



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

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NORTHERN ITALY:

Archaeology, Culture & Cuisine

September 6-17, 2026 (12 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Patrick Hunt



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Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host

Award-winning archaeologist, author, and National Geographic Explorer and grantee **Patrick Hunt** earned his Ph.D. in Archaeology from the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, and has taught at Stanford University for more

than 30 years. Patrick directed the Stanford Alpine Archaeology Project from 1994-2012, and has continued project-related fieldwork in the region in the years since. His Alps research has been sponsored by the National Geographic Society's Expeditions Council. Patrick frequently lectures for National Geographic and others on Hannibal and the European mummy nicknamed Ötzi the Iceman. He is a National Lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), including the prestigious AIA Norton Lectureship in 2022-23; an elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; and an elected National Fellow of The Explorers Club.

Patrick is the author of 26 published books, including the best-seller *Hannibal* (Simon & Schuster, 2017), the Penguin best-seller *Ten Discoveries That Rewrote History*, and *Alpine Archaeology*. He is currently writing a book on Ötzi the Iceman. Patrick has published more than 100 articles, including more than a dozen for *Encyclopedia Britannica*, mostly on Hannibal. He has been featured in many National Geographic and NOVA documentaries, and has consulted for BBC and been featured in BBC radio interviews. Patrick has a lifelong love of the Alps, having lived annually for several months in the Alps since 1994 when not in the classroom or on the lecture circuit. He is Immediate Past President of the Stanford Chapter of the AIA and has been a member of the AIA since graduate school in 1984. A regular study leader on educational tours since the early 1990s, Patrick has led five prior tours in southern France and at least twelve prior tours in northern Italy, including three for the AIA since 2017.



Traverse northern Italy, with the grand Italian Alps as your backdrop, enjoying the depths of its history and the great diversity of architecture, traditions, and gastronomy found in three distinct regions: Lombardy, Veneto, and Friuli Venezia Giulia. On this west-east journey from Milan to Trieste you will explore classic old towns and discover off-the-beaten-track sites, including a stop at the site of Hannibal's first major victory in Italy; and visits to Roman villas and temples at Sirmione, Desenzano, and Brescia.

Visit five UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Valcamonica's famous prehistoric petroglyphs, Roman and early Christian Aquileia, the well-preserved city of Verona, landmarks of Lombard Italy in Cividale del Friuli, and an example of prehistoric pile dwellings at Lucone di Polpenazze. Along the way, you will be treated to insightful discussions with your AIA lecturer/host and a variety of striking vistas: plains, lakes, mountains, and the Adriatic Sea; plus enjoy delicious cuisine and an ideal touring pace (including two hotel nights in Milan, five on Lake Garda, and three in Trieste).

Cover: Grotte di Catullo, (below from left) Ancient Aquileia, a bronze statue of Roman Emperor Constantine in front of San Lorenzo Basilica in Milan, Lake Garda.

"Overall, a wonderful experience! So much to learn and it was great to travel with people who are also archaeology enthusiasts. Seeing Ötzi was truly a gift! I will look forward to my next adventure with AIA. Thank you for all you do!"

- Susan, Virginia

ITINERARY

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



Sunday, September 6, 2026: Depart home for Milan, ITALY

Monday, September 7: Arrive in Milan | Transfer to hotel | Welcome dinner

Upon arrival at Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP), you will be met and transferred as a group to our hotel in the heart of Milan's historic district. The afternoon is free to relax and perhaps have a stroll to admire the Gothic Cathedral (Duomo). Gather for a welcome *aperitivo* and dinner. *Two nights at the 4-star [UNA Hotels Cusani Milano](#). (D)*

Tuesday, September 8: Milan: AM at leisure; PM Imperial Palace, Archaeological Museum, San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore

Enjoy a leisurely morning to relax or explore local sites on your own. After lunch, meet your expert local guide and enjoy a special tour of the hidden archaeological treasures of Milan, such as the Imperial Palace, symbol of Mediolanum (ancient Milan); the Archaeological Museum, which incorporates substantial remains of the ancient city wall and houses excellent Roman and medieval collections; and the medieval church of San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore, with its well-preserved frescoes. Dinner is on your own. (B,L)

Wednesday, September 9: Hannibal battle site | Piacenza | Cremona's Museo del Violino | Desenzano del Garda

This morning we drive to the approximate location of Hannibal's Battle of the Trebbia River (December 218 B.C.), southwest of Piacenza (ancient Placentia) in the shallow hills around Rivergaro, just before the Trebbia River flows into the Po River. After a look at the landscape and a discussion with our lecturer about the battle, Hannibal's first major victory in Italy, we will visit (time-permitting) Piacenza's Museo Civico di Palazzo Farnese. After lunch at leisure in Piacenza, continue to nearby Cremona, the 16th- to 18th-century center of violin-making, and visit the Museo del Violino. Continue on to Desenzano del Garda, on the southern shore of Lake Garda, and check-in to our hotel. Gather for dinner this evening. *Five nights at the 4-star [Villa Rosa Hotel](#). (B,D)*

Thursday, September 10: Sirmione | Grotte di Catullo | Gorghi's Roman furnaces | Desenzano del Garda

Start the day with a walk in Sirmione, at the northern tip of Lake Garda's narrow peninsula, where we find the remains of a large, 1st-century A.D. Roman villa and baths. Known for centuries as the Grotte di Catullo, this is the largest domestic villa in northern Italy. After a visit of the small site museum and lunch at a local restaurant, drive to nearby Lonato del Garda to see the Gorghi's Roman furnaces - six restored brickworks dating back to the 2nd century A.D. Then, return to Desenzano and visit a well-conserved example of a Roman villa which, although built more than 2,000 years ago, was renovated and completed between the 2nd and 4th centuries A.D. Wooden walkways take us through the villa, over a variety of colorful floor mosaics. Dinner this evening is at leisure. (B,L)



Photos (from top): Milan Cathedral, Sirmione, Local cuisine

Friday, September 11: Valcamonica: Naquane Rock Engravings National Park, National Museum of Prehistory | Desenzano del Garda

Today we head towards the heart of the Alps for Valcamonica (Valle Camonica), the first Italian site to be included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This valley is home to more than 140,000 prehistoric rock engravings (petroglyphs) that span approximately 56 miles and 8,000 years. Our morning will be spent at the Naquane Rock Engravings National Park, which is home to an extraordinary collection of prehistoric rock carvings. Depending on physical fitness, we will split into two groups in order to explore the area at our own paces. Not to be missed is the Minerva Sanctuary, a Roman building with mosaics and painted walls located in a place of stunning natural beauty on the Oglio River. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the National Museum of Prehistory of Val Camonica (MUPRE), home to one of Europe's most important collections of rock art. Return to Desenzano for a lecture and the balance of the day and dinner at leisure. (B,L)



©Manuel

Saturday, September 12: Brescia | Lucone di Polpenazze | Desenzano del Garda

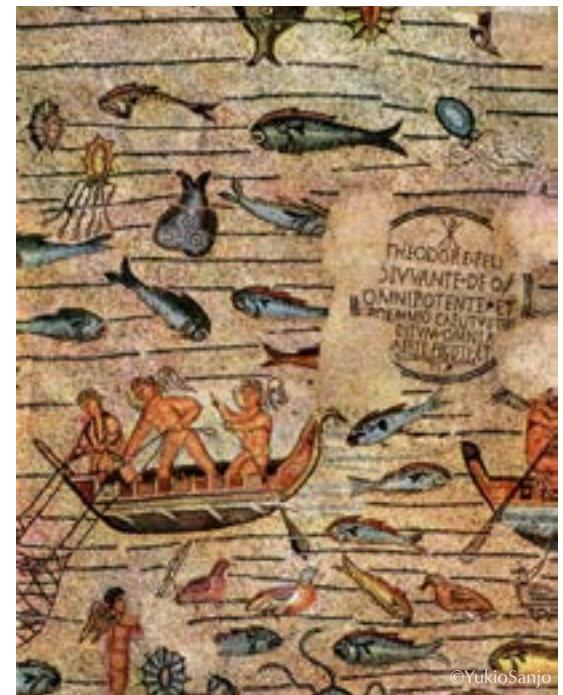
This morning, we reach the city of Brescia (ancient Brixia), whose old town was radically restored and re-opened in 2015. Our visit will take us on a journey through time, from the pre-Roman era to the Renaissance. The town's Roman ruins include Emperor Vespasian's impressive 1st-century A.D. temple (Tempio Capitolino), plus a 15,000-seat theater, forum, and a stretch of the paved decumanus (east-west oriented road). Later monuments include the 11th-century Duomo Vecchio (built over a 6th-century church); and the Monastero di Santa Giulia and Basilica di San Salvatore, which house the Museo della Città with its range of collections from prehistory to the Venetian era. After an independent lunch, we drive to Lucone di Polpenazze, one of the 19 Italian sites (among the 111 total sites) comprising the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Prehistoric Pile Dwellings (stilt houses) around the Alps. Return to Desenzano and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Sunday, September 13: Bolzano: South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology | Desenzano del Garda

This morning we head to Bolzano, a charming town where German and Mediterranean traditions meet. Begin with a visit to the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology – guided by Prof. Patrick Hunt – to retrace the origins of human history. Three quarters of its permanent exhibition are dedicated to Ötzi the Iceman—a 5,300-year-old Copper Age mummy, remarkably preserved thanks to extraordinary conditions and continuing to reveal invaluable insights into the past. Through artifacts, educational texts, video stations, and multimedia installations, you will uncover the story of this true time traveler. Afterward, enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant. Return to our hotel in Desenzano, where the balance of the day and dinner are at leisure. (B,L)

Monday, September 14: Verona | Trieste

Today we check out of our hotel and take a motorcoach to Trieste, our home base for the balance of our journey. On the way, stop in Verona to visit the 1st-century A.D. Roman arena, possibly the best-preserved ancient amphitheater, and for a walking tour of the hidden gems of Verona (the city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site). Our lunch today is a typical Veronese meal at *Ristorante Maffei*, which was built on the site of the 1st-century B.C. Roman Capitol, part of which is visible in its wine cellar and, pending confirmation, we will be able to see. Continuing on to Trieste, we check-in to our hotel and gather for dinner at a local restaurant. *Three nights at the 4-star [Starhotels Savoia Excelsior Palace](#).* (B,L,D)



©Yukio Sanjo



©Jane Wadbaum

Photos (from top): Brescia Castle, Mosaics at the Basilica in Aquileia, Aquileia



“The enthusiasm of Patrick, the professionalism of [the tour manager], and the group itself were excellent!”

- Stephen, Wisconsin

© Freeartist

Tuesday, September 15: Cividale del Friuli | Trieste

Seven groups of important Lombardic buildings throughout Italy comprise a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today we learn how the Lombards influenced Italian history, visiting Cividale del Friuli—the region's most outstanding Lombard capital, established as a duchy in A.D. 569, and still today one of the region's most picturesque towns. Our city tour includes the Tempietto Longobardo (a “little temple” with superb artwork) and the Archaeological Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to our hotel and enjoy an evening and dinner at leisure. (B,L)

Wednesday, September 16: Aquileia | Trieste | Farewell dinner

Drive this morning to Aquileia, founded by the Romans in 181 B.C., which (as a major trading link to the East) became one of the Roman Empire's most important cities. The archaeological area and Patriarchal Basilica are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Most of ancient Aquileia remains unexcavated, and the basilica's 4th-century mosaics (approx. 7,000 square feet) are extraordinary. Visit the National Archaeological Museum of Aquileia, and then enjoy some time at leisure for an independent lunch. We return to Trieste and enjoy one last afternoon at leisure, before gathering for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Thursday, September 17: Transfer to Venice airport | Fly home

Transfer (about two hours) this morning to Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE) for independent flights homeward. (B)



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© BThaller



AIA Tours is a proud member of Sustainable Travel International, a globally recognized organization dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism practices. This partnership highlights our commitment to responsible travel. Join us in our efforts by using our easy carbon footprint calculator to estimate your travel emissions and purchase carbon offsets. Go to www.archaeological.org/tour/sustainable-travel/.

Photos (from top): Trieste, theater at Brescia, fresco at Tempietto Longobardo, Cividale del Friuli

Accommodations



MILAN: *Two nights at the 4-star UNA Hotels Cusani Milano*



DESENZANO DEL GARDA: *Five nights at the 4-star Villa Rosa Hotel*



TRIESTE: *Three nights at the 4-star Starhotels Savaio Excelsior Palace*

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.



©Moleskine

Patriarchal Basilica, Aquileia



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

What to Expect

The itinerary involves a significant amount of walking, with many streets of packed dirt, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall, uneven steps. 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, sit, 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 when 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. In September, the weather in Italy is usually pleasant with average daytime temperatures in the high 70s F, with nighttime temperatures falling to the mid-50s F. *Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.*



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© Lo Scaligero

Tour Prices Per Person (10 nights)

Early Booking Savings
of \$500 per person
until May 9, 2026

After May 9, 2026
call for availability

Double Occupancy (15-16 participants)	\$9,645.....	\$10,145
Double Occupancy (11-14 participants)	\$10,245.....	\$10,745
Single Supplement (<i>limited availability</i>)	\$2,445	

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required.
With fewer than 11 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

Prices Include:

- **Leadership of AIA lecturer/host Patrick Hunt** plus a professional **tour manager** and **expert local guides**
- **Ten nights'** accommodations in 4-star hotels as indicated
- **Delicious meals:** all breakfasts; 6 lunches; and 5 dinners including a **welcome aperitivo and dinner, and a special farewell dinner.** All meals include water or soft drinks, plus coffee/tea, and wine is included with group dinners. Independent meals allow for exploration of Italy's wonderful food scene.
- **Group airport transfers**
- Transportation by **private, air-conditioned vehicle**, with water available at all times
- **Excursions, entrance fees, and sightseeing** as per itinerary
- **Personal listening audio devices** during excursions
- **All gratuities** to the tour manager, guides, drivers, waiters for included meals, and porters
- **Baggage handling** at hotels
- **VAT, local taxes, and service charges**
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. Group transfers (times TBD) are included on your arrival at Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) and on your departure from Trieste to Venice Marco Polo Airport (VCE). 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. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. can assist with flight arrangements for this tour. You may contact them directly at 866-200-6172 or email studytours@vwti.com. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your flights independently or through your preferred travel agent. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. *We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

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Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; airport fees and departure taxes; independent/private airport transfers; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; meals and beverages other than those indicated; personal tips; all items of a personal nature such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, room service, telephone/fax/Wi-Fi charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; other items not listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of \$2,500 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "Eos AIA-NItaly9/26." Final payment is due 90 days (June 8, 2026) 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 and elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. The following cancellation terms will apply based on when the cancellation is received:

- On or before March 10, 2026: Deposit is refunded less a cancellation fee of \$500 per person.
- March 11 - May 8, 2026: Deposit is refunded less a cancellation fee of \$1,500 per person.
- May 9 - June 7, 2026: Forfeit the full deposit of \$2,500 per person.
- June 8-22, 2026: Cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost.
- On or after June 23, 2026: No refund.

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, and 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 are available upon confirmation or upon request and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

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 | 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

Reserve your space
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Trieste

NORTHERN ITALY:

Archaeology, Culture & Cuisine

September 6-17, 2026 (12 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Patrick Hunt

*"The archaeological sites and sights were amazing.
Dr. Hunt has a wide variety of interests and knowledge
that he was pleased to share with us."*

- Doris, Virginia

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
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Verona

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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.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

RESERVATION FORM

NORTHERN ITALY:
Archaeology, Culture & Cuisine

September 6-17, 2026 (12 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Patrick Hunt

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:

(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 \$2,500 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 U.S. dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

Check payable to: Eos AIA-NItaly9/26 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, 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 weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, such as those related to customs and immigration, require you to spend (an) additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfer, and meal costs. 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.