



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Hiking Scotland's Orkney & Shetland Islands

July 18-28, 2022 (11 days | 15 guests)
with archaeologist Val Turner



© Julie Danek



© operator

*"This was my fifth trip with the AIA
and one of the best ever...I loved every
minute of the trip [and I] cannot
recommend it enough. No wonder it
sells out each year."*

- Leslie, California



© operator



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Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

© Operator

"I found the archaeology absolutely fascinating though I'm not an archaeologist. Each site we visited had its own unique character and interest."

- Nancy, New York

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer & Host



Dr. Val Turner has been Shetland's Regional Archaeologist since the post was created in 1986, and she lives in Shetland on a small croft with her husband. She has Project Managed two big excavations and public access projects on behalf of her employers,

Shetland Amenity Trust: Old Scatness Broch saw the twelve-year excavation of an Iron Age Broch and Village, which has rewritten the story of Scotland's Iron Age; and Viking Unst saw the excavation of three longhouses and the construction of a replica longhouse and restoration of a replica Viking longship. Val is currently working on the nomination for Old Scatness, Jarlshof, and Mousa to become UNESCO World Heritage Sites. She is a member of the Society of Antiquaries of London, a member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Stirling. Her publications include a book about archaeology for children, accessible guidebooks and articles, as well as a wide range of academic publications about Shetland archaeology. Val writes an archaeology column regularly for the local paper and has presented, and currently co-presents, monthly programs about archaeology and the environment for BBC Radio Shetland. She loves surprising visitors with Shetland's wealth of archaeology and she has been guiding walks and tours in both Orkney and Shetland for over twenty years, including several previous departures of this very AIA tour since 2015.

This is the perfect opportunity to **explore all that Scotland's Northern Isles have to offer:** prehistoric stone circles, burial chambers, and settlements; quaint villages; huge seabird colonies; and remarkable plant life—all amidst dramatic landscapes. **This will be Scotland seen slowly, with time for in-depth exploration at each site.** The Orkney and Shetland islands have an amazing wealth of archaeological sites dating back 5,000 years. Together the islands have more than 18,000 known sites, with new discoveries being made every year. **This archaeological saga is worth the telling, and nowhere else can the evidence be seen in more glorious a setting.**

Highlights:

- A **private tour of the active Ness of Brodgar excavations**, a ceremonial site in the "Heart of Neolithic Orkney" that was in use for around 1,000 years. The site is within the UNESCO World Heritage Site on Orkney, which also includes the chambered tomb of **Maeshowe**, estimated to have been constructed around 2700 B.C.; the **Stones of Stenness**; the 4,000-year-old **Ring of Brodgar**, one of Europe's finest Neolithic monuments; **Skara Brae** settlement; and associated funerary monuments and stone settings. These are unquestionably among the most important Neolithic sites in Western Europe.
- "The Crucible of Iron Age Shetland"—including **Mousa Broch**, the best-preserved known broch in the world, **Old Scatness**, and **Jarlshof**—where the lack of intensive modern farming means that the preservation of these sites and their landscapes is exceptional.
- The Isles are a birdwatcher's paradise, and **one of the major seabird breeding and feeding areas in the North Atlantic**. More than a million birds breed in very large colonies.
- **All meals are included, and you will enjoy comfortable accommodations:** four nights at the elegant [Lynnfield Hotel](#), a comfortable overnight ferry from Orkney to Shetland, three nights at the remote and charming [Busta House Hotel](#), and one night at the conveniently-located [Holiday Inn Express Aberdeen Airport](#) hotel before your flight home.



Scotland

Cover: AIA travelers explore the Isle of Mousa; Left side (top to bottom): AIA travelers walk in the fields of Scotland, seals on the shore, sunset in Lerwick, puffins.

This unique tour is more active than our usual land tours and features daily hikes that are easy to moderate in difficulty. To fully enjoy and visit all the sites on this itinerary one should be in good walking condition and, obviously, enjoy walking!

Two minibuses, each with a local driver/guide, will accompany our group, which is limited to only fifteen participants. Our guides will explain in advance the difficulty of each day's walk(s) and, if you prefer, you can opt out of any walking excursion and be driven to the next stop; but, bear in mind that some sites can only be visited if you walk to them. The distance of and height climbed during each walk is estimated within the following itinerary.

ITINERARY

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

Monday, July 18, 2022 - Depart Home

Tuesday, July 19 - Aberdeen, SCOTLAND | Kirkwall, Orkney

Upon your arrival in Aberdeen, Scotland, at no later than 2:00pm, you will be met and transferred to the ferry terminal in Aberdeen, where our group will board the ferry to Kirkwall, Orkney. We will have dinner aboard the ferry, arrive in Kirkwall at about 11:00pm, and transfer to our hotel. *Overnight at the 4-star [The Lynnfield Hotel](#) for four nights.* (D)

Wednesday, July 20 - Skara Brae | Broch of Borwick | Kirkwall | Welcome dinner

Distance 3 mi. Height climbed: 360 ft.

We start the day with a visit to Skara Brae, possibly Orkney's most exciting archaeological site, which was buried by a sandstorm in about 2450 B.C. It was well preserved and then revealed by another storm in 1850. This, the "Heart of Neolithic Orkney," which also includes the Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness, and Maeshowe (sites we will visit on July 23rd), was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Walk south along the spectacular coast with geos, natural arches, caves, and sea stacks, visiting en route the Broch of Borwick, perched high on a headland. Return to our hotel and gather for a welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

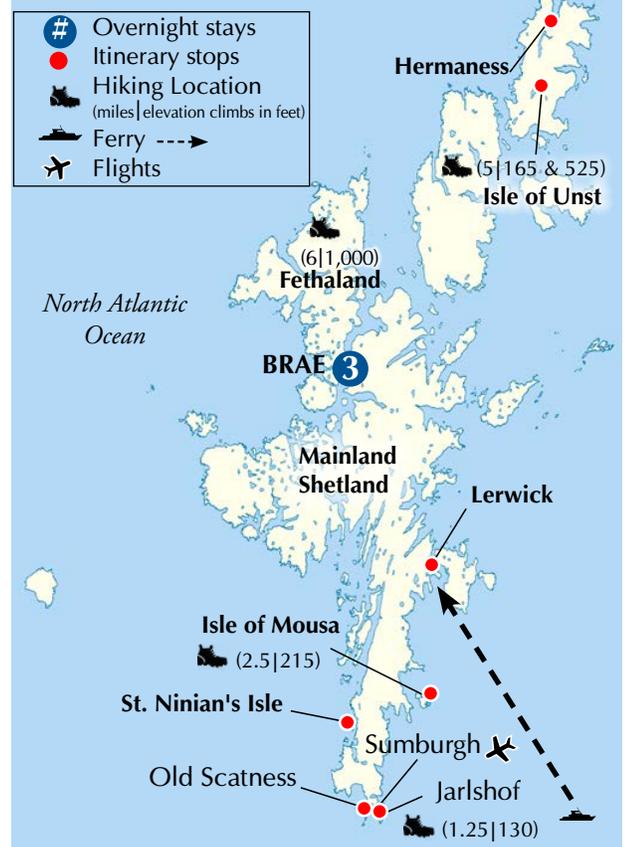
Thursday, July 21 - Isle of Rousay | Kirkwall

Distance 2.5 mi. Height climbed: 360 ft.

Today we will take the ferry to the Isle of Rousay, where we will wander the most important archaeological mile in Scotland, through 5,000 years of history, visiting a number of burial cairns including Midhowe, Pictish brochs, Viking settlements, and remains of the period of the Earls and the troubled crofting times. (B,L,D)

The Ring of Brodgar, a stone circle that is 341 ft. in diameter, is the third largest in the British Isles.

SHETLAND ISLANDS



ORKNEY ISLANDS



Friday, July 22 - Isle of Hoy: Dwarfie Stane, Old Man of Hoy | Kirkwall

Distance total 6.75 mi. Heights climbed: 100 & 720 ft.

This morning we will take the ferry to Hoy, the highest and wildest of all Orkney Islands. Our walk will take us to the 5,000-year-old monument known as the Dwarfie Stane, an immense block of sandstone lying within a natural amphitheater. This is the only example in northern Europe of a rock-cut tomb similar to the chamber tombs of the Mediterranean. Drive through a glen, along what could be burial mounds, to Rackwick, from where we will walk to the world famous sea stack (at 450 ft.) known as The Old Man of Hoy. Return by ferry to Kirkwall, mainland Orkney. Freshen up at our hotel before gathering for dinner this evening, our last on Orkney. (B,L,D)



Skara Brae, a late Neolithic settlement.

Saturday, July 23 - Mainland Orkney: Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe, Ness of Brodgar | Kirkwall | Ferry to Shetland

Distance 2 mi. Height climbed: negligible

For centuries, people have assumed that the Ring of Brodgar and the Standing Stones of Stenness were the main Neolithic focus of this area, but recent excavations at the Ness of Brodgar question that interpretation. The stone circles might have been merely on the periphery of the true ceremonial center—a massive ceremonial complex that, in its heyday, must have completely dominated the landscape. Following breakfast, we will visit several important Neolithic sites on mainland Orkney, from the Ring of Brodgar to the Stones of Stenness and Maeshowe, which is Britain's largest chambered cairn. Excavations will be in progress at the Ness of Brodgar, and we will take a private tour of the site. Dinner will be at *The Lynnfield Hotel*, before we take the *overnight ferry from Kirkwall to Shetland* at about 11:00pm. (B,L,D)



AIA travelers on the tombolo to St.Ninian's Isle.

Sunday, July 24 - Lerwick, Shetland | Old Scatness | Isle of Mousa | Brae, North Mainland

Distance 2.5 mi. Height climbed: 215 ft.

We arrive in Lerwick in the morning, after breakfast on the ferry. Travel south today, visiting Old Scatness Broch and Iron Age village. This is part of the crucible of Iron Age Shetland, also including Mousa Broch and Jarlshof (a site we will visit on July 27th), that was added by UNESCO in 2012 to the Tentative List of cultural World Heritage Sites. In the afternoon we will take the boat to the uninhabited island of Mousa, which is famous for its Iron Age broch—the world's best-preserved Pictish broch. It rises to 40 feet, and the skill and accuracy of its builders has resulted in a 2,000-year-old construction that appears today as though the builders have just laid the last stone and gone home for the night. Back on mainland we will transfer to our hotel, located near Brae. *Overnight at the 3-star [Busta House Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)



Above: Old Scatness on south mainland, Shetland
Below: Hermaness, Isle of Unst



"Every moment of this trip was interesting and illuminating!"

- Jane, Virginia



The Old Man of Hoy stands 450 ft. high in the Orkney Islands.

Monday, July 25 - Isle of Unst | Brae

Distance total 5 mi. Heights climbed: 165 & 525 ft.

This morning we will take the ferry to the Isle of Unst, where the excavation of three Viking/ Late Norse settlements forms the center of the much larger, multi-faceted Viking Unst project. A replica longhouse has been constructed, adjacent to which the replica longship, the *Skidbladner*, is a copy of the 9th-century *Gokstad* that was discovered in Vestfold, Norway. We will also visit Hermaness, the northernmost cliffs of the British Isles, which are home to over 100,000 breeding seabirds. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, July 26 - Fethaland | Brae | Farewell dinner

Distance 6 mi. Height climbed: 1,000 ft.

Fethaland is the northernmost part of Shetland's mainland. We walk to a ruined Haaf (meaning "open sea") fishing station dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The ever-enterprising lairds established this and other Haaf fishing stations on remote northwestern parts of Shetland to profit from the catch of ling and cod during the summer months. Extremely brave fishermen ventured out (50 miles) into the Atlantic Ocean in open boats called sixareens. Set within the fishing station are a large, circular Neolithic house and a ruined Iron Age broch. Other places of interest that we will encounter during our walk are a Viking soapstone quarry, and a 6th-century chapel site and settlement, both situated on precarious headlands. Return to our hotel and gather for a farewell dinner. (B,L,D)



Jarlshof, Shetland

Wednesday, July 27 - Lerwick | St. Ninian's Isle | Jarlshof | Fly to Aberdeen

Distance 1.25 mi. Height climbed: 130 ft.

This morning we will check out of our hotel and travel south for a visit to Lerwick. You will have the morning to explore Lerwick, with its shops and excellent Shetland Museum & Archives. Our next stop is St. Ninian's Isle, which is connected to the mainland by a tombolo (a bar of sand, or shingle). St. Ninian's was settled in pre-Norse times, and the remains of an old chapel are still visible. We will walk across the tombolo and visit the site of the chapel. We will finish the tour with a visit to Jarlshof, an archaeological site that was occupied for more than 4,000 years. There is a remarkable sequence of stone structures: late Neolithic houses, a Bronze Age village, an Iron Age broch and wheelhouses, a Norse longhouse, a medieval farmstead, and a 16th century laird's house. Dinner will be at the Sumburgh Hotel, before we take a flight back to Aberdeen. *Overnight at the 3-star [Holiday Inn Express Aberdeen Airport](#) hotel.* (B,L,D)

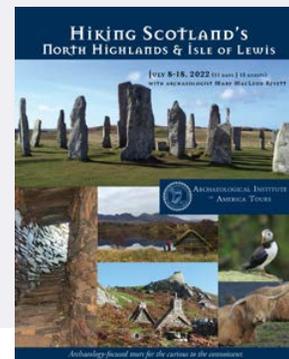
Thursday, July 28 - Fly home

Check out this morning and walk the short distance (five minutes) to Aberdeen airport. (B)

Companion Tour

Get the most out of your international air ticket!
Combine this "Hiking Scotland's Orkney & Shetland Islands" tour with our "Hiking Scotland's North Highlands & Isle of Lewis" tour (July 8-18, 2022) with archaeologist Mary MacLeod Rivett.

We would be happy to assist you with travel arrangements for a seamless transition between programs.



Accommodations



Lynnfield Hotel, Kirkwall, Orkney (4 nights)

(www.lynnfield.co.uk) The Lynnfield is centrally-located and in an ideal position to tour Orkney. Adjacent to the world famous Highland Park Distillery, it has spectacular views looking out over Kirkwall to the north isles. The restaurant's excellent menus change daily to accommodate deliveries of fresh local ingredients.



Cabin on overnight ferry (1 night)

(www.northlinkferries.co.uk) Travelers will occupy two-berth, outside cabins, and single travelers will have a two-berth cabin for single occupancy. We will have access to the comfortable Magnus Lounge during crossings, including the Aberdeen to Kirkwall journey. Meals will be served. NOTE: All the other ferry crossings will be short (between 10 and 30 minutes each). On those ferries passenger lounges and rest rooms are available.



Busta House Hotel, Brae, Shetland (3 nights)

(www.bustahouse.com) The oldest part of the house was built in 1588, and it was extended in the 17th and 18th centuries. All of the bedrooms are named after islands around mainland Shetland and are individually decorated to give each a unique character. The cuisine features lots of local produce.



Holiday Inn Express Aberdeen Airport (1 night)

(www.igh.com/holidayinnexpress) The hotel is a 5-minute walk to the airport via covered walkway.

What to Expect

This is a good introduction to hiking in Scotland for people with basic fitness, combining hiking and visits to archaeological sites. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. Daily walking distances will not exceed 6.75 miles, with varying amounts of ascent, and we do not expect to hike for longer than four hours at a time. Most hiking will be on paths, tracks, or quiet roads, although the surfaces can be wet and rough. There will be some steep sections along the way, but no climbs greater than 1,000 feet, even in total. The actual itinerary is subject to variables such as the abilities and interests of the group and the weather conditions. The local guides know the area very well, and an easier alternative hike is possible on most days. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot participate in a hike or 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. Lunches will be packed and eaten (mostly outside) at appropriate points during excursions/hikes. There will be two local guides with the group, and a minibus for those who choose to skip a walk/hike. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Average daytime temperatures at the time of our visit will range from the low 50s to mid 60s F, with a fair chance of some precipitation and an average breeze of 14 mph.

Flights & Transfers

Round-trip airfare between home and Aberdeen, Scotland (ABZ), is not included. Complimentary transfers between Aberdeen (airport, hotel, or train station) and the ferry terminal on the group arrival date are included, and details will be provided to participants. The in-program, group flight from Sumburgh to Aberdeen is included in the tour price and will be booked by our local operator. Your flight itinerary from/to home 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*

The AIA & 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.



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Tour Prices Per Person (9 Nights)

Double Occupancy (10 to 15 participants).....\$6,595
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/host Val Turner** and services of two professional, **local guides/Tour Manager**
- **Transfers** between Aberdeen (airport, hotel, or train station) and the ferry terminal on the group arrival date
- **In-program flight** from Sumburgh to Aberdeen
- **Eight nights' accommodations** in finest available hotels, as per the itinerary
- One night aboard an **overnight ferry**
- **All meals** (including water, and welcome and farewell dinners with drinks)
- **All excursions and entrance fees** as per the itinerary
- Surface transportation by **air-conditioned minibuses**, with filtered water and hand sanitizer provided
- **All gratuities** to tour manager, driver/guides, hotel and restaurant staff, and porters
- **Baggage handling** at hotels (one bag per person)
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; meals, alcoholic or other beverages (except as noted); optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

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 NorthScotland7/22." 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 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, leader, accommodations, and itinerary 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. 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.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions are available upon confirmation or request, and can be viewed online at www.aiatours.org.



Hermaness

© Operator



Lerwick

© GRomier



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



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Hiking Scotland's
 Orkney & Shetland Islands
 July 18-28, 2022 (11 days | 15 guests)
 with archaeologist Val Turner

"Wonderful hikes with fantastic scenery. The guides were top notch. The trip was planned in an incredibly professional, expert way that was seamless."

- Peter, New York



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Fethaland, Shetland

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

RESERVATION FORM



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
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Hiking Scotland's Orkney & Shetland Islands

July 18-28, 2022 (11 days | 15 guests) with archaeologist Val Turner

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, _____

Please send me/us information on the companion tour *Hiking Scotland's North Highlands & the Isle of Lewis* (July 8-18, 2022)

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 NorthScotland7/22 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 and sign the release statement below. 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 BINDING ARBITRATION 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 Binding Arbitration Agreement.