

*Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.*



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

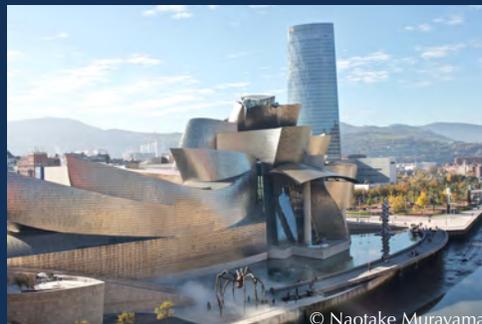
May 21-31, 2020 (11 days) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall



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© Naotake Murayama



© Codigowiki

*“Being in the presence of the art was a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon.”*

- Sandra, New York

© Thomas T.

Discover with acclaimed paleoanthropologist and popular trip leader Ian Tattersall a collection of magnificent but largely unheralded examples of Ice Age art. Admire unusual, elegant bas-relief animal images in Basque caves, a profusion of hand prints at Gargas, and the famous panels of line-drawn and subtly shaded bison, horse, and ibex at Niaux. The trip concludes with a visit to the newly-opened Chauvet cave replica at Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, which expertly re-creates the earliest, and perhaps most impressive, of the many masterpieces of Ice Age art dated to some 35,000 years ago. Enjoy fine food and delightful accommodations while an expert trip manager handles all the logistics.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA  
**LECTURER & HOST**



**Ian Tattersall**, American Museum of Natural History curator emeritus, is a renowned expert on physical anthropology and human evolution. He has lectured to acclaim on numerous expeditions to Spain, France, and throughout the world. Trained in geology

as well as in archaeology and anthropology, his field research on living primates and his fossil collecting has taken him around the globe. Dr. Tattersall co-curated the Museum's Spitzer Hall of Human Origins and has written many books on the origins of human creativity, including *Masters of the Planet*, *Becoming Human: Evolution and Human Uniqueness*, *The Strange Case of the Ricketty Cossack, and Other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution*; and the recently published *A Natural History of Wine* and *A Natural History of Beer* (both with Rob DeSalle). Dr. Tattersall accompanied this same AIA tour of *Decorated Caves* in 2018 and 2019.



Cover: Charcoal drawings from Chauvet cave; bottom (left to right) Entrance to the cave in Isturitz, Bayonne, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, entrance to El Pendo cave. Below, the Ekainberri panel of horses, Spain.





Paintings of bison (above) and an ibex (below) from the Salon Noir of Niaux cave.



Below, a painting from Covalanas cave, Spain.



*“Ian’s commentary and overall presence could not have been more engaging. He was both an archaeological authority and an excellent traveling companion.”*

- Richard, New York

## ITINERARY

(B)= Breakfast, (L)= Lunch, (D)= Dinner

### Thursday, May 21, 2020: Home | Bilbao, Spain

Depart home on independent flights to Bilbao, Spain.

### Friday, May 22: Bilbao | Welcome dinner

Transfer from the Bilbao airport (BIO) to the *Gran Hotel Domine*, situated in the heart of this thriving city. This afternoon, admire both the architecture and the permanent collection of the spectacular Guggenheim Museum during a guided tour. Gather later at the hotel for a welcome drink and dinner. *Overnight at the 5-star [Gran Hotel Domine](#) for two nights.* (D)

### Saturday, May 23: Covalanas | Ramales | El Pendo | Bilbao

After breakfast, drive to Covalanas cave with its extraordinary collection of animal images. After an independent lunch in nearby Ramales, continue to El Pendo cave with its nearly nine-meter-long panel of painted figures. Dinner is at leisure in Bilbao. (B)

### Sunday, May 24: Ekainberri | San Sebastian | Ainhoa, France

Check out of our hotel and head northeast towards France, stopping first at the Ekainberri replica and its famous panels of horses, the originals dating from the Magdalenian period. Continue to the elegant Basque city of San Sebastian, situated on the Bay of Biscay. Enjoy a guided tour of the town and savor an independent lunch before moving on to Ainhoa. Gather in the evening for dinner. *Overnight at the 3-star [Hotel Ithurria](#) for two nights.* (B,D)

### Monday, May 25: Isturitz and Oxocelhaya | Bayonne | Ainhoa

This morning, visit the caves of Isturitz and Oxocelhaya with their bas-relief sculptures and concretions. Stop for an independent lunch and some free time in the lovely city of Bayonne (famous for its cathedral, as well as the ham and chocolate that it produces). Return to our hotel in Ainhoa for dinner. (B,D)

### Tuesday, May 26: Gargas | Tarascon-sur-Ariège

Check out of our hotel and drive to Gargas cave, one of the finest in the Pyrenees and known for its collection of more than 200 stenciled hand prints, many of which are mysteriously incomplete. After a group lunch in Gargas, drive to *Le Manoir d'Agnes*, a 200-year-old French chateau in Tarascon-sur-Ariège. Gather for dinner in the restaurant next to our hotel. *Overnight at the 3-star [Le Manoir d'Agnes](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

### Wednesday, May 27: Niaux | La Vache | Tarascon-sur-Ariège

This morning, drive a short distance to the cave of Niaux, regarded as one of the most impressive in Europe for its spectacular and well-preserved wall paintings from 14,000 years ago, most of which are found in its “Salon Noir,” situated some 800 meters from the cave entrance. After a group lunch in the village of Niaux, visit the small cave of La Vache, plausibly where the Niaux artists lived, and known as one of the Pyrenees’ richest Magdalenian sites in terms of artifacts and engravings on bone and stone plaques, including representations of bear, lion, salmon, and more. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

**Thursday, May 28: Parc de la Préhistoire | Mas d’Azil | Tarascon-sur-Ariège**

After breakfast, visit the Parc de la Préhistoire for an overview of the area’s prehistory through its museum and numerous reconstructions and demonstrations. Later, continue on to the cave of Mas d’Azil, an ancient refuge for humans and animals, including mammoth and rhinoceros. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

**Friday, May 29: Tarascon-sur-Ariège | Arago | Tautavel | Montpellier**

Check out of our hotel and drive to Arago cave, situated just outside the village of Tautavel and famous for the discovery of “Tautavel Man,” some of the most significant hominid remains ever found in Europe. After an independent lunch and, time permitting, a quick tasting of the local wine, visit the small but impressive museum in Tautavel before driving on to Montpellier. Dinner this evening is at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Pullman Montpellier Centre Hotel](#) for one night.* (B)

**Saturday, May 30: Montpellier | Vallon-Pont-d’Arc Cavern | Lyon | Farewell dinner**

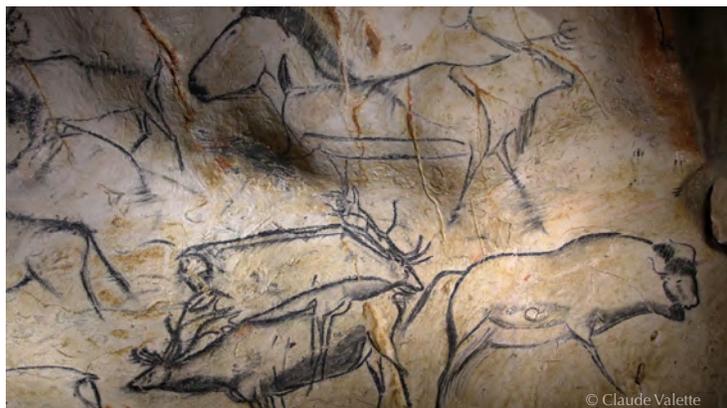
After checking out of our hotel, drive north to what may be the highlight of the journey: the recently opened and spectacular replica of Chauvet cave, Pont-d’Arc Cavern, including a reproduction of its delicately shaded horses. Chauvet is one of the most famous decorated caves in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. After an independent lunch on site, drive to Lyon. Gather together for a farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at the 5-star [Le Royal Hotel Lyon](#) for one night.* (B,D)

**Sunday, May 31: Lyon | Home**

Transfer this morning to the Lyon airport (LYS) for flights home. (B)

*“Dr. T. was straight out of Central Casting - urbane, articulate, humorous, witty, gracious. His knowledge was vast and deep, without being showy. He had enchanting anecdotes up his sleeve for every occasion, and could explain any and everything with the charming turn of phrase and originality that is his hallmark.”*

- Eve, California



A charcoal drawing from Chauvet cave, France.



© Karen Raab

AIA lecturer/host Ian Tattersall (left) stands with Professor Henry de Lumley, excavator of the Arago cave and founder of the Tautavel museum, who is displaying the Arago 21 skull to AIA travelers during an unscheduled visit to the museum’s strong room in 2018.

## What to Expect

This program involves extensive walking, often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. **Visits to the caves and other archaeological sites necessitate walking quickly and climbing unassisted, without handrails, sometimes over steep or slippery terrain and in dark or dimly lit spaces.** Please note that walking sticks are rarely, if ever, allowed inside the caves, and no photography is allowed inside the caves. Weather in Spain and France in May is generally pleasant, with average daytime temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to mid-70s F. Cave temperatures average 55° F and humidity levels reach 95%. *Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.*



Bayonne

© Daniel Villafuela

## Tour Prices Per Person (9 nights)

Double Occupancy (15 to 20 participants) .....	\$7,945
Double Occupancy (10 to 14 participants) .....	\$8,895
Single Supplement.....	\$965

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).  
With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

**Prices Do Not Include:** Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; individual arrival/departure transfers; beverages (except as indicated); excess baggage charges; personal, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

**Passenger Cancellation Fees:** All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure are refunded less an administrative fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 60 days prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 59 days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

**Note:** Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to *EOS Passenger Account-AIA DecoratedCaves5/20*. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure and must be by check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

**Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org).**

## Prices Include:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer and host **Ian Tattersall**, and a professional, **English-speaking Tour Manager/Guide** throughout;
- **Nine nights' accommodations** as outlined in the itinerary;
- Breakfast daily; and three lunches and five dinners with house wine, mineral water, and coffee included;
- Group **arrival transfers** on May 22<sup>nd</sup> (flights should arrive no later than 12 noon);
- Group **departure transfer** on May 31<sup>st</sup>;
- **All entrance fees** to sites included in the itinerary;
- Surface transportation via **air-conditioned motor coach** with bottled water provided;
- Local taxes and service charges;
- **All gratuities** to the Tour Manager/Guide, drivers, waiters, and porters;
- Handling of two pieces of luggage per person;
- Practical and cultural information, suggested reading guide, name badge, passport wallet, and luggage tags.

**Air Arrangements & Transfers:** Airfare from home to Bilbao, Spain (BIO), and returning from Lyon, France (LYS), is **not** included. Group transfers in Bilbao on arrival and in Lyon on departure are included (times to be determined). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

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**For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact AIA Tours at:**

**800-748-6262 | Toll: 603-756-2884 | Fax: 603-756-2922 | [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org) | [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org)**

**P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608**



Archaeological Institute of America Tours  
 P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite 1, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

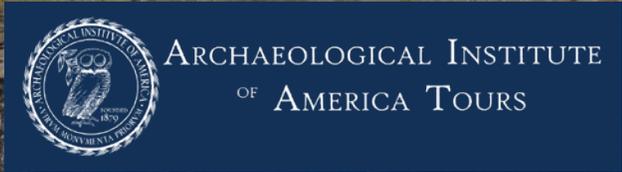
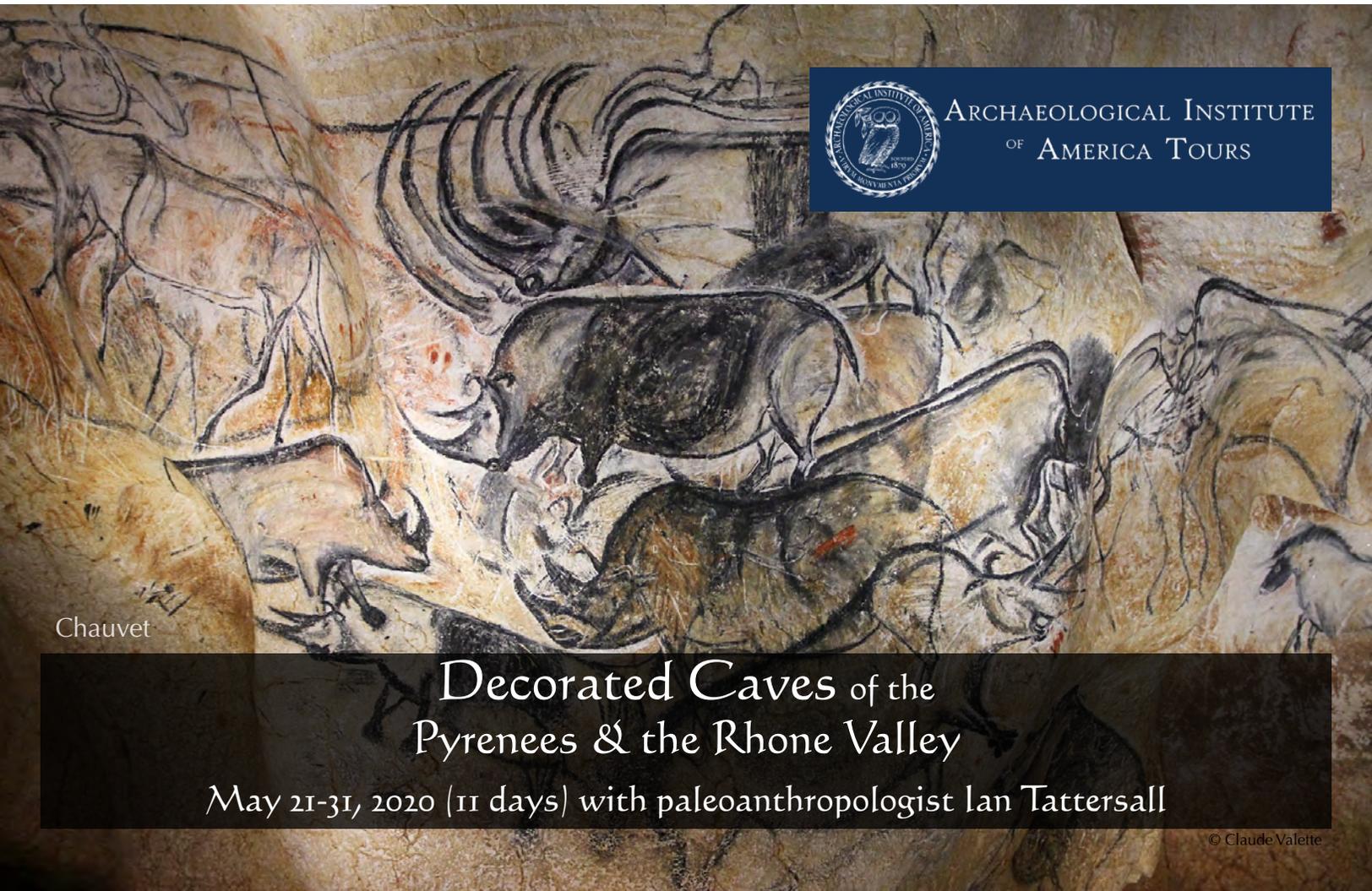
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# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

May 21-31, 2020 (11 days)  
 with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall



*“Ian Tattersall provided his astonishing expertise on the cave art, the Upper Paleolithic, and human evolution in general to make the entire tour an incredibly enlightening educational experience.” - Thomas, Texas*



Chauvet

# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

May 21-31, 2020 (11 days) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

© Claude Valette



RESERVATION FORM

DECORATED CAVES

OF THE PYRENEES & THE RHONE VALLEY

May 21-31, 2020 (11 days) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

Name 1 (as it appears on passport)

Name 2 (as it appears on passport)

Address

City State Zip

Phone (home) Phone (cell)

Email(s)

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes,

How did you hear about this tour? newsletter mailing website friends/family other

ACCOMMODATIONS: (Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

- Double (one bed) Twin (two beds) Single
I will be sharing with: Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)
I am a Non-smoker Smoker Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

- Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA DecoratedCaves5/20
Visa Master Card American Express

CC#

Exp. Date 3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and "submit" by email, mail, or fax to:

AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout. If submitting this form electronically, please check the following box:

- I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature (participant #1) Time and Date

Signature (participant #2) Time and Date

Submit via email

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Eos Study Tours, Archaeological Institute of America, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors and assigns (collectively "Sponsor"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsor is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsor is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof; the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation; or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. In addition, Sponsor is not liable for its own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. **CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES:** Sponsor reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsor shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsor may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant. Sponsor is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsor is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsor makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need of a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will assist them throughout and will be responsible for handling equipment. Participants must be able to embark or disembark motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from their traveling companion, and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which participants choose not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsor strongly recommends that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Sponsor and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsor will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. **RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsor reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, tax increases, currency fluctuations or fuel and energy surcharges, and all such increases are to be paid to Sponsor upon notice to the participant of such increases. **FORUM AND METHODOLOGY FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** Any dispute or claim which refers or relates to this contract, any literature related to the trip, or the trip itself shall be litigated solely and exclusively in and for courts in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive and procedural New Hampshire law, and for this limited purpose, the parties agree to exclusive venue and personal jurisdiction therein. At the participant's option, however, in lieu of litigation, Sponsor will agree to binding arbitration in Keene, New Hampshire, subject to substantive, but not procedural, New Hampshire law, pursuant to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. In any such arbitration, the arbitrator, and not any federal, state, or local court or agency, shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsor reserves the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsor, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsor is able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsor, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL:** Both the U.S. State Department and the Centers for Disease Control publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html> and <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving your final payment invoice so as to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. If, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Sponsor reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any participant at any time. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person it judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders, or third parties, or who is determined to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel. **APPEARING IN PHOTOS:** Photos from AIA Tours' trips may be posted on photo-sharing web sites or on social networking sites. Your likeness may appear in some photos or videos, posted either by other travelers or tour lecturers/guides, and the circulation of the materials could be worldwide. Trip photos may also be selected to appear in future AIA Tours promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.