



Carleton College

GALAPAGOS

Darwin's Enchanted Isles aboard the 16-Cabin *M/V Evolution* with Carleton Professor of Biology Matthew Rand November 30-December 9, 2018 (10 days)

Optional Machu Picchu & Cusco Extension December 9-15, 2018 (7 days)



Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to **join Carleton Professor of Biology Matt Rand** for an extraordinary adventure to a "living laboratory of evolution," the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage site. So rare are the Islands' species **that virtually all of their reptiles, and half of their plant and bird species, are not found anywhere else in the world**. Charles Darwin's exploration of the region in 1835—and the strange life forms he encountered there—sparked his theory of evolution. His resulting thesis, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, altered the course of biological science.

Carleton College

You will be captivated by the lunar-like landscapes, mist-covered volcanic peaks, green and red sand beaches, and forests of prickly pear and cactus that grow taller than people. The marine environment of the Galapagos Islands contains a wide variety of habitats from coral reefs to mangrove lagoons. An uncommon mix of cold and warm-water marine life, dolphins, fur seals, hammerhead sharks, and whales share the same environment.

Untouched by humans until the modern era, **animals of the Galapagos never learned to fear humans**. Where else can you swim with a penguin on the equator? Snorkel with a sea lion in a secluded bay? Or come close to a bird who won't fly away? See colonies of sea birds; comical blue-footed boobies performing a courtship dance; puffed, crimson-throated frigate birds showing off for their mates; waved albatrosses by the hundreds; and the world's pinkest flamingos.

Staffed by an experienced captain and friendly crew, our **spacious**, **16-cabin motor yacht** *M/V Evolution* **provides both generous comfort and safety in remote areas.** The onboard naturalist team is rated at the **highest level** (Level 3) by Galapagos National Park.

We hope you will join fellow Carls and Professor Rand for this unforgettable Carleton learning adventure to the spectacular "Enchanted Isles."

Sincerely, Jack Ladree Maris '85

Sarah Ladner Maris '85 President, Carleton College Alumni Association





A VISUAL FEAST

Galapagos is a canvas splashed with a variety of brilliant hues. It is a visual feast of chocolate chip sea stars, prehistoric marine iguanas, 500-pound tortoises with shell shapes that vary from islandto-island, flamboyant Sally Lightfoot crabs and the jewel-hued feet of blue-footed and red-footed boobies. This is an archipelago boasting 77 endemic species — animals that are found only here.









AN INTIMATE NATURE EXPERIENCE

Thirteen major islands, six minor islands and 42 volcanic islets make up Ecuador's Galapagos Archipelago, and while most of these islands are known by both English and Spanish names, you'll find the landscapes and wildlife on each isle to be singularly enchanting. The islands' compelling wildlife inspired Darwin and will do the same for you.



CARLETON COLLEGE FACULTY LEADER

Dr. Matthew Rand, Professor of Biology, has been teaching courses in animal behavior, physiology, morphology, and reproduction, including a non-majors course on human reproduction and sexuality, at Carleton College for the past twenty years. In 2002 and 2009, he offered off-campus courses on animal behavior in the Galápagos Islands to Carleton students, and he has led three previous alumni trips to the Galápagos. Matt believes that the Islands provide one of the best environments on Earth in which to observe animal behavior with a unique and diverse set of organisms. This will be his seventh visit to the Galápagos, where he will facilitate an appreciation for this extraordinary opportunity to view animal behavior under natural conditions.



SLIP UNDER THE WAVES TO A RICH UNDERSEA WORLD

Life below the cool Pacific waves is unimaginably rich, with more than 3,000 species of marine plants and animals calling these waters home. Beneath the sea, golden rays and white-tipped reef sharks swim just feet away. Playful sea lions encourage you to dive and roll with them during snorkeling excursions. The cool Humboldt and Cromwell currents carry oxygen and nutrients, even making it possible for the Galapagos penguin to live quite happily on the Equator.



EXPERT LOCAL NATURALIST GUIDES

So intensely protected is the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve that visitors are prohibited from visiting 97% of the islands without the guidance of a licensed naturalist. Beyond just "visiting" the islands, we want you to reach a deeper understanding. That's why we've selected guides who are natives of the islands, licensed at the highest level (Level 3) by the park, and have decades of experience.



Only on this Galapagos Expedition can you enjoy the combination of an in-depth, naturalist-guided expedition and the Galapagos' largest cabins and outdoor spaces, all aboard an intimate, classically-styled yacht.

A SMALL SHIP FOR A SELECT FEW

Other companies have ships carrying 48-100 guests while some sail on cramped, uncomfortable 16-passenger boats. Only the *Evolution* is uniquely sized to offer just 32 guests an opportunity for intimate exploration of the islands without sacrificing gracious outdoor spaces. In fact, with an open-air bar, hot tub, indoor and outdoor dining areas as well as two sun decks, the *Evolution* offers guests more open-air public space than any boat in her class!

THE LARGEST CABINS IN THE GALAPAGOS

Ranging from 143 to 263 square feet, the oversized cabins aboard the *Evolution* are the largest on average of any ship in the islands.

EVERY DAY IS A HIGHLIGHT

Our Galapagos experience includes an astounding list of highlights that combine to make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Island excursions like snorkeling, kayaking and picnicking in the lush highlands blend with time onboard spent dancing to the tunes of a local band and savoring snacks and exotic juices after every excursion.

TRAVEL WITH THE HIGHEST RATED GALAPAGOS GUIDES

Your guides not only grew up in the islands but they are rated at the highest level (Level 3) by Galapagos National Park. You gain insight only a local can offer and benefit from their 10+ years of field experience.



GALAPAGOS VOYAGE ITINERARY

Friday, November 30, 2018 - ARRIVE GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR Fly independently to Guayaquil, Ecuador, and transfer to the *Hotel Oro Verde*. (Meals Aloft)

Saturday, December 1 - GUAYAQUIL | SAN CRISTOBAL | ISLA LOBOS

Fly to the islands and board the *Evolution*. Snorkel with sea lions at Isla Lobos as well as watch boobies and frigatebirds. Enjoy a sunset stroll with view of Kicker Rock. (B,L,D)

Sunday, December 2 - SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND | MOSQUERA ISLAND

At only 426 feet wide, South Plaza is one of the smallest islands in the archipelago. Look for yellow land iguanas on a walk to a grove of prickly-pear cactus. Non-hikers can enjoy a Zodiac ride, watching for swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds and blue-footed boobies. Enjoy snorkeling with sea turtles at Punta Carrion. Since there is no true trail on Mosquera Island you are able to stroll at your leisure. (B,L,D)

Monday, December 3 - SOMBRERO CHINO ISLAND | PUERTO EGAS, SANTIAGO ISLAND

The tiny uplifted island of Sombrero Chino — or Chinese Hat — features a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble and lava tubes. The "land" is made of a few adjacent craters and old, fragile pahoehoe lava flows. Vegetation is just starting to take hold, including colorful carpetweed plants. Enjoy a Zodiac ride and swim before lunch. This afternoon, search the tide pools of Puerto Egas for sea life. During low tide, we may see marine iguanas feeding on algae. Our naturalists will point out the birdlife, including great blue herons, lava herons, oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, December 4 - GENOVESA ISLAND

Genovesa is often referred to as "Bird Island" for the vast numbers of pelagic seabirds that come here to nest. And while Genovesa harbors one of the Galapagos' largest and most diverse bird populations, there are no land reptiles — with the exception of some very small marine iguanas.





This is due to the direction of the ocean currents, which couldn't carry the terrestrial animals here. Climb Prince Philip's Steps to an area with colonies of red-footed boobies. Watch for short-eared owls which feed on the petrals that fly about. Explore Darwin Bay, home to the rare lava gull. While anchored at Genovesa, enjoy an opportunity to swim, kayak and snorkel in the calm caldera of this partially eroded volcano. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, December 5 - NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND | SANTA FE ISLAND

North Seymour is the nesting site for a large population of magnificent frigatebirds and the only place where we can always find males showing their red pouches to attract females. Plus, we are sure to see blue-footed boobies perform their comical courtship dance in the open areas. Hike to a scenic lagoon, where we may observe Galapagos hawks, mockingbirds and a variety of Darwin's finches. You may kayak and snorkel from the beach. (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 6 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Begin our day in the forested highlands, with ample opportunity to see and photograph giant tortoises in the wild. Stop at a family run farm before learning about the work being done to study and preserve wildlife at Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center at the Darwin Research Center. (B,L,D)

Friday, December 7 - FLOREANA ISLAND

Swim and kayak in the bay before a walk along the olivine beaches of Punta Cormorant. After hiking to a flamingo lagoon, spot fish and sea turtles during a relaxing stroll along the beach. Enjoy superb snorkeling at Devil's Crown, where sea water has filled the sunken cone of an extinct volcano. Hike to Post Office Bay, once used by navigators to send mail with homebound messengers. (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 8 - GALAPAGOS | GUAYAQUIL

Enjoy a Zodiac ride through Black Turtle Cove, drifting silently through this area of mangroves. Fly to Guayaquil, with time to relax at the *Hotel Oro Verde*. (B,L Aloft)

Sunday, December 9 - DEPART GUAYAQUIL

Board flights home or continue on for the optional extension. (B, Meals Aloft)

All itineraries are subject to approval by the Galapagos National Park and may vary according to changes in park regulations.









OPTIONAL EXTENSION: MACHU PICCHU AND CUSCO

Sunday, December 9 - GALAPAGOS | GUAYAQUIL | LIMA, PERU

Disembark and fly to Guayaquil to connect with flights to Lima, Peru. Overnight at the Costa del Sol airport hotel. (B,L Aloft)

Monday, December 10 - LIMA | CUSCO | URUBAMBA VALLEY

Fly to Cusco, the heart of the Inca Empire. Drive into the historic Urubamba Valley, stopping in Chinchero to browse Andean handicrafts. Visit the Urubamba Market and spend tonight at the *Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel*. (B,L,D)

Tuesday & Wednesday, December 11 & 12 - MACHU PICCHU

Board the train to Machu Picchu, where we spend the afternoon exploring the ruins. Then, a full day is available to return to Machu Picchu or explore our hotel's extensive orchid gardens. Spend these two nights at the *Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel*. (B,L,D)

Thursday, December 13 – OLLANTAYTAMBO | SACSAYHUAMÁN | CUSCO

Catch the morning train back to the Sacred Valley. Explore the mighty archaeological wonder of Ollantaytambo, where ancient temples and fortresses were built to protect the Sacred Valley. After a Paso Fino horse show at Wayra Ranch, continue to Cusco. We stop at Sacsayhuamán — a huge fortress of massive stones which zigzag across the side of the mountain. Spend two nights at the *Aranwa Cusco Hotel*. (B,L,D)

Friday, December 14 - CUSCO

Stroll the streets of Cusco, exploring the Koricancha — also known as Santo Domingo, Santa Catalina Convent and the Cathedral. The afternoon is free to explore on your own before a farewell dinner featuring Andean fare. (B,L,D)

Saturday, December 15 - CUSCO | LIMA | FLY HOME

After a morning at leisure we fly back across the Andes to Lima. Relax in a day room at the *Costa del Sol* airport hotel until it is time to return to the airport for your independent flights homeward. (B,L)









For questions and reservations, please contact us:



800-811-7244 Fax: 603-756-2922 Toll: 603-756-4844 Email: <u>carleton@studytours.org</u> Website: <u>go.carleton.edu/adventures</u> P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608

© 2017 Eos Study Tours. All rights reserved. Photos copyright Operator, R.T. Nielsen, Nancy Wilkie.

YOUR EXPEDITION SHIP

M/V Evolution





Whether in the dining room or *al fresco* dining area, each meal is something to rave about. Meals feature both international and traditional Ecuadorian cuisine, from fresh fruit juices and savory snacks to lobster and sumptuous soups.

Dining room

"The Evolution had character... Food was excellent (kudos to chef!), public places were quite comfortable and cabins were roomy. The crew all went out of their way to be accommodating." D. Kalwinsky, Tennessee

Friendly staff

"The food on the Evolution was truly outstanding. Having Champagne and a small cake celebrating our 25th anniversary was very special!" L. Ashley, Kansas



YOUR PRIVATE RETREAT ONBOARD

The classically-styled *Evolution*'s interior is fully air-conditioned, and cabins on all three decks offer ample storage space, a writing desk, bedside tables and private facilities. The *Evolution*'s spacious cabins — ranging from approximately 143 to 263 square feet — are the largest cabins on average in the Galapagos and the perfect haven for an afternoon siesta between our frequent excursions.

FRIENDLY AMBIANCE AND SPACIOUS PUBLIC AREAS

While the *Evolution* may carry just 32 guests, she is generous in size with a host of amenities. From relaxing on the sun deck to reading in the lounge, you're sure to relish the friendly ambiance. Enjoy briefings by your naturalists in our comfortable lounge. Or spend time with a snack and your fellow passengers at the canopied bar, a superb place for watching the sun set over the Pacific. After excursions, relax in the hot tub or find a cushy deck chair while enjoying more outside space than on any other yacht of this class.





Sun deck





















A DAY IN THE LIFE: ABOARD THE EVOLUTION

While every day in the Galapagos Islands is a new adventure, each day follows a similar pattern anchored by delicious meals, exciting excursions and informative briefings and lectures.

7:00 AM Enjoy a hearty breakfast and strong cup of coffee as you prepare for a big day of exploration.

8:00 AM Our small group of travelers can easily board Zodiacs and be among the first visitors to each island. This ensures you have great light for photography and observe the active morning wildlife.

9:00 AM Daily hiking excursions are a chance to walk in the footsteps of Darwin as you discover the singular landscapes and wildlife on each island.

11:00 AM Nothing tops off a morning like kayaking or snorkeling in clear Pacific waters!

12:00 PM An *al fresco* lunch is a true treat. Be sure to add popcorn to your ceviche for an Ecuadorian twist!

1:00 PM *Siesta* time is perfect for relaxing or reading in one of the *Evolution's* cushy deck chairs.

3:00 PM Back in the water! The rich marine life is sure to dazzle on your afternoon swimming and snorkeling excursions.

5:00 PM No sunset stroll would be complete without a group of your new best friends — the Galapagos sea lions!

7:00 PM Your Level 3 naturalists give nightly briefings on biology, history, volcanology and more.

8:00 PM You have had a busy day! So enjoy a sumptuous threecourse meal and dessert (or two desserts!) before settling into your cabin for a good night's sleep. Or take advantage of the TV or small library in the lounge for some afterdinner entertainment.

M/V Evolution Features & Specifications

- Largest cabins on average of its ship class in Galapagos
- 2:1 guest-to-crew ratio
- Guides rated Level 3 (top level) by Galapagos National Park
- Infirmary with full-time doctor
- Air-conditioning throughout
- TV/CD/DVD in lounge

*CATEGORY 1 (A DECK)

Cabin with queen bed and window. Approx. 263 sq. ft.

CATEGORY 2 (A DECK)

Cabins with queen or twin beds and window. Approx. 198 sq. ft.

*CATEGORY 3 (C DECK)

Cabins with queen or twin beds and porthole. Approx. 183 sq. ft.

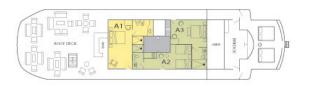
CATEGORY 4 (C DECK)

Cabins with queen or twin beds and porthole. Approx. 143 sq. ft.

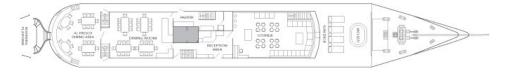
CATEGORY 4 (D DECK)

Cabins with queen or twin beds and porthole. Approx. 178 sq. ft.

All Cabins feature private bathrooms with hair dryers and toiletries, climate controls, writing desk, safe-boxes and closet/storage space.



Bridge - A deck







Type: Expedition Vessel Staff & Crew: 16 Flag: Ecuador Cruising Speed: 10-12 knots Cabins: 16 Electricity: 110 volts AC / 60 Hz: 2 flat prong Gross Tonage: 675 metric tons

Length: 192 feet Breadth: 29 feet Draft: 12 feet

MAIN TOUR PRICES

PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (9 NIGHTS)

*Suite A 1	\$8,498
Suites A 2 & 3	\$8,098
*Cabins C 1,2, 3, 6, 7, 8 & 9	\$7,198
Cabins C 4 & 5	\$6,998
Cabins D 1, 2, 3 & 4	\$6,798

*Indicates cabins that can accommodate a **triple** booking. The third occupant pays the per person double occupancy rate, less \$1,000.

Children (ages 7 to 18) in a double cabin pay the per person rates above, less \$750. If in a triple cabin, they also qualify for the <u>additional</u> third occupant discount of \$1,000.

SINGLE OCCUPANCY LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Cabins C 4 & 5	.\$8,498
Cabins D 1, 2, 3 & 4	.\$8,298

See "Air Arrangements" section regarding the additional costs of internal flights.

OPTIONAL MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION PRICES Per Person (6 nights)

Double Occupancy	\$3,748
Single (limited availability)	\$4,948

See "Air Arrangements" section regarding the additional costs of internal flights.



Main Tour Prices Include:

- Leadership of Carleton Professor Matt Rand plus an Expedition Leader and expert local naturalist guides;
- **Full educational program**, including lectures on history, ecology, marine life, and field interpretation;
- 7 nights' accommodations aboard the classically-styled ship the *Evolution* and 2 nights at the 5-star *Hotel Oro Verde*, in Guayaquil;
- All meals as per itinerary (and plenty of snacks while onboard): with bottled water or soft drinks, plus coffee or tea with dinners; including welcome and farewell dinners with wine;
- Use of kayaks and snorkeling equipment;
- All sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary, with transportation by private, air-conditioned motorcoach, including bottled water;
- Individual arrival and departure **airport transfers** on group travel days;
- Gratuities to drivers, waiters (for included meals), and porters;
- **Baggage handling** at hotels, where available;
- VAT, local taxes, and service charges;
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including a suggested reading guide, travel guide, and packing list.

Main Tour Prices Do Not Include: International airfare or group flights (Guayaquil/Galapagos | Galapagos/Guayaquil—airfare approximately \$625 per person); passport and visa fees; trip cancellation and baggage insurance; gratuities to crew, guides and Expedition Leader (guidelines to be provided); items of a personal nature; bar charges; laundry service; meals not listed as included; excess baggage charges; medical expenses; departure taxes; Galapagos National Park Tax, Ingala Card and Igtoa fee (estimated at \$135 per person, subject to change); alcoholic or other beverages except as noted above; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour and other items not listed as included.

Optional Machu Picchu and Cusco Extension Prices Include:

- 6 nights in luxurious and unique accommodations, plus one day room;
- All meals: 6 breakfasts and lunches, 5 dinners;
- All excursions as per itinerary;
- Expert local guide;
- Group transfers;
- Bottled water on transfers and excursions;
- Tips to porters and waiters (for included meals);
- Comprehensive pre-departure information.

Optional Extension Prices Do Not Include: Park Tax (estimated at

\$185 per person, subject to change); in-country air (Guayaquil/Lima | Lima/Cusco | Cusco/Lima—approximately \$775 per person); gratuities to the guide and driver; passports, bar tab, and other personal items; departure taxes.

Passenger Deposits: A deposit of \$600 per person is necessary to reserve your place on the main tour, with an additional \$150 deposit per person for the extension. Deposits are payable by MasterCard, Visa, American Express or check payable to: "Eos Passenger Account – CAA Galapagos12/18." Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure and must be by personal check only.

Passenger Cancellation Penalties: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Carleton Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received 121 days prior to departure are fully refunded less an administrative fee of \$300 per person. Cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure are subject a fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 90 days or less before departure are subject to a fee of 100% of the tour cost. Participants are strongly encouraged to obtain trip cancellation insurance (an application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit).

<u>Air Arrangements</u>: Airfare is not included. Group flights for the main tour (Guayaquil/Galapagos | Galapagos/Guayaquil) will be booked for you by our office at an additional cost to you of approximately \$625 per person. Group flights on the optional extension (Guayaquil/ Lima | Lima/Cusco | Cusco/Lima) will be booked for you by our office at an additional cost to you of approximately \$775 per person. Incountry departure taxes are included. The total (subject to change) will be added to your final payment invoice. If you also need assistance with booking air tickets from/to your home city, please contact our office (a \$50 ticketing fee applies). **Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. 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, itinerary, 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 passengers who do not complete the tour for whatever reason.









RESERVATION FORM

GALAPAGOS: DARWIN'S ENCHANTED ISLES

November 30-December 9, 2018 with Carleton Professor of Biology Matthew Rand

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please call us at 800-811-7244 or email us at <u>carleton@studytours.org</u>

Name 1		Class Year
(as it appears on passport)		
Name 2		Class Year
(as it appears on passport)		
Address		
City		
State	Zi	0
Phone (h)	Phone (w)	
Phone (cell)	Email	
□ Fitness: I/We are able to walk ur	nassisted and am/are physically able to	participate fully on the program.
Extension: Enroll me/us on the	optional Machu Picchu & Cusco post-	cour (additional cost).
ACCOMMODATIONS: preferre	ed cabin #s (not guaranteed): #1	#2
Cabins D1-D4 (D Deck)	Cabins C4 & C5 (C Deck)	□ Cabins* C1-3 & C6 -9 (C Deck)
Given Suites A2 & 3 (A Deck)	□ Suite A1* (A Deck) (Queen bed only	7) Triple (call or email for availability)
□ Single Cabins D1-D4 (D Deck)	□ Single Cabins C4 & C5 (C Deck)	
Bed preference: Double (Queen	bed) Double (2 twin beds)	
□ I will be sharing with:		□ Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)
I am a 🛛 Non-smoker 📮 Smoker		
RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:		
A deposit of \$600 per person is rec	uired to confirm a reservation. An add	itional deposit of \$150 per person is required for the extension.
	or to departure. You will receive an invo	
Please note that credit cards are no	t accepted for final payment. All prices	and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (PLEASE CHECK ONE):

Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account–CAA Galapagos12/18						
U 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 • 800-811-7244

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

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

RESPONSIBILITY: Eos Study Tours, Carleton College, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors and assigns (collectively "Sponsor"), 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, Sponsor is 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, Sponsor is 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 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, Sponsor is not liable for its own negligence, and participant assumes all risk thereof. CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR FEATURES: Sponsor reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Sponsor shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Sponsor may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant. Sponsor is 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. Sponsor is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Sponsor makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Sponsor reserves 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 (for example, the need of a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will assist them throughout and will be responsible for handling equipment. Participants must be able to embark or disembark motor coaches alone or with minimal assistance from their traveling companion, and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. REFUNDS: Prices quoted are based on group participation. No refunds will be made for any part of the program in which participants choose 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 on the itinerary is delayed or denied. TRIP INSURANCE: Sponsor strongly recommends 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 Sponsor and others and covers certain expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident and damaged or lost luggage. Sponsor will send participants an application upon receipt of their reservation. RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to changes at any time. On all programs, even after full payment, Sponsor reserves 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 Sponsor upon notice to the participant of such increases. 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, Sponsor 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. CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: Sponsor reserves the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, 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 Sponsor, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Sponsor is able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Sponsor, however, shall not have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT & CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL: Both the U.S. State Department and the Centers for Disease Control publish and update important country-specific information for travelers. We strongly recommend that you review them. They can presently be found at: <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html</u> and <u>https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices</u> MISCELLANEOUS: Participants should not purchase airline tickets prior to receiving your 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. Sponsor reserves 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.

<u>ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT</u>: 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.