Yosemite, Death Valley and the Great Parks of California
YOSEMITE, DEATH VALLEY
AND THE GREAT PARKS OF CALIFORNIA

Survey the dramatic landscapes of four of Nevada's and California's national parks as nature testifies to its size, beauty, and diversity. Discover the vast desert region of Death Valley National Park—home to both the lowest point in North America at 282 feet below sea level and the world's highest recorded temperature at 134 degrees Fahrenheit. Admire the iconic waterfalls, deep valleys, grand meadows, and extensive wilderness of Yosemite. And marvel at the celebrated groves of sequoia giants at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Dear Fellow Traveler,
Please join us on a transformative journey into the sublime, sprawling wilderness of California’s national parks. With more national parks in the Golden State than anywhere in the nation, it’s home to some of our most iconic natural wonders—the highest waterfalls, largest trees, and one of the deepest canyons.

Showcasing Death Valley, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, this 8-day program celebrates the history, beauty, and culture of these magnificent public lands. Together we’ll experience rich and diverse natural landscapes, opportunities to glimpse wildlife, a cosmic voyage of stargazing, and a palpable connection with nature.

After each rewarding day exploring the surreal geological formations at Death Valley, the picturesque panoramas at Yosemite, and the towering sequoia forests of Sequoia and Kings Canyon, we’ll retire to well-regarded and comfortable resorts and lodges.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than $800 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today, and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Please reserve online at arizonaalumni.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

Lisa Valentine
Director, Alumni Travel & Signature Events
The University of Arizona Alumni Association
arizonaalumni.com/travel
lisaval@al.arizona.edu

PS: Orbridge and the University of Arizona take your health and wellness seriously. Visit orbridge.com/wellness to learn about our enhanced COVID-19 protocols.

Please note: The information contained in this document is current as of 12/25/2020
Program Highlights:

- Experience the diverse wonders of four West Coast national parks accompanied by an Orbridge Expedition Leader.

- Stroll along beautiful boardwalks at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—habitat for a record-setting concentration of indigenous life in North America.

- Observe terrestrial and celestial spectacles in Death Valley National Park.

- Visit Badwater Basin, an otherworldly landscape of crinkly salt flats, and enjoy pristine views of thousands of stars in the nighttime sky.

- Ride the Mammoth Mountain gondola, featuring stunning views of the high Sierras.

- Delight in extended exploration at Yosemite National Park, a varied landscape supporting more than 400 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

- Spend two wondrous days at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, teeming with endless natural features, including General Sherman—a giant sequoia tree soaring 275 feet into the blue Sierra sky.

- **What's included:** 7 nights accommodations in inspiring hotels and lodges; 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, and a special farewell reception; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader as well as local expert guides; all activities as described in the 8-day itinerary; admission and park fees; private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating; luggage porterage; gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, porters, and wait staff for included meals; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.
Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Las Vegas, NV / Death Valley National Park, CA
Upon arriving in Las Vegas, meet with your fellow travel companions and Orbridge Expedition Leader before setting out for Death Valley National Park.

En route, enjoy a stop at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Named for an abundance of ash trees that provide welcome shade for creatures such as big horn sheep, this is the largest remaining oasis in the Mojave Desert—where nearly 11,000 gallons of water emerge from its springs. Learn of the efforts to protect and restore the ecosystem that supports 16 different botanical habitats. Walk scenic boardwalks leading to sparkling springs full of fascinating pupfish, and learn about the nearly 30 endemic species here found nowhere else on the planet. Ash Meadows has been declared a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention, an intergovernmental treaty providing a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Continue on to Death Valley National Park, arriving at the hotel to settle in and enjoy dinner with the group.
*Overnight: The Inn at Death Valley (L,D)*

Day 2: Death Valley National Park
Death Valley is famous for being the hottest, driest, and lowest national park—and many visitors expect to encounter a completely arid, shadeless expanse devoid of life. But this park of more than three million acres is a realm of surprise and contrast. During a full day of sightseeing, discover sculptural canyons, mountain-sized sand dunes, and abundant wildlife. From the snow that frosts the park’s towering peaks to its lush wildflower meadows, there is much to see and explore in this beautiful, but challenging, landscape.

Head 282 feet below sea level to the surreal terrain of Badwater Basin, the lowest place in North America. Rain and minerals dissolved from rocks drain to this lower elevation, and as the water evaporates, minerals concentrate until only the salts remain. A short boardwalk leads you out to the salt flats and to Badwater Pool, a small body of water fed by a spring with aquatic insects and the bad water snail.

Refresh with lunch at a local restaurant followed by leisure time on your own prior to joining the evening stargazing program. Death Valley National Park is the world’s largest International Dark Sky Park. With these dark skies, gaze in awe at the expanse of the Milky
Way, see details of the moon, and simply reflect on your place in the universe.

*Overnight: The Inn at Death Valley (B,L)*

**Day 3: Death Valley National Park / Mammoth Lakes**

Depart Death Valley for a scenic drive to Mammoth Lakes, a charming town in California’s Sierra Nevada mountains. It’s a gateway to some of the most majestic landforms, including the stately basalt pillars of the Devils Postpile National Monument—a natural structure featuring thousands of hexagonal columns formed around 100,000 years ago when lava flow slowed, cooled, and cracked. The Devils Postpile National Monument also includes Rainbow Falls, a 101-foot waterfall known for the colorful rainbow its mist creates.

Take in the spectacular views from the Panorama Gondola as you ride up, up, up to the top of Mammoth Mountain at 11,053 feet. At the summit, visit the interactive displays of the Eleven53 Interpretive Center, with information on the area’s geologic, hydrologic, and volcanic history.

*Overnight: Mammoth Mountain Inn (B,L)*

**Day 4: Mammoth Lakes / Yosemite National Park**

Today, depart Mammoth Lakes for the waterfalls, granite monoliths, and ancient sequoias of Yosemite National Park. Along the way, drive over the spectacular Tioga Pass (weather conditions permitting). This eastern access to Yosemite provides photo opportunities around nearly every curve of the road as the park’s dramatic domes and drop-offs are highlighted.

After lunch, spend the remainder of the day in Yosemite. Within its nearly 1,200 square miles are wild meadows, rivers, lakes, and some of the world’s most renowned rock formations. Did you know this diverse landscape supports more than 400 species of wildlife? Look around, and you’ll likely spy one of the park’s many amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. A true treat would be to spot the rare Sierra Nevada red fox, seen for the first time in nearly a century on a wildlife cam in 2014.

*Overnight: Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite (B)*

**Day 5: Yosemite National Park**

Relish an entire day in Yosemite to soak in more of the park's natural beauty. Start with an open-air tram tour of the valley floor. Led by park rangers and Yosemite hospitality naturalists, you’ll learn about the history, flora, and fauna throughout the park.

Dine with Mother Nature at a picnic lunch, and choose an activity for the open afternoon. Work off the meal with a local hike, or take it easy with a complimentary program offered by
the National Park Service.

Tonight return to the hotel to relax and revisit your memories of the day.  

*Overnight: Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite (B,L)*

**Day 6: Yosemite National Park / Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

Depart Yosemite National Park for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. These parks, which lie side by side, further testify to nature's size, beauty, and diversity. The parks' long list of superlatives includes Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States, and the Kings River Canyon, one of the deepest in North America.

Sequoia National Park was established in 1890 to protect the General Grant Grove of giant sequoias. Kings Canyon National Park, established in 1940, is a wide glacial valley with green meadows, waterfalls, tall cliffs, and meandering rivers set against the high peaks of the Sierra Crest in the distance.

Linger in these outstanding natural preserves and explore their amazing features. The two parks protect numerous karst streams and some of the best alpine karst topography in the United States. The lower elevations are home to a variety of wildlife including bobcats, foxes, ground squirrels, mule deer, rattlesnakes, and reclusive mountain lions. This California Foothills ecosystem is the only one protected by the National Park Service.

This evening, clear skies permitting, you may elect to stargaze on your own, observing the waning light beneath the Southern Sierra Nevada mountains.  

*Overnight: Wuksachi Lodge (B,D)*

**Day 7: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

Explore the trails, scenery, and Visitor's Center to take in more of the wonder of these magnificent parks. In Sequoia National Park, the Giant Forest harbors the world's largest collection of sequoia trees. The biggest of them all is the General Sherman Tree, which measures over 100 feet around the base of its massive trunk. Other trees are taller or wider, but none has the combined weight and width of this glorious one. How big is big? Consider this: Every year it adds enough wood to make another 60-foot tree. Scientists have speculated that it may be over 2,000 years old. This evening is at your leisure.

Tonight, join with fellow travel companions for a special farewell reception.  

*Overnight: Wuksachi Lodge (B,R)*

**Day 8: Sequoia National Park / Fresno / Depart Fresno**
Activity Level:
Moderate

The majority of the program’s activities will take place outdoors and a fair amount of walking on varying terrain is to be expected. Many of the parks have dirt trails, but they are usually fairly smooth for walking. Some have paved pathways or boardwalks. It is our expectation that guests on this program are able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, and walk up a flight of stairs without assistance. Also keep in mind that you will experience varying altitudes, rising up to 11,000 feet, to which you may not be accustomed.

What's Included:

- 7 nights accommodations in inspiring hotels and lodges
- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners, and a special farewell reception
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader as well as expert local guides
- All activities as described in the 8-day itinerary
- Admission and park fees
- Private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating
- Luggage porterage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, porters, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to Fresno Yosemite International Airport for flights home. *(B)*

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

(Itinerary subject to change.)
Your Guide(s):

Kent Taylor — Orbridge Expedition Leader

Kent Taylor has led national park tours as a park ranger since 1984. Having worked with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife, he brings to your expedition a lifetime of knowledge about North America's parks, preserves, and wildlife.

Bill Keyes — Orbridge Travel Director (Monterey Post-Tour)

Bill is an Air Force brat whose family was stationed in every region of the United States except New England. A love of camping, hiking, backpacking, and fishing came from many such outings as he grew up. A long, intermittent education journey ended in a Creative Writing degree from the University of Arizona in 2001. Married for over 30 years, he and his wife Becky raised two soccer-playing, rock-climbing sons, graduates of Wesleyan University, and Northern Arizona University. A poet, golfer, hiker, rock hound, and an avid reader of human and natural history, Bill has been a tour director based in Tucson, Arizona, for over fifteen years, guiding extensively in the United States and western Canada.
Program Accommodations:

The Inn at Death Valley

October 10 - October 11

A jewel of a property in Death Valley, this historic hideaway has pampered guests such as Marlon Brando, Carole Lombard, and Clark Gable. After an extensive renaissance, The Inn at Death Valley is now better than ever, offering visitors the opportunity to relax near the spring-fed pool, stroll through date palm gardens, and retire to rooms where old-school ambience meets modern style and amenities.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, satellite TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, coffee and tea maker, mini-fridge, iron and ironing board, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Mammoth Mountain Inn

October 12

Positioned at the base of the mountain, Mammoth Mountain Inn provides spectacular views, comfortable rooms, a hospitable staff, and close access to Mammoth’s best activities and attractions.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, satellite HDTV with premium channel service and DVD player, complimentary Wi-Fi, iHome media player/alarm clock, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
October 13 - October 14

Located on 48 acres, the elegant Tenaya Lodge is nestled high among the pine and fir trees of Sierra National Forest, two miles from the southern entrance to Yosemite National Park. Guests can swim in outdoor and indoor pools, take advantage of the game room, try their skills in archery or rock wall climbing, or visit the on-site spa (additional fees apply). Rooms are spacious and sport plush bedding and deluxe baths.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, coffee and tea maker, mini-fridge, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.*

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**Wuksachi Lodge**

October 15 - October 16

Sequoia National Park’s signature hotel, Wuksachi Lodge, is an alluring stone and cedar mountain property, offering striking views of the High Sierra mountains. The full-service restaurant features large picture windows, signature Sierra Alpine cuisine, and an oversized stone fireplace. A relaxing cocktail lounge provides an atmosphere for guests to socialize and unwind. Limited Wi-Fi is available only in the main public area.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control (heat only), flat-screen cable TV, phone, mini-fridge, coffee and tea maker, iron and ironing board, and en suite bathroom with hair dryer.*

NOTE: This property does not have air conditioning or elevators.

(Accommodations subject to change.)
Optional Post-Tour:

MONTEREY TO SANTA BARBARA

Extend your California adventure with this wondrously scenic tour, highlighting breathtaking views and points of interest. Cruise the panoramic coastline, discover wildlife and conservation inspiration at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and ride the rails aboard Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* down the coast from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara.

Itinerary:

**Day 8: Monterey**
Sunday, October 17, 2021
After breakfast, split from the main program and travel through California's farmlands to the Pacific coastal town of Monterey. With vineyards, artist communities, lighthouses, quaint shops, and a world-renowned aquarium, the town is packed with culture, history, and charm. A wonderful diversity of marine life distinguishes this area, including sea lions, sea otters, harbor seals, bat rays, kelp forests, pelicans, and dolphins.

Later, visit the famous Monterey Bay Aquarium, a facility known for its interactive exhibits. At the impressive Open Sea section, the aquarium's largest display, see up-close tuna speeding past and sardines swarming in huge, glittering schools. Watch the sea turtles swim lazily across the 90-foot window, while nearby brilliant jellies pulse through the water. For 35 years, the Monterey Bay Aquarium has been instrumental in rescuing sea otters no longer able to survive in the wild. Learn amazing facts about such wildlife, including, for instance, that sea otters have the world's densest fur, with up to a million hairs per square inch. Humans, by comparison, have 100,000 hairs or less on our whole heads!

*Overnight: Asilomar Hotel*

**Day 9: Monterey / Cambria**
Monday, October 18, 2021
One of today's highlights includes traveling along the scenic 17-Mile Drive that hugs the Pacific coastline. View the iconic "Lone Cypress" rooted dramatically to a granite hillside, the beautiful white sand beach at Fanshell Overlook, Spanish Bay's grassy shoreline, treacherous Point Joe, and Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Continue down the Central Coast from Monterey to Moonstone Beach in Cambria. Along the Pacific Coast Highway, stop to admire the panoramic vistas at iconic locations, including Bixby Creek Bridge and Big Sur. 

*Overnight: FogCatcher Inn (B)*

**Day 10: Cambria / San Luis Obispo / Santa Barbara**

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

After breakfast, learn about the area’s incredible elephant seals and visit the beaches they frequent to see them in person. Did you know that elephant seals come ashore once a year and shed their first layer of skin and fur to replace with new ones? Make sure to have a camera ready to photograph these fascinating creatures.

This afternoon, relax and gain a unique vantage of the Southern California seascape accessible only by train aboard the *Pacific Surfliner*. Arriving in the popular resort town of Santa Barbara, find red tile roofs and white stucco walls that celebrate its Spanish heritage along with leisure time to explore independently tempting boutiques, world-class wineries, and waterfront dining. 

*Overnight: Encina Inn and Suites (B,R)*

**Day 11: Depart Santa Barbara**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take the complimentary transfer to Santa Barbara Municipal Airport for flights home. *(B)*

B = Breakfast, R = Reception

*Post-tour space is limited, so it’s recommended to reserve early for best availability.*

(Itinerary subject to change.)

**Activity Level:**

Moderate
It is our expectation that guests on this program are able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, walk up and down a flight of stairs, and board/disembark transportation without assistance.
Accommodations:

**Asilomar Hotel**

October 17

Charmingly rustic accommodations, scenic Pacific Ocean views, and stargazing opportunities await guests of Asilomar Hotel. Dedicated to rest and reflection, comfortable guest rooms are free of distractions like phones or TVs, and the property’s historic grounds provide beach access and wildlife viewing.

*Room Amenities: Private balcony or terrace, fireplace, complimentary Wi-Fi, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.*

**FogCatcher Inn**

October 18

Relaxed and welcoming, FogCatcher Inn is an oceanfront gem located across the street from beautiful Moonstone Beach—voted one of the “10 Best Beaches in California” by the readers of *USA Today*. Coastal décor, driftwood-inspired headboards, and warm yellow accents reflect the beachfront setting and traits of a California beach cottage.

After visiting Cambria attractions by day, watch the sunset from the outdoor heated pool, over-sized hot tub, or one of the many benches throughout the lush hotel grounds.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, fireplace, HDTV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, coffee maker, microwave, mini-fridge, bathrobes, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.*
October 19

Tucked away on a quiet residential street lined with turn-of-the-century homes, but just minutes from historic downtown and the beach, Encina Inn & Suites offers all the amenities of a boutique hotel with the charm of a bed and breakfast. During leisure time, relax by the garden pool, delight in the bird aviary, work out in the exercise room, and browse the gift shop.

*Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat-screen satellite TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, coffee maker, microwave, mini-fridge, safe, bathrobes, iron and ironing board, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.*

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included:

- 3 nights hotel accommodations with breakfast each morning
- Farewell reception
- Admission to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, including transportation
- Train ride from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara
- Luggage porterage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, porters, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times
**Yosemite, Death Valley and the Great Parks of California**

**OCTOBER 10, 2021 — OCTOBER 17, 2021**

**POST-TOUR: OCTOBER 17, 2021 — OCTOBER 20, 2021**

**PROGRAM RATES***

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**POST-TOUR RATE***

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*Special group rate; limited offer. Rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

***Post-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

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### GUEST INFORMATION:

**Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation):**

- Email: ____________________________  Class Year: ____________
- Home Phone: ____________________________  Alt. Phone: ____________________________
- Address: ____________________________
- City: ____________________________  State: _______  Zip: ____________

**Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation):**

- Email: ____________________________  Class Year: ____________
- Home Phone: ____________________________  Alt. Phone: ____________________________

### DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

- **Check**
- **ACH (Automated Clearing House)**
- **MasterCard/Visa**
- **American Express**
- **Discover**

- Card #: ____________________________  Exp. Date: _______  CVV: _______

- **Name** (as printed on card): ____________________________

- **Billing Address** (if different from above): ____________________________
  - City: ____________________________  State: _______  Zip: ____________

### DEPOSIT:

- # _____ guests joining program ($850/person) =
- # _____ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) =

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ ________**

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and detailed in program documents; and that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: ____________________________  Date: _______
Termination. Notice of termination must be in writing, must be received by Orbridge during the Grace Period, and is effective only on timely receipt of such written notice by Orbridge.

For all other reservations and cancellations, the terms of the Cancellations, Credits and Refunds section below apply.

Cancellations, Credits and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be processed as follows:

(a) For all programs except those noted in (b) and (c), if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 90 or more calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, a $500 refund and a $350 future travel credit (“FTC”) will be issued for the main tour and a $300 refund and a $200 FTC will be issued for the pre-tour and/or post-tour. The FTC may be applied against future payment to a future Orbridge program. The FTC is valid through December 31, two years after the current calendar year and is transferable at no additional fee. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 89 and 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 59 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 29 days and prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours.

(b) For Antarctica and Trans-Siberian Railway, if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 180 or more calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, a $1,500 refund and a $1,000 FTC will be issued for the main tour and a $1,000 FTC will be issued for the pre-tour and/or post-tour. The FTC may be applied against final payment to a future Orbridge program. The FTC is valid through December 31, two years after the current calendar year and is transferable at no additional fee. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 179 and 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 149 and 120 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 119 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours.

(c) For Antarctica and Trans-Siberian Railway, if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge 180 or more calendar days prior to the program’s scheduled departure date, a $1,500 refund and a $1,000 FTC will be issued for the main tour and a $1,000 FTC will be issued for the pre-tour and/or post-tour. The FTC may be applied against final payment to a future Orbridge program. The FTC is valid through December 31, two years after the current calendar year and is transferable at no additional fee. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 179 and 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 149 and 120 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 119 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tours and/or post-tours.

In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.
Travel Insurance. Orbridge strongly recommends that you purchase travel and cancellation insurance to protect your investment in the event of unexpected or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, we recommend that you consider obtaining a policy(ies) that will cover emergency medical evacuation insurance and cancel for any reason insurance. Travel and cancellation insurance policies and dates by which policies must be purchased varies by provider(ies), maximum coverage (including cancel for any reason) is generally only available for purchase within 14 days of your reservation being confirmed. It is advised to determine your insurance needs and make necessary arrangements soon after reserving on tour. If you do not have, but are interested in purchasing, travel and cancellation insurance please contact us.

Cancelled or Postponed Programs. All programs are subject to cancellation or postponement by Orbridge prior to the scheduled departure date for such reasons as, but not limited to, insufficient participation, or logistical problems that, in Orbridge’s sole judgment, may impede program operations or represent conditions or events that may expose program guests and/or Orbridge to undue risk of harm, injury, damage or inconvenience. In the event of program cancellation or postponement by Orbridge, Orbridge may offer you alternative arrangements such as the option to join the same tour on a different date or a different tour. If the price of your alternative booking is lower than your original booking price, Orbridge will refund the difference within 30 days of the alternative program’s departure date. If it is higher than your original booking price, Orbridge will invoice you the difference and you will be responsible therefor. Transferred guests are subject to the terms of the original tour. Except for force majeure or other events described in the Limitation of Responsibility and Cancellation, Credits and Refunds clauses, Orbridge will refund all payments made to Orbridge within 30 calendar days of notice of program cancellation or postponement if an alternative arrangement is not offered.

Itineraries. Accommodations, the itinerary, travel directors or expedition leaders, lecturers, hosts, faculty or organization representative, and arranged excursions are subject to change or substitution at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Orbridge’s control. Reasonable efforts will be made to operate programs as planned, however, adjustments, substitutions and changes may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, withdraw a program or any part of it, make such alterations or substitutions to the itinerary or program inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable, and pass on to program participants any expenditures or additional costs caused by any such adjustments, or by delays or events beyond its reasonable control.

Not Included. Unless otherwise specifically noted in the itinerary, program prices do not include the following expenses, which if applicable are your sole responsibility to pay and satisfy: trip cancellation insurance and passenger travel protection plan; domestic, international, and internal airfares except as indicated in program inclusions; transfers and luggage handling fees except in connection with scheduled group flights; costs associated with obtaining passports or entry visas; airport departure taxes; airline ticketing fees; airport transfers when arriving/departing on other than scheduled group dates; excess baggage charges; any new value added taxes or other taxes added to program costs by applicable governmental authorities; gratuities to drivers, guides, or ship’s crew not specified; meals and beverages other than those specified as being included in the itinerary; sightseeing not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability); ship, air, or transportation fuel surcharges, if applicable; any items not on the “included” list of the tour documents.

Health and Fitness to Travel. Through your participation in your tour, you assume responsibility for your own health, safety, and welfare and acknowledge that Orbridge cannot absolutely guarantee your safety or health. Your physician can provide guidance on your personal health risk and precautions to take while traveling. Some programs include physically active elements. To enjoy this programs as intended, a minimum level of fitness is required and Orbridge will require all guests to follow local, state, national and/or World Health Organization health and safety mandates. Accordingly, you must be in good physical and mental condition to participate. You represent that you have no physical, mental or other condition, impairment or disability that may or will cause or create a risk of injury or other hazard to yourself or others in respect to any aspect of the program you have selected. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, limit, restrict or prohibit from participation in any aspect of any program any individual that it considers in its sole discretion to be impaired or unsuitable due to fitness level. In addition, Orbridge may, in its sole discretion and at the participant’s sole expense, remove the guest from the program, or restrict the program-related activities of any individual whose physical or mental condition may or is likely to cause a hazard to himself/herself or others, or otherwise impair the enjoyment of other program participants. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported in writing to Orbridge at the time of program reservation is made. Should you have any questions or need any clarification about a specific program, please ask for details at the time of registration. Orbridge will try to accommodate your situation if possible.

Accessibility. Orbridge cannot guarantee that the transportation, lodging, and entainment/sightseeing accommodations will be accessible to all persons regardless of their physical and mental condition. In addition, many of the activities involved in each program include walking or the like for some distance on uneven ground or pavement or moving water as well as the ability to walk up and down stairs without assistance. Should any individuals seeking to participate in a travel opportunity need special accommodations to ensure their enjoyment of the trip, kindly provide notice at the time the reservation is submitted, and we will see if your participation is feasible. Please understand that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside the United States.

At the time of reservation, Orbridge needs to be notified to determine if the special needs of an individual traveler can be met through special arrangements. It is possible that minor modifications to the services can be provided, but only if Orbridge is made specifically aware of anticipated needs. This notification should be made in writing no less than two weeks prior to the planned travel. Neither Orbridge nor any of the providers of transportation, lodging, or other services can provide special accommodations without this advance notice.

Where an individual with certain specific needs will be traveling with a group, it is necessary for other members of that person’s group to be available to assist as necessary. Neither employees of Orbridge nor any suppliers of services can allow any of their employees to provide physical assistance to any guests.

Travel Advisories. The State Department and the Centers for Disease Control periodically issue statements and advisories about risks to travelers. These statements are country specific and contain important information. The State Department information can be found at www.travel.state.gov, and the CDC statements can be found at http://www.cdc.gov. Orbridge highly recommends everyone to review these sites.

Children. Orbridge welcomes the participation of children in most of its programs. However, in the event you do include your children or other minors for whom you serve as legal guardian ("Dependents") in your travel plans, you hereby agree that you are and shall be at all times solely responsible for their care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any pre-tour and/or post-tour. Should you have any questions whether a particular program or inclusion is possible or suitable for your Dependent(s), please contact us.

Baggage. Program rates include the price of one piece of policy-compliant baggage per person during the land or cruise portion of the program only unless specified in the itinerary. Air carriers, and motor coaches often impose significant other restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may reject or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such limitations or restrictions. All such fees are your sole cost and responsibility. In addition and regardless of location or transportation method, your baggage and personal effects are and shall at all times be at your sole risk throughout the entire program. Please check with your air carrier for other applicable baggage restrictions and limitations.

Travel Documents. All guests are responsible for possessing and maintaining necessary travel documents. These documents shall be valid under state, federal law and as required by foreign countries being visited. Orbridge is not responsible for invalid travel documents and repercussions thereof.
For U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please direct any questions in respect to visa requirements to Orbridge, which shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide answers as a courtesy, provided that it shall remain your sole responsibility and obligation to obtain and verify that you have all required travel documents, including visas, necessary and appropriate for the program location(s) and sufficient blank pages in your passport for visas and immigration stamps. In addition, some countries require your passport have an expiry date of not less than six months after your anticipated return to the United States. Orbridge disclaims all liability for any expenses or costs you may incur due to your prohibition or restriction from entering a country on the program itinerary or reentering the United States at the conclusion of the program. If travel documents fail to meet these requirements, boarding of aircraft or ship to any international destination may be denied and entry into such countries may be denied.

Photos and Videos. Orbridge may take photographs and/or video of its trips and participant grants Orbridge permission to do so and for it to use such for promotional or commercial use without payment of any compensation to participant. In addition, Orbridge may use, without compensation, any photographs or video taken by tour participants and submitted to Orbridge or to Smugmug without payment of any compensation. In submitting any such photographs or videos to Orbridge or Smugmug, participant warrants that he or she took the image and that the dissemination of same does not violate the copyright rights of any person.

Data Rights, Permissions. Data collected and/or derived by Orbridge resulting from your use of the Website is the sole and exclusive property of Orbridge and may be used in any manner consistent with its Privacy Policy located on Orbridge’s website. By submitting to Orbridge a digital or hard copy form that includes your personal contact information, including without limitation, your email address and telephone number(s), you give Orbridge and any other entity identified on the form permission to use that information to contact you and as otherwise may be described on the form and/or in the Privacy Policy.

Other. Dates, program details and costs are based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time. While we do not anticipate material revisions of the itinerary or its included features, we do reserve the right to substitute accommodations or modes of transportation and to make any changes in the itinerary Orbridge, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and in that case any additional expense or cost will be paid by the individual guest. Your baggage and personal effects are your sole responsibility at all times. It is prohibited by federal law and Orbridge policy to bring illegal drugs, firearms, or other contraband (including marijuana for medical or recreational purposes) on any program.

Orbridge may at any time and without notice modify these terms and conditions, and any modification so made will be effective for all reservations made from and after the posted Effective Date.

In the event any term in these terms and conditions is deemed unenforceable the unenforceable clause shall be interpreted to give effect to the parties’ intentions to the greatest enforceable extent, and all other provisions hereof shall remain fully enforceable according to their terms.

Binding Arbitration. I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to this contract, the brochure, or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in Seattle, Washington, either according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Washington law. 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. By agreeing to these terms and conditions, both parties are waiving their right to a trial by jury. Any arbitration commenced against Orbridge must be on behalf of only the individual(s) to this Agreement and his or her immediate family members travelling with them, such as a spouse or child. Under no circumstances can participant be part of a class or other joint action.

Acceptance of Contract. Any payment to Orbridge, including but not limited to deposits or full payments, constitutes your acknowledgement of and agreement to these terms and conditions set forth above and in more specific tour documents.

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