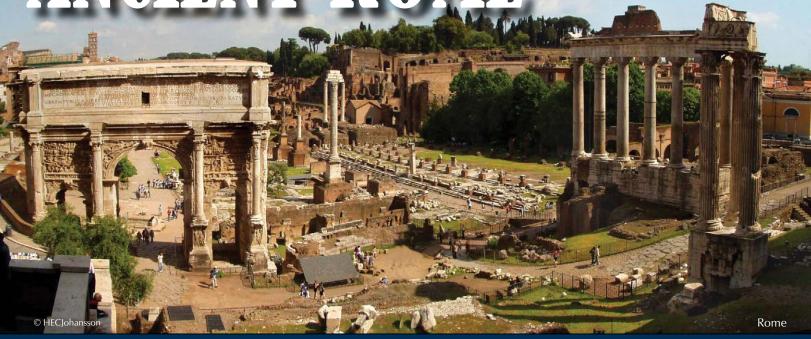


Life, Luxury & Leisure in ANCIENT ROME



October 5-16, 2025 (12 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist & art historian Ambra Spinelli











Pompeii Naples Tivoli Villa Poppea

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host



Ambra Spinelli is an Italian art historian and archaeologist with experience in national and international academic institutions, museums, and archaeological sites. She received a B.A. in Classics and M.A. in Archaeology and Civilizations of the Ancient World from

the University of Bologna, and a Ph.D. in Art History, with a specialization in Roman Art and Architecture, from the University of Southern California. Ambra currently teaches at John Cabot University (Rome) and the American University of Rome, where her courses encompass a variety of topics including Etruscan and Roman art and architecture, Greek and Roman history and religion, and Museum Studies. Her publications and research interests focus on Roman domestic and funerary art and architecture, with a special emphasis on the houses at Pompeii and Herculaneum. Ambra also examines Greek and Roman wall painting, the influence of Eastern and Italic rituals on Roman soil, and Roman perceptions and adaptations of earlier traditions. She has extensive experience, as well, in archival research, having served for ten years as Head of Archival Research for the University of Cincinnati's archaeological project at Pompeii. Ambra has led previous tours for both students and adults, and she particularly enjoys teaching on-site. Almost daily she takes students and scholars to many sites and museums in Lazio and Campania in particular (i.e., Rome, Ostia, and Pompeii, especially, but also Tarquinia, Cerveteri, and Naples, among others).



mmerse yourself in the opulence and grandeur of ancient Rome while uncovering the secrets of daily life, the indulgence of luxury, and the pursuit of leisure that helped to define one of the most influential civilizations in history. Our adventure begins in Rome, heart of the Roman Empire, where we witness the architectural marvels that stand as a testament to Rome's engineering prowess. At the Baths of Caracalla, learn about the interesting Roman bathing culture and the significance of these communal spaces in Roman society. Delve into the world of luxury in ancient Rome with visits to the opulent villa in Tivoli and the well-preserved remains of ancient cities frozen in time by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Learn about the daily lives and customs of the Romans through beautifully preserved frescoes and artifacts, as well as the exquisite art, landscaping, and leisure pursuits enjoyed by the Roman elite.

Throughout the tour professor Ambra Spinelli will guide the group at many sites, offer several lectures, and be available to engage in discussions. Whether you are an avid archaeology or history enthusiast, or simply curious about one of history's greatest civilizations, this journey will provide a deep understanding and appreciation of ancient Rome's enduring legacy.



Baths of Caracalla (Rome)

Highlights include:

- A **custom-designed itinerary** with five nights in central Rome, two nights in Naples, and three nights in Sorrento
- Visits to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
 - Spend a full day exploring Rome's ancient monuments, including the Roman Forum, the House of Augustus on the Palatine Hill, the Domus Aurea, and the Colosseum
 - Enjoy a day trip to Tivoli for visits to Hadrian's Villa, a 2nd-century A.D. complex; and the Villa d'Este, a Renaissance masterpiece of garden and villa architecture
 - Explore Pompeii and Herculaneum, both of which were buried (and preserved) by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79; as well as Villa Poppea (Oplontis), an ancient villa with incredible wall paintings
- The collections of Rome's Capitoline Museums, with magnificent Classical and Renaissance art; the awe-inspiring Pantheon; and the superb Naples Archaeological Museum
- Carefully selected, 4- and 5-star hotels
- Our **group size** is **limited to 16**, and you will also be accompanied by a **professional tour manager, and expert local guides,** who will handle the details so you can relax, experience, and learn.



The Fountain of Four Rivers, Rome







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.

"The archaeological sites are the things that caused me to select this tour. The great buildings and ensembles of architectural interest were such a thrill that I will never forget."

- Charles, New York

ITINERARY

B= Breakfast • L= Lunch • D= Dinner

Sunday, October 5, 2025: Fly to Rome, Italy

Monday, October 6: Arrive in Rome | Transfer to hotel | At leisure

Upon arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport (FCO) you are met for a transfer to our hotel in Rome's city center. The balance of the day is free to relax and perhaps stroll around the neighborhood. This evening gather for an introductory meeting with your AIA lecturer before enjoying an independent dinner. (Recommendations for dining independently will always be provided.) *Five nights at the 4-star UNAHOTELS Trastevere Roma*.

Tuesday, October 7: Archaeological Park of Ostia Antica | Rome: PM at leisure | Welcome dinner

This morning we visit the Archaeological Park of Ostia Antica. Located at the mouth of the Tiber River, Ostia Antica was once the seaport of ancient Rome. This well-preserved city is home to a variety of partially intact temples, houses, and baths, and offers a glimpse into the everyday life of the Romans. We then return to our hotel for an independent lunch and afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner. (B,D)

Wednesday, October 8: Rome: Pantheon, Capitoline Museums, Baths of Caracalla, Circus Maximus

This morning we start with a short walk to the awe-inspiring Pantheon, built in the 2nd century A.D. by Emperor Hadrian as a temple to all the gods. It remains the largest unreinforced concrete dome ever built and a testament to ancient Roman engineering. Continue on to the Capitoline Museums, the world's oldest public museums, and view magnificent and iconic Classical sculptures as well as paintings by Caravaggio, Rubens, Titian, Van Dyck, and other masters. After lunch, we visit the Baths of Caracalla. Covering nearly 25 acres, the baths were the second largest in ancient Rome and had shops, libraries, gardens, and entertainment. Built by Emperor Antonius Caracalla and inaugurated in A.D. 217, the baths were used until the 6th century. We end our day with a visit to the Circus Maximus, the first and largest chariot-racing and mass entertainment stadium in ancient Rome and the Empire. Dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

Thursday, October 9: Tivoli: Hadrian's Villa, Villa d'Este | Rome

Enjoy a full-day excursion to Tivoli, a town hosting some of Italy's top cultural treasures, less than one hour's drive from Rome. Begin at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Villa (Villa Adriana), a 2nd-century A.D. complex of buildings featuring marvelous pools, baths, fountains, gardens, theaters, and the Imperial Palace. After lunch we visit the Villa d'Este, another UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Renaissance masterpiece with a breathtaking, 16th-century Italian garden. Return to Rome for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

Friday, October 10: Rome: Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, House of Augustus, Domus Aurea, Colosseum

Begin the day with a walk through the Roman Forum, the public center of ancient Rome where the popular assembly and senate met. Visit the Palatine Hill, centermost of the Seven Hills of Rome, standing above the Roman Forum on one

Photos (left from top): *The Dying Gaul* on display at the Capitoline Museums (Rome), Submerged remains of Emperor Claudius' Nymphaeum at the Underwater Archaeological Park of Baiae, Mosaic from Pompeii at the Naples Archaeological Museum



side and the Circus Maximus on the other. From the time of Augustus, Rome's first Emperor, imperial palaces were built here. Visit the House of Augustus, which reopened in 2008 after extensive restoration; its colorful wall paintings and mosaic floors are stunning. After some time at leisure for lunch we re-group to visit the Domus Aurea ("Golden House") where, thanks to innovative multimedia and a site-specific immersive reality project, it is possible to relive the splendor of the residence built by Emperor Nero following the fire of A.D. 64. End the day at the Colosseum, Rome's amphitheater, the largest ever built, which accommodated 50,000 spectators. Return to our hotel and gather this evening for dinner. (B,D)

Saturday, October 11: Terracina | Sperlonga | Naples

We depart Rome this morning and drive south to Terracina, where we visit the Temple of Jupiter Anxur, with a breathtaking view of the Tyrrhenian Sea from the top of Mount Jupiter. After lunch, a short drive takes us to the cave of Emperor Tiberius in Sperlonga. Visit the local museum with magnificent sculptures recounting the deeds of Odysseus. We continue driving south to Naples, where we check-in to our lovely seaside hotel. Dinner is at leisure tonight. *Two nights at the 4-star Grand Hotel Saint Lucia.* (B,L)

Sunday, October 12: Baiae | Cumae | Naples

Today we explore two archaeological sites that are off the regular tourist trail, Baiae and Cuma Archaeological Park, both of which were built on the Cumaean Peninsula in the Phlegraean Fields, an active volcanic area. Baiae, the summer seat of Imperial Rome, benefitted from thermal springs for bathing establishments and was a fashionable coastal resort with many summer villas such as those of Emperors Julius Caesar, Nero, and Hadrian (who died there). Enjoy a boat excursion into the submerged Bay of Baiae,



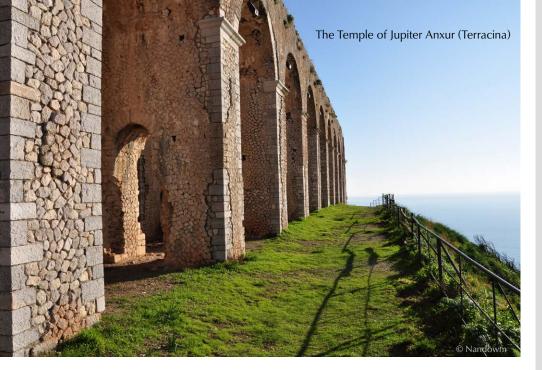
which sank about 2,000 years ago due to a seismic phenomenon. From both above deck and below, through windows below sea level, we will be able to observe the remains of villas, statues, mosaics, and other submerged finds. After lunch we continue on to Cumae, which was founded by Greeks in 750 B.C. and is probably best known as the legendary home of a sibyl (Greek prophetess) who resided in a cave and played a role in Aeneas' journey into the underworld. Cuma Archaeological Park includes the Cave of the Sibyl as well as the Temples of Apollo and Jupiter. Return to our hotel in Naples for an evening at leisure. (B,L)



Pantheon (Rome)



Villa d'Este (Tivoli)



Monday, October 13: Naples Archaeological Museum | Villa Poppea | Sorrento This morning we enjoy an in-depth visit of the Naples Archaeological Museum, which houses one of the world's finest collections of Greco-Roman artifacts, including celebrated bronze and marble statues as well as ancient paintings and important artifacts from Pompeii, Herculaneum, Cumae, and Baiae. After a break for lunch at leisure we drive toward Sorrento, stopping along the way to visit Villa Poppea (Oplontis), an ancient seaside villa with superb wall paintings, which was probably owned by Emperor Nero. Upon arriving in Sorrento we check-in to our lovely seaside hotel and gather for dinner at the hotel's restaurant. *Three nights at the 5-star Hotel Parco dei Principi.* (B,D)

Tuesday, October 14: Herculaneum | Sorrento: PM at leisure

Today and tomorrow are dedicated to visiting sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of "Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Torre Annunziata." (Torre Annunziata includes Villa Poppea, which we visited yesterday; and Villa Stabiae, which we will visit tomorrow.) Spend this morning at Herculaneum, where excavations reveal the customs, habits, and art of an ancient holiday resort for wealthy Romans. Like Pompeii, Herculaneum was buried and thus preserved by the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Among the most important buildings are the theater, the basilica adorned with marble and paintings, the spa with gym, and the House of Argos. After lunch, we return to our hotel in Sorrento for the balance of the day and dinner at leisure. (B,L)

Wednesday, October 15: Pompeii | Villa Stabiae | Sorrento | Farewell dinner Spend the morning at Pompeii, one of the world's most fascinating archaeological sites. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius both buried and preserved Pompeii under tons of ash, pumice, and lapilli. Excavations have revealed life in this prosperous ancient Roman city, and highlights of our tour may include the House of the Faun, Villa of the Mysteries, the brothel, Garden of Fugitives, and more. This afternoon we visit the ancient seaside Villa Stabiae and the excellent, small site museum. The town, with its two primary Villas of Arianna and San Marco, was buried in heavy ashfall from the A.D. 79 eruption of Vesuvius, but some of the town's most striking remnants are fine mosaics and wall paintings that are comparable to those from Pompeii and Herculaneum. Return to our hotel to freshen up and then gather this evening for our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 16: Transfer to Naples Airport | Fly home

You are met at the hotel for a transfer to Naples International Airport (NAP) in time for flights homeward. (B)

What to Expect



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

You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. 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, and 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. Rome will be celebrating its Jubilee in 2025. The first Jubilee was announced in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII and now occurs every 25 years in Rome. While it is a busy time to visit Rome it is also a special and unique time to visit and see the many cultural and religious celebrations planned throughout the city. Most of our time in Rome will be spent in areas not visited by Jubilee visitors and we will take measures to mitigate crowds where possible. Traveling along the coast you should expect narrow, winding roads. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Included meals are of a very high quality. Average October temperatures in this region range from 50° to 77° (F). Complete pre-departure details will be sent

to participants.





Tour Prices Per Person (10 nights)

| Double Occupancy (13-16 participants) | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Double Occupancy (11-12 participants) | . \$9,995 |
| Single Supplement (limited availability) | . \$2,645 |

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 Ambra Spinelli plus a professional tour manager and expert local guides
- **Ten nights'** accommodations in 4- and 5-star, conveniently located hotels as indicated in the itinerary
- **Delicious meals**: all breakfasts; 6 lunches and 4 dinners with bottled water or soft drinks, plus coffee or tea and wine or beer with dinners; including a welcome *aperitivo* and special welcome and farewell dinners
- Individual and/or group airport transfers on program dates
- Transportation by private, modern, air-conditioned vehicles, with bottled 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, waitstaff 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. Individual and/or group transfers (times TBD) are included on your arrival at Rome's Fiumicino Airport (FCO) and for departure from Naples International Airport (NAP). Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to the tour. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

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

Payments: A deposit of \$2,000 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "Eos AIA-Romans10/25." 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 and 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 (April 8, 2025) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations received from 179 through 121 days (June 6, 2025) prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received from 120 through 91 days (July 6, 2025) prior to departure forfeit their full deposit of \$2,000 per person. Cancellations received from 90 through 76 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the 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 are available upon confirmation or upon request and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.

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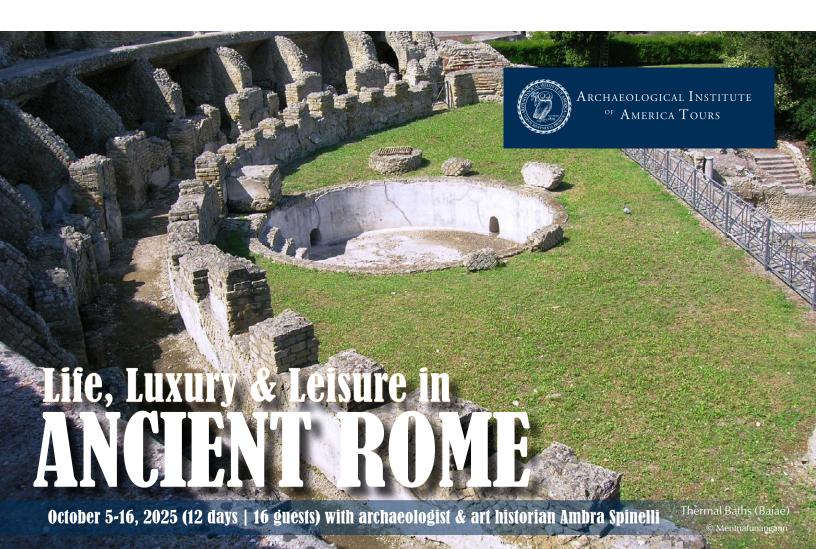


October 5-16, 2025 (12 days | 16 guests)

with archaeologist & art historian Ambra Spinelli

"I liked that I did not have to worry about anything during the trip. Even when unforeseen events occurred, the tour moved on without a hitch."

- Dean, Washington



To fill out an online reservation form, <u>click here</u>. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.



- RESERVATION FORM -

LIFE, LUXURY & LEISURE IN ANCIENT ROME

October 5-16, 2025 (12 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist & art historian Ambra Spinelli

| To hold your reservation for seven days | while this form and your d | leposit are in the ma | nil, please contact us at 80 | 0-748-6262 or <u>aia@studytours.org</u> . |
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| ☐ Double (one bed) ☐ Twin (two bed | | n preferences are not gu | iaranteed.) | |
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| ☐ Check payable to: <u>Eos AIA-Roman</u> | s10/25 | ☐ Master Card | ☐ American Express | ☐ Already paid by phone |
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| Al | A Tours - P.O. Bo | x 938, Walpol | e, NH 03608-0938 | |
| | Fax: 603-756-2922 | · Email: aia@ | studytours.org | |
| By signing this form, you are ack | nowledging that you ha | ave read and agre | ee to all Terms & Condi | tions delineated throughout. |
| Signature (participant #1) | | | | Date |
| Signature (participant #2) | | | | Date |

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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>U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS</u> 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.