Dear Carleton Alumni and Friends,

“The natural history of this archipelago is very remarkable … the greater number of its inhabitants, both vegetable and animal, being found nowhere else.”

Charles Darwin’s keen, yet simple, observation of the Galápagos Islands made famous this “living laboratory of evolution.” Today, 95 percent of its natural biodiversity, first seen when a Spanish ship drifted off course in 1535, is still intact, and this UNESCO World Heritage site is home to the amazing exotic birds, animals, and plants that inspired Darwin and continues to offer the excitement of original discovery to every visitor today.

Join Carleton Professor Matthew Rand for an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime journey aboard the state-of-the-art exploration vessel M.V. SANTA CRUZ. Designed specifically to navigate the Galápagos Islands, it is fully equipped with everything necessary to make your Galápagos experience complete, from complimentary snorkeling gear to a fleet of Zodiaks and a Boston Whaler glass-bottomed boat. The highly-qualified certified naturalists lead excursions and share their knowledge to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating and mysterious natural realm.

These 19 islands, each with its own ecosystem, are teeming with flora and fauna and are home to species unknown elsewhere in the world, like the flightless cormorant and the marine iguana. With few natural predators on the islands, the abundant wildlife is nearly fearless and innocently receptive to human company up-close, unlike any other place on our planet! Here, you can almost touch spiny-backed iguanas and snorkel alongside playful seals and tropical penguins.

On mainland Ecuador, take a city tour of Quito, including the heart of the city (a UNESCO World Heritage site) with its magnificent colonial churches; and choose an optional excursion to the colorful Andean market of Otavalo.

To complement your Galápagos Islands cruise, we are pleased to offer an optional extension to Peru with Carleton Professor Nancy Wilkie to experience the marvels of the legendary “lost city” of Machu Picchu and the breathtaking Sacred Valley.

We hope you will join fellow Carls for this incredible adventure!

Sincerely,

Frances L. Spangler ’91
President, Carleton College Alumni Association

P.S. We have reserved 15 cabins for our Carleton group, so don’t delay; please call toll-free (800) 811-7244 or email carleton@studytours.org today with questions and to hold your space.
THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
March 8-16, 2013
Aboard the deluxe M.V. Santa Cruz
with Carleton College Professor Matthew Rand

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

**Day 1: Friday, March 8, 2013 - U.S. | Quito, Ecuador**
Depart the U.S. for Quito and transfer upon arrival to the superior first-class Hilton Colón Hotel, ideally located near one of the city's colorful markets. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, yet only miles from the equator, the city is known for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture and lively street life. *Overnight for three nights at the Hilton Colón Hotel.*

**Day 2: Saturday, March 9 - Quito**
Quito is a city of startling contrasts, where thousands of years of native South American tradition are interwoven with imported Catholicism, the Spanish language, and European culture. Quaint family-owned shops and open-air markets are steps away from gleaming skyscrapers and the ornate Spanish Baroque-style cathedrals favored by the conquistadors. On a city tour, visit the Museo Nacional del Banco Central’s Archaeological Gallery and Golden Court and the noble, 16th-century Church of San Francisco. Continue to the heart of Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and see the Moorish-influenced Catedral Metropolitana and La Compañía de Jesus, renowned for its lavish interiors decorated with an estimated seven tons of gold leaf. This evening, attend a private welcome reception in the hotel. *(B,R)*

**Day 3: Sunday, March 10 - Quito**
Spend the day at leisure in Quito or join an optional half-day excursion (at an additional cost) to the ancient town of Otavalo, acclaimed for its finely woven sheep and alpaca wool. Walk through the main square to see San Luis Church and the bustling fruit and vegetable market. Continue to Otavalo's legendary “silent market,” where merchants bargain quietly with customers in a colorful labyrinth of stalls and shops overflowing with beautifully crafted tapestries and clothing. Also stop in the village of Peguche to see artisans engaged in the textile crafts of their ancestors. Afterwards, enjoy a private lunch in a beautifully restored 17th-century Andean estate. *(B)*

**Day 4: Monday, March 11 - Quito | Baltra, Galápagos Islands | Embarkation | Santa Cruz**
Fly to the small Galápagos island of Baltra. Embark the M.V. Santa Cruz in time for lunch, followed by your first briefing by the ship’s naturalists. Nearby Santa Cruz Island’s alluring white beaches, giant prickly pear cactus forests, vibrantly colored flamingos, and prehistoric-looking iguanas make it an ideal introduction to the archipelago. Cruise aboard Zodiacs along beautiful mangrove-lined islets and seek out blue- and red-footed boobies, great frigate birds, and brown pelicans. Make a landing in the surf at Las Bachas Beach, and explore a small lagoon favored by elegant wading birds, including black-necked stilts and golden eagles. *Overnight for four nights aboard the M.V. Santa Cruz.* *(B,L,D)*

Please note that the M.V. Santa Cruz’s specific itinerary is dependent on weather, sea conditions, and Galápagos National Park Service regulations.

**Day 5: Tuesday, March 12 - Santiago**
Enjoy the scenic beauty of Santiago Island’s Buccaneer Cove, surrounded by dramatic volcanic cliffs where hundreds of sea birds perch. Go ashore for a closer look at wildlife, much like the British pirates, sailors, and whalers who used this protected harbor as a safe haven did in the 18th and 19th centuries, while making repairs and gathering salt, fresh water, and firewood. Later, in Puerto Egas at low tide, walk beside the best tide pools in the Galápagos. Look for land and marine iguanas—the latter are the world’s only seagoing iguanas—grazing on algae beds along the rocky shore formed by ancient lava flows. Nearby, observe fur seals and sea lions swimming in the grotto’s turquoise pools. *(B,L,D)*
Day 6: Wednesday, March 13 - Rábida | Bartolomé
Make a wet landing on the mesmerizing red sands of Rábida Island. Walk along the beach among sea lions and marine iguanas and see a variety of birds, including mockingbirds, yellow warblers, and nine species of Darwin's legendary finches. Continue inland to the island's unique saltwater pond to search for its famous bright pink flamingos. This afternoon, make a dry landing on the tiny isle of Bartolomé. From the top of Cerro Bartolomé enjoy unsurpassed views of lunar-like craters, mangroves, and lava formations. Particularly impressive is Pinnacle Rock, a jagged tower of honeycombed stone that soars 225 feet into the air. Below, the island's pristine beaches and sparkling clear water are ideal for swimming and watching the antics of tropical penguins. Also, look for dolphins, manta rays, and an abundance of colorful sea creatures from the comfort of a glass-bottomed boat. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Thursday, March 14 - Genovesa
The remote northern island of Genovesa offers some of the best bird-watching in the archipelago and is home to the world's largest colony of red-footed boobies. Following a dry landing at Prince Phillip's Steps, take a guided walk up to a broad lava flow overlooking the sea where the masked faces of Nazca boobies greet you at the top of the cliff, and flurries of tiny storm petrels swirl above. Cruise into Darwin Bay, inhabited by fur seals, hammerhead sharks, and swallow-tailed gulls, and make a wet landing for a more leisurely stroll on a coral beach. Among the prickly pear cacti, saltbush, and red mangroves, look for magnificent frigate birds, yellow-crowned night herons, and four types of Darwin's finches. Attend a farewell reception this evening. (B,L,R,D)

Day 8: Friday, March 15 - San Cristóbal | Disembarkation | Guayaquil, Ecuador
Arrive this morning at San Cristóbal, the first Galápagos island on which Darwin landed, in 1835, and view the giant tortoises at the Cerro Colorado breeding station. These remarkable creatures are the largest tortoises in the world, reaching weights of up to 900 pounds. Then, fly to Guayaquil, a favored haven for English and Dutch buccaneers in the 17th and 18th centuries. See the historic markets; visit famous Bolivar Park, where playful iguanas scamper across its grounds; and stroll the scenic promenade overlooking the Guayas River. Check into the deluxe Hilton Colón Hotel. Later tonight, those who are not staying on for the optional post-tour extension will transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. Everyone else will spend the night in Guayaquil to continue on the optional, post-tour extension tomorrow. (B)

Day 9: Saturday, March 16 - Guayaquil | U.S.
Travelers on their homeward flights arrive in the U.S. today. Travelers on the optional, post-tour extension depart for Lima, Peru. (B)
Optional Post-Tour Extension

PERU’S MACHU PICCHU
March 16-22 (7 days) with Carleton College Professor Nancy Wilkie

**DAY 1: SATURDAY, MARCH 16 - GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR | LIMA, PERU**
After breakfast, depart the Hilton Colón Hotel in Guayaquil and transfer to the airport for our flight to Lima. Upon arrival, enjoy a cultural orientation tour of the historic center of Lima. Tour Casa Aliaga, the oldest colonial mansion in Lima, perhaps even in all of South America. The house has been owned and occupied by the Aliaga family and their descendants since 1535, and much of the original 16th-century furniture remains preserved. Then, visit Huaca Pucllana, a complex of pre-Columbian ruins in the Miraflores district of Peru. The balance of the day is at leisure. *Overnight at the Casa Andina Private Collection Hotel - Miraflores. (B,L)*

**DAY 2: SUNDAY, MARCH 17 - LIMA | CUZCO | SACRED VALLEY**
Following breakfast, we transfer to the airport and fly to Cuzco. Upon arrival, we travel through the Sacred Valley to the village of Chinchero. Browse the local market, where artisans, farmers, and shoppers gather to barter goods and crafts, from felt hats and alpaca sweaters to musical instruments, antiques, and jewelry. Then, visit the Traditional Textile Center for a demonstration of long-established weaving practices. After lunch, visit the Pablo Seminario Workshop, dedicated to the production techniques and artistic designs of ancient Peruvian cultures. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the Sonesta Posada del Inca Hotel. (B,L,D)*

**DAY 3: MONDAY, MARCH 18 - SACRED VALLEY | MACHU PICCHU**
This morning, visit the exquisite Incan ruins of Ollantaytambo. During the Inca Empire, Ollantaytambo was the royal estate of Emperor Pachacuti, who conquered the region and built the town and a ceremonial center. At the time of the Spanish conquest of Peru, it served as a stronghold for Manco Inca Yupanqui, leader of the Inca resistance, and now it is one of the most common starting points for the journey along the Inca Trail, the most extensive and advanced road system in pre-Columbian South America, with its most famous section leading to Machu Picchu.

Travel by rail through the breathtaking Andes Mountains to the legendary lost city of Machu Picchu. This UNESCO World Heritage site stands almost 8,000 feet above sea level in the middle of an extraordinarily beautiful tropical mountain forest. At this spectacular urban creation of the Inca Empire, the giant walls, terraces, and ramps seem as if they have been cut naturally in the continuous rock escarpments. Tour the site’s incredible Incan ruins, whose exact purpose and history have yet to be determined. After lunch, you will have time to explore the ruins on your own. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. *Overnight at the Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel. (B,L,D)*

**DAY 4: TUESDAY, MARCH 19 - MACHU PICCHU | CUZCO**
This morning, return to Machu Picchu on your own, or enjoy time at leisure. Following lunch at our hotel, board the train for our return to Ollantaytambo. Continue by motorcoach to Cuzco and check-in to our hotel, where we have dinner. *Overnight for two nights at the Hotel Libertador. (B,L,D)*

**DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 - CUZCO**
Today, explore the city of Cuzco, a former Inca urban center and a UNESCO World Heritage site, including the Metropolitan Cathedral, built in 1539, and the Temple of the Sun, which was the most important temple of the Incas and later used as a base for the Church of Santo Domingo after the Spanish conquered the city. Tour the Sacsayhuamán Archaeological Park and see the ruins of a vast Incan fortress that was the site of a fierce battle during the rebellion of Manco Inca against the forces of Francisco Pizarro. Following a special farewell lunch, the afternoon is at leisure to pursue independent interests. (B,L)

**DAY 6: THURSDAY, MARCH 21 - CUZCO | LIMA**
Following breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly to Lima. Check into our hotel, after which the remainder of the day is free for individual pursuits. *Overnight at the Casa Andina Private Collection Hotel - Miraflores. (B)*

**DAY 7: FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - LIMA | U.S.**
Transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)

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**EXTENSION PRICES PER PERSON**

**DOUBLE Occupancy** $2,795  
**SINGLE Supplement** $700  
Prices are based on a minimum of 20 participants.
YOUR GALÁPAGOS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Leadership of Carleton Professor Matthew Rand;
- Three nights in Quito and day room in Guayaquil (overnight in Guayaquil for extension participants), including breakfast daily and welcome & farewell receptions;
- Four-night Galápagos cruise aboard the *M.V. Santa Cruz* including all meals;
- Two flights: Quito-Baltra and San Cristobal-Guayaquil;
- Bottled water at group meals and on excursions;
- Services of local guides and experienced Travel Director throughout;
- Services of Naturalist guides during the Galápagos portion;
- All sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary;
- Snorkeling equipment and glass-bottomed boat during the Galápagos portion;
- Tips to local guides and drivers for included excursions;
- Baggage handling;
- Group airport transfers for those arriving and departing on the group dates (times to be advised);
- Complete pre-departure information, including a suggested reading guide and details on what to pack.

PERU EXTENSION RATES INCLUDE: Leadership of Carleton Professor Nancy Wilkie; three flights (Guayaquil-Lima, Lima-Cuzco, and Cuzco-Lima); accommodations as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast and lunch as indicated, plus three dinners; all land and rail transportation within Peru; all sightseeing and excursions as indicated in the itinerary, with experienced local guides; tips to local guides & drivers; airport transfers for those arriving and departing on the group dates (times to be advised).

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE: US domestic airfare and international airfare to Quito and return from Guayaquil (or Lima for extension participants); passport and visa fees; all airport fees and departure taxes; port taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry; meals other than those listed as included; beverages other than water, unless otherwise specified; taxi, telephone, and fax charges; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All requests by passengers for cancellations must be received in writing. Cancellations received at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of $200 per person, and an additional $50 per person for extension participants. Cancellations received between one hundred nineteen (119) and ninety five (95) days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of $800 per person, and an additional $200 per person for extension participants. Cancellations received within 95 days of departure are subject to 100% of the tour cost for the main program and the extension.

PAYMENTS: A deposit of $800 per person is required to reserve your space on the Galápagos voyage, and an additional $200 deposit per person is due for those participating on the Peru extension. Deposits are payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to “EOS-Passenger Escrow-CCA Galápagos3/13.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by personal 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. Due to space limitations, this is abbreviated information. Complete terms & conditions will be sent upon confirmation and are available upon request. Prices 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. 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, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.
In order to fully participate on this program you must be in good physical condition, as the days are very active. Passengers must be able to negotiate a steep gangway and get in and out of the Zodiacs with minimal assistance. Most shore excursions involve a fair amount of walking up and down hills and over uneven and/or slippery terrain in warm to hot temperatures. There will be several hours of walking each day, sometimes in heat or mud, or at high altitude. It is essential that you are able to climb in and out of boats, walk over uneven rocks and loose boulders, and hike on rough trails. Quito, Ecuador is located at an elevation of more than 9,000 feet. Cuzco, Peru (on the post-tour extension) is the highest elevation at over 11,000 feet. If you have questions about or are unsure of your ability to participate, we recommend discussing the itinerary with your physician.

In March, the average temperatures in the Galápagos Islands and Guayaquil range from the low 70s to high 80s, whereas average temperatures in Quito range from the high 40s to low 70s. On average, in March, there is relatively little precipitation in the Galápagos, although there and on the mainland it is the wetter of the two main seasons. In Cuzco, Peru, average daytime temperatures are in the 60s and average nighttime temperatures are in the 40s.

**CARLETON COLLEGE STUDY LEADERS**

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

**Dr. Nancy Wilkie** is a distinguished archaeologist and professor who has lectured on numerous study tours around the world, including a recent trip to Peru that included visits to Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Nancy is the William H. Laird Professor of Classics, Anthropology, and the Liberal Arts, and Co-Director of the Archaeology Concentration at Carleton College, where she has been on the faculty since 1974. She is also an Honorary President of the Archaeological Institute of America, a member of The Explorers Club, and on the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

In April 2003 the President of the United States appointed her to the Cultural Property Advisory Committee of the U.S. State Department, on which she currently serves. The Committee reviews requests from foreign governments for the protection of their cultural property and recommends a course of action to the U.S. State Department. A graduate of Stanford University (1964), Nancy received her M.A. and Ph.D. (1975) from the University of Minnesota. She began her archaeological career in 1968 when she joined a pioneering program of survey and excavation in the region of the Palace of Nestor at Pylos in Greece. Since then Nancy has worked on archaeological projects in Greece, Egypt, and Nepal, and has authored more than 30 articles and co-edited three books on archaeology.
The charm, intimacy and personal service of the small cruise ship experience are the hallmarks of travel aboard the first-class expedition vessel M.V. Santa Cruz. It is designed specifically to navigate the Galápagos archipelago's narrow channels, shallow bays and environmentally sensitive waters and provides the most comprehensive access possible to the region's treasures. The M.V. Santa Cruz features only 43 cabins and offers a wide array of modern amenities and facilities.

- Each outside, air-conditioned cabin is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom and a window or porthole, safety box and hair dryer.
- All meals, featuring international and Ecuadorian specialties, are served in single seatings in the ship’s inviting dining room.
- The ship's public facilities include a bar, lounge, boutique, Internet service, natural history library and reading room, observation platform for dolphin watching, Jacuzzi and medical clinic with a full-time physician.
- The M.V. Santa Cruz staff provides professional, attentive service recognized in the travel industry as the finest in the Galápagos Islands. The ship maintains the highest international safety and environmental standards.

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Port taxes not included: $235 per person (subject to change)
THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
March 8-16, 2013 (9 days) Aboard the deluxe M.V. Santa Cruz
With optional extension to Peru’s Machu Picchu March 16-22 (7 days)

To hold your reservation for 7 days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-811-7244 or carleton@studytours.org

Name #1: ___________________________________________ Gender: M □ F □ Passport# ____________________________ (as it appears in passport)

Date of Birth ___________________ Profession: ______________ Nationality: ___________________ Issued Date: ___________ Expire Date: ___________

Name #2: ___________________________________________ Gender: M □ F □ Passport# ____________________________ (as it appears in passport)

Date of Birth ___________________ Profession: ______________ Nationality: ___________________ Issued Date: ___________ Expire Date: ___________

Address: ____________________________________________

City: ______________________________ State/Province: __________________ Zip: __________________

Home Phone: __________________________ Office Phone: __________________

Cell: ______________________________ Email: __________________

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

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION: ☐ Please enroll me/us on the post-tour extension.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Double: ☐ one bed ☐ two beds ☐ Single  ☐ Share - please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

Name of shared roommate____________________________________________________

Ship Category Preference: First Choice ___________ Second Choice ___________ Third Choice ___________

A deposit of $800 per person is required to confirm a reservation on the main tour and an additional $200 is required for extension participants. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

PAYMENT TYPE: ☐ Check payable to: EOS Passenger Escrow - CCA Galápagos3/13

☐ Visa  ☐ MC  ☐ Amex  CC#_________________________ Exp._________ Date________________________

☐ 3 or 4 Digit Security Code ___________ Name on Card ________________________________

All prices and payments are in US dollars. Please complete the Reservation Form above, sign the Release statement below, enclose your deposit and mail or fax to:

Carleton College Alumni Adventures
800-811-7244 • P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to
the Terms & Conditions on the reverse.

Signature (Name #1)__________________________________________________________ Date ______________

Signature (Name #2)__________________________________________________________ Date ______________
THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
March 8-16, 2013 (9 days) Aboard the deluxe M.V. Santa Cruz
With optional extension to Peru’s Machu Picchu March 16-22 (7 days)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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 nor to passengers whose required documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. RESPONSIBILITY: Carleton College and its agent, Eos (hereinafter “Sponsors”), and the tour operator, and/or its agents (hereinafter “Operator”) assume no liability for failure to provide the services, transportation, lecturers and accommodations referred to in this brochure to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond the control of Operator, which include but are not limited to sickness, epidemics, pandemics, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, and acts of God. In the absence of negligence on the part of Operator, the participant agrees that Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for damage to or loss of property, or injury to, or death of persons due to any act, omission or negligence of any carrier, hotel, restaurant, bus carrier, tender service, sightseeing company, or any other persons rendering any of the services or ground portions of the itinerary. The participant further waives any claim against Operator and Sponsors for any such damage, loss, injury or death. Operator and Sponsors shall not be responsible for any additional expenses, delays, substitution of equipment, and/or any act or omission whatsoever by the suppliers of such services, their agents, servants and employees, and the participant hereby waives any claim arising there from. Operator and Sponsors reserve the right to decline, accept or retain any participant at any time. Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part, except when trip cancellation, itineraries changes and/or delays are mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger 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 us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as Operator and Sponsors are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, Operator and Sponsors shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. All refunds of passenger payments are the responsibility of Eos and/or the Operator, and the participant agrees that Carleton College bears no financial responsibility for refunding of participant's payments. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies (such as ship operators and airlines) and the purchaser of this tour and/or passage. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is canceled or otherwise modified subsequent to the participant’s purchase of those tickets. Sponsors and Operator accept no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets to the tour departure city and return. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant. By forwarding of deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she agrees with these terms and conditions, and that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. Itinerary: Sponsors and Operator reserve the right to change the itinerary due to weather conditions, availability of anchorages, political conditions and other factors beyond our control without consulting the participants. Participants have no right to any refund or other considerations in the event of these itinerary changes. 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, the price of fuel, services and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly; and we reserve the right to alter our prices. AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST AGREE TO AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING RELEASE OF LIABILITY: RELEASE: Not withstanding anything set forth above or otherwise contained herein, the signatory clearly understands that the Sponsors are in no way responsible and can assume no liability of any nature whatsoever for the tour and any acts, omissions or negligence by the Operator or by companies and persons with whom the Operator may contract. The signatory has read carefully this agreement, and will abide by the conditions set by Sponsors and the Operator as described in the brochure and in the Terms and Conditions of this and other sections as stated herein or elsewhere published. The signatory affirms that he/she has not received or relied on any oral or written representation of Sponsors as a basis for executing this Release.