



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# PREHISTORIC CAVE ART OF SPAIN & FRANCE

September 22 - October 4, 2021 (13 days | 20 guests)  
with prehistory expert Paul Bahn

**I**nvestigate southwestern Europe's most extraordinary prehistoric caves, including **Lascaux IV**, a new, exact reproduction of one of the most remarkable prehistoric sites ever discovered; **Altamira II**, a precise replica of the original that is often called the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art;" **Atapuerca**, the most significant early human site in western Europe; **Las Monedas Cave** and **Cueva del Castillo**, where 455 animal likenesses were painted and engraved some 22,000-14,000 years ago, but other motifs such as hand stencils and red dots have been dated to more than 40,000 years ago, meaning that they may well have been made by Neanderthals; **Cognac**, which features paintings of extinct megaloceros and mammoth; **Pech Merle**, known for its "negative handprints;" and others.

- Enjoy **excellent accommodations** in fine hotels and charming inns, as well as **fine wine and cuisine**.
- Travel with **world-renowned archaeological author Paul Bahn**, a gifted and popular lecturer who regularly leads tours to study the prehistory of Spain and France, including this program. Dr. Bahn will enhance your understanding of the sites with lectures and informal discussions.
- Tour archaeological and ethnographic museums with superb exhibits of prehistoric artifacts, including the **Museum of Human Evolution** in Burgos, **Altamira Museum**, **Museum of Les Eyzies**, and the **Musée d'Aquitaine**; plus the modern art collections of Bilbao's **Guggenheim Museum**.
- Explore charming villages and cities, including **Santillana del Mar** and **San Sebastian**.

*"It was one of the best trips I've ever taken, and I've been traveling for over 50 years."*

- Lynn, Ohio

© Pline

© HTO

© Operator

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LECTURER & HOST



**Dr. Paul G. Bahn** is a leading archaeological writer, translator, and broadcaster in the field of archaeology. He is a Contributing Editor of the AIA's *Archaeology* magazine, and has written extensively on prehistoric art, including the books *Images of the Ice Age*, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Prehistoric Art*, and *Cave*

*Art: A Guide to the Decorated Ice Age Caves of Europe*. Dr. Bahn has also authored and/or edited many books on more general archaeological subjects, bringing a broad perspective to understanding the sites and museums that we will visit. Such titles include *The Cambridge World Prehistory*, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Archaeology: Theories, Methods and Practice*; *Archaeology: The Essential Guide to Our Human Past*; and *The Penguin Archaeology Guide*.

Born in Kingston-upon-Hull, Britain, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, a Corresponding Member of the AIA, and a member of numerous international professional organizations, including the Prehistoric Society and the Société Préhistorique Française. Dr. Bahn has been involved in bringing the field of archaeology to television in various capacities. He was an advisor in the Dordogne and Pyrenees on the BBC production of *The Making of Mankind*, a consultant on a segment of WGBH's Nova trilogy *Human Origins*, filmed in France, and he is currently filming a series of television documentaries on world rock art. His research and lecturing on archaeological study tours have taken him to important archaeological sites around the world in Europe, North America, Africa, and Polynesia. He is a gifted and popular lecturer who regularly leads AIA tours to study the prehistory of western Europe. Dr. Bahn's broad expertise in the area of prehistoric art, combined with fluency in French and a deep regard for the regions we will visit, uniquely qualify him as a lecturer *par excellence*.

Cover, (from top) Negative hand print, Pech Merle; and perfect replicas of prehistoric paintings from the Lascaux caves. Right, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.



*“It was a trip of a lifetime. Dr. Bahn was a magnificent guide, absolutely enthralling. The sites we visited were exceptional and well selected to show the great varieties of artistic expression. Overall the trip greatly exceeded my expectations.”*

- Viola, California



© Edwin Poon

# Itinerary

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

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 ~  
**Depart home for Spain**

Thursday, September 23~ **Arrive Bilbao | Santillana del Mar walking tour | Welcome dinner**

Arriving in Bilbao, Spain (BIO) in the morning or early afternoon, take a group transfer (time TBD) to the charming medieval town of Santillana del Mar. One of Europe's most perfectly preserved medieval villages, Santillana del Mar retains a romantic ambiance. After checking in at our hotel, take a walking tour of the village, noting its roots from the early Middle Ages when the first dwellings arose in the shadow of the Romanesque monastery of Santa Juliana. Gather for a welcome dinner at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the 4-star [Parador de Santillana Gil Blas](#) for two nights.* (D)

Friday, September 24 ~ **Altamira II | Altamira Museum | Las Monedas Caves & Cueva del Castillo | Santillana del Mar**

Today is devoted to visiting caves that are celebrated for their ancient rock art. This morning we visit Altamira II, an exact replica of Altamira (the "Sistine Chapel of Prehistoric Art"), decorated with vivid depictions of bison and other animals dating back 15,000 years, a testament to the artists' skill in using rock formations to accentuate perspective. We also visit the Altamira Museum, with its highly informative exhibits on Cantabrian prehistory and cave art. This afternoon, we depart for the lush Pas Valley, home to the village of Puente Viesgo, the "Prehistoric Capital of Cantabria." We explore Las Monedas Caves and the Cueva del Castillo, where 455 images of hinds, horses, bison, deer, goats, aurochs, and mammoth dating back 22,000-14,000 years cavort on the walls, while other motifs such as hand stencils and red dots have been dated to more than 40,000 years ago, meaning that they may well have been made by Neanderthals. We return to Santillana del Mar for dinner on our own. (B,L)

Saturday, September 25 ~ **Covalanas Cave | Bilbao: Guggenheim Museum**

On our return to Bilbao, we drive through the dramatic Carranza Gorges to visit the small Covalanas Cave, where some of the prehistoric drawings are rendered in a little-used technique known as "the inkpad," in which lines are created from dots of red pigment. This afternoon is devoted to Bilbao's spectacular Guggenheim Museum, Frank O. Gehry's architectural masterpiece. This breathtaking modern structure consists of 19 galleries clustered around a central atrium that soars skyward for 165 feet, beautifully illuminated by natural light. The titanium roof is a unique, twisting, curving, metallic sculpture that integrates the city's industrial waterfront with the nearby historic and business districts. *Overnight at the 5-star [Gran Hotel Domine](#) for two nights.* (B,D)

Sunday, September 26~ **Atapuerca | Burgos: Cathedral, Museum of Human Evolution | Bilbao**

After breakfast this morning, we visit the caves of Atapuerca, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which have provided the earliest and most abundant evidence of humankind in Europe. Continue on to Burgos, where we will have time for lunch and a brief visit to Burgos Cathedral before we explore the impressive Museum of Human Evolution. This evening is at leisure in Bilbao. (B,L)



Altamira Bison

*"Paul has such amazing knowledge of cave art and archaeology. Our trip manager was so warm, friendly, efficient, and organized! I loved the food and places we stayed."*

- Katharine, California



© Sergio Segarra

Santillana del Mar, Spain



© Manfred Heyde

*“I absolutely loved the whole trip. The itinerary was packed with extraordinary cave experiences, interesting museums, gorgeous countryside, delicious food, and wonderful accommodations. But over and above all that, two things stand out. One is our trip manager, who is an absolute jewel...goes above and beyond to ensure that everyone's needs are taken care of and she is just a lovely person to be around. And then there is Paul Bahn. It was a great gift to be taught by someone who is not only so extremely knowledgeable and experienced in his subject matter, but is also a great communicator who keeps you highly entertained as he is educating you.”*

- Terry, California



Lascaux II

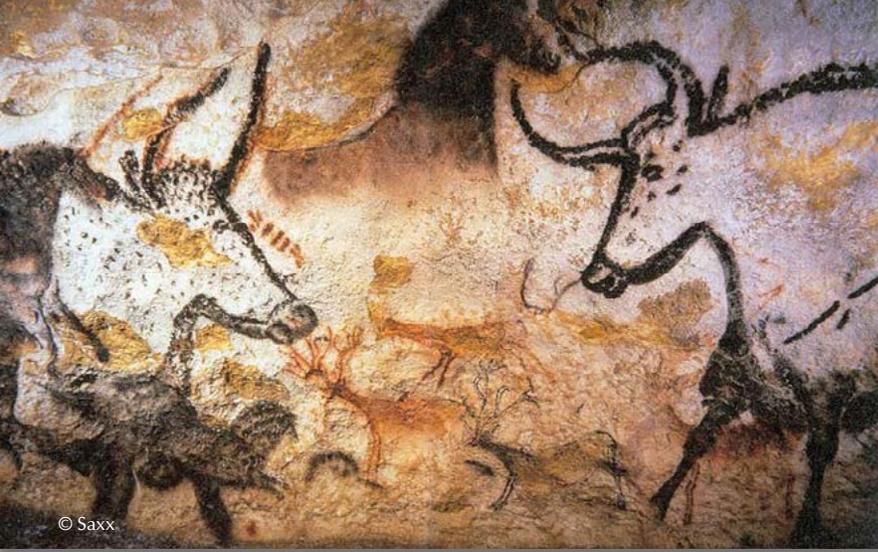
Monday, September 27~ **San Sebastian | Bordeaux, France: walking tour**  
We depart Spain for France this morning, stopping along the way in the charming city of San Sebastian for some free time. After a leisurely independent lunch, we will continue to Bordeaux, well-known for its wine industry, which attributes its “Golden Age” to the 18<sup>th</sup> century when far-sighted city fathers redesigned its urban center to make it the classical masterpiece we know today. Its old district is one of the largest protected architectural neighborhoods in all of France, which we will explore on a walking tour. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hotel Burdigala](#).* (B)

Tuesday, September 28~ **Bordeaux: Musée d'Aquitaine | Pair-non-Pair | Les Eyzies-de-Tayac**

This morning we visit the Musée d'Aquitaine, a museum of history and archaeology exhibiting prehistoric to present-day artifacts of the Aquitaine region, including the Ice Age bas-relief of the Venus of Laussel, one of the earliest and most famous images of women in prehistory. After free time for lunch in Bordeaux, we will visit the prehistoric cave of Pair-non-Pair, known for its animal engravings and fossilized animal bones, and then continue on to Les Eyzies. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hôtel le Centenaire](#) for four nights.* (B,D)

Wednesday, September 29~ **Cap Blanc | Museum of Les Eyzies | Font-de-Gaume | Les Eyzies**

The Périgord Region in the southwest of France is Europe's most important prehistoric region. Its terrain, crisscrossed by gentle rivers flowing amidst extraordinary limestone formations, offered numerous shelters and caves for our early ancestors. Through expressive cave paintings, tools, and excavated remains, witness evidence of human existence and cultural evolution. Begin by exploring the shelter of Cap Blanc, which features a sculpted frieze of life-size horses, followed by a visit to the Museum of Les Eyzies, exhibiting artifacts from several millennia of prehistory. After lunch at leisure in Les Eyzies, visit the cave of Font-de-Gaume, featuring some 230 paintings and engravings, and then return to Les Eyzies for an evening at leisure. (B)



© Saxx

Lascaux

Thursday, September 30 ~ **Cognac | Sarlat | Rouffignac | Abri Pataud | Les Eyzies**

Begin the day with a drive to the prehistoric cave of Cognac, known for its paintings of extinct megaloceros and mammoth. After lunch on your own in Sarlat, we drive along country roads to the prehistoric cave of Rouffignac. Explore its galleries onboard a train, admiring the numerous engravings of mammoth, rhinoceros, horse, bison, and mountain goat represented on its walls. On our way back to Les Eyzies, we stop at the site of Abri Pataud, where extensive digging in the early 1960s revealed astonishing details of the life of the Cro-Magnons. (B,D)

Friday, October 1 ~ **Le Thot | Lascaux IV | Lascaux II | Les Eyzies**

Our day starts with Le Thot, a museum and animal park of living species similar to those that occupied this region during the Upper Paleolithic, such as reindeer, European bison, aurochs, Przewalski horses, ibex, and red and fallow deer. We continue on to Lascaux IV, the newest replica of one of Europe's most significant prehistoric sites, famous for the profusion of high-quality and multi-colored animal paintings on its walls. It is the most complete replica to date, representing nearly all of the original cave's paintings, and includes an interactive exhibit. End the day with a visit to Lascaux II, an earlier exact replica of the famous cave, where we will have more time to study the many figures in some detail. Return to Les Eyzies for an evening at leisure. (B)

Saturday, October 2 ~ **Pech Merle | Vers | Toulouse: walking tour**

Depart Les Eyzies after breakfast and visit the cave of Pech Merle, particularly known for prehistoric paintings of mammoth and horse, as well as "negative hand prints." After lunch in the town of Vers we continue on to Toulouse, for a walking tour and then the balance of the day at leisure. *Overnight at the 5-star [Hotel Crowne Plaza](#) for two nights.* (B,L)

Sunday, October 3 ~ **Niaux | Toulouse: Farewell dinner**

Visit the outstanding cave of Niaux, perched high above the river and comprising a vast network of galleries that stretch over a mile. The exquisite paintings within represent bison, horse, and ibex. We enjoy a light lunch nearby. Gather this evening for our farewell dinner. (B,L,D)

Monday, October 4 ~ **Fly home**

Transfer this morning to Toulouse Blagnac airport (TLS) for flights home. (B)

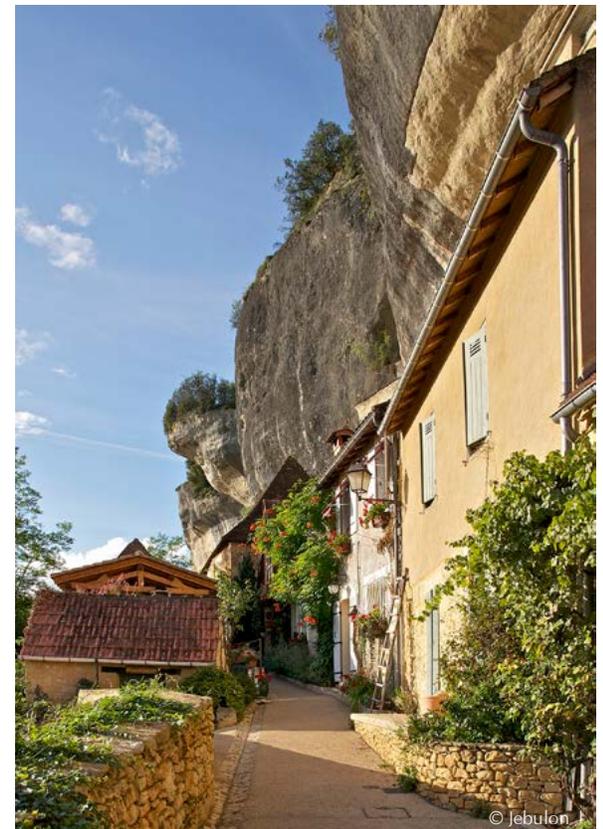
*"Paul Bahn's knowledge is amazing and he shared this in a delightful manner on site, on bus rides, and in lectures. He was available all the time."*

- Alan and Sara, Massachusetts

## Air Arrangements & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included.

A group transfer (time TBD) is included on your arrival day, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Bilbao Airport (BIO), Spain. Individual departure taxi transfers are included on October 4<sup>th</sup> to Toulouse Blagnac Airport (TLS), France. 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. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*



The street under the cliff, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, France



A view of the Dordogne, known to the French as the Périgord.

## What to Expect

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 the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand, and discuss whether or not the program is appropriate for you. **Visits to the caves and other archaeological sites necessitate walking quickly and climbing unassisted, without handrails, sometimes over steep or slippery terrain and in dark or dimly lit spaces.** Please note that walking sticks are rarely, if ever, allowed inside the caves, and no photography is allowed inside the caves. Hotels and inns have been carefully chosen for their charm, comfort, and location. Included meals are of a high quality and will include local dishes and regional flavors.

Weather in Spain and France at the time of our visit is generally pleasant, with average temperatures ranging from the low 50s to high 70s F. Cave temperatures average 55° F and humidity levels reach 95%. *Detailed pre-departure information will be sent to participants.*



Font-de-Gaume cave entrance in France. The cave features some 230 paintings and engravings.



Spend two nights in Toulouse, France, and enjoy a walking tour of the city. Above: The Basilica of Saint-Sernin, Toulouse.

## The Archaeological Institute of America & 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.



© Jaroz

Burgos, Spain

## Tour Prices Per Person (11 nights)

Double Occupancy (15-20 participants) .....	\$7,995
Double Occupancy (10-14 participants) .....	\$8,745
Single Supplement (limited availability).....	\$1,165

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

### Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer and host Paul Bahn**
- **Eleven nights in ideally-located accommodations** as outlined in the itinerary (7 nights in 4-star and 4 nights in 5-star hotels)
- **Delicious meals** including 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 5 dinners, including house wine with dinners
- **Group arrival transfer** on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and **individual departure taxi transfers** on October 4<sup>th</sup>
- Transportation via **air-conditioned motor coach** with bottled water and hand sanitizer available at all times
- Professional, **English-speaking Tour Manager/Guide** throughout
- **All gratuities** to the Tour Manager/Guide, drivers, waiters, and porters
- Paul Bahn's **Cave Art guidebook** and a suggested reading guide
- **Handling of checked luggage** (two pieces per person)
- **All entrance fees** to sites included in the itinerary
- Local taxes and service charges
- **Practical and cultural information**, including a packing list, name badge, and luggage tags

**Payments:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS-Passenger Account-AIA Prehistory9/21." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

**Participant Cancellation Fees:** All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received within 60 days of 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, lecturer, accommodations, and itinerary are subject to change. Entrance to the caves can be subject to restrictions. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

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

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

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

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

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

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# Prehistoric Cave Art of Spain & France

September 22 - October 4, 2021 (13 days | 20 guests)  
 with prehistory expert Paul Bahn

*“Paul’s lectures were informative, entertaining, and presented with a sense of wonder, humor, insight...  
 We were made to feel special because we were with him.” - Helen, New York*



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



RESERVATION FORM

Prehistoric Cave Art of Spain & France

September 22-October 4, 2021 (13 days | 20 guests)
with prehistory expert Paul Bahn

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. You will receive an invoice for final payment. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA Prehistory9/21 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, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and "submit" by email, mail, or fax to:

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

Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

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

If submitting this form electronically, please check the following box:

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

Signature (participant #1) Time and Date

Signature (participant #2) Time and Date

Submit via email

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RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

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