



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

April 13-24, 2023 (12 days)  
with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

*"The trip was very well organized with the right balance of activity and down time. The trip was exceptionally educational for me, loved every minute of it."*

- Tala, New York

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



© Krijun



© Glaz



© Naotake Murayama



© JYB Devot

*"Being in the presence of the art was a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon."*

- Sandra, New York

Discover a collection of magnificent but largely unheralded examples of Ice Age art while in the company of acclaimed paleoanthropologist and popular trip leader Ian Tattersall. Admire unusual, elegant bas-relief animal images in Basque caves, a profusion of hand prints at Gargas, and the famous panels of line-drawn and subtly shaded bison, horse, and ibex at Niaux. The trip concludes with a visit to the spectacular Chauvet cave replica at Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, which expertly re-creates the earliest, and perhaps most impressive, of the many masterpieces of Ice Age art dated to some 35,000 years ago. Enjoy fine food and delightful accommodations while an expert tour manager handles all the logistics.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA  
**LECTURER & HOST**



**Ian Tattersall**, American Museum of Natural History curator emeritus, is a renowned expert on biological anthropology and human evolution. He has lectured to acclaim on numerous expeditions to Spain, France, and throughout the world.

Trained in geology as well as in archaeology and anthropology, his field research on living primates and his fossil studies have taken him around the globe. Dr. Tattersall co-curated the American Museum of Natural History's Spitzer Hall of Human Origins, and he has written many books on the origins of human creativity, including *Masters of the Planet: The Search for Our Human Origins*; *Becoming Human: Evolution and Human Uniqueness*; *The Strange Case of the Ricketty Cossack*, and *Other Cautionary Tales from Human Evolution*, and the recently published *Understanding Human Evolution*. Of relevance to this trip, he has also written (with Rob De Salle) *A Natural History of Wine*; *A Natural History of Beer*; *Distilled: A Natural History of Spirits*; and *The Accidental Homo sapiens: Genetics, Behavior and Free Will*. He has accompanied earlier versions of this AIA tour of *Decorated Caves* on three occasions since 2018.



- # = Overnight stay
- = Itinerary stop
- ✈ = Flights



*“Dr. T. was straight out of Central Casting - urbane, articulate, humorous, witty, gracious. His knowledge was vast and deep, without being showy. He had enchanting anecdotes up his sleeve for every occasion, and could explain any and everything with the charming turn of phrase and originality that is his hallmark.”*

- Eve, California

Cover: Charcoal drawings from Chauvet cave; bottom (left to right) entrance to El Pendo cave, Bayonne, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and exterior of Mas d'Azil. Below, the Ekainberri panel of horses, Spain.





Paintings of bison from the Salon Noir of Niaux cave



San Sebastian, on the Bay of Biscay



Cathedral of St. Marie, Bayonne

## The AIA & AIA Tours

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

*"Ian's commentary and overall presence could not have been more engaging. He was both an archaeological authority and an excellent traveling companion."*

- Richard, New York

## ITINERARY

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

### Thursday, April 13, 2023: Home | Bilbao, Spain

Depart home on independent flights to Bilbao, Spain.

### Friday, April 14: Bilbao | Welcome dinner

Transfer as a group (time TBD) from the Bilbao airport (BIO) to the *Gran Hotel Domine*, situated in the heart of this thriving city. This afternoon, admire both the architecture and the permanent collection of the spectacular Guggenheim Museum during a guided tour. Gather later at the hotel for a welcome drink and dinner. *Overnight at the 5-star [Gran Hotel Domine](#) for two nights.* (D)

### Saturday, April 15: Covalanas | Ramales | El Pendo | Bilbao

After breakfast, drive to Covalanas cave with its extraordinary collection of animal images. After an independent lunch in nearby Ramales, continue to El Pendo cave with its nearly thirty-foot-long panel of painted figures. Dinner is at leisure in Bilbao. (B)

### Sunday, April 16: Ekainberri | San Sebastian | Ainhoa, France

Check out of our hotel and head towards France, stopping first at the Ekainberri replica with its famous panels of horses, the originals dating from the Magdalenian period. Continue to the elegant Basque city of San Sebastian, situated on the Bay of Biscay. Enjoy a guided tour of the town and savor an independent lunch before moving on to Ainhoa. Gather in the evening for dinner. *Overnight at the 3-star [Hotel Ithurria](#) for two nights.* (B,D)

### Monday, April 17: Isturitz and Oxocelhaya | Bayonne | Ainhoa

This morning, visit the caves of Isturitz and Oxocelhaya with their bas-relief sculptures and concretions. Stop for an independent lunch followed by a guided tour of Bayonne (famous for its cathedral, as well as the ham and chocolate that it produces). Return to our hotel in Ainhoa for dinner. (B,D)

### Tuesday, April 18: Gargas | Aurignacian Museum | Sauveterre-de-Comminges

Check out of our hotel and drive to Gargas cave, one of the finest in the Pyrenees and known for its collection of more than 200 stenciled hand prints, many of which are mysteriously incomplete. After a group lunch in Gargas, we drive to Aurignac to visit the Aurignacian Museum, which illuminates the lives of the anatomically modern humans who lived in Europe about 36,000 years ago through finds from the rock shelter of Aurignac and other prehistoric sites. Continue on to our hotel in Sauveterre-de-Comminges, where we check-in and then gather for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hôtel du Barry Resort & Spa](#).* (B,L,D)

### Wednesday, April 19: Niaux | Tarascon-sur-Ariège

Check out this morning and drive to the village of Niaux for a group lunch before visiting the cave of Niaux, regarded as one of

the most impressive in Europe for its spectacular and well-preserved wall paintings from 14,000 years ago, most of which are found in its “Salon Noir,” situated some 800 meters from the cave entrance. Check in to *Le Manoir d’Agnes*, a 200-year-old French chateau in Tarascon-sur-Ariège. Gather for dinner in the restaurant next to our hotel. *Overnight at the 3-star [Le Manoir d’Agnes](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

**Thursday, April 20: Bédeilhac | Foix | Parc de la Préhistoire | Tarascon-sur-Ariège**

This morning, drive a short distance to the cave of Bédeilhac, famous for its vast entrance (used as an aircraft maintenance facility in World War II) and which was decorated in the Middle Magdalenian (ca. 14,000 years ago). Have an independent lunch in the nearby town of Foix and continue on to the Parc de la Préhistoire for an overview of the area’s prehistory through its museum and numerous reconstructions and demonstrations. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B)

**Friday, April 21: Mas d’Azil | Tarascon-sur-Ariège**

After breakfast, drive to Le Mas d’Azil, an ancient refuge for humans and animals, including mammoth and rhinoceros. After an independent lunch we visit the local prehistory museum. Return to Tarascon-sur-Ariège for an evening at leisure. (B)

**Saturday, April 22: Arago | Tautavel | Montpellier**

Check out of our hotel and drive to Arago cave, situated just outside the village of Tautavel and famous for the discovery of “Tautavel Man,” some of the most significant hominid remains ever found in Europe. After an independent lunch and, time permitting, a quick tasting of the local wine, visit the small but impressive museum in Tautavel before driving on to Montpellier. Dinner is at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Pullman Montpellier Centre Hotel](#).* (B)

**Sunday, April 23: Chauvet cave replica | Lyon | Farewell dinner**

After checking out of our hotel, drive north to what may be the highlight of our journey: the spectacular replica of Chauvet cave, Pont-d’Arc Cavern, including a reproduction of its delicately shaded horses. Chauvet is one of the most famous decorated caves in the world and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After an independent lunch on site, drive to Lyon. Tonight we gather for a farewell dinner. *Overnight at the 5-star [Le Royal Hotel Lyon](#).* (B,D)

**Monday, April 24: Lyon | Home**

Transfer this morning to the Lyon airport (LYS) for flights home. (B)



© YRumeau

Hand prints, Gargas Cave

## What to Expect

This program involves extensive walking, often on uneven terrain or up and down stairs that may be steep and without handrails. 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. 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. 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. 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. Weather in Spain and France in April is generally pleasant, with average daytime temperatures ranging from the mid 60s to high 70s. Overnight temperatures may dip into the mid 40s. Cave temperatures average 55° F and humidity levels reach 95%. *Complete pre-departure details, including up-to-date COVID-related protocols, will be sent to participants.*



© Dezalb



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© Calips

## Tour Prices Per Person (10 nights)

Double Occupancy (13 to 20 participants).....	\$8,845
Double Occupancy (10 to 12 participants).....	\$9,845
Single Supplement .....	\$1,095

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

### Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer and host Ian Tattersall**, and a professional **tour manager/guide**
- **Ten nights' accommodations** as outlined in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; two lunches and six dinners with house wine, mineral water, and coffee included
- Group **arrival transfer** on April 14<sup>th</sup> (flights should arrive no later than noon) and group **departure transfer** on April 24<sup>th</sup>
- **All entrance fees** to sites included in the itinerary
- Surface transportation via **air-conditioned motor coach** with bottled water provided
- Local taxes and service charges
- **All gratuities** to the tour manager/guide, drivers, waiters for included meals, and porters
- Handling of two pieces of luggage per person
- Practical and cultural information, suggested reading/media guide, name badge/passport wallet, and luggage tags

### Flights & Transfers:

Airfare from home to Bilbao, Spain (BIO), and returning from Lyon, France (LYS), is not included. Group transfers in Bilbao on arrival and in Lyon on departure are included (times to be determined). Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact our office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

**Prices Do Not Include:** Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; individual arrival/departure transfers; meals or beverages other than indicated; excess baggage charges; personal, baggage, and trip cancellation insurance; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour and other items not listed as included; 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 Passenger Account-AIA DecoratedCaves4/23." 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 (October 15, 2022) are fully refunded. Cancellations received between 179 and 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 subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 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, 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](http://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](mailto:aia@studytours.org) | [www.aiatours.org](http://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

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# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

April 13-24, 2023 (12 days)  
 with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

Tarascon-sur-Ariège



*“Ian Tattersall provided his astonishing expertise on the cave art, the Upper Paleolithic, and human evolution in general to make the entire tour an incredibly enlightening educational experience.”*

- Thomas, Texas



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
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Chauvet

# Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

April 13-24, 2023 (12 days) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

© Claude Valette

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



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
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RESERVATION FORM

**DECORATED CAVES**  
**OF THE PYRENEES & THE RHONE VALLEY**  
April 13-24, 2023 (12 days | 20 guests)  
with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

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](mailto: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. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

**DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):**

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account-AIA DecoratedCaves4/23  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.

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](mailto: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 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.