



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS



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CRETE & THE CYCLADIC ISLANDS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEMS OF THE AEGEAN

September 28 - October 12, 2025 (15 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Joanne Murphy



© R. Todd Nielsen



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Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

Archaeological Institute of America Lecturer and Host



Joanne Murphy (Ph.D., U. Cincinnati) is a Professor and Department Head of Classical Studies at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), and is the current Director of the Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies at Athens. Her research focuses on

diverse elements of the Greek Bronze Age, including mortuary and religious activities, production and prestige, and archaeological methods. Currently, Dr. Murphy is working on the publication of the Bronze Age tombs around the Palace of Nestor in southwestern Greece, and she continues her study of the religious and funerary activities on Minoan Crete. She also directs a field project on the Greek Cycladic island of Kea, which explores the value of surface survey as an archaeological method. Dr. Murphy's publications include the edited volumes *Death in Late Bronze Age Greece: Variations on a Theme* (2020) and *Prehistoric Crete: Regional and Diachronic Studies on Mortuary Systems* (2011). In 2020, Dr. Murphy received her university's Senior Teaching Excellence Award (College of Arts and Sciences), Junior Research Excellence Award, and Gladys Strawn Bullard Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership. She has lectured on the AIA's national circuit, and was the recipient of the AIA's 2023 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Since 2004, Dr. Murphy has been leading annual tours of Greece, including this very Crete tour for the AIA in 2021 and 2023.

Pithoi (large storage jars) at Knossos



"Joanne Murphy was a fantastic lecturer/host. Her lectures were succinct and always interesting. She was very open to questions. Also, as a member of the tour she was a lot of fun to be around."

- Cynthia, California

Step back in time to explore the island of Crete, center of the Minoan civilization during the Bronze Age, as well as the nearby Cycladic Islands of Santorini, Mykonos, and Delos. Marvel at the physical evidence of this first advanced civilization in Europe, which created palace complexes, stunning works of art, a unique writing system called Linear A, and an extensive trade network. You will stay in comfortable, five-star hotels, perfect for exploring or just relaxing, with nine nights on Crete in the capital city of Heraklion and in the coastal town of Agios Nikolaos; plus two nights on whitewashed Santorini and two nights on chic Mykonos.

Highlights include:

- All four known major Minoan palaces in eastern Crete: **Phaistos**, **Malia**, **Zakros** and, of course, legendary **Knossos**.
- Santorini's ancient Minoan town of **Akrotiri**, which was well-preserved for millennia under volcanic ash and today paints a picture of life before the island's 2nd-millennium B.C. eruption.
- The island of **Delos**, most sacred of the islands in the ancient Aegean, which grew from a sanctuary of Apollo into a major hub of commerce.
- Crete's nearby islands of **Mochlos**, with a long archaeological past including a Minoan town; and **Spinalonga**, a former leper colony with a 16th-century Venetian fortress.
- A variety of Minoan villas, houses, and towns, including the "royal villa" of **Agia Triada**, the houses at **Tylissos**, and the vast towns of **Palaikastro** and **Gournia**.
- Several excellent museums, including the **Heraklion Archaeological Museum**, housing the world's finest collection of Minoan art and artifacts; the **Museum of Cretan Ethnology** in Voreoi; and the **Museum of Prehistoric Thera**, with a stunning collection of artifacts and wall paintings from the ancient site of Akrotiri.
- The beauty of the cliffside, whitewashed town of **Fira, Santorini**; and the chic shops and narrow lanes of **Chora, Mykonos**.
- In addition to your **knowledgeable and congenial AIA study leader**, you will be accompanied by **local guides** and a **professional tour manager** who will handle all of the logistics so you can relax, enjoy, and learn.

COVER: Staircase at Lato, (bottom, left to right) Mykonos, Phaistos Disk (Heraklion Archaeological Museum), Knossos.



ITINERARY

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

Sunday, September 28, 2025: Depart home for Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Monday, September 29: Arrive Heraklion | Transfer to hotel | PM at leisure | Welcome reception

Upon arrival at Heraklion's Nikos Kazantzakis International Airport (HER), you are met for a private transfer to our hotel. Enjoy some time to relax and settle in. Gather this evening for a welcome reception with your lecturer. Dinner is on your own. *Four nights at the 5-star [Megaron Hotel](#).* (R)

Tuesday, September 30: Heraklion: AM walking tour, PM Archaeological Museum | Welcome dinner

After an introductory lecture, we take a morning walking tour through Heraklion's "old city," surrounded by fortification walls initially built by the Arabs and later reinforced in the 15th century by the Venetians. Along the way, enjoy a tasting of *bougatsa* (a Greek breakfast pastry) and Greek coffee. After lunch, tour the celebrated Heraklion Archaeological Museum, which houses the world's finest collection of Minoan art and artifacts. Return to our hotel and gather this evening for a short walk to a local restaurant for our welcome dinner. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 1: Phaistos | Agia Triada | Voroi: Museum of Cretan Ethnology | Heraklion

Begin the day with a visit to the ruins of the Minoan palace at Phaistos, a center of Minoan civilization that was destroyed in the 15th century B.C. and one of four recognized major Minoan palaces in eastern Crete. (We will also visit the others—Knossos, Malia, and Zakros—over the next few days.) Continue on to the nearby Minoan "royal villa" of Agia Triada. After lunch we tour the Museum of Cretan Ethnology in Voroi to learn more about the people who have called this island home. Return to Heraklion, where we gather this evening for dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 2: Tyllissos | Prinias Sanctuary | Gortyn | Heraklion

This morning we drive to the archaeological site at Tyllissos, where we find the ruins of three luxurious Minoan houses decorated with frescoes and tablets, and outfitted with a water supply system that attests to the city's importance at one time. We then continue on to the peak sanctuary of Prinias, whose 7th-century B.C. Temple A is the earliest known sculpture-decorated building in ancient Greece. After lunch in Zaros we visit the famous Greco-Roman site of Gortyn, which became the dominant city in the region after



Snake Goddess Kleine
(Heraklion Archaeological
Museum) © Olaf Tausch

Phaistos fell, later became Roman and was the first city on Crete to accept Christianity, and persisted into the 9th century A.D. Return to our hotel in Heraklion, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Friday, October 3: Knossos | Malia | Agios Nikolaos

Set out this morning for a visit to the legendary, partially-reconstructed Minoan palace at Knossos, rich in imagination thanks not only to its associated myth of the Minotaur and labyrinth but also to the excavation and reconstruction efforts of Sir Arthur Evans in the early 20th century. After lunch, we drive east along Crete's northern coast, stopping to explore the ruins of the Minoan palace at Malia. Continue on to Agios Nikolaos and check-in to our hotel before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. *Five nights at the 5-star InterContinental Crete hotel.* (B,L,D)



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Saturday, October 4: Archaeological Museum of Sitia | Zakros | Palaikastro | Toplou Monastery | Agios Nikolaos

Drive to Sitia to explore its little-visited archaeological museum, whose most impressive artifacts are from the Minoan palace at Zakros and the Minoan city of Palaikastro, both of which we visit after the museum. End the day at the imposing, 15th-century Toplou Monastery, which houses important frescoes, icons, and a museum of religious objects. Return to Agios Nikolaos for an evening at leisure. (B,L)



© Olaf Tausch

Sunday, October 5: Panagia Kera | Lato | Kritsa | Agios Nikolaos

Start the day with a drive to Kritsa to visit the tiny Church of Panagia Kera, which houses Crete's best-preserved Byzantine frescoes, some as old as the 13th century. Next, explore the ancient, fortified, hilltop city of Lato, one of the best-preserved sites on Crete that postdates the Minoan era. In fact, this Dorian Greek site dates back to the 7th century B.C., and was in use until approximately the 2nd century A.D. Drive back to Kritsa for lunch and some free time to explore. Return to Agios Nikolaos, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)



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Monday, October 6: Gournia | Mochlos | Vasiliki | Agios Nikolaos

This morning we drive to the well-excavated and -preserved Minoan town of Gournia, where we may best envision life in a Late Bronze Age (c. 1500 B.C.) town as we stroll cobbled streets among the ruins of some 50 houses, a small Minoan palace, and a cemetery. We then take a short boat ride to the island of Mochlos, where complex archaeological remains ranging from 3000 B.C. to the 10th century A.D. have been found, including a Minoan town (c. 1700-1430 B.C.) and a Mycenaean village and cemetery (c. 1400-1250 B.C.). We return by boat to Crete proper and, after lunch, we explore the ruins of Vasiliki, one of the first Minoan settlements with town planning. Return to Agios Nikolaos, where we take a walking tour and then have dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)



© operator

Tuesday, October 7: Areti Monastery | Spinalonga | Agios Nikolaos

Begin the day with a visit to Areti Monastery, which was established in the 16th century and re-established and restored in the 20th century. Afterward, we take a short boat ride from Plaka to the picturesque island of Spinalonga, which is home to a 16th-century Venetian fortress and was a leper colony for the first half of the 20th century. Return by boat to Plaka, where we have some time on our own to explore. We return to Agios Nikolaos for the balance of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Photos (from top): Greek theater (Delos), Gortyn, Gournia, Spinalonga

Wednesday, October 8: Heraklion | Ferry to Santorini | PM at leisure

This morning we return to Heraklion to catch a high-speed ferry to Santorini (a.k.a. Thera), one of the world's most breathtaking islands, dotted with whitewashed houses and churches perched on cliffs nearly 1,000 feet above the sea and its huge, drowned volcanic crater (caldera). After arriving at our hotel on the outskirts of the capital, Fira, lunch and the afternoon are at leisure; explore independently the nearby town center's narrow cobbled streets lined with shops and/or enjoy our hotel's amenities and views. We dine together at a local restaurant this evening. *Two nights at the 5-star [Orama Hotel & Spa](#). (B,D)*



Akrotiri (Santorini)

Thursday, October 9: Akrotiri | Fira: Museum of Prehistoric Thera

Spend the morning exploring Santorini's "Pompeii," the haunting Minoan town of Akrotiri, preserved for millennia under volcanic ash, now excavated and protected with a roof. Navigate the town via wooden walkways among three-storey buildings and traces of life from before the eruption. Drive to Fira for lunch and to explore the superb Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which displays striking frescoes and various artifacts from Akrotiri. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy Fira and/or our hotel's amenities. (B,L)



Phaistos

Friday, October 10: Ferry to Mykonos | PM at leisure

After a relaxed morning (pending the ferry schedule) at our hotel, we take a high-speed ferry from Santorini to the island of Mykonos. Our hotel is located in the center of the island's capital of Chora. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy our hotel's amenities and/or explore independently Chora's many upscale shops, art galleries, and seaside cafés. *Two nights at the 5-star [Semeli Hotel](#). (B)*

Saturday, October 11: Delos | Mykonos: PM at leisure | Farewell dinner

Take a short ferry ride to the nearby sacred island of Delos, legendary birthplace of the twin gods Apollo and Artemis and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Delos was considered the most sacred island in the ancient Aegean, and the entire, albeit small, island is an archaeological site. After a thorough walk around the ruins of the sanctuary of Apollo and the town, as well as a visit to the small site museum, we return to Mykonos by ferry. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, we gather one last time for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Sunday, October 12: Transfer to Mykonos Airport | Fly home

You are met at the hotel for a private transfer to Mykonos Airport (JMK) for your flights homeward. (B)

"[The] intensive educational experience in the company of a fantastic [leadership] team...and interesting fellow tour members was a fantastic experience."

- Susan, Virginia

The AIA and 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.



Santorini

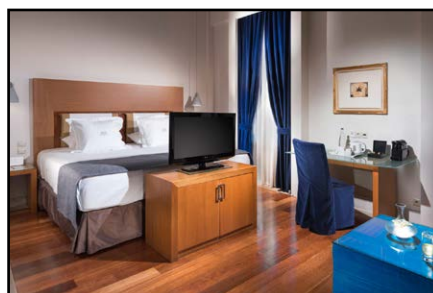


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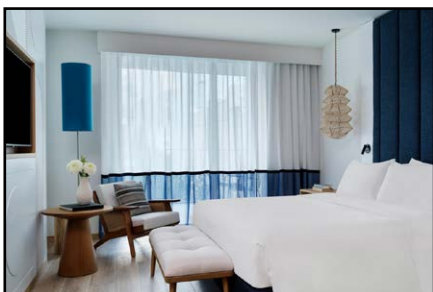
Accommodations



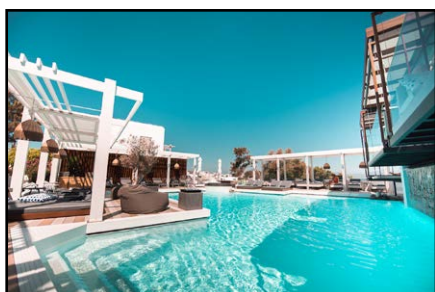
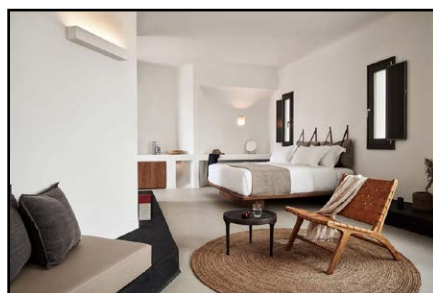
Heraklion: *Four nights at the 5-star [Megaron Hotel](#)*



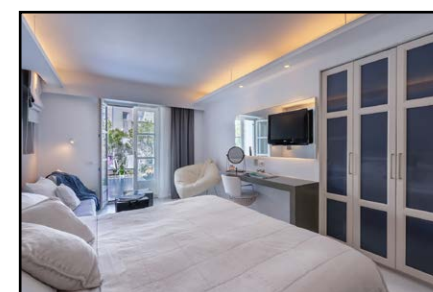
Agios Nikolaos: *Five nights at the 5-star [InterContinental Crete](#)*



Santorini: *Two nights at the 5-star [Orama Hotel & Spa](#)*



Mykonos: *Two nights at the 5-star [Semeli Hotel](#)*



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

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 or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. 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. **Note that there is no portage service on the two high-speed ferries and you will have to trundle your own luggage**, so we advise you not to travel with more than you can handle independently under such conditions. 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 this program is appropriate for you. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Included meals are of a very high quality. Average temperatures in early autumn range from the low 60s F at night to the mid-70s F during the day. *Complete pre-departure details will be sent to participants.*



© M/chernov

Tour Prices Per Person (13 nights)

Double Occupancy (14-16 participants)	\$10,845
Double Occupancy (12-13 participants)	\$11,245
Single Supplement	\$2,495

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).
With fewer than 12 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

Prices Include:

- Leadership of **AIA lecturer/host Joanne Murphy**, a professional **tour manager, and local guides throughout**
- **Thirteen nights at comfortable, well-located, 5-star hotels**
- **Delicious meals:** breakfast daily; 9 lunches; and 6 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners. All meals include bottled water or soft drinks plus coffee/tea, and wine is included with group dinners
- **Excursions and sightseeing** as per itinerary
- Ground transportation by **modern, air-conditioned vehicle**, including bottled water; and **high-speed, business class ferry tickets** between Heraklion and Santorini, and Santorini and Mykonos
- **Private arrival and departure airport transfers**
- **All gratuities** to the tour manager, local guides, drivers, waitstaff for included meals, and hotel porters
- **Baggage handling** at hotels
- **VAT, local taxes, and service charges**
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. Private transfers are included on your arrival at Heraklion International Airport (HER) and for departure from Mykonos Airport (JMK). Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to the tour. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. *We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

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

Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "Eos AIA-Crete9/25." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. *By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure and elsewhere published.*

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure (April 1, 2025) are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received from 179 through 91 days (June 29, 2025) prior to departure forfeit the full deposit of \$1,000 per person. Cancellations received from 90 through 76 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the total tour cost. Cancellations received 75 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, and leader are subject to change. Prices quoted are based on group participation and no refunds will be made for any part of the program in which you choose not to participate. It is understood that refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.

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





Archaeological Institute of America Tours
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite 1, Walpole, NH 03608-0938



*“The tour was a fabulous experience.
Dr. Murphy gave great background lectures
that helped give the sites we visited context...
Every day was both fun and informative...
Amazing experience.”*

- Joan, New Jersey

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Phaistos



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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.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
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RESERVATION FORM

Crete & the Cycladic Islands:
Archaeological Gems of the Aegean

September 28 - October 12, 2025 (15 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Joanne Murphy

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, _____

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 AIA-Crete9/25 Visa Master Card American Express Already paid by phone

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3- or 4-Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Please complete this reservation form, choose/enclose your method of deposit, and sign the release statement.
Submit via email, mail, or fax to:

AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

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

Signature (participant #1) _____ Date _____

Signature (participant #2) _____ Date _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION AGREEMENT

RESPONSIBILITY: The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator and/or its agents (collectively "Sponsors/Operator") do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection, or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illness, epidemics, pandemics, or the threat thereof; the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof; overbooking or downgrading of accommodations; mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation; or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. In addition, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for their own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. **CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsors/Operator shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsors/Operator are not required to cancel any trip for any reason including, without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsors/Operator make the flight arrangements or cancel the trip. Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to substitute hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to embark or disembark transportation vehicles, stand for extended periods, climb stairs, and step over raised thresholds all without assistance. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws, and any participant who refuses to follow protocols may be asked to leave the program with no refunds provided. **REFUNDS:** Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which a participant chooses not to participate. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not complete the tour for any reason, nor to participants whose entry into any country or aboard any transportation vehicle, including airplanes and cruise ships, is delayed or denied. **TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Sponsors/Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part unless trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, in which case the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by Sponsors/Operator, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsors/Operator are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsors/Operator, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. **TRIP INSURANCE:** Sponsors/Operator strongly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance 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 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.