

LIMITED TO
JUST 12 GUESTS

MAYA

Pyramids & Temples of

YUCATÁN

"A very well organized and executed trip. Both the trip [manager] and the Maya expert, Jeff, were excellent. Their skills and knowledge really made the trip one of the best I have been on. I highly recommend this trip."

- Linda, California

© Darvin Santos



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Uxmal

January 17-25, 2026 (9 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Jeff Karl Kowalski

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host



Dr. Jeff Karl Kowalski is an expert on ancient Mesoamerica, with a focus on Maya art and architecture. He is Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at Northern Illinois University, where he taught from 1982 to 2015, after which he taught selected courses at Temple University. Professor Kowalski has worked for many years in the Maya region, with an emphasis on the majestic site of Uxmal, Yucatán, as well as two seasons spent assisting with work at Copán, Honduras. Uxmal's impressive Nunnery Quadrangle palace group is the focus of his current research. Professor Kowalski has published extensively on the archaeology, art, and epigraphy of the Maya and their Mesoamerican neighbors, including his book *The House of the Governor: A Maya Palace of Uxmal, Yucatán, Mexico* (U. of Oklahoma Press, 1987), *Twin Tollans: Chichén Itzá, Tula, and the Epiclassic to Early Postclassic Mesoamerican World* (co-edited with Cynthia Kristan-Graham; Dumbarton Oaks, Harvard U., 2007/2011), and *Mesoamerican Architecture as a Cultural Symbol* (Oxford U., 1999). For decades he has periodically led study tours of the Maya region, including four departures of this AIA tour of Yucatán since 2016, and he has given many public lectures and presented his research at many conferences.

"Both tour manager and lecturer Jeff Kowalski were exceptional both personally and professionally and their amiable, knowledgeable, and interesting conversation skills on topics cultural, historical, gastronomical were most appreciated by the group."

- Kristina, Alaska



This incredible nine-day holiday provides the best-paced itinerary available to see the sun-drenched Yucatán peninsula's ancient sites, traditional Maya villages, and colonial architecture. Maya art and architecture abound, with visits to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, plus Ek Balam, Dzibilchaltun, and more: iconic as well as off-the-beaten-path sites with soaring pyramids, distinctive temple complexes, and wonderful sculpture. There is free time to bird watch, shop for crafts, or relax, reflect, and enjoy our excellent accommodations. Enjoy two nights at the *Villas Arqueológicas Chichén Itzá* (next to Chichén Itzá) and three at the *Hacienda Uxmal* (next to Uxmal). **Maximum of just 12 guests.**





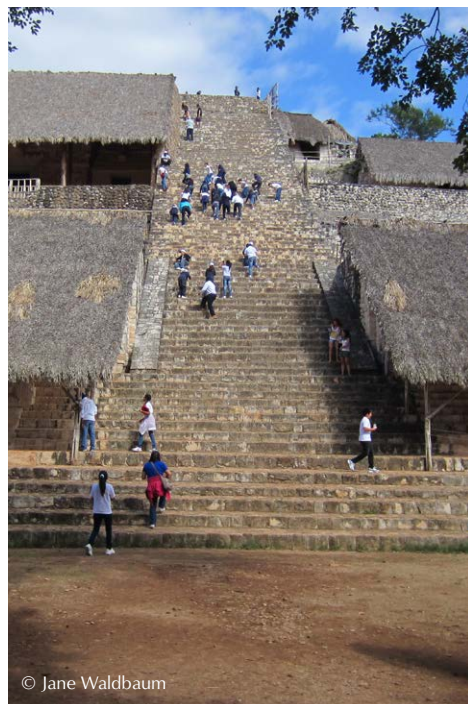
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"We both thoroughly enjoyed the trip. It had been on my bucket list for years, and just being able to see all the Maya sites that I'd only seen pictures of previously was a wonderful experience."

- Malcolm, California

ITINERARY

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



© Jane Waldbaum



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Photos (top to bottom): Izamal Convent; Ek Balam; The Great Museum of the Maya World, Mérida; iguana at Chichén Itzá



Saturday, January 17, 2026: Depart home on flights to Mérida, Mexico

Arrive at Mérida International Airport (MID) and transfer to our hotel. *Overnight at the 4-star [Villa Mercedes Mérida, Curio Collection by Hilton](#) for two nights.*

Sunday, January 18: Mérida: City tour, The Great Museum of the Maya World, PM at leisure | Welcome dinner

This morning we will take a city tour and then visit Mérida's anthropology museum, The Great Museum of the Maya World, housing artifacts from many of the sites we shall visit. After lunch and an introductory lecture, the afternoon is at leisure to shop for handicrafts, visit the marketplace, or relax. Gather tonight for a welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

Monday, January 19: Ek Balam | Chichén Itzá | PM at leisure

Depart Mérida for Ek Balam, a small site with spectacular, mythological creatures sculpted in the full round and then hidden 1,200 years ago by the Maya themselves, only to be re-discovered recently by archaeologists. There will be an opportunity to visit the cenote and take a swim. Caves and cenotes (sinkholes with groundwater) were (and are) very important openings to the Maya underworld, as both the abode of the rain gods and places of worship. After lunch, drive to Chichén Itzá and check-in to our hotel for some time at leisure.

Overnight at the 3-star [Hotel Villas Arqueológicas Chichén Itzá](#) for two nights. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, January 20: Chichén Itzá | PM at leisure

A short drive from our hotel to the site of Chichén Itzá, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, takes us back 1,000 years as we gaze at spectacular 9th-century temples and pyramids. We will see all the site's highlights, including the Sacred Well, Ballcourt, Castillo, Observatory, High Priest's Grave, and Nunnery. After lunch you may choose to join us to visit out-of-the-way parts of the site, enjoy time on your own to visit the bookstores and gift shops, or spend a relaxing afternoon on the hotel grounds. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, January 21: Izamal Convent | Kinich Kakmo | Uxmal

Drive to Uxmal, stopping along the way for lunch and to visit Izamal and its Convent. In Izamal, the Spanish conquistadors built their church atop a Maya pyramid. This was the home of the infamous Diego de Landa, who burned all the Maya books that he could gather. Climb to the top of Kinich Kakmo, the largest pyramid (in volume) in all Maya land.

Continue on to Uxmal and check-in to our hotel. *Overnight at the 5-star [Hacienda Uxmal](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Thursday, January 22: Uxmal

Uxmal is the capital of the Puuc region, on the western side of the Peninsula—a unique sub-area within the greater Maya zone with its own brand of architecture and mosaic-stone decoration. Uxmal's "Governor's Palace" was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's favorite buildings. Spend a full day exploring this UNESCO World Heritage Site, and there will be an optional light and sound show after dark. (B,L,D)



© Pdigi

Public art in Mérida

"[Highlights were] seeing a variety of Maya sites. Learning to understand what we were seeing in the iconography. Access to a private research site, and hearing about the projects to come there."

- Cathy, California



Friday, January 23: Labna | Kaxil Kiuic | Uxmal

We spend today in the Puuc region, visiting two sites that are remote and little-visited: Labna, with its famous arch; and Kaxil Kiuic, which was a Maya city of 5,000-8,000 people whose ruins comprise the oldest known settlement in the region. The Puuc area was first settled by the Maya in approximately 500 B.C. and became home to a series of impressive city-states. The Labna-Kiuic Regional Archaeological Project is a joint Mexico-U.S. research program being carried out in the Puuc region under the co-direction of Millsaps College, Mexico's National Institute of Archaeology and History, and Davidson College. In 2013, the AIA bestowed its Best Practices in Site Preservation Award upon project co-director George Bey for his work at Kaxil Kiuic. Return to our hotel in Uxmal for a relaxing evening and dinner. (B,L,D)

Saturday, January 24: Dzibilchaltun | Progreso | Mérida | PM at leisure | Farewell dinner

Depart Uxmal for a visit to Dzibilchaltun, a 2,000-year-old site with a famous astronomical alignment. Highlights include the Temple of the Seven Dolls and a cenote. Enjoy a seafood lunch on the beach in the port city of Progreso, with the sea breeze blowing through the open-air restaurant. Return to Mérida, where we will have some free time to explore independently, do some last-minute shopping, or relax before our farewell dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Villa Mercedes Mérida, Curio Collection by Hilton](#).* (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 25: Fly home

Transfer to Mérida International Airport (MID) for flights home.

The Archaeological Institute of America & 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.



MODERATE: Must be able to walk one to three miles per day on mostly flat, but often uneven, terrain.

What to Expect

You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps that may be steep and without handrails. 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. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. 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. 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 generous comfort. At the time of year that we visit this region the weather is generally sunny and dry, with temperatures in the mid- to high 80s F during the day and in the mid-60s F at night. There is always a chance of light to moderate rain showers. *Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.*

Labna



Tour Prices Per Person (8 nights)

Double Occupancy (10-12 participants).....	\$5,945
Double Occupancy (7-9 participants).....	\$6,745
Single Supplement	\$785

*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 Jeff Karl Kowalski**, plus an experienced **tour manager/local guide** and **drivers**
- **Group arrival and departure airport transfers** on program dates
- All ground transportation in **air-conditioned vehicles, with bottled water**
- **Eight nights' accommodations**, chosen for both excellent locations and generous comfort
- **All meals** except those on the days of arrival and departure, including **welcome and farewell dinners** with cocktails; a **soft drink or beer** will be served with lunches and dinners
- **All entrance fees** to all sites listed in the itinerary
- **Porterage** at hotels and at airports for those on suggested flights
- **All gratuities** for the tour manager/local guide, drivers, wait staff, 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. Group arrival and departure transfers from/to Mérida International Airport (MID) are provided on program dates (times TBD). 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 the tour. *We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

Accommodations



Villa Mercedes Mérida, Curio Collection by Hilton



Hotel Villas Arqueológicas Chichén Itzá



Hacienda Uxmal

Prices Do Not Include: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; private transfers; meals on days of arrival and departure; beverages (except as indicated); excess baggage charges; personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled itinerary; 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-Yucatan1/26." 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 prior to departure (July 21, 2025) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received from 179 through 91 days (October 18, 2025) prior to departure forfeit the full deposit of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received from 90 through 76 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total tour cost. Cancellations received 75 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, 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 will be sent 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

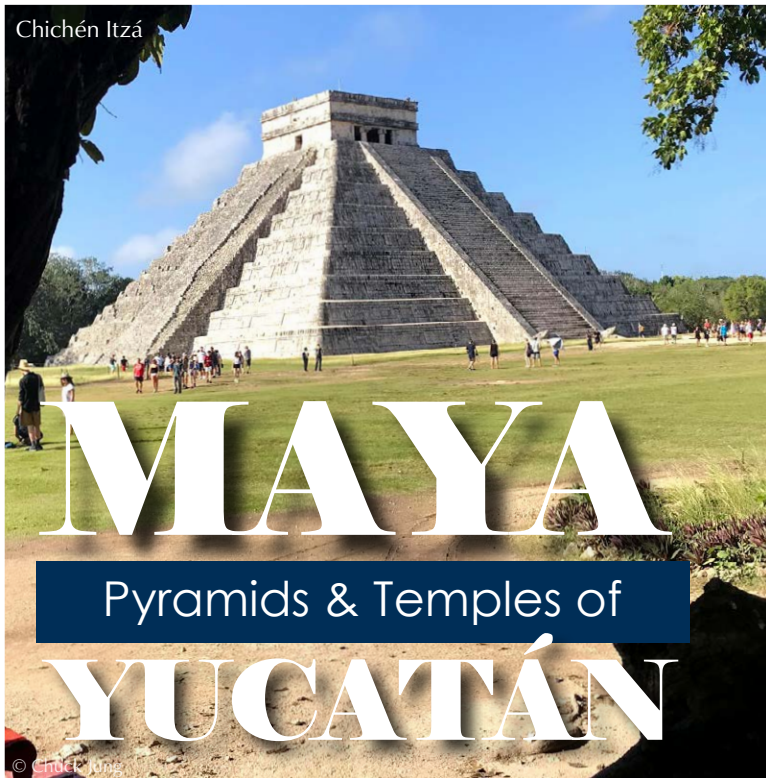
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608





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

Chichén Itzá



"Dr. Kowalski's in-depth knowledge of the Maya pyramids of the Yucatán based on his personal experience and research in the field made this a fascinating and enriching experience."

- Risa, Colorado

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MAYA

Pyramids & Temples of

YUCATÁN

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Uxmal
© Chuck Jung

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

RESERVATION FORM



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

MAYA PYRAMIDS & TEMPLES OF YUCATÁN

January 17-25, 2026 (9 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Jeff Karl Kowalski

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 \$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 U.S. dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

☐ Check payable to: Eos AIA-Yucatan1/26 ☐ 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, 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.