October 14–30, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Ilona Bausch

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.
Join us in Japan during the glorious autumn season for this comprehensive, luxurious tour exploring the many elements that make Japan's cultural and natural heritage exceptional. Appreciate firsthand the Japanese pursuit of artistic beauty in imperfection and simplicity. Visit five UNESCO World Heritage Sites and four Japan-designated “National Treasures.” Together with our AIA lecturer/host, Dr. Ilona Bausch, and expert local guides you will learn about Japan’s prehistory, history, and culture from the remarkable early Jōmon culture to the present.

“I have taken] my 5th AIA tour and I keep coming back because the experience is always excellent and the groups congenial.”

Susan, Virginia
Highlights:

• Learn about Japan’s extraordinary prehistoric Jōmon culture through a variety of site visits and activities: visit the sites of Sannai Maruyama, with ruins of a large Jōmon settlement, and Umenoki, with its reconstructions of Jōmon pit houses; explore the Togariishi Museum of Jōmon Archaeology and the Shakado Museum of Jōmon Culture; participate in a Jōmon-style cooking demonstration; and try your hand at creating a small piece of Jōmon-style pottery.

• Admire the design and art of two impressive, ancient tumuli: Ishibutai Kofun, a tumulus from the late Kofun period (A.D. 300 to 538), formed by 30 massive stones weighing approximately 2,300 tons; and the Center for Preservation of the Kitora Tumulus Mural Paintings, where mural paintings and artifacts from the 7th/8th-century Kitora Tumulus are preserved and exhibited.

• Stroll through the beautiful, carefully designed grounds of several iconic temples, including Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest temple; Nikkozan Rinnoji Temple, with three gilded wooden Buddha statues; Nara’s Todaiji Temple, with one of Japan’s largest bronze Buddha statues; and Kyoto’s renowned Kinkakuji Temple (“Golden Pavilion”).

• Gaze upon natural wonders such as Oirase Stream, famous for its waterfalls and its trees’ autumnal colors; Oishi Park, one of the five scenic lakes at the foot of Mt. Fuji and the best place to view Mt. Fuji; and Oshino Hakkai, a former pilgrimage site that is a collection of eight beautiful ponds fed by clear water from Mt. Fuji.

• Enjoy special events and meals, including a private tea ceremony; a winery visit, including a meeting with the owner and a wine tasting; a wadaiko (taiko) traditional drum lesson and performance; a special dinner with a geisha and a maiko (apprentice geisha); and two traditional, multi-course, kaiseki (Japanese haute cuisine) dinners.

• Relax and let the tour manager handle all the logistics, including porterage and bullet train transfers; and rest at luxurious 4- and 5-star hotels throughout.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host

Ilona Bausch specializes in the prehistoric archaeology and heritage of East Asia, particularly with regard to early trade, social interaction, rituals, and worldview among the prehistoric Jōmon people of Japan. After studying Japanese language and culture at Leiden University (Netherlands), she specialized in Japanese and East Asian archaeology under Kobayashi Tatsuo (Kokugakuin University, Tokyo) and Gina Barnes (Cambridge University, Durham University), receiving her Ph.D. from Durham University (UK) in 2005. Since then, Ilona has lectured at Leiden University and at Tokyo University (Dept. of Cultural Resource Studies, 2014-2017), and is affiliated as associate scholar with LIAS (Leiden Institute of Area Studies) at Leiden University (Netherlands) and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC) in Norwich, UK. Currently she is teaching as a Visiting Professor for Japanese Art History at the Institute for East Asian Art History at Heidelberg University (Germany). Ilona has published several articles on the role of ritual and adornment in Jōmon society, and is currently preparing a volume on jade. Beyond her interest in how archaeological and historical heritage represents past and present identities in modern society, she is also interested in the diversity of archaeological representation in modern museums, media, politics, and social movements.

For questions and reservations: 800-748-6262 | aia@studytours.org | www.aiatours.org
Monday, October 14, 2024: Depart home
Board independent flights to Tokyo, Japan.

Tuesday, October 15: Arrive Tokyo, Japan | Transfer to hotel
Arrive today at Tokyo’s Narita International Airport (NRT), where you will be met and transferred as a group to our hotel in Tokyo. Alternatively, you may arrive at Tokyo’s Haneda International Airport (HND) and schedule a private transfer (at additional cost) to our hotel in Tokyo. **Overnight at the 5-star Hotel New Otani Tokyo for two nights.**

Wednesday, October 16: Tokyo: Meiji Jingu Shrine, Sensoji Temple, Tokyo National Museum, Wadaiko lesson | Welcome dinner
This morning we visit Meiji Jingu Shrine, a Shinto shrine dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken. People from all over Japan and the world donated 100,000 trees to commemorate their virtues. Next, visit the lively old downtown of Asakusa, home to Sensoji Temple, Tokyo’s oldest temple. Walk through the Kaminarimon Gate with its huge red lantern, and then stroll the Nakamise Dori street leading to the temple. After lunch we spend some time in the Tokyo National Museum, with the best collection of art and archaeological artifacts in Japan. Before returning to our hotel, we learn about wadaiko (taiko, for short), a traditional Japanese drum, after which we may perform a song together, and then we will be treated to a short performance by a wadaiko master. This evening, we gather for a welcome dinner of kaiseki, Japanese haute cuisine. *(B,L,D)*

Thursday, October 17: Bullet train to Shin-Aomori | Sannai Maruyama Jōmon Archaeological Site | Oirase
Transfer this morning to the train station to take a high-speed shinkansen bullet train to Shin-Aomori. Upon arrival we will tour Aomori prefecture and receive an introduction to UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Jōmon Period archaeological sites - a period of Japanese prehistory that spans from approximately 13,500 B.C. to either 900 B.C. or 300 B.C., depending on the region. Explore the Sannai Maruyama site, with the ruins of a very large Jōmon period settlement. After lunch at the site, we continue to Oirase where we check-in to our hotel and then gather for dinner this evening. **Overnight at the 4-star Hoshino Resorts Oirase Keiryu Hotel for two nights.** *(B,L,D)*

Friday, October 18: AM at leisure OR guided walk at Oirase Stream | Towada Art Center | Oirase
Enjoy the morning at leisure at our luxurious resort. Alternatively, take a guided, flat walk (for about one hour) along the Oirase Stream, which is famous for its waterfalls and its trees’ autumnal colors. After enjoying lunch together, visit the Towada Art Center, a contemporary art museum featuring 38 pieces of art created exclusively for the museum by renowned artists from Japan and abroad, including Yoko Ono, Yayoi Kusama, Choi Jeong Hwa, and Ron Muek. Return to our hotel and gather this evening for dinner. *(B,L,D)*

Saturday, October 19: Hachinohe: Korekawa Archaeological Institution | Bullet trains to Utsunomiya | Nikko
This morning we visit the Korekawa Archaeological Institution, a museum with an extensive collection of excavated clay figurines and artifacts, including lacquered pottery and tools. Aomori prefecture is
famous for its traditional lacquerware, created by techniques that date back to the Jōmon period. Here we will see the National Treasure of “Gassho Dogū,” a Jōmon period clay figurine. This afternoon, we take two shinkansen bullet trains to Utsunomiya, with an ekiben lunch box provided en route. Ekiben is a bento box, which is the most popular style of lunch for train travel. Upon arrival in Utsunomiya, we continue on by private motor coach to Nikko. Check-in to our hotel, settle in, and then gather for dinner. **Overnight at the 4-star Nikko Kanaya Hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)**

**Sunday, October 20: Nikko: Nikkozan Rinnoji Temple, Nikko Toshogu Shrine, Nikko Tamozawa Imperial Villa Memorial Park**

This morning we visit two of the sites that comprise the UNESCO World Heritage Site of “Shrines and Temples of Nikko,” beginning with Nikkozan Rinnoji Temple. Established in A.D. 766 by Shodo Shonin, the first Buddhist monk who introduced Buddhism to Nikko, it is the largest wooden structure in eastern Japan and houses three gilded wooden Buddha statues. Next we visit the early 17th-century Nikko Toshogu Shrine, which consists of more than a dozen buildings decorated with impressive carvings of spiritual animals and Chinese legends symbolizing peace. After lunch, we visit Nikko Tamozawa Imperial Villa Memorial Park, established in 1899 as a retreat for Emperor Taisho. Until 1947, the villa was used by three generations of Emperors and the Crown Princes. View the different architectural styles of the Edo, Meiji, and Taisho periods. Return to our hotel for the balance of the day, and dinner, at leisure. **(B,L)**

**Monday, October 21: Karuizawa | Hokuto City Archaeology Museum | Hokuto**

Today we drive to Yamanashi Prefecture, stopping along the way for lunch in Karuizawa. After arriving in the Yamanashi Prefecture, known for its abundant pure water, climate, and the “Jōmon Kingdom Yamanashi,” visit the Hokuto City Archaeology Museum. The museum showcases a number of important Jōmon artifacts, including dogū (abstract clay figurines) and clay pots. Check-in to our resort, get settled, and then gather for dinner. **Overnight at the 4-star Hoshino Resort Risonare Yatsugatake for three nights. (B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, October 22: Chino: Togariishi Museum of Jōmon Archaeology, Suwa Taisha Shrine | Nagawa: Obsidian Museum | Hokuto**

Drive to Chino today, to explore the influence that the Jōmon period had on the Nagano Prefecture. Our first stop is the Togariishi Museum of Jōmon Archaeology, boasting over 2,000 artifacts excavated from Jōmon sites located at the western foot of Yatsugatake Mountain. The highlights are two dogū designated as National Treasures: the “Jōmon Venus” from the Middle Jōmon period and the “Masked Goddess” from the Late Jōmon period. On the way to lunch we stop at the Suwa Taisha Shrine, the head of...
more than 10,000 Suwa Shrines throughout Japan and considered one of the oldest shrines in existence. This afternoon we visit Nagawa’s Obsidian Museum, whose exhibits introduce the 30,000-year-long history of utilizing obsidian mines from the Paleolithic to the Jōmon periods. The Jōmon people discovered obsidian in Japan and found that, when chipped the right way, it made very good arrowheads, knife blades, and other sharp tools. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy our resort and have dinner on your own. (B,L)

Wednesday, October 23: Hokuto: Misogi Shrine | Umenoki Site and Jōmon Experiential Programs | Hokuto
This morning we visit Misogi Shrine (the practice of “Misogi” is the purification of body and soul). The shrine, like many, has a stage for performing ceremonial dances, except that this one has a full-scale Noh theater stage floating on a sacred pond of pure water. Enjoy a stroll around the shrine before driving to the Umenoki Site to take part in some Jōmon experiential programs (subject to change). Remains of the Umenoki settlement from the Middle Jōmon period were excavated, and Jōmon pit houses were reconstructed. Join a local expert in learning about Jōmon life while participating in Jōmon-style cooking with a professional chef using gibier (wild game). After the light, Jōmon-style lunch, we will have the opportunity to create small Jōmon pottery or clay plates using techniques from thousands of years ago. Return to our resort for the balance of the day at leisure and dinner on your own. (B,L)

Thursday, October 24: Hokuto City Center for Archaeological Research | Katsunuma City: Winery visit | Fuefuki: Shakado Museum of Jōmon Culture | Fujikawaguchiko
Start the day with a visit to the Hokuto City Center for Archaeological Research to meet with staff and learn the process of what they do with an artifact from discovery to cataloguing. Continue on to a winery in Katsunuma City that is well known for its grape and wine production. Learn from the owner of the winery about the history of Japanese wine, and taste a few of their wines. After lunch, visit the Shakado Museum of Jōmon Culture, which boasts a thousand Jōmon dogū and artifacts excavated from Shakado, where extensive ruins were discovered in the early 1980s during construction of the Chuo Expressway. Arrive at our hotel in Fujikawaguchiko, at the foot of Mt. Fuji, and gather for dinner this evening. Overnight at the 4-star Fuji View Hotel. (B,L,D)

Friday, October 25: Mt. Fuji area: Oishi Park | Itchiku Kubota Art Museum | Oshino Hakkai | Bullet train to Kyoto | Nara
Take a morning tour of the Mt. Fuji area, stopping briefly at Oishi Park, one of the five scenic lakes at the foot of Mt. Fuji and the best place to view Mt. Fuji. Continue on to Itchiku

“...confident about my choice for [the AIA] trip and our AIA lecturer’s ability and very knowledgeable and experienced.”
- Debra, California
Kubota Art Museum, a kimono gallery by famous Japanese artist Itchiku Kubota, whose colorful kimonos are highly regarded worldwide. Before departing on the shinkansen bullet train for Kyoto, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Oshino Hakkai, a collection of eight beautiful ponds fed by clear water from Mt. Fuji. During the Edo period, these ponds were a place of pilgrimage where worshippers purified their bodies and souls before climbing Mt. Fuji. Lunch will be an ekiben (bento box) provided aboard the train. After arriving in Kyoto, we transfer to Nara and check-in to our hotel, where the evening and dinner are on your own. **Overnight at the 4-star JW Marriott Hotel Nara for two nights.** (B,L)

**Saturday, October 26: Asuka Village | Nara**

Take a day trip to Asuka Village, starting with a visit to the Archaeological Institute of Kashihara, a museum dedicated to exhibiting artifacts from sites in Nara Prefecture, ranging from the Late Stone Age (approx. 40,000 B.C.–10,000 B.C.) to the Muromachi period (A.D. 1336-1573). Also visit the Center for Preservation of the Kitora Tumulus Mural Paintings, where mural paintings and artifacts from the 7th/8th-century Kitora Tumulus are preserved. The murals from the tomb's ceiling were of ancient Chinese-style astronomical charts and have been designated National Treasures. This museum illustrates the history of the excavation and preservation techniques. Continue on to a visit to Ishibutai Kofun, a tumulus from the late Kofun period (A.D. 300 to 538), formed by 30 massive stones weighing approximately 2,300 tons. Our last stop of the day is at the small Asukadera Temple, one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Japan. Enjoy dinner in Asuka Village before returning to Nara. **(B,L,D)**

**Sunday, October 27: Nara: Nara Palace Site Historical Park, Nara Park, Todaiji Temple, National Museum | Kyoto**

Begin this morning visiting Nara Palace Site Historical Park, where Japan's first capital was located in the 8th century; and Nara Park, where more than 1,200 freely roaming deer are believed to be messengers of the gods. While in the park we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Todaiji Temple, where we see one of Japan's largest bronze statues of Buddha (Daibutsu). The temple is one of Japan's most famous and historically significant temples. Continue on to Nara National Museum, the second oldest museum in Japan, with collections of Buddhist art. Its main room houses statues that are designated National Treasures. Drive to our hotel in Kyoto where we check-in, get settled, and enjoy dinner independently. **Overnight at the 5-star Hotel Okura Kyoto for three nights.** (B,L)

**Monday, October 28: Kyoto area: Tenryuji Temple, Optional rickshaw ride & Shojin ryori lunch, Kinkakuji Temple, Private tea ceremony, Dinner with geisha/maiko performance**

Today is spent on the western outskirts of Kyoto, in the Arashiyama district, beginning with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tenryuji Temple. First established in 1339 by Shogun Ashikaga, it is ranked first among Kyoto's five important Zen temples. It has suffered eight major fires, and has been rebuilt and restored along the way. Either enjoy the balance of the morning at leisure in Arashiyama, exploring independently and having lunch on your own; or experience

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**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.
What to Expect

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, sometimes with difficult footing. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. 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; 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. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Included meals are of a very high quality. We will travel over a vast area of the country and may experience a wide range of temperatures from the high 40s to the mid-70s (F). There is always a chance of rain and a light waterproof jacket is recommended.

Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.

ACTIVE: Must be able to walk three or more miles per day on mostly uneven terrain, and up and down inclines and steps.
Tour Prices Per Person (15 nights)

Double Occupancy (14-16 participants)..............$16,545
Double Occupancy (11-13 participants)...............$18,295
Single Supplement ............................................$2,995

Prices Include:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer/host Ilona Bausch, plus a professional tour manager and local guides
- Fifteen nights at elegant, well-located, 4- and 5-star hotels
- Group arrival and departure airport transfers
- Delicious meals: breakfast daily, 13 lunches, and 9 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners. All meals include water and coffee or tea, and dinners also include wine
- Excursions and sightseeing as per itinerary
- Transportation by modern, air-conditioned coach with water available at all times
- Three Shinkansen high-speed train green car tickets
- Personal listening audio devices during excursions
- All gratuities to the tour manager, guides, drivers, waitstaff at included meals, and porters
- Baggage handling at hotels, where available
- 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. Group transfers are included on your arrival at Tokyo’s Narita International Airport (NRT) and on your departure from Osaka’s Kansai International Airport (KIX). 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; private transfers; airport fees and departure taxes; optional excursion; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; beverages and meals except as noted; items of a personal nature such as personal tips, laundry, medical expenses, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; 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-Japan10/24.” 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 (April 17, 2024) prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received from 179 through 121 days (June 15, 2024) prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of $1,000 per person. Cancellations received from 120 through 91 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 90 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.

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
Japan: Ancient & Medieval Treasures & Temples

October 14–30, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Ilona Bausch
To fill out an online reservation form, click here. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.

--- RESERVATION FORM ---

**JAPAN:**
**ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL TREASURES & TEMPLES**
October 14–30, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Ilona Bausch

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.

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- ✔️ 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, _____________________________________________________

- ✔️ I/We would like to sign-up for the October 28th optional rickshaw ride and lunch for an additional fee of $95 per person.

How did you hear about this tour?
- ❑ eNewsletter
- ❑ mailing
- ❑ website
- ❑ friends/family
- ❑ other ___________________________

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

- ❑ 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 $2,000 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. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

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

- ❑ Check payable to: Eos AIA-Japan10/24
- ❑ Visa
- ❑ Master Card
- ❑ American Express
- ❑ Already paid by phone

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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

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

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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 participants assume 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/sanitation 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 any such canceled or 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 litigation 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.