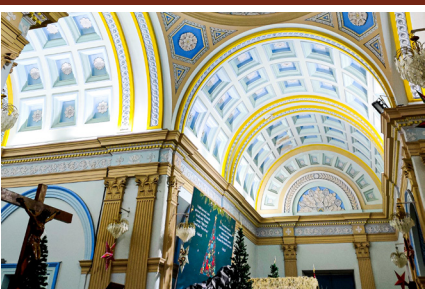




# PILGRIMAGE TO INDIA

*Footsteps of St. Thomas*

**2025 DEPARTURES**



# ITINERARY

## Day 1 – Depart the USA

### Day 2 – Arrive in Chennai

On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by our representative, who will transfer you to the hotel. Formerly known as Madras, Chennai is often called the cultural capital of India for its deep-rooted traditions and enduring heritage. The city's many beaches, temples, forts, and colorful festivals attract tourists from all over the country. On arrival in Chennai, transfer to your hotel.

### Day 3 – Chennai / Mahabalipuram

After breakfast, visit St. Thomas Mount. Atop the hill stands the St. Thomas Mount Church, a sacred site associated with St. Thomas. Pilgrims visit the church for its religious importance. Accessible by a flight of steps, the summit offers panoramic views of Chennai. Also, see the Little Mount. This small hillock is where St. Thomas sought refuge in a cave. The summit features a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Good Health, and pilgrims visit the site for its spiritual ambiance and to see the cave where St. Thomas prayed. Later, St. Mary's Church was visited inside Fort St. George, which was built by the British East India Company in 1640 AD. St. Mary's Church is one of Asia's oldest Anglican churches. Visit the Santhome Cathedral Church, a historical ancient pilgrim center built during the 14-15th century AD. This cathedral, near Chennai Beach, got its name from St. Thomas. A museum is on the grounds nearby, and its main attraction is a 16th-century map of South Asia and the belongings of the Holy Apostle Thomas. Later, continue to drive to Mahabalipuram.

### Day 4 – Mahabalipuram

Today, visit the Shore Temple. This beautiful and romantic temple, ravaged by wind and sea, represents the final phase of Pallava art. Since 1984, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is believed that long ago, there were seven such temples, and six were victims of the natural elements of erosion. This awe-inspiring temple has three shrines: one dedicated to Lord Vishnu and the other two to Lord Shiva. The frothy waves coming from the Bay of Bengal form a striking backdrop to the temple, protected by rows of rock-carved bulls. Also, see the Five Rathas, also known as Panch Rathas, a set of rock temples. Built by Pallavas, these five monolithic temples were built in the same shape as pagodas and greatly resemble the Buddhist shrines and monasteries. In Mahabalipuram, there are eight mandapams (shallow, rock-cut halls) scattered over the main hill; two of them were left unfinished. Their adorable internal figures and sculptures are interesting to see. One of the earliest rock-cut temples is the Krishna Mandapam. It features carvings of a pastoral scene, showing Krishna lifting the Govardhana Mountain to protect his kinsfolk from the wrath of Indra. On the hill rests a dangerously balanced boulder named Krishna's Butterball, named after his legendary affinity for fresh butter. This granite rock weighs over 250 tons and stands miraculously on a slippery area of a hill. This unique structure has raised many questions regarding its formation and the way it is glued to a slippery hill without even moving an inch.

### Day 5 – Mahabalipuram / Pondicherry

Drive to Pondicherry, and on the way, visit Auroville, described as "the City of Tomorrow." It was envisioned as a Universal Town, where people from different nationalities, faiths, and beliefs could live in peace and harmony. Today, Auroville is recognized as the first and only internationally endorsed ongoing experiment in human unity. It works to research sustainable living and the future cultural, environmental, social, and spiritual needs of mankind. Continue to Pondicherry, which bears the imprint of its colonizer's culture, especially in its architecture. On arrival in Pondicherry, transfer to the hotel. This evening, you can explore the nearby beach.

### Day 6 – Pondicherry / Villupuram Train to Madurai

After breakfast, visit the famous Sacred Heart Basilica. The Eglise de Sacre Coeur de Jesus stands out as an oriental specimen of Gothic splendor. It contains rare and beautiful stained glass panels depicting events from the life of Christ. The Eglise de Notre Dame de la Conception Immaculee on Cathedral Street was first built in 1692. The Eglise de Notre Dame des Anges in Rue Dumas is notable for its masonry, which uses the finest of limestone mixed with the white of the egg, making for a texture identical to that of white marble. Later, visit the Notre Dame des Anges, which is a beautifully built church facing the ocean. You can spend time exploring the promenade beach nearby, a vibrant and culturally rich area in Pondicherry that offers a blend of natural beauty, historical landmarks, and a relaxed atmosphere. In the afternoon, travel to the Villupuram Railway station to board a train to Madurai. Located along the banks of the Vaigai River, Madurai is also called the "Athens of the East." It is a place of great historical and cultural importance because of its temples, monuments, and ancient cultural wonders. Upon arrival in Madurai, transfer to the hotel.

### Day 7 – Madurai

Today, visit the spectacular Sri Meenakshi Temple. It is almost 2000 years old and the temple museum contains 985 richly carved pillars. Potramai Kulam, or Golden Lotus Tank, is the place where the Tamil educational society called Sangam met to discuss the work presented to them. Visit the Tirumalai Nayak Mahal palace, the place where Thirumalai Naicker lived and held his court. The rest of the day is at leisure. After an early dinner, drive-in cycle rickshaws to the Meenakshi Temple to witness the night ceremony in which Lord Shiva is symbolically carried in a palanquin accompanied by musicians, temple singers, and priests to the temple of his consort Parvati. En route, Shiva visits other deities before entering his wife's temple to spend the night with her.

### Day 8 – Madurai / Periyar

Drive to Periyar National Park, situated in the hills of the Western Ghats. The centerpiece of Periyar National Park is the 5,500-hectare Periyar Lake, formed by the construction of a dam on the Periyar River in 1895. Periyar is a veritable paradise of elephants. Herds of playful wild elephants can be seen near Periyar Lake, their favorite haunt for frolicking in the water. On arrival in Periyar, transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, enjoy a fascinating and informative visit to a spice plantation. The visit will enable you to have a deeper understanding of how the spices (used in everyday cooking) are grown, harvested, and processed before they find their way to your local supermarket. Late in the afternoon, enjoy a Kalarippayattu show at a local center. Kalarippayattu, the oldest form of martial arts, is a gift to the modern world and is known as the mother of all martial arts.

### Day 9 – Periyar / Bharananganam / Kottayam / Kumarakom

After breakfast, visit Saint Alphonsa Catholic Church in Bharananganam, Kerala. It is dedicated to Saint Alphonsa, the first canonized woman of Indian origin in the Catholic Church. After her death in 1946, her tomb at the church became a pilgrimage site, attracting visitors seeking intercession and miracles. Continue to the outskirts of Kottayam and visit the Tomb of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara. It is located at St. Joseph's Monastery in Mannanam. Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara was a prominent figure in the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church and played a key role in the spiritual and educational development of the region. Visit Kumarakom. This exotic backwater hamlet is endowed with lush, thick greenery, verdant and spanking fresh shrubs and bushes, paddy fields, coconut groves, and mangrove forests overwhelmingly covering every vacant inch of land, and water lilies and algae embroidering the fringes offer a flabbergasting treat to the thirsty eyes. On arrival in Kumarakom, transfer to the hotel.

### Day 10 – Kumarakom

Enjoy a morning at leisure and enjoy your lakeside resort. Later in the day, drive to the nearby jetty and enjoy an excursion on the beautiful backwaters onboard a houseboat, which is the famous backwaters of Kerala. You will sail past thatched houseboats with modern conveniences in the waterways and canals for 600 miles of cruising in a labyrinthine water world. Today, the canals connect villages in a self-supporting ecosystem teeming with aquatic life. Lunch will be served on board the houseboat. Later, drive back to the hotel for an overnight stay.

### Day 11 – Kumarakom / Cochin

After breakfast, drive to Cochin or Kochi, an important port city on the southwest coast of the country. A prominent trading center on the Indian spice trading route since the 14th century, it was occupied by the Portuguese in 1503 and later by the Dutch and the British. The blending of the architectural styles of the colonizers with that of the natives has created a unique cityscape. Set on a cluster of islands with the azure waters of the Arabian Sea to one side and Kerala's emerald backwaters to the other, Cochin truly is the "Queen of the Arabian Sea." Visit the following in Cochin – Chinese Fishing Nets. It is believed that traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan introduced these nets here. Oddly, these nets are found only in Kochi outside China! St. Francis Church is the oldest church built by Europeans in India. The Portuguese originally built the Dutch Palace. Later, in the 17th century, the Dutch modified it and presented it to the Raja of Kochi.

### Day 12 – Cochin

After breakfast, enjoy an excursion to Kodungallur to visit Mar Thoma Church. This Orthodox Church features the blending of Protestant Reformation ideals with Eastern forms. The Christian faith is not the American faith but the Indian faith. Continue to the St. Thomas Church founded by St. Thomas. You can also visit the Muringoor Divine Retreat Centre to get an insight into the strong Christian traditions that exist in India. The Cranganore region is also known for the earliest advent of Islam into India and arguably the first mosque in India. Later, drive back to Cochin. In the evening, enjoy a Kathakali dance drama in a public theatre. Witness the strength and vigor of a Kathakali dance drama as it enacts episodes from great Indian epics.

### Day 13 – Cochin

Embark on a pilgrimage to the Catholic Church in Malayattoor, which involves not only a spiritual journey but also a physical one. The ascent to the Malayattoor Hill, often referred to as Kurisumudi or the Mountain of the Cross, entails a small trek through scenic trails surrounded by lush greenery. Pilgrims, with a spirit of devotion and determination, navigate the well-laid path, ascending to the elevated site where St. Thomas is believed to have left his footprint. The climb, though manageable, becomes a meaningful act of penance and reflection. Later, drive back to Cochin. This evening, you will embark on a captivating cruise through the Cochin Harbor during the enchanting evening hours, where the warm hues of the setting sun illuminate iconic landmarks like the Marine Drive, Chinese fishing nets, and Bolgatty Island.

### Day 14 – Return to the USA or enjoy a Golden Triangle Extension

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board your flight back home. Return home with vibrant memories and a lasting impact from your pilgrimage.

*Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.*

Starting at

**\$4,698\*** from **NEW YORK**

**MARCH 10, 2025 - STARTING AT \$4,798**

**OR**

**OCTOBER 7, 2025 - STARTING AT \$4,698**

#### **YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:**

**Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing, Round-trip International Airfare**

Additional baggage & optional fees may apply;  
see fine print for details

**Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes**  
Subject to change

**Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Gratuities & Program Fees,**

**First-Class Hotels Hotel, Daily Breakfast and Dinner**

(One lunch will also be provided while on board the houseboat  
during the backwaters tour.)

**Deluxe Motorcoaches & much more!**

*\*See back for pricing details*



**DAY 14 - 19 | STARTING AT \$1,998\***

### Day 14 – Fly to Jaipur

Capital of the Indian state of Rajasthan, Jaipur is also known as the "Pink City" due to the color of its buildings. Built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727 CE, the city's plan followed a grid system, making it the only planned city of its time. With its innumerable sagas of traditions, culture and practices, Jaipur is a sensory treat for tourists from all over the world. On arrival in Jaipur, transfer to your hotel.

### Day 15 – Jaipur

After breakfast, explore Jaipur. Begin with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal Palace, the most well-known landmark of Jaipur city, built by Sawai Pratap Singh in 1799. Next, visit the Amber Fort. Set high on a picturesque and rugged hill, it is a principal attraction in Jaipur. The fort was declared as UNESCO World Heritage site in 2013. In the afternoon, visit the Jantar Mantar, a collection of architectural astronomical instruments. The Jaipur observatory is the largest and best preserved, inscribed on the World Heritage List as "an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period". In the late afternoon, enjoy a rickshaw ride through the old city in Jaipur. Explore the walled city of Jaipur in these unique and custom-designed, eco-friendly rickshaws driven by well-trained ladies, all from the slums and low-income areas of Jaipur. From the picturesque lanes and by-lanes to the many palaces, it will take you through the many attractions starting from Tripolia Bazaar, then to Hawa Mahal, Badi Chaupar, Choti Chaupar, Ajmeri Gate, Chodha Rasta and ends at the Albert Hall or vice versa. Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 16 – Jaipur / Abhaneri / Agra

After breakfast, drive to Agra. On the way, enjoy a visit at the Abhaneri Stepwell & Harshat Mata Temple for time to explore on your own. Abhaneri is a small village famous for its stepwell, created for rainwater harvesting, a unique invention by the people of Abhaneri. The major attraction of Abhaneri is "Chand Baori," which is located in front of the Harshat Mata Temple, and this colossal stepwell has a depth of 20 meters with 13 levels. Continue to Agra, located in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, on the banks of River Yamuna. Agra is a slow-paced, quiet town. Also known as the city of the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Agra's significance as the political center of the Mughal Empire ended when Shahjahan transferred his capital to Delhi. Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 17 – Agra / Delhi

In the morning, enjoy the visit to the Taj Mahal during sunrise. Muted but soulful, the Taj Mahal, popularly known as the Crown of Palaces, is a white marble mausoleum and a UNESCO world heritage site. As a testament to his love, the magnificent structure was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in the loving memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. After breakfast, visit the Agra Fort - A UNESCO World Heritage site. The Agra Fort was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty till 1638 before the capital was shifted to Delhi from Agra. Late in the afternoon, drive to Delhi. Delhi has been the seat of power of several empires for about a millennium. It has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, and interestingly, some of its destroyers have also been its rulers. Today, Delhi is a potpourri of two distinct cultural lineages: Old Delhi and New Delhi. Juxtaposed against the immaculately planned New Delhi created by the British Raj, Old Delhi, which was once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinthine network of lanes and lanes with crumbling havelis and formidable mosques. On arrival in Delhi, transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 18 – Delhi

After a leisurely breakfast, explore Delhi. Enjoy a photo stop at the historic Red Fort – it was built to serve as the residence of Mughal emperor Shahjahan. Next, visit the Jama Masjid – This great mosque of Old Delhi is the largest in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. In the afternoon, explore New Delhi, including a photo stop at the India Gate. At the center of New Delhi, it commemorates 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during World War I. Drive past the govt. buildings. New Delhi houses several government buildings and official residences reminiscent of British colonial architecture. Later, visit the Humayun's Tomb. This magnificent garden tomb is the first substantial example of Mughal architecture in India. Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 19 – Return to the USA

**TRAVEL REGISTRATION FORM**

**Please mail completed form with payment and passport copy to:**

**Departure City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Departure Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ (S)

**First, Middle & Last Name must be submitted as it appears on your passport:**

**Guest 1: First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Middle Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **P.O. Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alt. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **State of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex:**  M  F

**Dietary Restrictions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you learn about this tour?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour Selection:**  **Basic Program Only**  **Add Golden Triangle Extension**

**Guest 2: First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_)

**Middle Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **P.O. Box:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Alt. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ **State of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sex:**  M  F

**Dietary Restrictions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you learn about this tour?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour Selection:**  **Basic Program Only**  **Add Golden Triangle Extension**

**Roommate(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**If No Roommate:**  **Try to Match Me**  **Single Room (availability limited - \$999)**

<p><b>Important Information Regarding Travel Protection Plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel Protection coverage cannot be added after you have paid in full.</li> <li>Premium is based on TOTAL cost of trip and is non-refundable.</li> <li>Coverage begins when your premium payment is received (separate from deposit &amp; clearly designated as your travel protection premium).</li> <li>Premium must be paid in full no later than 105 days prior to departure.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Guest 1:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I Accept <input type="checkbox"/> I Decline</p> <p><b>Guest 2:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> I Accept <input type="checkbox"/> I Decline</p>
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**\$300 DEPOSIT PER PERSON REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION  
FINAL PAYMENT DUE 105 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE**

via check # \_\_\_\_\_  via credit card (circle): **VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX**

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CVN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSENGER AGREEMENT**

By signing and submitting the registration form, I/we certify that I/we have read Passenger Agreement, Program Conditions, and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure, understand its content, and agree to its terms including but not limited to the potential for price increases that may apply before payment in full has been received as set forth in the Program Conditions and Statements of Responsibility of the brochure and potential price increases after payment in full has been received due to government imposed taxes and fees.

**Guest 1 Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest 2 Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tour: XA25 Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Code: S ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **V.001 04/10/24**

**Travel Protection Plan - Premium Rates**  
For a full description of the plan, go to: [www.tripmate.com/wpF427E](http://www.tripmate.com/wpF427E)

Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost	Trip Cost	Plan Cost
\$ 0 to \$1000	\$ 99	\$2501 to \$3000	\$299	\$4501 to \$5000	\$499	\$6501 to \$7000	\$699
\$1001 to \$1500	\$149	\$3001 to \$3500	\$349	\$5001 to \$5500	\$549	\$7001 to \$8000	\$799
\$1501 to \$2000	\$199	\$3501 to \$4000	\$399	\$5501 to \$6000	\$599	\$8001 to \$9000	\$899
\$2001 to \$2500	\$249	\$4001 to \$4500	\$449	\$6001 to \$6500	\$649	\$9001 to \$10,000	\$999

Schedule of Coverages	Maximum Benefit	Additional Cancellation Protection
Part A * Trip Cancellation	Trip Cost	When You purchase this Travel Protection Plan at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip, you also receive the Educational Travel Services Pre-Departure Cancellation Waiver Benefit that allows you to cancel your Educational Travel Services travel arrangements up to the day of departure for any reason (excludes no shows and those not permitted boarding). With this Educational Travel Services Cancellation Waiver, your non-refundable land cancellation penalties will be refunded in Educational Travel Services travel certificates. Certain travel programs are not eligible for this benefit, such as cruise and land programs listed and detailed on the Educational Travel Services website ( <a href="http://www.elstours.com">www.elstours.com</a> ). Premiums must be paid in addition to initial or second deposit prior to the final payment for coverage to be in effect.
Part B Trip Interruption	Trip Cost	
Missed Connection	\$500	
Travel Delay (Up to 10 days & up to \$150 Per Day)	\$1,500	
Medical Expense / Emergency Evacuation		
Accident and Sickness Medical Expense	\$25,000	
Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation	\$50,000	
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000	
Baggage and Personal Effects	\$1,000	
Baggage Delay	\$200	

Part A - Travel Arrangement Benefits are provided by Educational Travel Services. Part B - Travel Protection Benefits are provided by United States Fire Insurance Co. \*For New York Residents Only; Part A Benefits are travel arrangement benefits underwritten by United States Insurance Company.

**Conditions and Limitations**

This is a brief description of the plan available for all Travel Protection sales for Trips departing January 1, 2013 and after. Certain exclusions and limitations apply and are detailed in the Certificate of Coverage. For example, coverage does not apply to: any Sickness or condition of you, a Traveling Companion or a Family Member traveling with you that existed during the 90 days prior to the effective date of the coverage (The Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion is waived if payment for this plan is received by Educational Travel Services at or before the final payment due date for Your Trip or 105 days before departure date, whichever occurs first.); suicide, normal pregnancy, war or any act of war. Other Covered Reasons, as defined, includes the following events or their consequences: Cancellation or Interruption of your Trip due to: Inclement Weather, unannounced Strike, mechanical breakdown that causes complete cessation of services of Your Common Carrier for at least 12 consecutive hours; a documented traffic accident while en route to departure; being hijacked or quarantined; jury duty; destruction of your home or destination by fire, flood, burglary or natural disaster; being called to the emergency service of government to provide aid or relief in the event of a natural disaster; a documented theft of passports or visas; a transfer of employment of 250 miles or more; or Revocation of military leave. For further information ask for the Certificate of Coverage which fully details the coverages, provisions, limitations and exclusions of the plan offered and is available to you, upon request, at any time prior to your purchase of the plan. This plan is underwritten by: United States Fire Insurance Company, Easton/tn, NJ. Benefits are administered by: Trip Mate, Inc., 9225 Ward Parkway, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO, 64114, 1-800-988-7292 (\*In CA, dba Trip Mate Insurance Agency).

**PROGRAM CONDITIONS**

**INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

Round-trip international airfare • Deluxe motorcoaches • 1st class hotels • Guided sightseeing • Entrance fees to sites visited (as listed in itinerary) • Breakfast and Dinner Daily (One lunch will also be provided) • Hotel gratuities • Program fees • Administrative Fee • Fuel surcharges • Government Taxes \$98 (Increases in government tax and fees are subject to change)

**NOT INCLUDED IN PRICE:**

Optional sightseeing as listed in the brochure • Miscellaneous fees i.e. individual transfers; passports, laundry, lunches, Dinners, beverages & baggage fees • Visas for non-US citizens • Visas and Transfers for all ground only passengers • Optional Travel Protection Program (see premium schedule) • Tips for guide (\$6/day) & driver (\$3/day)

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Price is per person based on double occupancy. When available, single rooms are often smaller than doubles. While we will try to match roommates, we cannot guarantee a roommate will be available. Roommates may be assigned as late as 30 days prior to departure and, if one is not available or you request a single room, the following charges apply: \$999 during the basic tour; \$399 for Golden Triangle Extension.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

Deposit	Payment Amount	Due Date
<b>Registration Deposit</b>	\$300	At time of registration
<b>Final Payment</b>	Full payment	105 days prior to departure   If paid after the due date, a late payment fee of \$100 will be assessed.
<b>Travel Protection Premium Amount</b>	The Travel Protection Plan premium will be due no later than 105 days prior to departure to be in full effect. Travel protection premiums must be paid in addition to our deposits and in advance of the final payment for coverage to be in effect.	

**REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED less than 105 days prior to departure:**

We welcome registrations after 105 days prior to departure. Registrations received between 104-90 days prior will incur a \$100 per person fee. Registrations received between 89-75 days prior will incur a \$200 per person fee. Registrations received after 74 days prior or less will incur an additional fee based on air availability. Additional fees will be advised upon registration.

**CANCELLATION FEES:**

100% of Cancellation Fees are covered by the optional Travel Protection Program, provided premium has been paid and reason for cancellation is coverable. Those who do not take travel protection should be aware of the following per-person cancellation penalties: From day of registration to 105 days prior to departure, you will be charged the \$100 non-refundable cancellation fee plus any airline fees. Additionally, thereafter, you will be charged any airline penalties and a single room supplement if your cancellation forces your roommate into a single plus the following per-person charges: 104-80 days = \$400; 59-45 days = \$600; 44-31 days = 40% of total cost; 30 days to day of departure = 100% of total cost. Submit cancellation in writing. On or after day of departure, there will be no refund for any services not used.

**STATEMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

We do not accept responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air schedules, hotel overbookings, other hotel related problems or causes, and/or travel supplier cancellations or postponements. Travel suppliers include all tour operators, cruise lines, airlines, hotels, bus companies, entertainment venues, and any other travel supplier used to operate the tour. All such losses or expenses will be the responsibility of the passenger. We reserve the right to make adjustments to the itinerary as deemed desirable by us, and we reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. If a tour is canceled beyond the control of us, we will provide a refund or a future travel credit to be used two years from the date of issuance for the value of all funds paid by the passenger less nonrefundable travel supplier prepaid deposits, travel supplier change fees, nonrefundable travel protection premiums, and a \$150 administration fee.

**FIT TO TRAVEL STATEMENT:**

Passengers registering for the tour accept the responsibility for being in good health and able to walk and travel on the tour. Because many of the sites are not accessible to the physically challenged and space limitations on tour buses, wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated. Those needing oxygen or other ambulatory assistance will find the tour extremely limiting in their experiences. Persons using C-pap machines requiring distilled water will need to inform us ahead of time, so we can work with local operators to prepare as it is not always available. We reserve the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in our sole judgment, incapable of group travel without causing undue demands upon the staff or other tour participants. Accessible rooms/cabins are limited and subject to confirmation after receiving the passenger's written request. If you have questions, please contact us for more details.

**PASSPORT INFORMATION:**

Passport information must be submitted to our office no later than 105 days prior to departure. Failure to provide your passport information to our office by this date may result in change fees or denial of travel. Discrepancies in information may result in change fees, delays in receiving travel documents for your trip, or denial of travel. Any fees incurred due to discrepancies are the responsibility of the passenger. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the return date.

**PRICE INCREASES:**

All prices quoted in this brochure are subject to change prior to payment in full due to currency fluctuations, fuel surcharge increases, government taxes and fees increases or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, you may be subject to a price increase after payment in full has been received due to potential government imposed taxes and fees.

**AIRLINE ROUTES and TICKETS:**

In order to keep prices low, we do not guarantee the most direct routing to your final destination. Once issued, airline tickets cannot be changed or refunded thereafter. Air transportation to/from your destination will be economy class on IATA and ARC carriers utilizing APEX or SUPER APEX non-refundable, non-amendable tickets for groups of 10 or more flying together on entire itinerary. If you choose to depart from a different city than your group or traveling companion, or deviate your flight and/or trip plans, and/or you are taking a pre or post tour, you may fly on a different scheduled flight(s) than the rest of your group. If you make your own air arrangements, you are responsible for booking all needed flights for your travel unless specified otherwise. Contact your travel advisor for further details.

**FLIGHT TIMES AND SEATING:**

All flights are subject to change by the airlines without advance notice. We are not responsible for such changes or delays and do not reimburse expenses resulting from such delays. If you are making your own flight arrangements to the departure city, we recommend you purchase a ticket that can be exchanged without large penalties. There is no advance seat selection for groups on most airlines. Early check-in is necessary to secure seats with travel companions and those with special needs. Due to security measures taken at airports, it is advisable to arrive at the airport three hours prior to departure time. Seating is solely under the control of the airlines. You will receive your flight information 60-30 days prior to departure. Final documents are sent approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

**ADDITIONAL AIRLINE FEES:**

You will likely incur additional airline checked baggage fees that are not included in the price of the tour. These fees vary by airline and are at the airline's discretion on each segment of the flight itinerary. You may also incur optional fees i.e. food, excess baggage, overweight baggage, items of personal nature, etc.

**DEVIATIONS AND AIR UPGRADE REQUESTS:**

Deviation and Air Upgrade requests must be submitted in writing and are subject to additional airline fees. Deviations and Air Upgrades are not always possible given the group schedule and time of ticketing. Passengers who are ticketed with air deviations and/or upgrades will likely not fly with the group and will therefore need to provide their own transfers.

**ITINERARY CHANGES:**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this brochure. While we will make every effort to ensure you will see all sites listed in this brochure, the availability of sites, order of sites and/or days and number of days may be altered to accommodate changes in airline, hotel schedules, and local conditions. No changes to the itinerary are effective unless approved in writing and signed by an authorized officer of the tour operator. Except as stated herein, no other person is authorized to cancel, modify or vary the tour arrangements or to make any representation of warranty concerning the tour. Due to airline schedules, some participants may receive one or two extra leisure days at a nominal per day charge and some extensions may not be available on all departure dates. If itinerary changes necessitate extra overnights, you will be charged \$125 per night; single rooms \$175 per night. Meals for extra nights are not included.

**VALIDITY DATE:**

This brochure is valid until 10/10/24. Registrations will still be accepted after the validity date.

**RELEASE INFORMATION:**

Payment of deposit indicates permission for us or our agents to record the registrant's participation and appearance on video tape, audio tape, film, photograph, or any other medium and to use the registrant's name, likeness, voice, comments, submitted documentation, written papers, and/or biographical material without restrictions or limitation for any advertising, marketing, publicity, educational or promotional purpose which we or our agents deem appropriate, unless the registrant or guardian otherwise notifies us in writing prior to departure.

Enrollment in, payment of deposit and/or acceptance of final documents, vouchers, or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the Passenger Agreement and Program Conditions of the brochure. Prices are based on tariffs in effect as of January 1 of the previous year and are subject to adjustment without notice in the event of any change or currency fluctuation.

Except where otherwise stated, we act only as agent for the relevant supplier in securing hotels, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall we be liable for failure by any such supplier to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. The passenger agrees that we assume no liability for injury, death, damage, loss, theft, accident, delay, any lost or damaged luggage, or irregularity which may occur by reason of any negligent or willful act or omission of any suppliers of service.

We do not own or operate any of the suppliers of services to your tour. Similarly without limiting the foregoing, passenger agrees to hold us harmless for any defect in any vehicle, plane, boat, bus, car, van or other vehicle, act of war or insurrection, terrorist activity, revolt or other civil uprising, military action, strikes or labor unrest or any Act of God or for any other act of any third party.