Archaeological Institute of America Tours

Alaska to Russia: Beyond the Bering Strait

Aboard the New, 76-Cabin *Minerva*

With archaeologist Ted Goebel

July 2 - 19, 2022

Dear Traveler,

Next summer join AIA lecturer and host Ted Goebel, an expert on the origins of the First Americans, on an extraordinary voyage to the Bering Strait, separating Alaska and Russia by just 51 miles. Enjoy the comfort of a luxurious expedition ship while exploring remote areas far away from tourist routes.

Begin your epic adventure in Anchorage, then embark your 76-cabin ship in picturesque Seward, cruising through the Kenai Fjords National Park with its calving glaciers and breaching whales. Kodiak Island is home to the massive Kodiak brown bears plus several species of salmon and 250 bird species, including bald eagles. Then explore the Aleutian archipelago and the Pribilof Islands, spotting the abundant and diverse wildlife such as Tufted puffins and walrus.

Isolated and accessible only by special permission until recently, few travelers have ever visited East Siberia, one of the world's great wilderness regions, home to the indigenous Siberian peoples. Covered in ice for most of the year, the land wakes up during the brief summer to reveal its unique flora and fauna amidst volcanoes and hot springs. Admire more marine birds and whales as well as the lush tundra dappled with wildflowers.

Under construction in Finland and launching in October 2021, *Minerva* is designed specifically for exploration cruising. Enjoy the luxurious amenities of this new, state-of-the-art expedition ship with just 76 staterooms and suites for 152 guests. The ship's size; limited guest capacity; superb accommodations and public spaces, facilities, and services; advanced technical and mechanical systems; and a complement of experienced officers and crew make *Minerva* the ship of choice for exploring Earth's remote places in safety and comfort. A fleet of Zodiac landing craft will bring you into intimate contact with the places we will explore.

We hope you will join our AIA lecturer/host on this once-in-a-lifetime travel adventure. I encourage you to contact AIA Tours today to reserve your preferred cabin type, since this program is co-sponsored by other organizations.

Sincerely,

R. Todd Nielsen
Director, AIA Tours
Archaeological Institute of America

"Hearing a variety of lectures on different subjects by lecturers from the different groups was a good experience. It also contrasted how good Ted Goebel was compared to the norm. This has always been our experience with AIA and is the main reason we go on your tours in addition to our interest in the subject matter."
- Charles, Arizona

Cover: Holgate Glacier, Alaska

Archaeological Institute of America
LECTURER AND HOST

Professor Ted Goebel (Ph.D., University of Alaska Fairbanks) is Endowed Professor of First Americans Studies and Associate Director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University. His research focuses on the Ice Age origins of America's First Peoples. Throughout his career, he has worked on Paleolithic and Paleoindian sites in remote areas of Russia (interior Siberia, Kamchatka, and Chukotka), Alaska, and the Great Basin of western North America. Professor Goebel currently co-directs field-based archaeological projects in Alaska and southern Patagonia. In Alaska, his team's research focuses on explaining variability in human technologies of Pleistocene Beringians, excavating the 14,000-year-old McDonald Creek site near Fairbanks and a 12,000-year-old fluted-point site near Serpentine Hot Springs in Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. In Patagonia, they are investigating a series of rock shelters for evidence of first peoples and extinct Ice Age fauna, developing a unique "bi-polar" perspective on the peopling of the Americas. Professor Goebel lectured to excellent reviews on an AIA-sponsored Alaska cruise in 2019, and looks forward to this new journey that will take us across the submerged Bering Land Bridge and present opportunities to discuss such topics as the paleo-ecology of the land bridge, the earliest evidence of humans in the Aleutians (9,000 years ago), and the emergence of sea-mammal hunting cultures.

GUEST LECTURER

Mary Savina is Charles L. Denison Professor of Carleton College (Northfield, MN), where she earned undergraduate degrees in history and geology. Her specialties—geoarchaeology, landscape history, and environmental geology—combine these interests nicely. On her first visit to Alaska in 1995, Mary and a friend traveled to central and southeast Alaska. Alaska's unusual landscapes and rich history have prompted her to return several times, including once with students. Mary is excited about exploring the volcanoes, Arctic landscapes, human history, and effects of climate change in all of the remarkable areas we will visit.

ITINERARY

Saturday, July 2, 2022: **ARRIVE IN ANCHORAGE, Alaska**
Arrive in Anchorage and transfer to the *Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa* (or similar). In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.
Meals: D

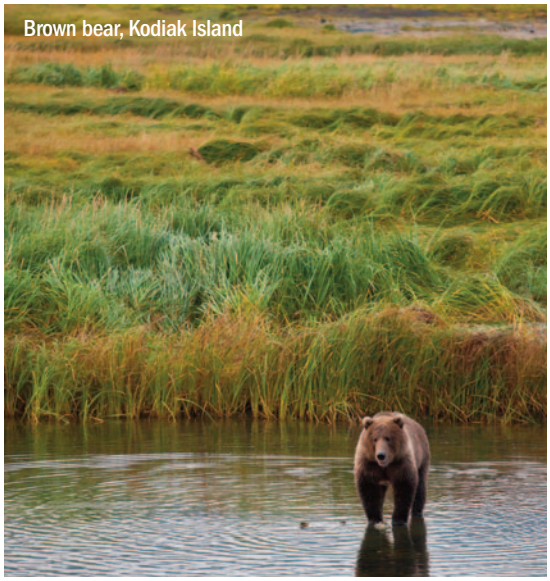
Sunday, July 3: **ANCHORAGE / SEWARD / EMBARKATION**
In the morning visit the Anchorage Museum, whose excellent exhibits chronicle the history and heritage of the people of Alaska from the ancient past to more recent times. In the early afternoon, drive along the scenic Seward Highway to the port town of Seward, beautifully located on an inlet on the Kenai Peninsula, where we will embark *Minerva* and cruise.
Meals: B, D

Monday, July 4: **HOLGATE GLACIER & CHISWELL ISLANDS**
View the spectacular Holgate Glacier in Kenai Fjords National Park. Listen for the thunderous sounds of incredible calving glaciers reverberate across the waters. Up close to this huge glacier, a spectrum of colors play on the ice as nearby seals lounge on the ice floes and gulls fly all around. Attend 4th of July celebrations aboard the ship.
Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, July 5: **LARSEN BAY, KODIAK ISLAND**
Set in a spectacular valley off a narrow fjord and within Kodiak Island's National Wildlife Refuge, Larsen Bay is a 2,800-square-mile refuge of diverse habitat. There is the opportunity to see mighty Kodiak brown bears, deer, sea lions, seals and eagles. In 1991, the Smithsonian Institution returned the remains of 756 Alutiiq Natives. Learn about the burial that marked the largest repatriation of Native remains ever conducted by the Smithsonian.
Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, July 6: **CASTLE BAY, ALASKA PENINSULA**
Castle Bay features a high skyline of surrounding stratified rock, rugged mountains, pinnacle formations, and sandstone towers that gave the area its name. These towering peaks give out different shades in their layers which makes the whole bay distinctively entrancing and act as a famous landmark to ships navigating nearby.
Meals: B, L, D

Thursday & Friday, July 7 & July 8: **UNGA ISLAND & DUTCH HARBOR, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS**
Unga Island is now uninhabited, but you will see remnants of its past in the relics of a gold mine and collapsed houses overgrown with beautiful and bright wildflowers. The picturesque Aleutian Island has a rare and ancient petrified forest that is beguiling to witness. Along the cliffs, double-crested and pelagic cormorants, common murres, and peregrine falcons glide, dart, and dive. Dutch Harbor was one of the few sites to suffer from aerial bombardment in World War II and you can still see concrete bunkers and former gun emplacements. The native Aleut people have inhabited this area for around 9,000 years but the strong influence of the Russian Orthodox Church can be seen in the characteristic onion domes. The sprightly arctic fox and bright-beaked horned and tufted puffins are all residents here.
Meals: B, L, D


Brown bear, Kodiak Island

Exploring Kolyuchin Island by Zodiac

Chukchi women performing traditional ceremony, Provideniya

Walrus resting on ice in the Chukchi Sea

Humpback whale, Kenai Fjords National Park
(photo by Kenai Fjords National Park)

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.

Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & July 10: **ST. PAUL ISLAND / ST. MATTHEW ISLAND, PRIBILOF ISLANDS**
The island fictionalized in a scene of Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, St. Paul Island is the largest of the Pribilof Islands. It is a birding migratory capital - part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge - and it is a breeding ground for more than half a million northern fur seals. Until c. 3,750 BC, the Woolly mammoth roamed these plains. A remote island in the Bering Sea, St. Matthew Island is recovering its tundra following the uncontrolled release of caribou that were a feature here for 40 years. Massive cliffs give shelter to Brünnich's guillemots, parakeet auklets, and glaucous gulls, while on land arctic foxes move stealthily through plants regaining a hold such as pacific silverweed and purple saxifrage. Polar bears have been known to make an occasional visit.
Meals: B, L, D

Monday, July 11: **PROVIDENIYA, Russian Siberia**
Provideniya, the gateway to Russia's Far East Siberia, is a former Soviet military port, built at the head of a bay that marks the southern limit of the Arctic ice pack. Tour the town that includes a small museum charting the history of the town and the indigenous Siberian Yupik people. To learn more about the history, culture, and traditions of the Yupik, we will visit the nearby settlement of Novoye Chapino, which overlooks a picturesque fjord.
Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, July 12: **NAUKAN & UELEN VILLAGE**
Visit the abandoned settlement of Naukan, then on to Uelen, the only Yupik village on the cape that is still inhabited. Archaeological work has revealed that the area around Uelen has been inhabited for at least 2,000 years, with the people depending on fishing and hunting of marine mammals. Uelen is an art center, widely famed for its walrus ivory carvings. During our visit, we will have the opportunity to meet with some of the master carvers.
Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, July 13: **KOLYUCHIN ISLAND / AT SEA**
Cruising through the Bering Strait, *Minerva* will enter the Chukchi Sea, the southern area of the Arctic Ocean. At Kolyuchin, conservationists will join us for a tour, pointing out rare wildflowers, lichens and mosses. The island also features spectacular bird cliffs inhabited by puffins, thick-billed mures, pelagic cormorants, kittiwakes, and other seabirds.
Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, July 14: **LAVRENTIYA**
Lavrentiya is an important village to the Chukchi Yupiks. Close to the Bering Strait, this is the home of the Beringia Regatta and Festival which brings together athletes to compete in events such as bidarka (walrus skin boat) racing, alongside cultural group performances. Among colorful red and green houses is the village's museum with a significant collection of indigenous artifacts reflecting traditions and spiritual culture. Close by are the Lovino hot springs, which we will visit.
Meals: B, L, D

Friday, July 15: **PROLIV SENYAVINA HOT SPRINGS & YTTYGRAN ISLAND**
Take our Zodiacs to a small lagoon, which leads to attractive Proliv Senyavina Hot Springs. After exploring the area, those who wish may take a dip in the pool, which is heated with the natural hot springs. Continue to nearby Yttygran Island to visit Whale Bone Alley, an archaeological site comprised of 600-year-old whale bones erected to form archways, some of them over 15 feet tall.
Meals: B, L, D

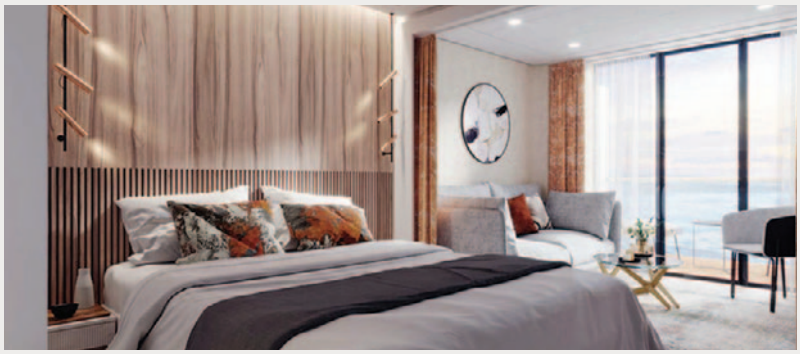
Saturday, July 16: **NUNLIGRAN**
Visit the settlement of Nunligran, a Chukchi village near Lake Achchen where sockeye salmon come to spawn. Thousands of nesting seabirds - northern fulmars, murres, black-legged kittiwakes, herring and glaucous gulls, pelagic cormorants - roost along the craggy cliffs while ringed seals haul out along the coastline. This is a place where Chukchi people traditionally hunted for whales and walrus. Watch for harbor porpoises; white, minke and bowhead whales; and bearded and spotted seals.
Meals: B, L, D

Sunday & Monday, July 17 & July 18: **SIRENIKI / PROVIDENIYA**
Sireniki is one of a handful of traditional Siberian Yupik villages that remain along the southern coast of Chukotka. Traditionally reindeer herders and whale and walrus hunters, the Sirenik Yupik also had their own Eskimo language, but this has died out. Our Zodiac excursions take us alongside the cliffs where murres, kittiwakes, long-necked black cormorants, stiff-winged fulmars, glaucous gulls, and little auks come to nest. Dock in Provideniya to formally depart Russian territorial waters, en route to Nome.
Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, July 19: **NOME, Alaska / DISEMBARKATION**
Arrive in Nome in the morning and transfer to the airport for return flights home.
Meals: B

THE NEW EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP *MINERVA*

Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite

Observation Lounge

Sauna

Club

Café/Bar with swimming pool

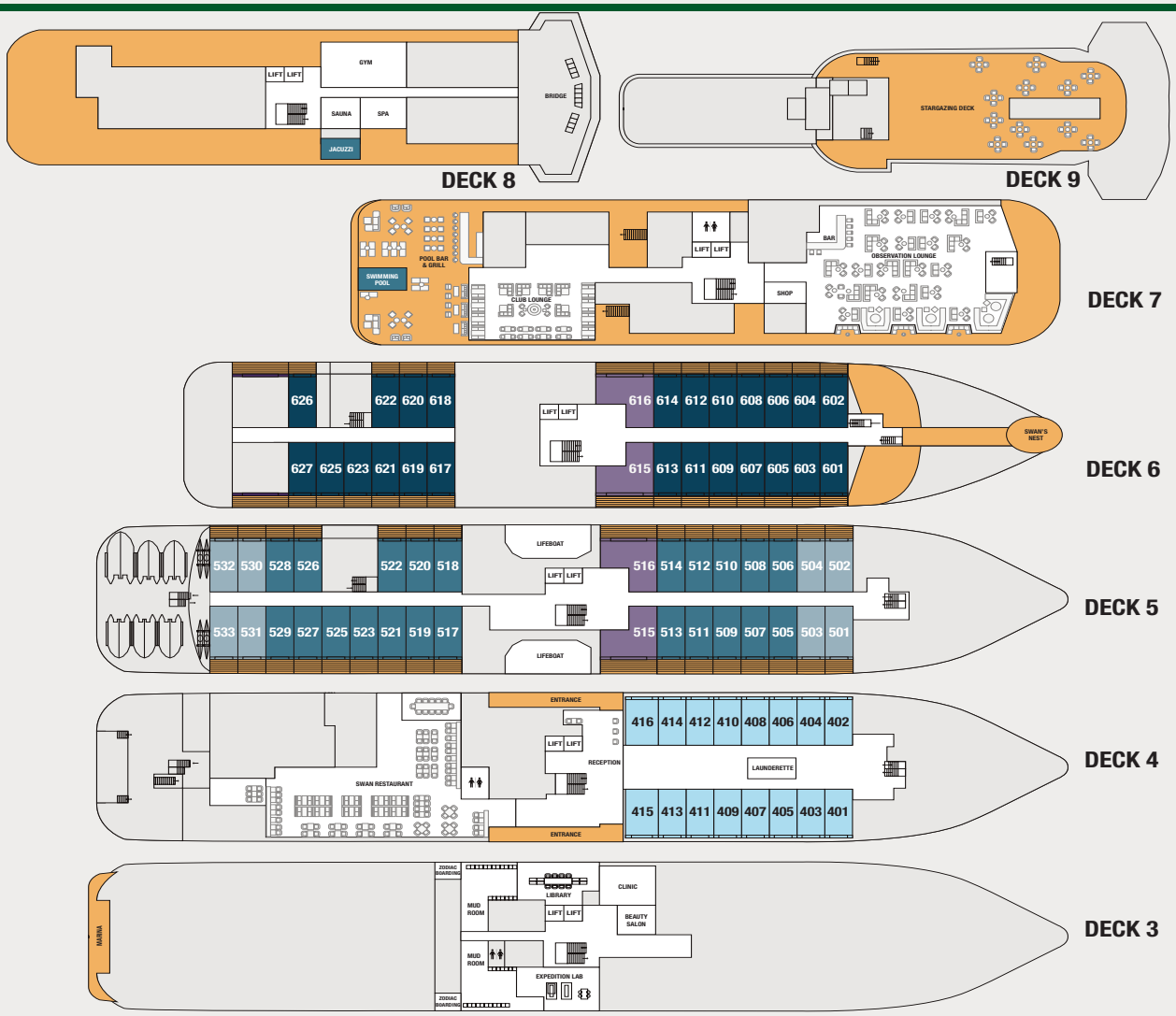
Currently under construction in Finland, and scheduled to be delivered in October 2021, Swan Hellenic's *Minerva* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 10,500 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 250 passengers, *Minerva* will accommodate a maximum of 152 guests in 76 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Minerva has been designed to meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code for ships navigating in Polar regions. Its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull, and other technical and mechanical features, allow the ship to cruise the world's remote regions in safety and utmost comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines and a system of powerful batteries make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Minerva* will carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, kayaks, and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) that will reveal marine life in the deep. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities. Of the ship's 76 staterooms, 60 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge that is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; a "mud room" with lockers for storing expedition gear; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis.

FOR QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS: 800-748-6262 | AIA@STUDYTOURS.ORG | WWW.AIATOURS.ORG

DECK PLAN



RATES

All accommodations aboard *Minerva* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

Category	Description	Per Person Double Occupancy
E	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval portholes. Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 401 – 416.	$ 15,790
D	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501 – 504, 530 – 533.	$ 17,740
C	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505 – 514, 517 – 529.	$ 18,940
B	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601 – 614, 617 – 627.	$ 19,990
A	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 440 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 515, 516, 615 & 616.	$ 23,290

FOR SOLO TRAVELERS

A limited number of cabins are available for single occupancy at no additional charge. Additional single cabins are available at a supplement of 40% of the per person double occupancy rate, instead of the normal 70% supplement.

REGISTRATION

Please send your deposit check, **payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA AlaskaSH7/22"** and this form to:
AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Fax: 603-756-2922. For questions or to hold your space while you send in this Registration Form, please contact us at **800-748-6262 or by email: aia@studytours.org**. Website: www.aiatours.org.

NAME#1 _____ BIRTHDATE _____
(As it appears on passport)

NAME#2 _____ BIRTHDATE _____
(As it appears on passport)

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____

E-MAIL 1 _____ E-MAIL 2 _____

PAYMENT

❑ Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one): VISA MC AMEX

Name on credit card _____ Card # _____ Exp. Date _____Security Code _____

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD _____ DATE _____

❑ Enclosed is my check for $_____ ($1,000 per person, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA AlaskaSH7/22")

to reserve _____ place(s) on ALASKA TO RUSSIA: BEYOND THE BERING STRAIT.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice_____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ❑ One bed ❑ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

❑ I prefer to have single accommodations *(limited availability)* or

❑ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

❑ I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of April 3, 2022 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION & PROGRAM DETAILS

Rates Include:

- AIA lecturer/host Ted Goebel plus services of an expedition leader, naturalist guides, and professional tour manager.
- One night at the *Sheraton Anchorage Hotel & Spa* (or similar).
- Welcome dinner at the hotel.
- Cruise aboard the *Minerva*, as described in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Group visa for the calls in Russia.
- Complete program of shore landings and activities organized by the expedition leaders and naturalists.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer, and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the Captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea, and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, porters, and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Use of rubber boots for shore landings.

Rates Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; meals and beverages not listed above; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, taxi, telephone and excess Internet fees; deviations from scheduled tour; and other items not listed as included.

Air Arrangements: Airfare is not included. Should you need assistance in booking your flights, please call **Thalassa Journeys toll-free at 866-633-3611**.

Reservations & Payments: To reserve space, return the completed registration form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. We accept checks, payable to 'Eos Passenger Account – AIA AlaskaSH7/22' as well as VISA, MasterCard and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure (April 3, 2022). Final payment can be made by personal check, ACH, or wire transfer. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

Cancellations & Refunds: Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. All cancellations received 6 months (180 days) or more prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received 179-95 days prior to departure are subject to a $300 per person cancellation fee. Cancellations received 94-61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received 60-31 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 75% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received 30 days or less prior to departure are subject to a penalty equal to 100% of the full fare. Participants may request half of all cancellation penalties be credited to any future AIA Tours or Thalassa Journeys program. Credits are transferable and are valid through 2023. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose entry into any country or hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **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: Rates 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 it is understood that refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published. ***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.***

Health: All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws.

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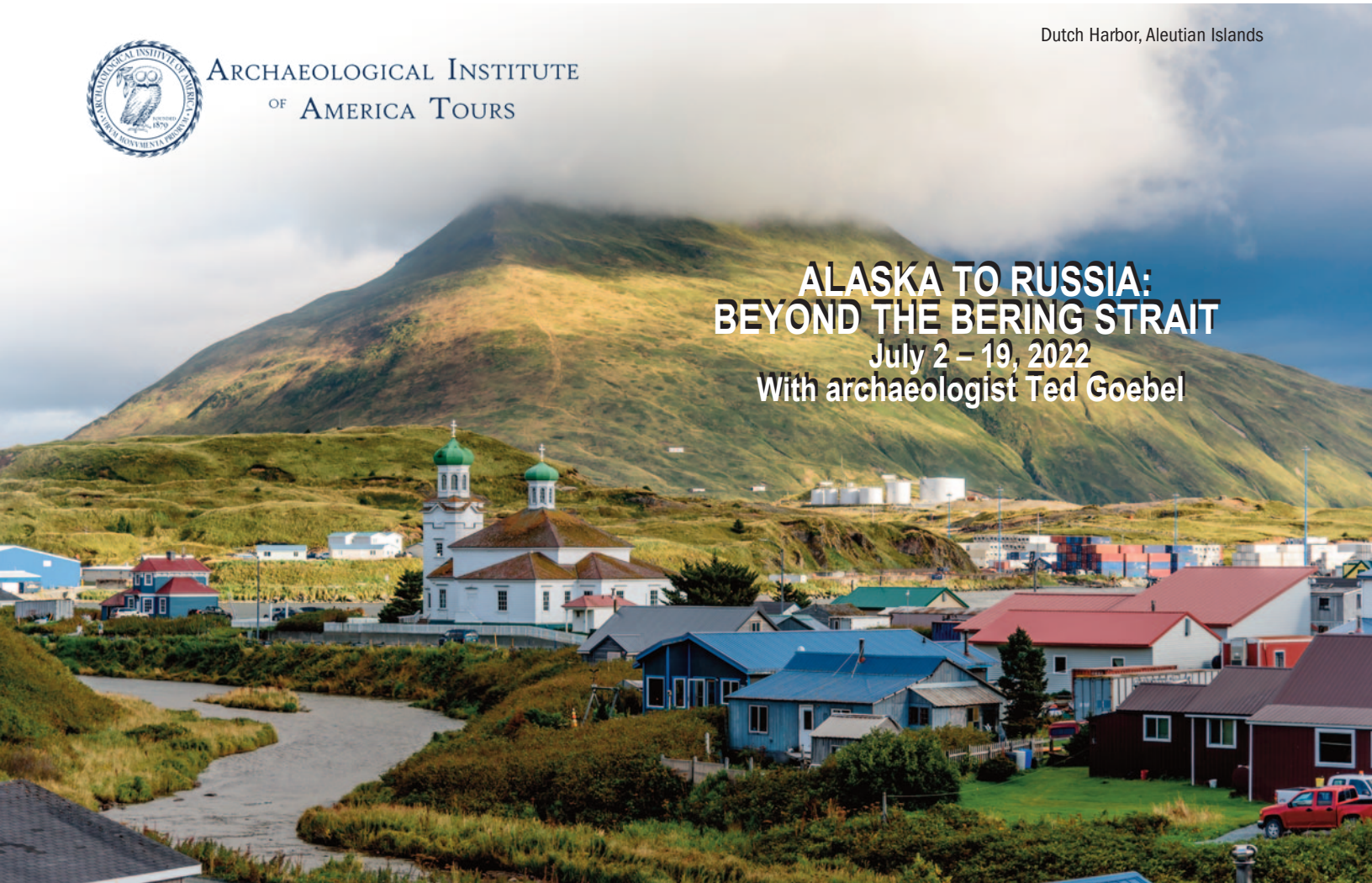
"Cruise was excellent. Really enjoyed the smaller ship… Ted Goebel was great. His lectures were very interesting." - Betty, California

Alaska to Russia: Beyond the Bering Strait

July 2 – 19, 2022

With archaeologist Ted Goebel