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Treasures of the Arabian Gulf

Aboard the deluxe ship *Le Jacques-Cartier* January 27-February 6, 2022 (11 days)

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Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi

Travel with Carleton's Elizabeth McKune '70, former US Ambassador to the State of Qatar Also featuring guest lecturer, anthropologist & architectural historian Trevor Marchand

- -

A post-tour extension to Oman is available February 6-8, 2022 This program is co-sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America



Dear Carleton College Alumni and Friends,

We are moving forward optimistically to offer you a splendid small-ship adventure in the Arabian Gulf. Your host will be Elizabeth McKune '70, a distinguished diplomat who is intimately familiar with this region. She will discuss current events, and two guest lecturers will discuss history and Arabic cultural traditions, respectively. Co-hosting will be Sarah Forster '93, Director of Milestone Reunions.

Highlights:

- A luxurious, eight-night cruise between the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, embarking at Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and disembarking at Muscat, Oman.
- After one hotel night in Dubai, travel aboard the luxurious and ultra-modern *Le Jacques-Cartier* that has just 92 staterooms but extensive amenities and public spaces, including a unique underwater lounge!
- Our voyage is timed to include a full day at the **Dubai World Expo**.
- From fascinating and futuristic **Dubai**, cruise to **Abu Dhabi**, the booming capital of the UAE, where we visit the **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque**, the heritage site/museum of **Qasr Al Hosn**, and **Masdar City**, an emerging eco-center.
- Stop off at the **nature reserve** on the island of **Sir Bani Yas**, a unique **wildlife sanctuary**.
- **Doha**, Qatar, blends tradition and modernity. Discover two fabulous museums, one with **the largest collection of Islamic arts** in the world, plus the **Souq Waqif** (marketplace) with traditional garments, spices, handicrafts, and souvenirs.
- *Le Jacques-Cartier* will drop anchor in **Khasab**, gateway to the sublime "**fjords of Arabia**" that you will be able to explore aboard a traditional boat (dhow), before arriving in the **Gulf of Oman**.
- Enjoy an excursion into the surrounding mountains of **Fujairah** and visit many architectural sites including **Fujairah Fort**, built in 1670, and **Al Bidya Mosque**, the oldest mosque in the UAE.
- An optional, two-night **extension in Oman** explores Muscat, Nizwa, the oasis of Wadi Bani Khalid, and the spectacular dunes of the Wahiba Sands.

I hope you will share this exciting Alumni Adventure with Liz McKune, Sarah Forster, and fellow Carls.

Sincerely,

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Amy Bevilacqua '89 President, Carleton Alumni Council



Carleton College Leader

Elizabeth (Davenport) McKune '70 served as US Ambassador to the State of Qatar from 1998-2001. She was the first female ambassador from any country accredited to Qatar in this capacity. During her 33 years as a career Foreign Service officer, Liz spent 17 years abroad with postings including Israel, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, the Sultanate of Oman, Iraq, and Great Britain. Stateside she held a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State position as Deputy Executive Secretary, also a first for a female. Other senior positions included Director of the Office of Northern Arabian Affairs, Director of the Office of Pacific Island Affairs, Director of the Media Outreach Center, and International Affairs Advisor to the Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF). Liz co-authored The National Security Process: The National Security Council and the Interagency System. For her work at ICAF, Liz received the DoD's Joint Civilian Service Award. In addition, she is the recipient of State's Meritorious, Superior, and Senior Performance Pay Awards. The Government of the State of Qatar awarded Liz its Sash of Merit. Upon leaving the State Department in 2006, Liz

became the Executive Director of the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center from 2007-2011, where she oversaw a period of unprecedented growth and expansion. She is married to Kenneth McKune, also a former career Senior Foreign Service officer. They live in McLean, Virginia, with their dachshund, Gretel.



16th-century Fujairah Fort, UAE



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

Thursday, January 27, 2022: Depart home Depart home on independent flights to Dubai, United

flights to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Friday, January 28: Arrive Dubai, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) | Welcome Reception

Arrive in Dubai and check-in to the 5-star <u>JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai</u> (or similar). Join fellow travelers for a cocktail reception this evening. (R)

Saturday, January 29: Dubai city tour | Embarkation

A small coastal hamlet less than 100 years ago, Dubai has transformed itself into an irresistible modern metropolis. After breakfast at the hotel, ascend to the 124th floor of the Burj Khalifa (2,722 ft. tall, just over half a mile high) for sweeping views of the city below. Proceed to the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding and, after lunch, enjoy a photo stop at the Burj al Arab, one of the tallest hotels in the world and shaped to resemble the sail of a ship. Drive through Palm Jumeirah, Dubai's artificial, palm tree-shaped island, before visiting the Dubai Museum for an introduction to the history of Dubai and the Emirates. Travel to The Creek for a boat ride that showcases Dubai's mixture of old and strikingly new architecture. Explore the covered Deira Old Souq (marketplace), also known as the Spice Souq, and spend time in the famed Gold Souq before embarking *Le Jacques-Cartier*, our home base for eight nights. (B,L,D)

Sunday, January 30: Dubai: World Expo

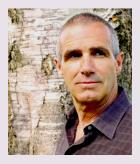
Spend a day exploring Expo 2020 Dubai, the first World Exposition to be held in the Middle East since the Expo was created in the mid-19th century. You will have an entire day to stroll through the alleys of the Expo featuring pavilions from more than 190 participating countries and with more than 200 restaurants. (B,D)

Monday, January 31: Abu Dhabi: City tour

Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, rivals the opulence of Dubai and is a true showcase of Arab and Islamic pride. Visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, one of the few mosques in the region that is open to non-Muslims (except during prayer times), which is an architectural marvel comprising more than 80 marble domes and 1,000 pillars, plus a quartet of 350-foot-tall minarets. Next visit Qasr Al Hosn, dating back to

Special Guest Lecturers

Trevor Marchand has been leading lecture tours to Oman for twenty years and has delivered talks in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on regional



building traditions and on recovery and reconstruction of World Heritage sites damaged by conflict. With extensive knowledge of the region, Marchand's lectures on the UAE, Qatar, and Oman showcase religious identities and practices along the western shores of the Arabian Gulf; the dynamics of political dynasties, cultural change, and seismic economic transformations; the rich history of Indian Ocean trade and global connections; local heritage and craftwork; and traditional and contemporary architecture. He is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, London) and recipient of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Rivers Memorial Medal.

Dr. Margaret Nydell is an expert in Arabic and modern Arabic cultural traditions. She is a widely respected scholar and professor of Modern Standard Arabic, Arabic dialectology, and many Arabic regional dialects. Dr. Nydell was an Arabic linguist for the Foreign Service Institute and the U.S. Department of State, and has directed the latter's School of Advanced Arabic Training in Tunisia. Most recently, she taught in Georgetown University's Department of Arabic for twelve years. The author of ten books, Dr. Nydell currently lectures on Arab cultural orientation for numerous government and private organizations. Her book Understanding Arabs: A contemporary guide to Arab society is in its sixth edition and has received excellent reviews. Dr. Nydell holds a master's degree in Arabic and a Ph.D. in applied linguistics, both from Georgetown University. She has lived and worked in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Cairo.





the late 18th century. It is the region's oldest heritage site, once a defensive structure, later a palace which served as a residence to the ruling Nahyan family, then the seat of government and most recently converted into a museum. Discover the Inner Fort (built in 1795) and the Outer Palace (built in the 1940s), while admiring its art and artifacts (weapons, images, maps, etc.), some dating to as early as 6000 B.C. Next visit Bait Al Gahwa to learn about Arabic coffee, its significance in the Emirati culture, and its meticulous preparation. End with a tour of Masdar City, an emerging eco-center that strives to be one of the world's most sustainable urban developments. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, February 1: Sir Bani Yas

The largest natural island in the UAE, Sir Bani Yas was a barren desert island only 50 years ago. It was transformed by the vision of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the UAE, into a wildlife reserve for animals indigenous to the Gulf region, as well as from East Africa. Board four-wheel-drive vehicles accompanied by an expert guide who will help you to look for Arabian oryx, gazelles, giraffes, hyenas, and cheetahs, and will explain the fragile ecosystem. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, February 2: Doha, QATAR: Museum visits, Souq Waqif

The stunningly modern and luxurious city of Doha shows no sign of reining in its ambition to be the most exciting city on the planet. Visit the I.M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Arts, constructed on its own island and home to the largest collection of Islamic arts in the world, including metal work, ceramics, jewelry, wood work, textiles, and glass, dating from the 7th to the 19th centuries. Next explore the shopping oasis of Souq Waqif—the ancient heart of the city with an extraordinary diversity of products for sale. We will enjoy an included lunch here and then visit the Jean Nouvel-designed National Museum of Qatar, whose architecture is extraordinary and whose vast collection focuses on natural history, Bedouin culture, and oil. (B,L,D)

Thursday, February 3: At Sea

Enjoy a full day at sea to relax and enjoy lectures and the amenities of our luxurious ship. (B,L,D)

Friday, February 4: Khasab, OMAN | Musandam Peninsula dhow cruise

Arrive in Khasab, a sleepy fishing village nestled among the fjords of the Musandam Peninsula, south of the Strait of Hormuz between the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Sail through Musandam's longest fjord aboard local dhows, looking for the pods of dolphins that frequent these waters while admiring the majestic Hajar Mountains, the highest mountain range in the eastern Arabian Peninsula. (B,L,D)

Saturday, February 5: Fujairah, UAE

Located along the eastern coast of the UAE, on the Gulf of Oman, begin your visit of Fujairah with a visit to the 16th-century Fujairah Fort, the largest and oldest castle in the country. At the Fujairah Museum, discover more than 5,000 years of archaeological and ethnographic history. Enjoy photo stops at the Al Bithnah Oasis and the ancient mud-and-stone built Al-Bidiya Mosque. (B,L,D)

Sunday, February 6: Muscat, OMAN | Disembarkation | Fly home

We arrive in Muscat this morning and disembark in time for transfers to the airport for flights homeward. Or, join the three-day (two-night) extension in Oman. (B)



Photos (from the top): 16th-century silk rug; Arabian Oryx at Sir Bani Yas, UAE; Burj Khalifa, Dubai, UAE



Treasures of the Oman Desert February 6-8, 2022

Enjoy two unforgettable days surrounded by breathtaking scenery from the Nizwa mountain region to the magic desert of Wahiba Sands. Between oases, fortresses, canyons, and dunes, you will experience nature, culture, and art of desert living.

Sunday, February 6, 2022: Muscat, OMAN | Muscat city tour | Jebel Akhdar

After breakfast aboard ship and disembarkation procedures are completed, we will explore Muscat, Oman's capital. Begin with a visit to Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, a masterpiece of modern architecture with stunning carpets, chandeliers, and gardens. Then visit the Muttrah Souq, probably the oldest in Oman, where you will have some time to stroll the narrow lanes and admire the diversity of goods. Drive through the old city to Al Alam Palace to view this architectural marvel between the twin forts of Jalali and Mirani. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Oman National Museum whose permanent collection comprises about 12,500 artifacts from Oman dating back to the prehistoric era. Finally, we drive an hour to the Jebel Akhdar mountain range and check-in to the 5-star <u>Anantara Al</u> Jabal Al Akhdar Resort. Gather for dinner at the resort. (B,L,D)

Monday, February 7: Nizwa | Wahiba Sands

Drive to Nizwa, Oman's capital in the 6th and 7th centuries A.D., where we explore historical buildings and the imposing Nizwa Fort, with its enormous round tower. Built in the 17th century to defend the route to the interior, the fort dominates the entire area, with the town having grown around the edifice. Access to the top is only given by means of a narrow, twisting staircase barred by heavy wooden doors, studded with metal. From the top of the tower, one can get a bird's eye view of the city of Nizwa. Next walk through Nizwa Souq, which is renowned for its intricately hand-carved *khanjar* (curved daggers) and ornately-designed silver jewelry. Drive onward to the *Desert Nights Camp*, Oman's only luxury desert camp, where we check-in and enjoy lunch and Bedouin hospitality. This afternoon we board fourwheel-drive vehicles and drive over dunes toward Wadi Bani Khalid, an oasis in the desert with natural clear green spring water pools. Continue driving to Wahiba Sands, a perfect example of a "Sand Sea," with some dunes attaining a height of over 300 feet. Return to our camp, admire the sunset from the top of the dunes, and enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, February 8: Return to Muscat | Fly home

Depart camp in the early morning to drive (2.5 hours) to the airport in Muscat to catch flights homeward. (B)

Program Rates Per Person \$1,360 double occupancy \$1,920 single occupancy

Post-Tour Extension Rates Include:

- One night accommodation in a Canyon View room at the 5-star *Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort*
- One night accommodation in a 4-star deluxe tent at the *Desert Nights Camp*
- All breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners with mineral water, coffee, or tea. Lunches and dinners include one local beer or glass of wine
- Surface transportation in air-conditioned SUVs/4x4 vehicles with bottled water and hand sanitizer available at all times
- Excursions and transfers as described in the itinerary
- The services of expert local guides
- Gratuities for the porters, waiters at included meals, driver, and local guides





For questions, and to reserve your space: 800-811-7244 or carleton@studytours.org













The deluxe, five-star *Le Jacques-Cartier* is one of a series of six new luxury expedition ships launched in 2020. These state of-the-art vessels combine understated elegance with a spirit of adventure and feature "Blue Eye," the world's first underwater passenger lounge. *Le Jacques-Cartier* is a small-capacity ship with just 92 staterooms and a crew of 110. Guests will enjoy attentive service, gourmet French-inspired cuisine, and a relaxed, congenial ambiance. This ship is a certified Clean Ship and meets the highest environmental standards for energy conservation and resource management.

Program Rates (per person)

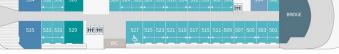
Category	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
Deluxe Stateroom - Deck 3	\$6,790	\$8,290
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 4	\$7,030	\$8,580
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 5	\$7,170	\$8,760
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 6	\$7,340	\$8,980
Deluxe Suite - Decks 3,4,5 or 6	\$8,990	\$11,120
Prestige Suite - Deck 5 <>	\$9,490	\$11,770
Prestige Suite - Deck 6 <>	\$9,700	\$12,050
Privilege Suite - Decks 5 or 6	\$9,880	\$12,280
Grand Deluxe Suite - Deck 6	\$10,100	\$12,570
Owner Suite - Deck 5	\$12,180	\$22,150

DECK 7

-----> indicates convertible suite available







DECK 4



FOOL SHOP <td

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Main program rates include:

- One night at the *JW Marriott Marquis Hotel Dubai*, including a welcome cocktail reception
- Comprehensive, 8-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Jacques-Cartier*. All accommodations are outside staterooms and suites, and all feature a private balcony
- Complete program of excursions, including the World Expo, led by expert guides, and an onboard program of lectures and presentations
- All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee and pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and special sweets from Ladurée
- Complimentary open bar aboard ship, including select wines served with lunch and dinner
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- 24-hour room service and access to unlimited WiFi available in public areas and cabins aboard the ship
- · Group airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage
- · Gratuities to all shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers
- · Port taxes and charges
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, included suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

Flights and Transfers: Airfare to Dubai International Airport (DXB) and from Muscat International Airport (MCT) is not included. Complimentary group transfers (times TBD) on arrival and departure dates are included. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights from/to home. If you are considering booking your flights before this time, please contact the Alumni Adventures office first. Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to departure. If you would like assistance with booking your flights you may contact Donna Keane in our ship operator's air department at 646-517-0339 or dkeane@ponant.com. *We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.*

Main Program & Extension Rates Do Not Include:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/ visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Travel and trip cancellation, or baggage insurance • Private or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Airline baggage charges • Meals, dishes, and beverages not specified in the itinerary; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Personal expenses such as personal tips, telephone, fax, or email charges

Schedule of passenger payments: A deposit of 25% of the full fare per person is necessary to make a reservation. Checks will be made payable to "Eos Passenger Account – CAA GulfPON1/22." Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be made by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only. Credit cards will not be accepted for final payment.

Note: Rates 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 rates.

Rates, itinerary, accommodations, and leaders are subject to change. Rates 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.

Passenger Cancellation Fees: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing by Alumni Adventures. Cancellations received at least 91 days prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of 10% of the full fare per person. Cancellations received between 90 and 61 days prior to departure are assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the full fare per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to a penalty of 100% of the full fare per person. 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.

Responsibility: By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Due to space limitations these are not Alumni Adventures' complete Terms & Conditions, which are available upon request or can be viewed online at carleton.edu/alumni/adventures, and will be sent to you along with a Release of Liability requiring your signature.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Walking for up to one mile unassisted, standing for up to two hours in museums or at other sites, and climbing several flights of stairs, which may not have handrails, are the most strenuous activities. All passengers must be vaccinated against COVID-19. The ship owner's goal is for the crew to be 100% vaccinated against COVID-19, however this is subject to constraints in their countries of residence. In the absence of vaccination, a negative PCR test will be required followed by a 10-day quarantine and another negative PCR test. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Average temperatures during the trip will generally range from the 60s F at night to the mid-70s F during the day, with infrequent rain. The ship has a doctor as well as a small hospital for minor ailments. There is a fee for onboard medical consultations. Complete pre-departure details and what to pack will be sent to participants. This is not an exclusive Carleton Alumni Adventure.



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Treasures of the Arabian Gulf

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Muscat, Oman

Travel with Carleton's Elizabeth McKune '70, former US Ambassador to the State of Qatar. Also featuring guest lecturer, anthropologist & architectural historian Trevor Marchand.



For questions, and to reserve your space, please contact Alumni Adventures at: 800-811-7244 | Toll: 603-756-4844 | carleton@studytours.org | carleton.edu/alumni/adventures P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608 Download this form to fill in and submit via email, or to print and mail or fax to Alumni Adventures.

ALUMNIADVENTURES

TREASURES OF THE ARABIAN GULF

– RESERVATION FORM –

Aboard the deluxe ship Le Jacques Cartier January 27 - February 6, 2022 with Carleton's Elizabeth McKune '70

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:				
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City					
State	Zi	р			
Phone (home)	Pł	Phone (cell)			
Email(s)					
□ I/We have read the 'What to Expec	t' section and am/are physically	y able to particip	ate fully on the prog	ram.	
□ Please sign me/us up for the post-t	our extension to Oman, Februa	ry 6-8, 2022 (add	ditional fee).		
Are you traveling with any other pa	rties on this program? Yes,				
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Carleton	Alumni Adventures - P.O.	Box 938, Walpo	ole, NH 03608-093	8	
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□ 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

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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. <u>TRIP INSURANCE</u>: 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 Taw, 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: <u>https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices</u> and <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/</u> alertswarnings.html. <u>ASSUMPTION OF RISK</u>: 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.