

Carleton College

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world

The Silk Road: Empires of Central Asia

with an optional extension to Iran

October 30 – November 13, 2016 (15 days)

with Carleton faculty leaders Adeeb Khalid and Nancy Wilkie



Bukhara, Uzbekistan

The sites were all remarkable and impressive. The small size of the group was great...

- Tom, Florida

Dear Carleton College Alumni & Friends,

I invite you to join **two Carleton professors**—**Adeeb Khalid**, Jane and Raphael Bernstein Professor of Asian Studies and History, and **Nancy Wilkie**, William H. Laird Professor of Classics, Anthropology, and the Liberal Arts, Emerita—to **retrace the fabled Silk Road** on this exclusive Alumni Adventure **through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan**.

Follow in the footsteps of silk traders, who left China as early as 200 B.C. in great camel caravans for the 5,000-mile trek to the Mediterranean. This was also the road of Alexander the Great and Marco Polo, extending across vast deserts, mountains, and plains. Like the adventurers and merchants who have gone before us, we can **anticipate breathtaking sights and a lively exchange of ideas and cultures** along our route.

Highlights of our journey will include:

- Four incredible UNESCO World Heritage sites:
 - **Bukhara**, Central Asia's most ancient living city,
 - **Shahrisabz**, birthplace of the 14th-century nomadic leader and conqueror Tamerlane,
 - **Samarkand**, where we will admire the impressive Registan Square, Observatory of Ulug Bek, and more,
 - The ancient Parthian site of **Nisa**, where we will be joined by a local archaeologist;
- A full day exploring on foot the ancient Silk Road oasis town of **Khiva**;
- Getting acquainted with **traditional arts and crafts**, with visits to the private studio of a sixth-generation Uzbek ceramicist, and a workshop that hand-crafts paper using 8th-century techniques;
- A day trip to the remote desert city of Nukus for a special visit to the **Savitsky Art Collection**;
- Strolling through **Tashkent's** wide-ranging Chorsu Bazaar, Samarkand's animated Syab Bazaar, and a local Russian bazaar in **Ashkhabad**;
- **Stunning religious monuments and artifacts**, such as Tilla Sheikh Mosque and its partially-preserved Uthman Koran (written on deerskin in the 7th century);
- An **optional, post-tour extension to Iran**, with five UNESCO World Heritage sites (including legendary Persepolis and Pasargadae); city tours of Tehran, Shiraz, and Isfahan; and more!



Professional local guides and a tour manager will meticulously handle all of our travel arrangements, and we will **spend two to three nights at each hotel**, allowing us to relax and learn. I hope you will join our modern caravan, comprising **no more than 25 travelers**, as we set out to follow one of the world's great highways of trade. If you have any questions or wish to make a reservation, please contact the Carleton College Alumni Adventures office at **(800) 811-7244** or carleton@studytours.org.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Smulian, Class of '78
President, Carleton College Alumni Association



Itinerary

B= Breakfast • L= Lunch • D= Dinner

Sunday, October 30, 2016 - Depart Home

Depart home on international flights to Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Monday, October 31 - Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN

Arrive in Tashkent early in the morning and transfer to our elegant hotel in the heart of the city. Check in, get some rest, and have an independent lunch before an afternoon tour of this modern capital city. In the 2nd century B.C. the town was known as Ming Uryuk. A major caravan crossroads, it was taken by the Arabs in A.D. 751 and by Genghis Khan in the 13th century. The Russian Empire arrived in 1865, and Uzbekistan was not an independent country until 1991. Much of the city's architectural history was lost in a huge earthquake in 1966. The city was rebuilt as a model Soviet metropolis. Today, it is a mixture of wide, tree-lined boulevards, 20th-century Soviet buildings, and traces of the old city with mud-walled houses, narrow winding lanes, mosques, and madrassahs. Begin your tour at Independence Square, a spacious, park-like square with fountains, flowerbeds and statues. Continue on to the Shahid Memorial Complex, honoring the innocent martyrs (shahid) killed during Stalin's purges in 1938; and the Courage Monument, honoring the workers who came from all over the Soviet Union to help rebuild the city in the aftermath of the April 1966 earthquake that destroyed 300,000 peoples' homes. Go underground and explore Tashkent's metro, the first in Central Asia, opened in 1977. Each station has a different decorative theme—some with granite and marble, chandeliers, and mosaics—and are meant to be "art galleries for the people." Return to the hotel to freshen up before gathering for a special welcome dinner. *Overnight at Lotte City Tashkent Palace (or similar) for two nights.* (D)

Tuesday, November 1 - Tashkent

Continue exploring Tashkent today, beginning with the 16th-century Kukeldash Madrassah, located on a hill above Chorsu Plaza, part of an ensemble that marked the center of the old town. Visit Chorsu Bazaar, where everything from spices and produce to woodwork and embroidery may be for sale. Stroll through a labyrinth of 19th-century mud-walled houses to Hast Imam Square, where can be found some of the city's oldest monuments, including the 16th-century Qaffal Shashi Mausoleum and Baraq-Khan Madrassah, plus the early 20th-century Tilla Sheikh Mosque, which houses the Uthman Koran, considered by Sunni Muslims to be the world's oldest Koran. Written on deerskin 19 years after the prophet Mohammed's death, only one third (250 bound pages) of the original manuscript remains, and it has been inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Viewing this sacred, 7th-century document is a powerful experience. Continue on to the Museum of Applied Arts, housed in a traditional 19th-century mansion, featuring Uzbek embroidered wall coverings (*suzani*), ceramics, jewelry, rugs, and musical instruments. Also visit the Alisher Navoi Park and Monument, a lovely green park that commemorates the 550th anniversary of the father of the Uzbek language and literature; and the Abul Qasim Madrassah, where a variety of craft workshops produce brilliant lacquer boxes, elaborate Koran stands, painted miniatures, and more. End the day at the private studio of Alisher Rahimov, a sixth-generation Uzbek ceramicist whose family has been making pottery since the 1790s. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before returning to our hotel. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, November 2 - Tashkent | Samarkand

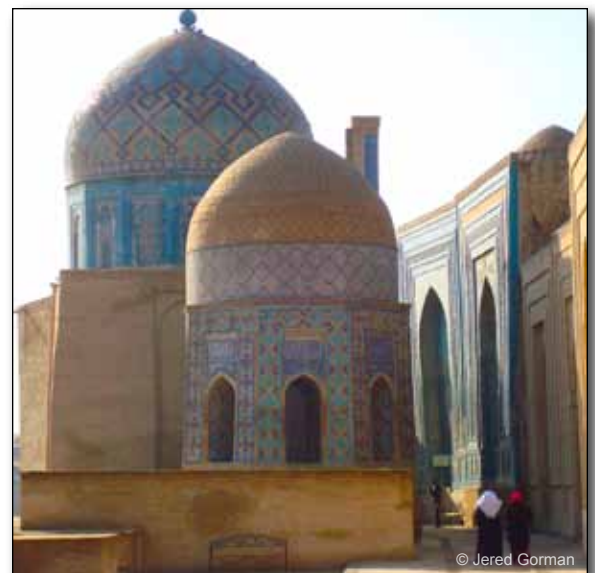
Check out of our hotel this morning and drive along the Great Silk Road, as did the ancient caravans, to Samarkand, a fabled oasis on the fringes of the Kyzyl Kum (Red Sands) Desert, which has been settled since the 6th century B.C. On arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by a short introduction to the city at the Registan, Samarkand's centerpiece and most recognizable landmark, where three emblematic madrassahs (Ulug Bek, Tilla-Qori, and Sher Dor) frame the square. In its reconstruction, the square maintains the majesty that it radiated through the ages. Check in to our four-star hotel and get settled before dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Grand Samarkand Superior Hotel (or similar) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

Thursday, November 3 - Samarkand

Continue exploring Samarkand today, beginning with a visit to the Bibi Khanum Mosque, built by Tamerlane to be the largest mosque in the world and dedicated to the memory of his favorite wife. Architects from India and Persia were brought in to build the mosque, and it is said that 95 elephants were used to transport the marble and other



Above, Lamenting Mother and eternal flame, WWII monument within Independence Square, Tashkent. Below, inner yard of the Kukeldash Madrassah, Tashkent. Bottom, Samarkand.



building materials from India. Across the street from the mosque, browse the animated Syab Bazaar, and then wander the row of tombs and mausoleums collectively called Shah-i-Zinda, or “place of a living king,” stretching from modern Samarkand to the dusty slopes at the edge of what was ancient Afrosiab (Marakanda). Pay a visit to the remains of Ulug Bek’s Observatory, constructed by Tamerlane’s grandson, Ulug Bek. The astronomer-king was fascinated by the stars and the cosmos and built one of the most advanced observatories of the ancient world. Not far from Registan Square is the Gur-Emir Mausoleum, the final resting place of Tamerlane, who had made Samarkand the capital of his empire. It was originally built for his grandson, after the latter’s death at the turn of the 15th century. Our final stop of the day is just outside the city, in the village of Koni Gil, at a workshop (founded in 1997 with the support of UNESCO) where paper is handcrafted using 8th-century techniques. Enjoy a performance by a local dance troupe before dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Friday, November 4 - Samarkand | Shahrissabz | Bukhara

Depart this morning for Bukhara, driving across long stretches of the Kyzyl Kum Desert, once crossed by Silk Road camel caravans and comprised of dunes and saxaul bushes, stopping along the way in Shahrissabz. Here, in the birthplace of Tamerlane, we have lunch and see the ruins of the 14th-century Aq Saray (White Palace), one of Tamerlane’s most ambitious projects. While much of the city is undergoing restoration, we get a taste of the local flavor, visiting its traditional bazaar and the active Mosque of Hazrati Imam (Friday Mosque). Continue on to Bukhara, arriving in the afternoon, and check in to our centrally-located hotel, which used to be a Jewish merchant’s home (and, later, a bakery). This evening we gather and walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. *Overnight at the Amelia Boutique Hotel (or similar) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Saturday, November 5 - Bukhara

Spend the day exploring the old town of Bukhara, Central Asia’s most ancient living city, an excellent place to explore on foot. Begin at Labi-Hauz Plaza, at the center of the old town, and visit the nearby 16th-century Kukeldash Madrassah, the largest Koranic school in Central Asia. Continue on to Poi Kalon, also known as the Bukhara Forum, whose 12th-century assembly includes the Kalon Mosque and Minaret and the Mir-i-Arab Madrassah, surrounding an open plaza teeming with merchants and local vendors. Near the Kalon Mosque is the Ark Citadel, the original fortress of Bukhara, likely dating back two thousand years or more. The current structure has been built and rebuilt on the same site throughout its history. Also visit the Ismail Samani Mausoleum, the 10th-century resting place of the Samanid Dynasty, which was buried under shifting desert sands and not re-discovered until the 20th century. The evening is at leisure, and our local guide will offer suggestions for dinner. (B,L)

Sunday, November 6 - Bukhara

This morning we travel a short distance outside of the city to visit the Summer Palace of the last Emir of Bukhara. Called “the Palace of Moon and Stars,” the Summer Palace is something of a showpiece, as it was a refuge for emirs from the city. Explore its Museum of National Crafts and admire the vivid *suzani*, or embroidered coverlets, for which Uzbekistan is known. Also visit the mausoleum complex of Bahaudin Naqshband, a 14th-century Sufi mystic, the founder of one of the most important Sufi orders in the Muslim world. Lunch and the afternoon are at leisure in Bukhara. This evening, gather for a costume show and folklore concert over dinner at Divan Begi Madrassah. (B,D)

Monday, November 7 - Bukhara | Khiva

Today’s drive to Khiva (approximately six hours) traverses long stretches of the Kyzyl Kum Desert. Stop en route to view the Amu Darya River, which loosely parallels the Uzbek-Turkmen border, and have a picnic lunch at a scenic spot. Arrive in Khiva this evening, check in to our hotel, and have dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight at Asia Khiva Hotel (or similar) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, November 8 - Khiva

Spend the day exploring Khiva on foot. Legend says that the ancient Silk Road oasis of Khiva was founded at the place where Shem, son of Noah, discovered water in the desert, and that the city got its name from Shem’s joyful shout, “Hey va!” at the discovery. Today the living city is part museum town, part re-creation of life hundreds of years ago. Highlights of our walking tour include the walled Old City’s Tash Hauli Palace, once



Above, Ulug Bek’s Observatory, Samarkand.
Below, the remains of Aq Saray palace in Shahrissabz.
Bottom, Bukhara’s Poi Kalon complex.



the home of the khan and his four legal wives; the 9th-century Juma (Friday) Mosque, with an unusual wooden ceiling and 115 carved wood columns; and the Kunya Ark (Old Fortress), originally built in the 12th century as the khan's fortress and residence. Enjoy dinner and a performance in the Old City this evening. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, November 9 - Khiva | Nukus | Khiva

Set out this morning for a day trip to the small city of Nukus, in western Uzbekistan, the capital of the autonomous region of Karakalpakstan. It is home to the Karakalpaks, a Turkic people more closely related to Kazakhs than to Uzbeks. Explore the wonderful Savitsky Art Collection in the Karakalpak State Museum. This remote desert museum houses the incredible life's work of its founder, Igor Savitsky, who was able to amass a collection of thousands of banned avant-garde Russian art pieces without interference from Moscow and keep it hidden from the watchful eyes of the KGB. The story of this collection has been told in the award-winning documentary, "Desert of Forbidden Art." Also included in the museum are exhibits about the culture of the Karakalpaks as expressed in clothing, jewelry and decorative arts. Return to Khiva this evening. (B,L,D)

Thursday, November 10 - Khiva | Tashauz, TURKMENISTAN | Ashkhabad

Depart Khiva for the Turkmen border, where we will change motor coach and driver. In the afternoon, transfer to the Tashauz airport for our hour-long flight to Ashkhabad, over the Kara Kum (Black Sands) Desert. Arrive in Ashkhabad and transfer to our five-star hotel in the city center, and have dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Oguzkent Ashgabat Hotel (or similar) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

Friday, November 11 - Ashkhabad

In spite of its location on a trade route, Ashkhabad never achieved the status and influence of other Silk Road cities like Khiva or Bukhara. Originally known as Konjikala, the city was destroyed by Mongols in the 13th century, the Russians built a fortress on the site in the late 19th century, and by the early 20th century Ashkhabad was a prosperous, flourishing city. The city was leveled by a massive earthquake in 1948, but recently has seen a boom in new construction. Begin our exploration of the city at a local Russian Bazaar and then visit the National Museum of History and Ethnography, featuring exhibits of ancient artifacts, weapons, carpets, jewelry, and the country's flora and fauna. Take a sojourn outside of the city to a horse-breeding farm devoted to the renowned Akhal-Teke horse, arguably the world's oldest cultured horse breed, and the owner will show us around and tell us about the workings of the farm and the breed itself. Return to Ashkhabad and gather for dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Saturday, November 12 - Ashkhabad | Nisa | Ashkhabad

This morning we drive fifteen miles outside of Ashkhabad to visit the site of the ancient Parthian Kingdom of Nisa, in the company of a local archaeologist. The beautiful Kopet-Dag Mountains rise up around the site, once a major center of the Kingdom. Though Nisa was ruled by a succession of dynasties, it remained an important center in the ancient world until the 13th century, when the Mongols sacked it. Today, archaeological work continues at Nisa, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2007. On our way back to Ashkhabad we stop at Kipchak Mosque, a \$100-million-dollar mosque that accommodates 10,000 people and is capped by a 164-foot golden dome. Enjoy a farewell lunch with musical entertainment at a local restaurant. Drive past the Lenin Monument, New Mosque, Turkmen-Turkish Cultural Center, and the magnificent President Palace Square. The evening is at leisure in Ashkhabad, in preparation for an early morning departure. (B,L)

Sunday, November 13 - Ashkhabad | HOME OR Mashad, IRAN

Take an early morning transfer to the airport for flights homeward, or (for those who are continuing on the Iran post-tour extension) take a short drive from Ashkhabad to Mashad, on the Iranian border.



Above, city walls of Bukhara. Below (2), the remains of the fortress of Nisa, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Bottom, Khiva.



Carleton College Faculty Leaders



Adeb Khalid, Jane and Raphael Bernstein Professor of Asian Studies and History, has taught at Carleton since 1993. Although he teaches broadly in Russian/Soviet and Ottoman history, his scholarly work is focused on Central Asia. He is one of the world's leading authorities on the modern history of the region, having written three books on the period since the Russian conquest of the mid-nineteenth century. He speaks Russian and Uzbek and has spent extensive amounts of time in Central Asia since his trip to Samarkand and Bukhara in 1985. He lived in Tashkent in 2000-01 and has clocked many miles traveling around the region. *Making Uzbekistan: Nation, Empire, and Revolution in the Early USSR* was recently published by Cornell University Press.



Nancy Wilkie is a distinguished archaeologist and professor who has led numerous study tours throughout Asia and the Mediterranean. Nancy is William H. Laird Professor of Classics, Anthropology, and the Liberal Arts, Emerita, at Carleton and served as co-coordinator of Carleton's Archaeology Concentration. From 1998-2002 she served as President of the Archaeological Institute of America, and in 2009-10 she was the AIA's Charles Eliot Norton lecturer, one of the highest honors that the Institute bestows. In April 2003 the President appointed Nancy to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee of the U.S. State Department on which she continues to serve. The Committee reviews requests from foreign governments for the protection of their cultural property and recommends a course of action to the U.S. State Department. In April 2013 she was elected President of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, an organization dedicated to the protection of cultural property in times of armed conflict. Nancy has directed archaeological projects in Greece, Egypt, and Nepal and has lectured on travel programs worldwide, including a program to Uzbekistan.

Optional Post-Tour Extension: IRAN

November 13 – 20, 2016 (8 days)

On this in-depth extension, travel from Mashad, home to one of Iran's most sacred shrines, to Shiraz, stopping along the way in the capital city of Tehran and beautiful Isfahan. At the crossroads of East and West, ancient Persia (modern Iran) nurtured a host of civilizations and attracted numerous invaders that left behind remarkable monuments and cultural treasures. We will admire five UNESCO World Heritage sites: Isfahan's magnificent Imam Square (Meidan Imam); the treasured classical Persian gardens of Bagh-e Fin and Eram Garden; the fascinating ruins of the 6th-century B.C. cities of Pasargadae and Persepolis; and Tehran's Golestan Palace, comprising several palatial buildings around a cool, green garden. Also admire magnificent mosques, madrassahs, and shrines; explore lively bazaars, exquisite museum collections, and Isfahan's Armenian Quarter; and experience the genuine warmth and hospitality of the Iranian people.

Extension itinerary and price will be provided with main tour deposit confirmation or upon request.



Above, Persepolis. Below, Isfahan's Imam Square.





What to Expect

You must be in good physical health to participate in this program. This itinerary features a significant amount of walking. Many streets are of packed dirt, and some attractions are only accessible via steep staircases with tall, uneven steps. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day, unassisted, keeping up with fellow travelers. 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.

While the accommodations are as comfortable as possible for the region, they will vary from four- and five-star properties to relatively basic, simple hotels. It is important to keep in mind that facilities in Central Asia are generally not up to most North American travelers' standards. Services are improving, but the infrastructure is not yet fully developed and you may encounter problems with plumbing, bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces/steps, variety of locally available foods, and/or availability and quality of public restrooms. Flexibility, a sense of humor, enjoyment of group travel, and a willingness to accept cultural differences and local standards of amenities are essential components to the full appreciation of this trip.

In November, the weather is somewhat parched with occasional rain, sleet or snow. Average daytime temperatures are in the mid-40s to mid-50s F. Evening temperatures can dip down to the mid-30s F.

Complete pre-departure details, what to bring with you, and what to expect will be sent to participants.

Air Arrangements

Airfare is not included in the tour cost. Please contact MIR Corp. at (toll free) (855) 691-7903 for assistance with making your flight arrangements. If you choose to arrange your flights independently, please check with Alumni Adventures before booking non-refundable airline tickets. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.

Main Tour Pricing (per person)

DOUBLE Occupancy\$6,395

SINGLE Supplement (*limited availability*)\$995

Prices based on a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 participants.

RATES INCLUDE:

- Carleton College Faculty Leaders Adeeb Khalid and Nancy Wilkie;
- Accommodations in first-class and best available hotels as indicated in the itinerary;
- Most meals, as noted in the itinerary (with bottled water or tea/coffee);
- Special welcome and farewell dinners, including beer and wine;
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on the group arrival and departure dates;
- Flight within the program: Tashauz-Ashkhabad;
- All transportation by private motorcoach for overland travel days, including bottled water;
- All sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary;
- Local English-speaking guides throughout;
- Services of a professional Tour Manager throughout;
- Gratuities to drivers, local guides, and Tour Manager;
- Baggage handling at hotels and airports where available;
- Complete pre-departure materials.

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; transportation of excess baggage; meals other than those listed in the itinerary; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; alcoholic or other beverages except as noted above; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

PASSENGER CANCELLATION PENALTIES: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least ninety one (91) days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) per person. Cancellations received between sixty one (61) and ninety (90) days prior to departure are subject to a fee equal to fifty percent (50%) of the tour cost. Cancellations received sixty (60) days or less before departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the tour cost. ***Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. (An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.)***

Prices, itinerary and leaders 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 passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.



Carleton College

ALUMNI ADVENTURES
EXPLORE THE WORLD

For questions and to make a reservation please contact us at:

800-811-7244

Fax: 603-756-2922 • Toll: 603-756-4844

Email: carleton@studytours.org • Website: go.carleton.edu/adventures

P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608



Terms & Conditions

Name 1: _____ Carleton Class of: _____

Name 2: _____ Carleton Class of: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (h) _____

Phone (w) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Email _____

I/We have read the 'What to Expect' section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Enroll me/us in the post-tour extension to Iran.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Double (*one bed*) Twin (*two beds*) Single

I will be sharing with: _____

Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a Non-smoker Smoker

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. You will receive an invoice for final payment.

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 Passenger Account-CAA SilkRoad10-16

Visa Master Card American Express

CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 or 4 Digit Code _____

Name on Card _____

Please complete this reservation form, sign the release statement below, enclose your deposit, and mail or fax to:

Carleton College Alumni Adventures

P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 • Fax: 603-756-2922

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Terms & Conditions on the reverse and throughout.

The U.S. Department of State currently has in place a Travel Warning for Iran. **As a condition of acceptance, each extension participant must agree to and sign the following statement:** I/We understand that the U.S. Dept. of State currently has a Travel Warning in place for Iran, and that the program will go forward as scheduled unless the U.S. Dept. of State recommends that U.S. citizens defer travel to Iran during the time of the program. I/We understand that the Travel Warning issued

November 21, 2013/updated August 5, 2015 does not recommend that U.S. citizens defer travel to Iran. If the program is cancelled because U.S. citizens are not able to travel to Iran, a full refund will be provided to confirmed participants.

A copy of this Travel Warning is available on request from our office, or may be obtained from the Dept. of State's website: <http://travel.state.gov>

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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 passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **RESPONSIBILITY:** Carleton College and its agent, Eos Study Tours (hereinafter "Sponsors"), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter "Operator") assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itinerary changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger 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 us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that Carleton College bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant's purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. **Itinerary:** Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices. **AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY:** RELEASE: Notwithstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has carefully read the list of activities, requirements and conditions as listed in the brochure and application for the tour and is/are aware that the tour and its activities involve the risk of personal injury or death and damage or loss of property. In consideration of the benefits to be derived from participation in the tour, the signatory voluntarily accepts all risk of personal injury or death and property damage or other loss arising from participation on the tour and hereby agrees that he/she and his/her dependents, heirs, executors and assigns, do release and hold harmless Sponsors and the employees, officers, directors, trustees or representatives of Sponsors, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, illness, personal injury, death or property damage or loss, however caused, arising from or related to this tour. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.