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# Carleton

## ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world

# CYCLING

## the Italian & Swiss Lakes

*Lakes Orta, Maggiore, Lugano, and Como*

**June 25-July 5, 2022 (11 days | 16 guests)**

with Carleton Professors David Tompkins & Scott Carpenter



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# Carleton

ALUMNI ADVENTURES  
*Explore the world*

Dear Carleton College Alumni & Friends,

I am delighted to invite you to join Carleton alumni on this active program to **explore four stunning Italian and Swiss lakes** with a group of 16 fellow Carls, two expert English-speaking cycling guides, plus **two Carleton faculty leaders who enjoy cycling in their free time: David Tompkins**, Associate Professor of History and Director of European Studies, and **Scott Carpenter**, Marjorie Crabb Garbisch Professor of French and the Liberal Arts.

Enjoy **magnificent lake and mountain scenery** while cycling and during several ferry rides. Cycle between charming towns and along country roads (from 18 to 41 miles per day for seven of the tour days). Each day, your two expert cycling guides will handle the logistics while you cycle, experience, and learn. During evening discussions, as you unwind from a day of pedaling and exploring, David will address topics in the region's history and culture, and Scott will discuss travel writing and notions of cultural identity in Europe.

Quality bikes are included (electric bikes are available), and you will stay in comfortable, 4-star hotels for nine nights with just one single-night hotel stay. Hike up the **Sacro Monte di Orta**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cycle through the diverse landscapes of **Lagoni di Mercurago Natural Park**. Sample wines, grappa, gelato, cappuccino, chocolate, and fine local fare.

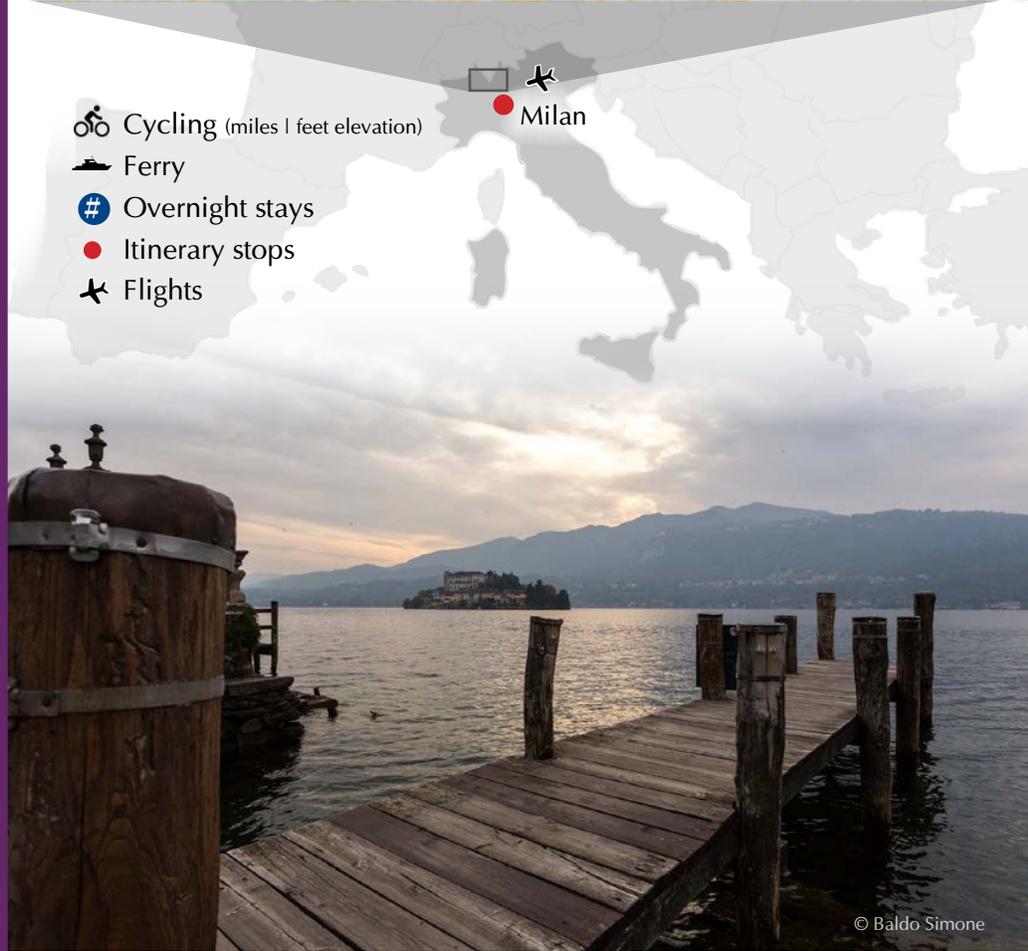
Other highlights include guided walks and independent time in **picturesque towns**; **medieval cathedrals and churches** adorned with frescoes; the imposing castle of **Rocca d'Angera**; the "hanging" **monastery of Santa Caterina del Sasso**; and the 12<sup>th</sup>-century **Santa Maria di Piona Abbey**, a masterpiece of Lombard architecture.

If you enjoy cycling and wish to do so along the spectacular lakes of northern Italy and southern Switzerland, I recommend that you contact the Alumni Adventures office today, as **this program is limited to only 16 Carls and friends**.

Sincerely,

Amy Bevilacqua '89

President, Carleton Alumni Council



- Cycling (miles | feet elevation)
- Ferry
- Overnight stays
- Itinerary stops
- Flights

### Bicycle Rental Options



**Turro 20-speed bicycle**  
(included in tour pricing)



**Turro electric bicycle**  
(additional fee)

# Carleton Faculty Leaders



**David Tompkins** is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of European Studies at Carleton College, where he teaches a broad range of courses on European history. In his own research, he specializes in the culture and

societies of Central Europe. David spent his undergraduate years at Rice University and did his graduate work at Columbia University. He has lived for extended periods in Europe, and traveled there extensively. A marathon runner and cycling enthusiast, David has been on extended bike tours in France, Italy, and Central Europe. He has led four previous alumni tours to Europe, including a cycling trip in the Czech Republic and Austria. During evening discussions, David will talk about the history and culture of northern Italy, the rise of populism in Europe, and the history and future of the European Union.



**Scott D. Carpenter**, Marjorie Crabb Garbisch Professor of French and the Liberal Arts, is an old hand at traipsing through Europe. In addition to spending several years in France, he has accompanied students to Madrid

and Berlin, taught in Copenhagen, and sojourned repeatedly in Venice. At Carleton, Scott teaches French language and literature, as well as a course in creative travel writing for the Cross-Cultural Studies Program. With five academic books under his belt (dealing primarily with 19<sup>th</sup>-century literature), he also engages in creative writing—most recently with his travel memoir, *French Like Moi: A Midwesterner in Paris*. During this trip, Scott looks forward to evening discussions about travel writing, the role of study abroad in the Carleton education, and notions of cultural identity within Europe. Serving as a counterpoint to his younger and fitter co-leader, Scott plans to draft off the cyclists ahead of him.



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View from Santa Caterina del Sasso Monastery

## ITINERARY

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

### **Saturday, June 25, 2022: Fly to Milan**

Depart home today on flights to Milan, Italy.

### **Sunday, June 26: Arrive in Milan, Italy | Private transfer to hotel on Lake Orta | Welcome dinner**

Upon arrival at Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP), you are met for a private transfer to our hotel on Lake Orta's charming shore. Enjoy time to relax and perhaps explore the village of Orta and Orta San Giulio Island, whose basilica houses vibrant frescoes. This evening we gather for a welcome reception and dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hotel San Rocco](#) for two nights.* (R,D)

### **Monday, June 27: Lake Orta Cycling | Sacro Monte di Orta**

This morning we cycle all around Lake Orta, through charming villages like Legro, the "painted hamlet," and to fascinating tiny churches such as San Filiberto in Pella, with striking views of the lake, the island, and Mount Rosa. We cap off our day exploring the Sacro Monte di Orta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to the memory of Saint Francis of Assisi. Dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

*Distance covered: 28 miles (Altitude gain: 2,165 ft / loss: 2,165 ft) *

### **Tuesday, June 28: Cycling from Lake Orta to Lake Maggiore | Lagoni di Mercurago Natural Park | Angera | Ranco**

On our way to Lake Maggiore we cycle south along Lake Orta through the diverse landscapes of Lagoni di Mercurago Natural Park with its swamps, pastures, horse stables, and archaeological sites. We continue cycling to the medieval town of Angera, where we taste grappa, one of the most renowned Italian spirits, from a local historical distillery. Continue on to our hotel in nearby Ranco, where we have the opportunity to swim and relax on the Lake's beaches. Dinner is at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Il Sole di Ranco](#) hotel.* (B,L)

*Distance covered: 35 miles (Altitude gain: 1,970 ft / loss: 2,300 ft) *

COVER: (top) Lugano, Switzerland; (bottom) Orta San Giulio Island on Lake Orta; (right) a bicycle in Italy



© The G



© Torsade de Pointes



© Gabriele Leonardy



© Martin Gallman

Photos: (top to bottom) Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore, Santa Caterina del Sasso Monastery, historic center in Orta, sculpture on Isola Madre

### Wednesday, June 29: Rocca d'Angera | Cycle Lake Maggiore | Santa Caterina del Sasso Monastery | Luino

Explore the majestic Rocca d'Angera, a castle on a spur of rock that dominates the southern shores of Lake Maggiore. Cycle along the shores of the lake to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso, clinging to the rock face along the lake. After visiting this beautiful monastery we stop for a light lunch at a traditional *locanda* (typical, cozy restaurant) to enjoy a tasting of local cheese, cold meats, and honey. Continue cycling through the picturesque village of Laveno to our hotel in Luino. (If the weather allows, there will be time to explore the local beaches.) Dinner is at leisure. *Overnight at the 4-star [Camin Hotel Colmegna](#) for two nights.* (B,L)

*Distance covered: 29 miles*  
*(Altitude gain: 1,150 ft / loss: 1,150 ft)* 🚲

### Thursday, June 30: Day at leisure

Today is at leisure to explore Lake Maggiore on your own. You might consider strolling through the charming town of Luino, relaxing on the hotel's private beach, or taking the ferry to the lake's Borromeo Islands to discover the majesty of Isola Madre; the simple Isola Superiore, also known as Isola dei Pescatori (Fishermen's Island); and/or the amazing palace and botanical gardens of Isola Bella. (B)

### Friday, July 1: Lugano, Switzerland: walking tour | Lenno, Italy

Depart Luino this morning and cycle across the Swiss border. Stop in Lugano, on the shore of iconic Lake Lugano, where we take a walking tour of the city with a local guide. After an independent lunch we will gather to enjoy a chocolate tasting at the historical Caffé Vanini on a picturesque square in the city center. Cycle to Lenno, where we end the day in this charming town on the shore of Lake Como. *Overnight at the 4-star [Albergo Lenno](#) for four nights.* (B,D)

*Distance covered: 41 miles (Altitude gain: 1,150 / loss: 1,020 ft)* 🚲



©Corradox

A street in Luino

**Saturday, July 2: Ferry to Bellagio | Villa Melzi | Como | Ferry to Lenno**

We cross Lake Como by ferry to visit charming Bellagio, where we enjoy a cappuccino and then explore the botanical gardens of Villa Melzi. Cycling south along Lake Como, we stop at a local restaurant for lunch en route to the city of Como. In Como we will have time to discover the city's main sights, such as the remarkable Renaissance Cathedral, with a local guide before returning to Lenno by ferry. Dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

*Distance covered: 21 miles*

*(Altitude gain: 1,020 ft / loss: 1,020 ft) 🚲*

**Sunday, July 3: Villa del Balbianello | Cycle to Como | Ferry to Lenno**

Walk from our hotel to the Villa del Balbianello. Built for a prominent Italian family in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the mansion has a spectacular view of the lake and a magnificent garden. After lunch, on our way to the city of Como by bicycle, we take a relaxing break at a traditional gelateria to try to learn the secrets of real Italian gelato. From Como we take the ferry back to Lenno, where dinner is at leisure. (B,L)

*Distance covered: 18 miles (Altitude gain: 885 ft / loss: 885 ft) 🚲*

**Monday, July 4: Cycle to Colico | Wine cellar | Santa Maria di Piona Abbey | Lenno | Farewell dinner**

This morning we cycle around the northern side of Lake Como to Colico. En route we stop at a local wine cellar to taste some of the area's excellent wines and to enjoy a light lunch with local products. When we arrive at Colico we visit the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Cistercian Santa Maria di Piona Abbey, a masterpiece of Lombard architecture. We then return to Lenno by ferry, our last opportunity to take in the lake's beautiful views. Gather for a farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

*Distance covered: 36 miles (Altitude gain: 1,800 ft / loss: 1,800 ft) 🚲*

**Tuesday, July 5: Private transfer to the airport | Fly home**

Take private individual transfers to Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP) in time for flights homeward. (B)



Photos: Top, Santa Maria di Piona Abbey; Middle, Lake Como Ferry; Bottom, a lagoon on Lake Como



Villa del Balbianello, Lenno

**Flights & Transfers**

Airfare from/to home is not included. Individual transfers are included on your arrival to and departure from Milan Malpensa Airport (MXP). 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.*



© Jonathan Reichel

## What to Expect

Cycling experience and a reasonable level of fitness is required for this program, which combines local sightseeing with leisurely cycling on terrain that is generally flat or gently to moderately rolling with some short hills. **Seven of our touring days will involve cycling, with an average daily cycling distance of about 30 miles.** While no advanced *technical* cycling skills are required, at times there will be some climbs during rides; daily distances and elevations are estimated in the enclosed itinerary. Although they are no substitutes for cycling experience and/or physical fitness, electric bicycles are available at an additional cost and will assist riders on hills and enable guests to cycle together more easily. Most cycling will be on quiet roads, but sometimes there may be traffic. The majority of the road surfaces will be tarmac, but some surfaces may be wet or rough. At times you will need to cross a busy road in order to reach a quieter route on the other side. A helmet will be provided, and you are required to wear it at all times while cycling. Durable, comfortable clothing, including proper cycling attire, is essential on this program.

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. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/ Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If our cycling guides decide that a participant cannot join an excursion, or complete a cycling route safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. There will be a support van available for a limited number of participants who may need to skip a cycling leg in order to reach the next planned destination, and to allow flexibility for unplanned events. 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. The actual itinerary is subject to variables such as the abilities and interests of the group and local weather conditions. Our two expert, English-speaking cycling guides know the region very well, and will assess each day's route and brief the group in advance on planned routes and expected conditions. Average daytime temperatures in late June/early July range from the mid 60s to low 80s F, with a chance of precipitation. *Complete pre-departure details, such as what to take with you and more of what to expect, will be sent to participants.*

## Accommodations



Spend two nights at the 4-star [Hotel San Rocco](#) in Orta on Lake Orta.



Spend one night at the 4-star [Il Sole di Ranco](#) hotel in Ranco on Lake Maggiore.



Spend two nights at the 4-star [Camin Hotel Colmegna](#) in Luino on Lake Maggiore.



Spend four nights at the 4-star [Albergo Lenno](#) in Lenno on Lake Como.

## Tour Prices Per Person (9 nights)

DOUBLE Occupancy (14-16 participants) .....	\$6,495
DOUBLE Occupancy (12-13 participants) .....	\$7,145
DOUBLE Occupancy (10-11 participants) .....	\$7,345
SINGLE Supplement .....	\$845

*Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability).*

*With fewer than 10 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

### Prices Include:

- Carleton College faculty leaders **David Tompkins** and **Scott Carpenter**
- Two expert **cycling guides** and services of local guides throughout
- **Accommodations for nine nights in 4-star hotels** as indicated in the itinerary
- **Rental of appropriate touring bicycle** (electric option available at additional cost) with helmet, bicycle bag, route map, and mounted water bottle
- In-program **ferry tickets**
- **Individual arrival and departure airport transfers**
- **High quality meals** including breakfast daily; 6 lunches; and 3 dinners with water, wine, and coffee/tea, which include welcome and farewell receptions and dinners
- **Special culinary events** such as tastings of Swiss chocolate, cappuccino, gelato, grappa, and wine
- **Energy bars and hydrating drinks** provided on cycling days
- **Support van** to transport luggage, bicycle repair supplies, and bicycles as needed; with water and hand sanitizer available at all times
- **All sightseeing and excursions**, entrance fees, VAT, local taxes, and service charges as per itinerary
- **All gratuities** to cycling guides, local guides, drivers, waiters (for included meals), and porters
- **Baggage handling** where available
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list.

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

**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-Passenger Account-CAA ItalyCycling6/22.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure and elsewhere published.

**Participant Cancellation Fees:** All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure are fully refunded. Cancellations received between 179 and 90 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of \$250 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. *For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.*

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

Prices, itinerary, accommodations, 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 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 [carleton.edu/alumni/adventures](http://carleton.edu/alumni/adventures).



PO Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608



*“Traveling with Carls makes all travel more enjoyable.” - David, California*

# CYCLING

the Italian & Swiss Lakes  
*Lakes Orta, Maggiore, Lugano, and Como*

**June 25-July 5, 2022 (11 days | 16 guests)**  
with Carleton Professors David Tompkins & Scott Carpenter

# CYCLING

the Italian & Swiss Lakes  
*Lakes Orta, Maggiore, Lugano, and Como*





# Cycling the Italian & Swiss Lakes

June 25-July 5, 2022 (11 days | 16 guests)

with Carleton Professors David Tompkins & Scott Carpenter

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-811-7244 or [carleton@studytours.org](mailto:carleton@studytours.org).

Participant Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Carleton Class of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it appears on passport)

Participant Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Carleton Class of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(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, \_\_\_\_\_

**Bicycle Preference (participant #1)**  Torro 20-Speed Bicycle  Torro Electric Bicycle  Undecided (Please send me more information)

**Bicycle Preference (participant #2)**  Torro 20-Speed Bicycle  Torro Electric Bicycle  Undecided (Please send me more information)

Personal bicycles may be used (restrictions apply). Electric bicycles are available at an additional cost.

Please contact us at 800-811-7244 for more information.

### 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. 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 ItalyCycling6/22  Visa  Master Card  American Express  Already paid by phone

CC# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-Digit Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Carleton Alumni Adventures - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938**

**Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: [carleton@studytours.org](mailto:carleton@studytours.org)**

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

If submitting this form electronically, please check the following box:

I understand that checking this box constitutes a legal signature confirming that I acknowledge and agree to the Terms & Conditions.

Signature (participant #1) \_\_\_\_\_ Time and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (participant #2) \_\_\_\_\_ Time and Date \_\_\_\_\_

Submit via email

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS,  
RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT**

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Carleton College 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 Alumni Adventures' 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 Alumni Adventures promotions; no compensation is available for appearing in a trip photo used for promotional purposes. **ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and accepts the terms contained in these Terms and Conditions, Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Binding Arbitration Agreement.