7. Barlow's
- 8. Channel Café
- 9. Flour Bakery
- 10. Lucky's Lounge

- 11. Menton
- 12. Papagayo
- 13. Yada Yada Café