Morocco

From the Desert to the Sea

April 20 - May 4, 2024 (15 days | 12 guests)

with anthropologist and architectural historian
Trevor Marchand

Maximum of just 12 guests
**Archaeological Institute of America**

**Lecturer & Host**


During the past three decades, Marchand has conducted fieldwork with craftspeople in Nigeria, Yemen, Mali, and the UK, and he has lectured on the art, architecture, and archaeology of Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and West and North Africa. He first travelled to Morocco in 1989 and has witnessed fascinating changes in the country against a backdrop of enduring tradition. He served as AIA lecturer/host on this tour of Morocco in 2018, 2019, and 2023. In Marrakech and the Ksar, Marchand shares his expertise in earthen architecture, and in Fes he draws out the connections of that imperial city with the wider Islamic world. His intimate knowledge of surrounding countries and regions allows him to elucidate their long histories of trade, warfare, and artistic and cultural exchange with Morocco.

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Join us for a unique look at the history, architecture, archaeology, and art of Morocco in the company of Professor Emeritus Trevor Marchand and a professional national guide/tour manager. Explore the magnificent landscapes that helped form the country's ancient and modern cultures, from the wild Atlantic coast to the High Atlas Mountains, dense cedar forests, and vast Sahara Desert. It is a land of extraordinary contrasts, and on this custom-designed itinerary you will visit all of the country's best-known historic sites, including six that are inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List, as well as bustling casbahs, medinas, and souks.

“Trevor was excellent and I would happily go with him again. He was knowledgeable, cheerful, friendly, upbeat no matter the circumstances. He was also very gracious. The tour was very informative and we were always well taken care of.”

- Rae, Canada
Highlights include:

- The UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Aït ben Haddou casbah, with its tall adobe forts; all four of Morocco’s Imperial Cities: the vibrant medinas of 9th-century Fes and 11th-century Marrakech, the historic city of Meknes, and the stately modern capital and historic city of Rabat; plus the ruins of Volubilis, Rome’s regional commercial hub until the 3rd century A.D.

- Architectural gems such as Salé, a traditional Moroccan residential city untouched by mass tourism, including its restored, 14th-century medersa

- The former caravan center of Sijilmassa, Africa’s second largest city until the 14th century; and Aghmat, the recently uncovered first capital of the 11th-century Almoravid Dynasty, which is still being excavated and is closed to the public

- Several fascinating museums, including Rabat’s archaeological museum, the only one of its kind in the country; and Fes’s exquisite Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts, housed in the 17th-century Nejjarine caravansary

- Scenic excursions into the mountains and the desert, including a drive across the Atlas ranges from Fes to the edge of the Sahara, taking four-wheel-drive vehicles to the great Erg Chebbi Dunes, and a drive over the spectacular Tizi-n-Tichka Pass

- Delicious Moroccan and Continental food, with opportunities to dine independently in Casablanca, Rabat, Fes, and Marrakech; as well as carefully-chosen hotels in each location

- An excellent touring pace, with 12 nights at 4- and 5-star hotels, and one night in Merzouga at the Desert Luxury Camp in deluxe tents

- A small group of no more than twelve guests!

“Trevor was the highlight of the trip: he made Morocco come alive with his compelling lectures and storytelling, knowledge-sharing, on-site observations and good humour. I’d go on another tour led by Trevor without hesitation!”

- Tina, Singapore
**ITINERARY**

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

**Saturday, April 20, 2024: Depart home**
Depart home for Casablanca, Morocco.

**Sunday, April 21: Arrive Casablanca, Morocco | Transfer to hotel | Introductory lecture**
Arrive today at Casablanca’s Mohammed V International Airport (CMN) where you will be met for individual transfers to our hotel. For those arriving in the morning, this afternoon you may choose to join a short bus tour of the Ville Nouvelle and see the area’s colonial planning and architecture plus the Hassan II Mosque, or spend the afternoon at leisure. Late this afternoon we will gather at the hotel for an orientation and introductory lecture. Dinner is on your own this evening. **Overnight at the 5-star Le Casablanca Hotel.**

**Monday, April 22: Rabat walking tour – part one, Archaeological Museum | Welcome dinner**
This morning we drive from Casablanca to the stately capital city of Rabat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch we visit the country’s sole archaeological museum, renowned for its prehistoric and Roman collections. This evening we gather for a welcome dinner in a private home. **Overnight at the 5-star Hôtel la Tour Hassan Palace for two nights.** (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, April 23: Rabat walking tour – part two | Salé | Rabat**
This morning we visit the Royal Palace squares and gardens as well as the Mohammed VI Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMVI), whose permanent displays include works by Moroccan artists from the 1950s to today. Then take a leisurely walk through Rabat’s whitewashed Oudaïa casbah (North African citadel) and Oudaïa Gate, an example of Almohad Dynasty architecture. After lunch at the marina we cross the Bou Regreg River from Rabat to Salé, an old walled city, where we visit the restored, 14th-century medersa (religious college), a gem overlooked by mass tourism. We then return to Rabat and visit the Bank Al-Maghrib Museum, with a numismatic collection that traces the history of currency in Morocco from ancient times to the modern day, and an art collection that features works both of foreign artists (e.g., 19th-century Orientalists) who painted Morocco and of great Moroccan painters; and end the day with a stop at the 12th-century Hassan Tower. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B,L)

**Wednesday, April 24: Volubilis | Meknes | Fes**
Depart Rabat for the ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was Rome's commercial hub for northwestern Africa until the 3rd century A.D., with well-preserved mosaics that are still *in situ*. After lunch we explore the Imperial City of Meknes, which 17th-century Sultan Moulay Ismail built as his capital. Today Meknes is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the classically-decorated, 14th-century Bou Inania Medersa; and the Dar Jamaï Museum, housed in a 19th-century palace, which focuses on traditional Moroccan music. Continue on to the intellectual and spiritual capital (and UNESCO World Heritage Site) of Fes. Check-in
to deluxe rooms at our boutique hotel, comprised of three vast, former homes (now connected and converted) in the old city. Freshen up and then gather for dinner at the hotel, which has one of the finest traditional restaurants in northern Morocco. **Overnight at the 4-star Le Riad Maison Bleue for three nights.** (B,L,D)

**Thursday, April 25: Fes walking tour – part one**
Take a morning walking tour through 9th-century Fes el-Bali (“Old Fes”), considered by scholars to be the best example of a typical medieval Arab city. Begin the day at the ruins of the Merenid tombs for a panoramic view over Fes. Walk to the 14th-century Medersa Bou Inania; the mausoleum to city founder Idriss II; the area of the world’s oldest functioning university, the Qaraouine; the 17th-century Nejarine caravansary, now an exquisite Museum of Wooden Arts and Crafts; and the 14th-century El Attarine Medersa. After lunch in Old Fes, visit the Seffarine (coppersmiths’ quarter), Sabbaghin (dyers’ quarter), and Dabbaghin (tanners’ quarter) before taking a driving tour of the ramparts. This evening, dinner is at the city’s finest French restaurant. (B,L,D)

**Friday, April 26: Fes walking tour – part two**
This morning we drive to the lush Jnan Sbil (Bou Jeloud Gardens) and see its medieval irrigation system. We then visit Fes el Jedid (“New Fes”), with its Alouite Palace Gate, and stroll through the walled Jewish quarter (“Mellah”), where we visit the restored, 17th-century Danan Synagogue and the cemetery. After lunch, visit a zillij tile workshop. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B,L)

**Saturday, April 27: Atlas Mountains | Arfoud**
Depart Fes this morning for a long day of driving through fascinating, ever-changing landscapes as we cross the Atlas ranges all the way to the edge of the Sahara. We begin with the Middle Atlas and its last forests of giant Mediterranean cedars, passing mountain station Ifrane, site of Africa’s most esteemed international university, and stopping in the heart of the forest to look for the indigenous Barbary macaques (of Gibraltar fame). After a break for lunch in the Berber enclave of Midelt, we cross the wild, multi-hued expanses of the Eastern High Atlas, down the dramatic Ziz Valley, to the administrative center of Arfoud. Gather for dinner at our hotel this evening. **Overnight at the 5-star Hôtel Palais du Désert.** (B,L,D)

**Sunday, April 28: Sijilmassa | Ksar Oulad Abd al Halim | Erg Chebbi Dunes | Merzouga**
Today we explore the Taflalet Oasis, Morocco’s largest, and its ruins of Sijilmassa, Africa’s once-immense “City of Gold.” Continue on to visit the ruined 18th-century walled compound of Ksar Oulad Abd al Halim, where early Alaouite rulers kept their families, and visit the mausoleum of Moulay Ali Sharif. After a picnic lunch of local Saharan specialties, visit Achour Fossils Erfoud, a factory that produces all manner of decorative fossil marble items. Late this afternoon we will take four-wheel-drive vehicles out to the great Erg Chebbi Dunes, rising 600 feet above the desert floor. Scramble (or take a camel, if you prefer) up the dunes to witness the sun set over the Sahara, and then gather for dinner and an overnight in deluxe tents at the **Desert Luxury Camp Morocco.** (B,L,D)

**Monday, April 29: Todgha River Gorge | Tinghir | Ouarzazate**
Departing Merzouga this morning, we drive west along desert hills to the narrow, 1,000-foot-deep Todgha River Gorge, and then walk through the 16th-century adobe *casbah* of Tinghir. After lunch we drive to the international filming center of Ouarzazate, whose exotic surroundings were first used in the film *Lawrence of Arabia.* Upon arrival we visit the partially-restored Taourirt Kasbah (the former palace of the el Glaoui clan, built in the 19th century) and then check-in to our hotel, where we have dinner. **Overnight at the 5-star Le Berbere Palace.** (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, April 30: Casbah of Aït ben Haddou | Marrakech**
At 7:00 am we depart Ouarzazate and drive to the Aït ben Haddou *casbah,* a World Heritage Site and oft-used film backdrop (e.g., *Gladiator*). Continue driving north (about 4.5 hours), over the spectacular Tizi-n-Tichka Pass, with
views over deep verdant vales and their adobe hamlets. Arrive in legendary Marrakech in time for lunch at our hotel, one of the city's finest boutique properties, located just inside the medina of Marrakech (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Afterward, we explore a couple of the city's highlights: the Bahia Palace of vizier Ba Ahmed, a prime example of Moorish-Andalusian art that is spread over 20 acres; and the recently-opened Dar el Bacha Museum, located in a historically important building. Gather this evening for a superb Moroccan dinner in the heart of the medina. **Overnight at the 5-star La Maison Arabe for four nights. (B,L,D)**

**Wednesday, May 1: Marrakech walking tour**
After seeing the 12th-century Koutoubia minaret, a masterpiece of Almohad Dynasty architecture, this morning is dedicated to exploring Marrakech's vast, reed-covered bazaars, where all types of crafts are still fashioned by hand. Two sites of special interest are the Souk des Teinturiers (wool-dyers), also known as Souk Sebbaghine; and the courtyard of the fascinating Zawiya (shrine) of holy man Sidi Bel-Abbes, patron saint of the blind. After a Continental lunch in the medina, take a stroll in the Jardin Majorelle, the exotic, 12-acre garden created in the 1930s and restored by the late Yves St. Laurent, and visit its exquisite Museum of Berber Culture. Dinner is on your own this evening, for a chance to sample the city's array of excellent eateries. **(B,L)**

**Thursday, May 2: Marrakech | Aghmat | Marrakech | Farewell dinner**
Begin the day with a visit to the imposing Bab Agnaou, one of Marrakech’s 19 original gates. Continue on to the Saadian Dynasty’s ruined El Badi Palace and the necropolis of the Saadians, the last window into the splendor of early 17th-century Moroccan interior art, with its finely sculpted plaster, cedar panels, and Carrera marble. After a short stroll in the Jewish Mellah, including a visit to its synagogue, and lunch, we drive to the site of Aghmat, the first capital of the Almoravid Dynasty, which was only recently uncovered and is still closed to the public while excavation continues. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner. **(B,L,D)**

**Friday, May 3: Marrakech: Full day at leisure OR AM at leisure & optional PM culinary tour**
Today is at leisure in Marrakech for independent pursuits. Some options at our hotel (at additional cost) include pampering yourself at the spa, which offers traditional and contemporary treatments; and/or taking a cooking class to learn some secrets of Moroccan gastronomy. These options may be booked and paid for prior to the tour to ensure availability. Alternatively, your tour manager can arrange for a guide to take you back to the souq in the morning for independent shopping. There is also an optional, late afternoon excursion that you may choose (at additional cost; details will be sent to participants with a sign-up form): a tour of local food markets in the old town of Marrakech to learn about history of the markets, spices, and traditional foods before sampling some local specialties in the main square of Jemaa el-Fna. Lunch and dinner are on your own today. **(B)**

**Saturday, May 4: Marrakech | Fly home**
Transfer as a group or individually this morning to Marrakech Menara Airport (RAK) for flights homeward. **(B)**
Moroccan Cuisine

Hospitality, including food, is a significant part of the cultural experience of traveling in Morocco, and Moroccan cuisine is reputed to be one of the world's most refined cuisines. Moroccan hospitality is known for its warmth and generosity, and it is often expressed through the sharing of food. You should expect to encounter an abundance of food during our tour. Included lunches and dinners may have many courses, and may often be served family-style, so plan ahead to pace yourself in order to at least be able to sample them all. Morocco has been a cultural crossroads for centuries, blending Berber, Arab, Andalusian, and Mediterranean culinary traditions so, naturally, Moroccan cuisine boasts rich, diverse flavors influenced by its geography, history, and cultural heritage. The cuisine involves a wide range of spices, herbs, fruits, vegetables, and meats. Some of the most common spices include cumin, cinnamon, paprika, saffron, and ginger; and one of the most iconic dishes is the tagine, a slow-cooked stew made in a conical clay pot of the same name, typically made with lamb or chicken and vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, and onions. The dish is often served with couscous, a staple grain in Moroccan cuisine. If you wish to dig deeper into the culinary history and elements of Moroccan cuisine, consider joining the optional excursion on our last day, which includes a walking tour of local food markets in Marrakech. Further details and a sign-up sheet will be sent with reservation confirmations.

The AIA & AIA Tours

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.
This program involves extensive walking, often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails, with a couple of half-day excursions covering up to three miles apiece. 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 or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. 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. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. Any participant showing signs of illness will be asked to wear a mask while in close proximity to others. 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.

At the time of our visit you can expect pleasant, generally sunny and dry, weather. Daytime temperatures will range from the mid-70s to the mid-80s °F, and you may experience cooler evenings in the mid-60s °F. Sightseeing vehicles are air-conditioned, modern, and comfortable. Land Rovers will take us through the dunes, and to and from our desert camp, and they are air-conditioned but the ride will be bumpy. Accommodations have been selected to offer the ultimate experience of true Moroccan culture, ambiance, and hospitality. Restaurants have been selected to showcase the cuisine’s excellence and complexity, along with the best of Continental options. Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.

**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.

**Accommodations**

- **Casablanca:** One night at the 5-star *Le Casablanca Hotel*
- **Rabat:** Two nights at the 5-star *Hôtel la Tour Hassan Palace*
- **Fes:** Three nights at the 4-star *Le Riad Maison Bleue*
- **Arfoud:** One night at the 5-star *Hôtel Palais du Désert*
- **Merzouga:** One night at the *Desert Luxury Camp Morocco*
- **Ouarzazate:** One night at the 5-star *Le Berbere Palace*
- **Marrakech:** Four nights at the 5-star *La Maison Arabe*
TOUR PRICES Per Person (13 nights)

Double Occupancy (10-12 participants) .................................................. $9,795
Double Occupancy (8-9 participants) ...................................................... $10,595
Single Supplement (limited availability) .................................................. $1,995

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required. With fewer than 8 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

PRICES INCLUDE

- Leadership of AIA lecturer/host Trevor Marchand, a professional guide/tour manager, and local guides where necessary
- Individual and/or group arrival and departure transfers
- Accommodations for 13 nights as indicated in 4- and 5-star hotels, with one night at a deluxe tented camp
- Most meals, including breakfast daily, eleven lunches and eight dinners with mineral water, and wine or beer with included dinners.
- Welcome and farewell dinners also include cocktails
- All sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary
- All entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation by modern, air-conditioned coach, and 4-wheel-drive Land Rovers for Erg Chebbi Dunes excursion, including bottled water
- All gratuities to the guide/tour manager, local guides, driver, hotel and restaurant staff (for included meals), porters, and drivers on the Erg Chebbi excursion
- Parking fares, highway tolls, and local taxes
- Baggage handling
- Complete pre-departure information, including a suggested reading/media guide and packing suggestions

FLIGHTS & TRANSFERS

Airfare to Casablanca (CMN) and from Marrakech (RAK) is not included in the tour price. Complimentary individual and/or group airport transfers, times to be determined, are provided. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Prices Do Not Include: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; excess baggage charges; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary, and those indicated as "optional"; meals or beverages except as noted; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

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-Morocco4/24.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be made 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 (October 23, 2023) prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received from 179 through 90 days (January 21, 2024) prior to departure are reduced by a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received from 89 through 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 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.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions are available upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.
MOROCCO
From the Desert to the Sea

April 20 - May 4, 2024 (15 days | 12 guests)
with anthropologist and architectural historian Trevor Marchand

“Trevor's approach and excellent teaching made the history come alive.”
-Jens, British Columbia

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur
To fill out an online reservation form, click here. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.

RESERVATION FORM

MOROCCO: From the Desert to the Sea
April 20 - May 4, 2024 (15 days | 12 guests)
with anthropologist and architectural historian Trevor Marchand

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?  
☐ eNewsletter  ☐ mailing  ☐ website  ☐ friends/family  ☐ other ________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS:
☐ 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-Morocco4/24  ☐ 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

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, 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/alarms.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 acceptance of contract, including any 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.