



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

*"The complete investigation  
of all major sites; I feel like  
we didn't miss anything!"*

- Dennis, New Mexico

# JUNGLE KINGDOMS *of the Ancient Maya*

**February 16-29, 2024 (14 days | 12 guests)  
with Mayanist Ben Thomas**



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



# Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host



**Ben Thomas** is Executive Director of the Society of Architectural Historians, prior to which he was Director of Programs for the Archaeological Institute of America for 18 years and, concurrently, an Assistant and later Associate Professor in Liberal Arts at Berklee College of Music. He

was introduced to archaeology and anthropology at Brandeis University (B.A.) and received his graduate degrees in archaeology from Boston University (M.A. and Ph.D.) after several years of fieldwork in the jungles and swamps of Belize and Guatemala. Ben's specialty is Maya archaeology with specific interests in Ancient Maya settlements and architecture. He has travelled extensively throughout Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. As the Director of Programs for the AIA, Ben was responsible for the Institute's outreach and education activities including International Archaeology Day, ArchaeoCon, the national lecture program, the site preservation program, all grants and fellowships, and the 105 local societies. At Berklee, where he taught for 18 years, he introduced students to Mesoamerican art and archaeology and some of the great archaeological discoveries that have been made in the last 300 years. Since 2017, Ben has led both the AIA's Yucatán tour and this very tour in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras to excellent reviews.

**Cover:** Pyramid at Palenque, at the western edge of the rainforest; carved details found at Palenque.



- # Overnight stays
- Itinerary stops
- ✈ International flights

**T**his tropical adventure provides the best-paced itinerary available to thoroughly explore ancient Maya sites in the lush jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Maya art and architecture will “come alive” as you encounter enormous stelae (carved monoliths), painted frescoes, stucco friezes, carved lintels, and huge temple-pyramids that soar above the rainforest. Explore, in-depth, the sites of Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Tikal, Yaxhá, Copán, and Quirigua (four are UNESCO World Heritage Sites); with free time to go bird watching or simply relax, reflect, and enjoy our comfortable hotels and remote jungle lodges. *Maximum of just 12 guests.*

Temple II, Tikal



*"The trip was perfect. This and [the Yucatán trip] are two of the best travel experiences I have ever had. Thanks!" - James, Ohio*

© Greg Schechter

# Itinerary

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

## Friday, February 16, 2024: Depart home for Villahermosa, Mexico

Depart home for Villahermosa International Airport (VSA) where, if traveling on the suggested flight, you will be met upon arrival at the airport and transferred to our hotel. For those arriving independently, a taxi can be hired for the short drive into town. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hyatt Regency Villahermosa](#) for two nights.*

## Saturday, February 17: Comalcalco | Introductory lecture | Welcome dinner

Set out for Comalcalco, the westernmost known Maya site, and the only Maya city built with bricks of baked clay instead of stone. The site comprises the North Square, Great Acropolis, and Acropolis of the East, and it thrived as an agricultural center specializing in cacao (the seeds from which cocoa, cocoa butter, and chocolate are made). After lunch we return to our hotel and have some time at leisure before gathering for an introductory lecture and our welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

## Sunday, February 18: La Venta Park | Palenque

Visit La Venta Park to see a magnificent outdoor collection of stone sculpture that originally came from the Olmec site of La Venta. The Olmec were one of the earliest cultures in Mesoamerica, preceding the Maya by centuries. Their monumental stone carvings and strange mythological beings puzzle archaeologists to this day. After lunch, drive to Palenque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the great western capitals of classic Maya civilization that some have called "the Paris of the Maya." We will check-in to our charming hotel and have time for relaxation, exploring the surrounding lush forest, and swimming in the unusual pool. *Overnight at the 3-star [Chan-Kah Resort Village](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

## Monday, February 19: Palenque | Jungle trail walk | PM at leisure

Explore Palenque's many exquisite examples of 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-century Maya architecture, including the Temple of the Inscriptions, Palace, Temples of the Cross Group, and much more. We finish the morning walking a beautiful downhill jungle trail, across waterfalls and hidden ruins, to get a true sense of the rainforest and all its beauty. After lunch at an



Top, a view of Tikal through the treetops;  
Above, a keel-billed toucan

*"Seeing all these places I'd read about and having Ben Thomas to help frame the differences and similarities left me with a way to remember and feel that I might actually have learned something."*

- Andrew, Pennsylvania

North temples at Palenque



© ArtEnvyed





© Adam Jones

Bonampak



© Steve Morse

Yaxchilán



© Steve Morse



© Steve Morse

AIA guests board boats on the Usumacinta River.

## The AIA and the AIA Tours Program

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

outdoor, palm thatch restaurant we return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure, perhaps to stroll around the resort grounds, do some hiking, take a swim, or relax on our bungalows' individual verandas, before gathering for dinner. (B,L,D)

### Tuesday, February 20: Palenque site museum | Bonampak | Frontera Corozal

This morning we visit the Palenque site museum, with many world famous pieces of Maya ceramics, jades, and stone carving. Lunch today will be in a rustic jungle restaurant before visiting Bonampak. The discovery of the painted murals at Bonampak in the 1950s changed the way the world saw the Maya. Although the murals are faded and difficult to view, they remain a sight to see. The site is run by Lacandon Maya, and we may get a chance to interact with them during our visit. Continue on to Frontera Corozal, a Chol Maya community on the banks of the Usumacinta River, the famous "river of ruins." Along its banks, classic Maya civilization built some of its grandest cities. We are now traveling deep into the heart of Maya country, and we will stay at a remote, rustic jungle lodge. *Overnight at Escudo Jaguar Lodge for two nights.* (B,L,D)

### Wednesday, February 21: Yaxchilán

After breakfast, travel by small boat down the Usumacinta River to the great classic Maya site of Yaxchilán, whose high-crested temples and palaces climb the steep hills above a large plaza upon a terrace by the river. We will spend all day at this fantastic site, enjoying a picnic lunch under the forest canopy. Beautiful monolithic stelae (standing stone monuments) and lintels spanning the temple doorways display intricate reliefs. Howler and spider monkeys and many tropical birds may accompany us as we explore the steep jungle trails, climbing to the higher elevations overlooking the ancient Maya landscape. We return by boat to our lodge late this afternoon. (B,L,D)

### Thursday, February 22: Tikal, Guatemala

Journey upriver and cross over into the heart of Guatemala, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tikal. As with most Maya sites, Classic Period constructions cover those from earlier times, and ancient structures are scattered for miles in every direction from its center. *Overnight at the 4-star [Jungle Lodge Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

### Friday, February 23: Tikal

Spend a full day at Tikal, which contains thousands of ancient structures, the majority of which remain unexcavated. This vast site has spectacular pyramids, numerous plazas, a sprawling main palace and several lesser royal residences, multiple ball courts, causeways, dozens of stelae, and much more. It is estimated that more than 50,000 people lived at Tikal in its heyday, and the story of the city and its rise and fall mirrors the larger story of Maya civilization itself. Following the glories of the Classic Period, the site was largely abandoned by A.D. 900. (B,L,D)





*“Multitude of sites, excellent education, very nice accommodations and compatible fellow tour members.”*

-Amelia, California

**Saturday, February 24: Optional pre-dawn hike | Tikal site museums | PM at leisure OR Optional excursion to Yaxhá**

Today is a day to relax and re-charge after eight busy days. However, for the energetic (and weather permitting), there will be an optional, pre-dawn hike up the steep steps of Tikal's Temple IV—the site's tallest pyramid at 230 feet, and the largest Maya shrine built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Being a dense rainforest there could be fog but, if not, we may enjoy breathtaking sunrise views from the top. After breakfast, we will visit two small Tikal site museums and then enjoy the rest of day at leisure, until we gather for dinner. Instead of this time at leisure, you have the option to join our leaders on a 1.5-hour drive to Yaxhá, a large and important ancient Maya site that is infrequently visited. Located in dense jungle on a ridge overlooking turquoise Lake Yaxhá, the vast site includes numerous altars and stelae, nine temple pyramids, and two ball courts. Boxed lunches will be enjoyed at the site. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, February 25: Southeastern Petén Regional Museum, Dolores | Rio Dulce**

Depart Tikal for Rio Dulce, stopping along the way to visit the Southeastern Petén Regional Museum, in the town of Dolores, with a significant collection of Classic Maya artifacts. Arrive in Rio Dulce where we enjoy a late lunch and get an overview of the area, including viewing a 17<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish fortress, the Castle of San Felipe de Lara, located where the river meets Lake Izabal. Late this afternoon, we check-in to our waterside hotel. *Overnight at the 3-star [Hotel Catamaran](#).* (B,L,D)

**Monday, February 26: Quiriguá | Motagua Valley | Paleontology and Archaeology Museum, Estanzuela | Copán, Honduras**

After a short boat ride, continue to Quiriguá, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the tallest Maya stelae—one weighs 65 tons and is 35 feet above ground and eight feet underground. Sculpture here is like no other place, with spectacular cosmograms in the likeness of divine crocodiles and jaguars carved in the round from huge boulders. Here we also find a rare description of mythical events which took place at the origin of the calendar Great Cycle that ended in 2012. After leaving Quiriguá, we have lunch in the Motagua Valley, the primary jade source for all of Mesoamerica; and stop in Estanzuela to visit the small Roberto Wookfolk



Tikal Group B, palace entrance

© Art Enyedy



© Art Enyedy

Right, a carved stela (standing stone) at Copán





Stela B, Copán

© talk2winik

Saravia Paleontology and Archaeology Museum. Continue on, crossing the border into Honduras, and check-in to our hotel. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hotel Marina Copán](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

### Tuesday, February 27: Copán

A short drive brings us to the archaeological site of Copán, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known as Hux Wintik (translation uncertain). If Palenque was the “Paris of the Maya,” then Copán was the “Athens of the Maya.” The magnificent acropolis, plazas, courtyards, and standing sculptures are the hallmarks of this southernmost Maya capital. Enjoy a splendid picnic lunch at the site and then visit the excellent site museum, which has a full-scale replica of the funeral shrine of the founder of the Copán dynasty and many fabulous pieces of Maya sculpture. Dinner is on your own this evening in Copán; restaurant suggestions will be available from your tour manager. (B,L)

### Wednesday, February 28: Sepulturas Group | San Pedro Sula | Farewell dinner

Tour the Sepulturas Group, located a few miles from the site of Copán, which also housed a residential area for non-Maya (perhaps foreign merchants) around A.D. 800. We have now traveled from the western capital of Palenque, through the heartland at Tikal, and on to the southern capital of Copán, giving us a sense of the enormity of ancient Maya civilization in its heyday. After lunch at a local restaurant, drive to San Pedro Sula, where we check-in to our hotel, get settled, and then gather for a farewell dinner. *Overnight at the 5-star [Hilton Princess San Pedro Sula](#).* (B,L,D)

### Thursday, February 29: Fly home

Transfer to the airport in San Pedro Sula (SAP), Honduras, for flights home. (B)

## What to Expect



**ACTIVE:** Must be able to walk three or more miles per day on mostly uneven terrain, and up and down inclines and steps.

You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps that may be steep and without handrails. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. 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. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. 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 this program is appropriate for you. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and are the best available in proximity to the sites. At the time of year that we visit this region the weather is generally sunny and dry, with temperatures in the mid-70s to mid-80s F during the day and in the 60s F at night. There is always a chance of light to moderate rain showers. *Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.*

## Accommodations



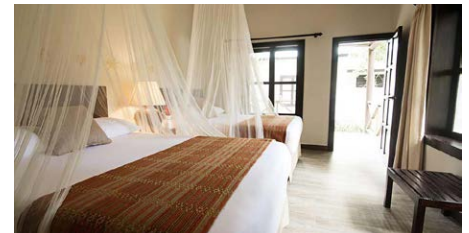
*[Hyatt Regency Villahermosa](#) for two nights*



*[Chan-Kah Resort Village](#) for two nights*



*[Escudo Jaguar Lodge](#) for two nights*



*[Jungle Lodge Hotel](#) for three nights*



*[Hotel Catamaran](#) for one night*

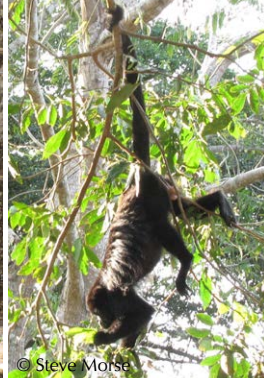


*[Hotel Marina Copán](#) for two nights*



*[Hilton Princess San Pedro Sula](#) for one night*





(Left to right): Copán, Howler Monkey, Copán ball court, traditional crafts

## Tour Prices Per Person (13 nights)

Double Occupancy (10-12 participants) ..... \$8,895

Double Occupancy (7-9 participants) ..... \$10,195

Single Supplement..... \$1,195

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability). With fewer than 7 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

## PRICES INCLUDE:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer/host Ben Thomas**, plus experienced **tour managers, local guides, and drivers**
- **Group arrival and departure airport transfers** for those taking the suggested flights (schedule to be advised)
- **All ground and river transportation** as indicated in the itinerary, with **bottled water** during excursions
- **13 nights' accommodations** in comfortable hotels and remote jungle lodges
- **Breakfast daily, 12 lunches, and 11 dinners** including **welcome and farewell dinners with cocktails**
- A **soft drink or beer** with lunches and dinners
- **All entrance fees** to sites listed in the itinerary, plus border fees and Honduras departure tax
- **All tips** for the tour managers, guides, drivers, hotel and restaurant staff (for included meals), and porters
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including what to pack and a suggested reading/media guide

## Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included, but a suggested flight schedule will be sent to all participants. In conjunction with the suggested flights, group transfers are included on arrival at Villahermosa International Airport (VSA) and on departure from San Pedro Sula (SAP) airport. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to the tour. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

Prices do not include: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; meals on day of arrival; beverages (except as indicated); arrival or departure transfers not in coordination with suggested flights; excess baggage charges; personal, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; and other items not listed as included.

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 AIA-MayaJungle2/24." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer 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.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days (August 20, 2023) prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received from 179 through 90 days (November 18, 2023) prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received from 89 through 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication 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, accommodations, 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 participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

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).

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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**







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*"I enjoyed this trip and learned more than any other archaeological experience I have had. Our tour manager was excellent with every detail of the tour executed perfectly and with charm and friendship."*

- Dee, Florida

# JUNGLE KINGDOMS

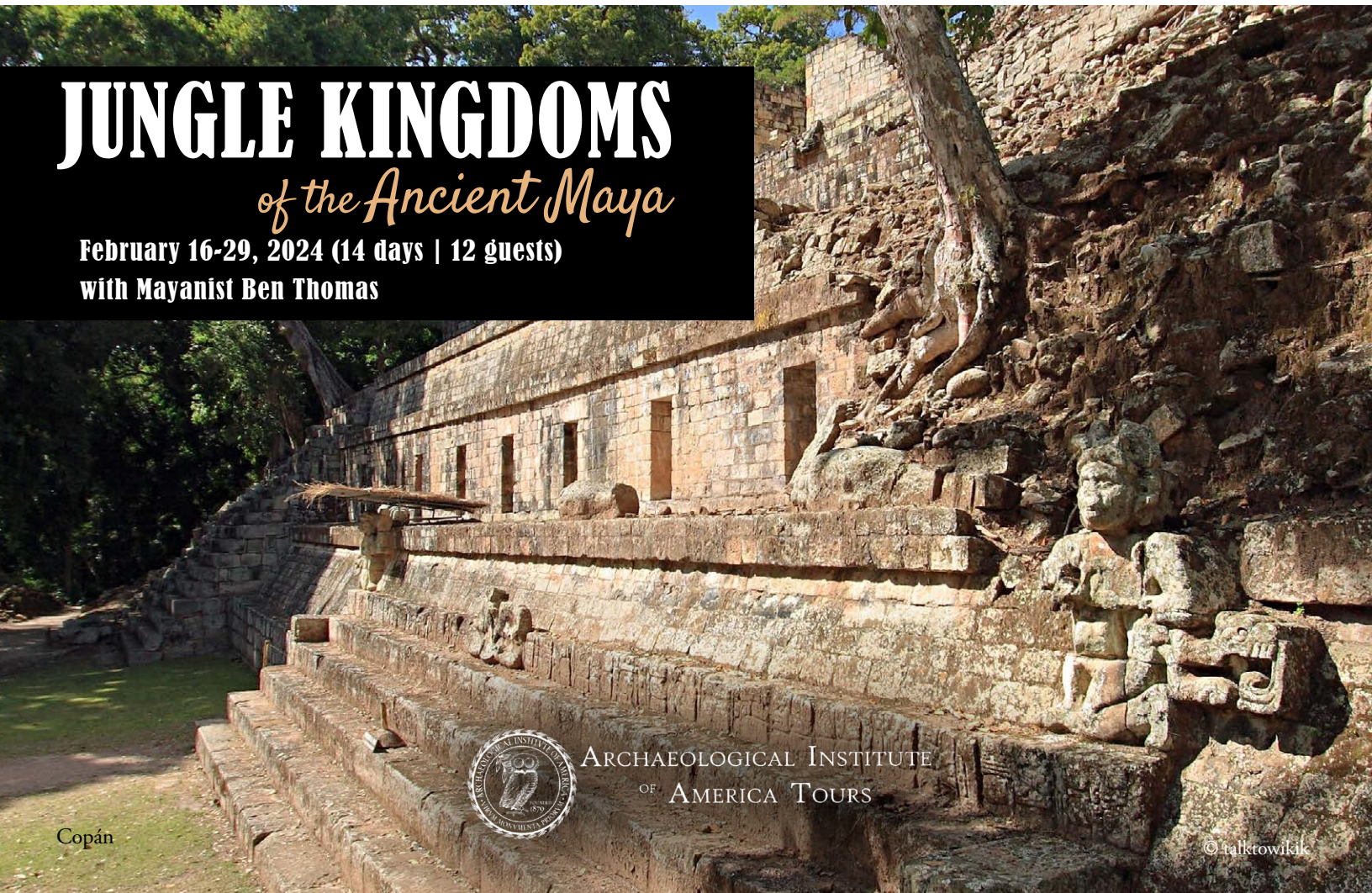
*of the Ancient Maya*

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To fill out an online reservation form, [click here](#). Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.



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RESERVATION FORM

## Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya

February 16-29, 2024 (14 days | 12 guests)

with Mayanist Ben Thomas

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](mailto: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? ☐ eNewsletter ☐ 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)

☐ 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 90 days prior to departure.

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 AIA-MayaJungle2/24 ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date

3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, choose/enclose your method of deposit, and sign the release statement below.

Submit via email, mail, or fax to:

**AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938**

**Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org)**

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

Signature (participant #1)

Date

Signature (participant #2)

Date



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator and/or its agents (collectively "Sponsors/Operator") 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, Sponsors/Operator are 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, Sponsors/Operator are 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, pandemics, 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, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for their own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. **CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsors/Operator shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsors/Operator are 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. Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsors/Operator make the flight arrangements or cancel the trip. Sponsors/Operator reserve 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 must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws, and any participant who refuses to follow protocols may be asked to leave the program with no refunds provided. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses 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 or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case 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 Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend 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 Sponsors/Operator and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsors/Operator will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. **PRICES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of publication and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsors/Operator reserve 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 Sponsors/Operator upon notice to the participant. **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, Sponsors/Operator 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. **U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL:** Both the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. State Department publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> and <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>. **ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** Participants agree to fully accept all known and unknown risks, including the potential risk of exposure to respiratory illnesses or other illnesses, viruses, diseases, or conditions. Participants understand and agree to hold Sponsors/Operator, their officers, vendors and suppliers harmless and not liable for any real or perceived symptoms of any disease, virus, illness, or condition, nor for exacerbating any existing symptoms of any illness, virus, disease or condition, quarantine requirements, disability, and other short-term and long-term health effects, including death. **MISCELLANEOUS:** Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving their 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. Sponsors/Operator reserve 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 Dispute Resolution Agreement. The participant affirms that he/she has not received or relied upon any oral representation of Sponsors/Operator as a basis for executing this Release.