



Carleton  
ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world

# YUCATAN'S

*Ancient Cultures & Night Skies*



December 12-20, 2020 (9 days)  
with Carleton's Al Montero and Joel Weisberg

*Ancient Pyramids, Colonial Towns, Maya Traditions, and Stargazing*

Chichén Itzá

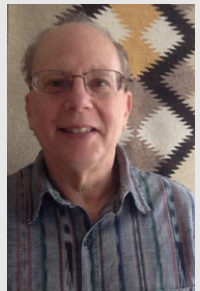
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## Carleton Faculty Leaders



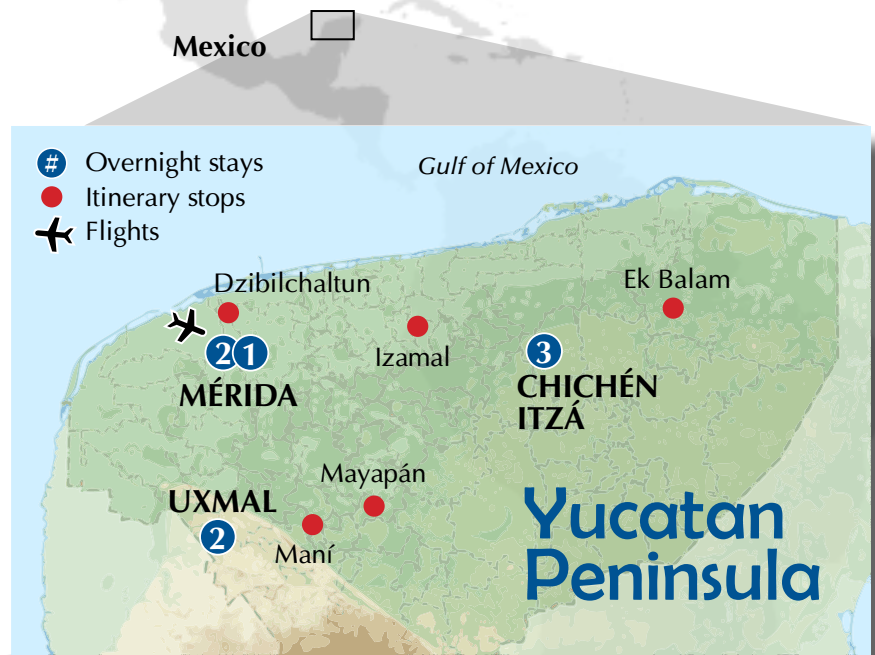
**Alfred P. Montero** is Associate Dean and Director of Advising, and the Frank B. Kellogg Chair of Political Science at Carleton College; and the senior editor of the refereed journal *Latin American Politics*

and *Society*. His main research areas are the political economy of Latin American countries and the quality of democracy. Al is the author of *Brazil: Reversal of Fortune* (Polity Press, 2014), *Brazilian Politics: Reforming a Democratic State in a Changing World* (Polity Press, 2006), *Shifting States in Global Markets: Subnational Industrial Policy in Contemporary Brazil and Spain* (Penn State University Press, 2002), and he is co-editor with David J. Samuels of *Decentralization and Democracy in Latin America* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2004). Al has accompanied a number of previous Alumni Adventures, including both land tours and small-ship cruises in Cuba, Peru, Panama, and Costa Rica.



**Joel Weisberg** is the Herman and Gertrude Mosier Stark Professor of Physics and Astronomy and the Natural Sciences, Emeritus, at Carleton College. Joel taught astronomy and physics courses, and also taught several multidisciplinary

courses in the areas of environmental and technology studies and in science policy. "Cosmology," which focused on Mayan and modern ideas of the nature of the universe, was one of his favorite courses to teach, and he especially looks forward to sharing his knowledge of Mayans' cosmology and their astronomical sites with trip participants. His research is in the area of radio astronomy, particularly in the study of pulsars, which are rapidly spinning neutron stars the size of Northfield containing more mass than the Sun. Joel still maintains astrophysical research positions for students, often enabling them to travel to various radio observatories throughout the world. He has co-authored 68 scientific articles with colleagues across the world and with Carleton students. Joel loves to share sunsets and the night sky with others and has done so on numerous other alumni journeys, including tours in Hawaii and Chile.



Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to join fellow Carls and friends on this **warm, winter escape** that is timed both to minimize days off from work and to coincide with minimal moonlight, allowing for some **nighttime star gazing sessions** in addition to **daytime explorations of colonial towns, traditional Maya villages, and archaeological sites.**

**Travel and learn with two Carleton Professors: Al Montero**, Frank B. Kellogg Chair of Political Science; **and Joel Weisberg**, Herman and Gertrude Mosier Stark Professor of Physics and Astronomy and the Natural Sciences, Emeritus. On clear, dark evenings, join Professor Weisberg for star gazing. Each day, explore the sun-drenched Yucatan Peninsula with Profs. Montero and Weisberg as well as an **expert local trip manager/guide** who will handle all of the details.

### Highlights:

- **Depart on a Saturday and return the following Sunday**, flying roundtrip to Mérida, a Spanish colonial city and capital of the Yucatan State.
- **Enjoy average December temperatures** ranging from the 60s (F) at night to the 80s (F) during the day.
- Visit the **archaeological UNESCO World Heritage sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal**, as well as lesser-known Maya sites such as **Ek Balam, Dzibilchaltun, Mayapán, and Maní.**
- Admire not only soaring ancient pyramids, distinctive temple complexes, intricate stone carvings, and stucco statues, but also **traditional Maya villages and colonial towns.**
- Spend free time bird watching, shopping for crafts, or relaxing on the luxurious hotel grounds.
- This **well-paced program** spends three nights in Mérida, three in Chichén Itzá, and two in Uxmal; and **all meals and excursions are included.**

This Carleton-exclusive program is a perfect close-to-home, warm weather escape in winter – a chance to recharge, learn, meet old and new Carleton friends, and do some unique holiday shopping, all amid impressive ancient monuments and charming colonial architecture.

Sincerely,

Derek Fried '93

President, Carleton College Alumni Association



# ITINERARY

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

## Saturday, December 12, 2020: Depart the U.S. on flights to Mérida, Mexico

Arrive at Mérida International Airport (MID) and transfer to our hotel. *Overnight at the 4-star [Presidente InterContinental Villa Mercedes Mérida](#) hotel for two nights.* (D)

## Sunday, December 13: Mérida: City tour, The Great Museum of the Maya World | Dzibilchaltun | Welcome dinner

Today we will take a city tour and then visit Mérida's anthropology museum, The Great Museum of the Maya World, housing artifacts from many of the sites we shall visit. After lunch we visit Dzibilchaltun, a 2,000-year-old site with a famous astronomical alignment. Highlights include the Temple of the Seven Dolls and a cenote (sinkhole with groundwater). Caves and cenotes were (and are) very important openings to the Maya underworld, the abode of the rain gods and places of worship. This evening we enjoy a welcome reception and dinner. (B,L,R,D)

## Monday, December 14: Izamal Convent | Chichén Itzá, part one

Drive an hour and a half to Chichén Itzá, stopping along the way to visit Izamal and its Convent. In Izamal, the Spanish conquistadors built their church atop a Maya pyramid. Climb to the top of Kinich Kakmo, the largest pyramid (in volume) in all Maya land. Continue on to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Chichén Itzá, arriving in time for lunch. Then a short walk from our hotel takes us back 1,000 years as we gaze at Chichén Itzá spectacular 9<sup>th</sup>-century temples and pyramids. We will see all the site's highlights, including the Sacred Well, Ballcourt, Castillo, Observatory, High Priest's Grave, and Nunnery. Gather this evening for dinner. **Please note that on evenings with clear, dark skies, Professor Weisberg will offer star gazing.** *Overnight at the 3-star [Mayaland Hotel](#) for three nights.* (B,L,D)

## Tuesday, December 15: Chichén Itzá, part two | PM at leisure

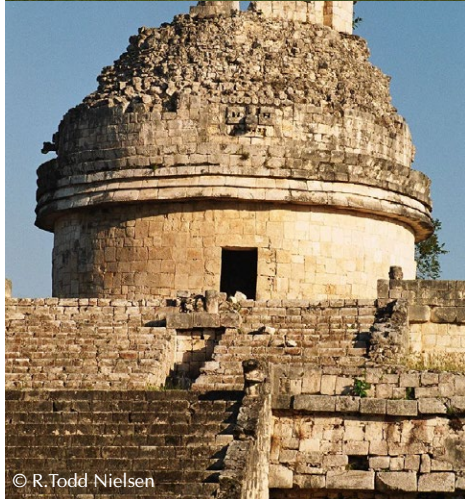
In the morning, we explore lesser-visited parts of Chichén Itzá. After lunch, the afternoon is at leisure to visit the site's bookstores and gift shops, and/or to relax on the hotel grounds. Gather this evening for dinner. (B,L,D)

## Wednesday, December 16: Ek Balam | Chichén Itzá

Drive an hour to Ek Balam, a small site with spectacular, mythological creatures sculpted in the full round and then hidden 1,200 years ago by the Maya themselves, only to be re-discovered recently by archaeologists. There will be an opportunity to visit the cenote and take a swim. After lunch, return to Chichén Itzá for more time exploring the site, or relax on the hotel grounds. Gather this evening for dinner. (B,L,D)

## Thursday, December 17: Mayapán | Maní | Uxmal

This morning we depart Chichén Itzá and drive two hours to Mayapán, a rarely-visited ancient Maya city that was one of the region's most important cities in the Postclassic



Left (top to bottom): Black spiny-tailed iguana at Chichén Itzá, Dzibilchaltun, the Observatory at Chichén Itzá, Uxmal. Above, a colorful street in Mérida.



Period (ca. A.D. 900–1519). Continue on to the small city of Maní to see the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Church and Convent of San Miguel Arcangel (Archangel St. Michael), which has one of the largest open chapels in Latin America. The city is perhaps best known as the place where Diego de Landa conducted the “Auto de Fe” (Act of Faith) and burned thousands of Maya codices (bark-paper books) and religious items. Much of what we know today about Maya astronomical knowledge has been gathered from the only three or four extant codices, which were probably written no earlier than the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. (but could be copies of much earlier books). After lunch at the Tutul Xiu Restaurant we drive an hour to Uxmal. Check-in to our hotel, settle in, and then gather this evening for dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Hacienda Uxmal Plantation & Museum](#) for two nights.* (B,L,D)

**Friday, December 18: Uxmal**

Spend a full day exploring the UNESCO World Heritage site of Uxmal. Uxmal is the capital of the Puuc region, on the western side of the Peninsula—a unique sub-area within the greater Maya zone with its own brand of architecture and mosaic-stone decoration. Uxmal’s “Governor’s Palace” was one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s favorite buildings. There will be an optional light and sound show after dark. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, December 19: Uxmal: AM at leisure | Mérida | Farewell dinner**

Enjoy a morning at leisure at our resort hotel. After lunch we drive an hour back to Mérida, capital of the State, featuring Colonial buildings and good shopping opportunities. After some free time this afternoon to relax or explore independently, we gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner. *Overnight at the 4-star [Presidente InterContinental Villa Mercedes Mérida](#).* (B,L,R,D)

**Sunday, December 20: Fly home**

Transfer to Mérida International Airport (MID) for flights home.

Photos: (from left) Izamal, where the Spanish conquistadors built their church atop a Maya pyramid; Yucatecan women in traditional dress; detail of the Governor’s Palace, Uxmal

© Copyright 2019 Eos. All rights reserved. Photos courtesy of Yucatan Tourist Board, Wikimedia Commons, pixabay.com

Public art, Mérida



**What to Expect**

You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down steps that may be steep and without handrails. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. At the time of year that we visit this region the weather is generally sunny and dry, with average temperatures in the mid- to high 80s during the day and in the mid-60s at night. There is always a chance of light to moderate rain showers. *Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants.*



## Tour Prices Per Person (8 nights)

Double Occupancy (22-26 participants).....\$3,695

Double Occupancy (19-21 participants).....\$3,995

Double Occupancy (16-18 participants).....\$4,195

Single Supplement .....\$765

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

*With fewer than 16 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.*

### PRICES INCLUDE:

- Faculty leaders **Joel Weisberg and Al Montero**, plus an experienced **tour manager/local guide and drivers**
- **Group arrival and departure airport transfers** for those taking the suggested flights (TBA)
- All ground transportation in **air-conditioned vehicles with bottled water** available at all times
- **All accommodations** as indicated in the itinerary, **chosen for both excellent locations and generous comfort**
- **All meals** including **welcome and farewell dinners** with cocktails; a **soft drink or beer** will be served with lunches and dinners
- **All entrance fees** to all sites listed in the itinerary
- **All gratuities** for the tour manager/guide, drivers, waitstaff for included meals, and porters at airports for those on suggested flights
- **Comprehensive pre-departure information**, including what to pack and a suggested reading guide

## Air Arrangements & Transfers

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

Prices do not include: Any airfare; passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; beverages (except as indicated); excess baggage charges; personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; any activities not specified in the itinerary; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service.

Passenger Cancellation Fees: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least 90 days prior to departure are refunded less an administrative fee of \$500 per person. Cancellations received between 89 and 61 days prior to departure are subject to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. An application will be sent with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

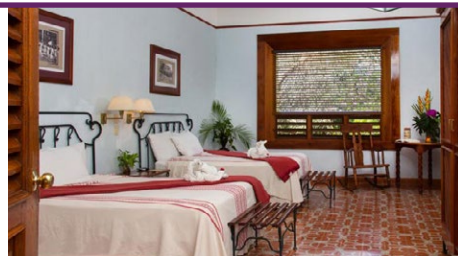
Note: Rates are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right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

Prices, itinerary, 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.

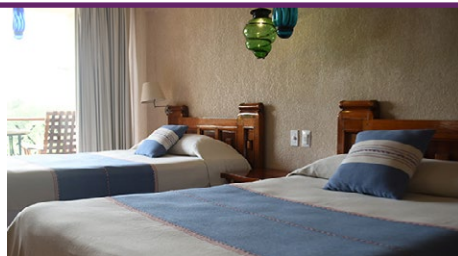
Payments: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to "EOS-Passenger Account-CAA Yucatan 12/20." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure or elsewhere published.

Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms and conditions will be sent upon confirmation or upon request, and can be viewed online at <https://apps.carleton.edu/alumni/adventures/>

## Accommodations



Hacienda Uxmal



Mayaland Hotel



Presidente InterContinental Villa Mercedes Mérida



For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact Alumni Adventures at:

800-811-7244 | Toll: 603-756-4844 | Fax: 603-756-2922 | [carleton@studytours.org](mailto:carleton@studytours.org) | [go.carleton.edu/adventures](http://go.carleton.edu/adventures)

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

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RESERVATION FORM

**Yucatan's Ancient Cultures & Night Skies**

December 12-20, 2020 (9 days)

with Carleton's Al Montero and Joel Weisberg

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.

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

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Carleton Class of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it appears on passport)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this tour?  eNewsletter  mailing  website  friends/family  other \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

Double (one bed)  Twin (two beds)  Single

I will be sharing with: \_\_\_\_\_  Share-please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

I am a  Non-smoker  Smoker  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 Yucatan12/20  Already paid by phone

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 "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**

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**

## **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: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html> and <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>. **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. **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.