

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
A L U M N I

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY:

Wonders of the Galápagos Islands

Aboard the M.V. SANTA CRUZ

February 24 to March 3, 2012



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
A L U M N I

Dear Alabama Traveler:

"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 lies at the heart of his scientific studies here. Today, with 95 percent of its natural biodiversity still intact, the Galápagos Archipelago is still the home of the exotic birds, animals and plants that inspired Darwin over a century ago and continue to make the islands a nature lover's dream destination today.

Join us for an incredible journey and exceptional travel value 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 a fleet of Zodiacs and a glass-bottom Boston Whaler to complimentary snorkeling gear. Our highly qualified team of certified naturalists leads excursions and shares their knowledge to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating and mysterious natural realm.

These 19 islands, each with its own ecosystem, are literally overflowing with life, including 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 accepts human company up-close to an extent found nowhere else! Here, you can almost touch spiny-backed iguanas and snorkel alongside playful seals and tropical penguins.

On mainland Ecuador, visit the colorful Andean market of Otavalo and explore the magnificent colonial churches of Quito. We are also pleased to offer an optional six-night Post-Tour featuring Peru's legendary "lost city" of Machu Picchu, the historic cities of Lima and Cuzco and the breathtaking Sacred Valley.

This special journey of discovery has been a fast sell-out every year and space is limited. I encourage you to make your reservation soon. Early Booking Savings are available only through August 4, 2011.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hodges
Alumni Tour Coordinator
University of Alabama National Alumni Association





The enigma of the Galápagos Islands

“The Archipelago is a little world within itself...”
— Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle*

It is ironic that this scattered, remote volcanic archipelago, consisting of just 19 islands and 42 islets located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, inspired one of the most revolutionary theories in the history of science. Formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions, these islands’ dramatic landscapes now make a safe, if harsh, home for the quirky finches and primeval iguanas that inspired Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection and evolution, which he presented in *On The Origin of Species* in 1859.

Scientists generally believe that most Galápagos species originally floated to the islands from the mainland or were transported by birds or deposited by whalers and buccaners. Others, like penguins and sea lions, probably arrived by way of the Humboldt Current, a cold stream of ocean water flowing from the southern coast of Chile. This current makes the Galápagos the world’s only tropical region to support such species.

Darwin noted that life in the Galápagos Islands comprises mostly “aboriginal creations, found nowhere else,” which led him to hypothesize that the islands’ species survived by evolving over time independently from their continental cousins. Because natural predators failed to survive—possibly due to the lack of fresh water, which deterred even permanent human settlement until the 20th century—its bevy of birds and animals was able to thrive and adapt in a manner not possible in other habitats. This also explains why Galápagos species never developed a sense of fear and allow the up-close viewing by humans that makes the experience of visiting the islands so thrilling and unique.

U.S./Quito, Ecuador Friday, Day 1

Fly to Quito and transfer to the superior first-class HILTON COLÓN HOTEL, ideally located near one of Quito’s lively markets. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, yet only miles from the equator, the city is known for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture and colorful street life.

Quito Saturday, Day 2

Quito is a city of startling contrasts where thousands of years of Indian tradition are interwoven with imported Catholicism, the Spanish language and European culture. Quaint family-owned shops and open-air markets are but steps away from gleaming skyscrapers and imposing cathedrals.

Cover photo: *Blue-footed boobies are a common sight along the rocky shores of the Galápagos, where they congregate to nest and mate.*

Photo this page: *Marine iguanas bask in the afternoon sun in the company of Sally Lightfoot crabs.*





built in the ornate Spanish Baroque style favored by the Conquistadors. On the city tour, visit the Museo Nacional del Banco Central's Archaeological and Golden Courts. 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, enjoy a private welcome reception in the hotel.

Quito (Otavalo/Peguche) Sunday, Day 3

Travel through the scenic countryside past dramatic mountains and valleys 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.

Stop in the village of Peguche to see artisans engaged in the textile crafts of their ancestors. Enjoy a private lunch in a beautifully restored 17th-century Andean estate.

Quito/Baltra, Galápagos Islands/Santa Cruz Monday, Day 4

Fly to the small Galápagos island of Baltra. Embark the M.V. SANTA CRUZ for lunch and your first briefing by the ship's naturalists.

On Bartolomé Island, see the famous Pinnacle Rock and watch reef sharks and skates swimming in the crystal clear water.

Cruise to Santa Cruz Island. Its 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 boobies, frigates and pelicans. Make a landing in the surf at Las Bachas beach, and trek to a small lagoon favored by elegant wading birds including black-necked stilts and greater flamingos.

Please note that the M.V. SANTA CRUZ's specific itinerary and cruise pattern is dependent on weather, sea conditions and Galápagos National Park Service regulations.



Take photographs of a lifetime in the Galápagos, where wildlife allows humans to approach it up-close, unlike anywhere else on earth!





Look for the unusual mating “dance” of the magnificent frigate birds, one of the Galápagos Islands’ hallmark species.

Santiago **Tuesday, Day 5**

On Santiago Island, stroll along the glistening dark sands of Espumilla Beach, where a wide variety of birds and wildlife peacefully commingle. Walk inland through a mangrove forest, where Pacific green sea turtles are known to nest, to brackish lagoons that attract white-cheeked pintail ducks.

Later, in Puerto Egas at low tide, walk beside the best tide pools in the Galápagos. Look for land iguanas and marine iguanas—the world’s only seagoing iguanas—grazing on algae beds along the rocky shore left by ancient lava flows. Nearby, observe fur seals and sea lions swimming in the turquoise pools of the fur seal grotto.

Rábida/Bartolomé **Wednesday, Day 6**

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 and enjoy unsurpassed views of the surrounding lunar-like craters, mangroves and lava formations from the top of Cerro Bartolomé. 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, search out dolphins, manta rays and an abundance of colorful sea creatures from the comfort of a glass-bottom boat.

Genovesa **Thursday, Day 7**

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, trek up to a broad lava flow overlooking the sea. The masked faces of Nazca boobies greet you at the top

of the cliff, while flurries of storm petrels—the smallest of the seabirds—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 frigates, yellow-crowned night herons and four types of Darwin’s finches.

San Cristóbal/ Guayaquil, Ecuador **Friday, Day 8**

Arrive this morning on the shores of San Cristóbal, the first Galápagos island Darwin landed on in 1835. Transfer to the airport and fly to Guayaquil. Invigorated by trade with the Far East, this city became one of the wealthiest on the continent, a status that made it a favored haven for English and Dutch buccaneers in the 17th and 18th centuries. See the historic markets and shipyards; visit famous Bolivar Park, where playful iguanas scamper through its grounds; and stroll past historical and cultural monuments along the Malecón 2000 promenade overlooking the Guayas River. Check into the deluxe HILTON COLÓN HOTEL and join your traveling companions for a farewell reception.



The graceful Pacific green sea turtle is the only marine turtle to nest regularly on Galápagos beaches.

Guayaquil/U.S. **Saturday, Day 9**

Continue on the Machu Picchu Post-Tour Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.



M.V. SANTA CRUZ

The charm, intimacy and personal service of a small cruise ship experience are the hallmarks of travel aboard the first-class expedition vessel, M.V. SANTA CRUZ. Its ability to navigate the Galápagos archipelago's narrow channels, shallow bays and environmentally sensitive waters ensures that participants enjoy the most comprehensive access possible to the region's treasures. The M.V. SANTA CRUZ features only 43 cabins, offers a wide array of modern amenities and facilities and underwent interior updates in 2009.

Six Ecuadorian naturalists will share their in-depth insight and information about the Galápagos' distinctive ecosystem during daily excursions and multimedia presentations. The vessel provides five Zodiacs for island landings and excursions, a Boston Whaler glass-bottom boat for viewing aquatic life and complimentary snorkeling equipment.

Each outside cabin is tastefully appointed with private bathroom facilities, air conditioning and either a window or a porthole.

All meals, featuring international and Ecuadorian specialties, are served in a single seating in the vessel's inviting dining room.

The vessel's public facilities include a bar, lounge, gift shop, business center with wireless Internet access (service may be limited by ship position), natural history library, Jacuzzi and a medical clinic with a full-time physician.

The M.V. SANTA CRUZ's highly trained 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.



Standard Stateroom



Dining Room



Sun Deck



Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option

Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience featuring Machu Picchu, the “Lost City of the Incas;” the Incan and Colonial traditions of Cuzco; and the lush Sacred Valley.

Located high in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. Nearly a century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved.

The rushing Urubamba River flows through the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches and the Incan stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and Colonial influences.

Day 1 *Guayaquil/Fly to Lima, Peru*

Day 2 *Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley*

Day 3 *Sacred Valley/Scenic train ride to Machu Picchu*

Day 4 *Machu Picchu/Transfer to Cuzco*

Day 5 *Cuzco*

Day 6 *Cuzco/Lima*

Day 7 *Lima/Return to the U.S.*



Included Features In Quito

- ◆ Three nights in the Superior First-Class HILTON COLÓN HOTEL.
- ◆ Full American breakfast each morning.
- ◆ Welcome reception.
- ◆ Tour of Quito's historic Colonial District, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ◆ Full-day excursion featuring the colorful market in the ancient Andean town of Otavalo and a textile weaving demonstration in the Incan village of Peguche, with lunch.

Flight from Quito to the Galápagos.

On board the M.V. SANTA CRUZ

- ◆ Four-night cruise from Baltra Island to San Cristóbal Island, with calls at Santa Cruz, Santiago, Rábida, Bartolomé and Genovesa islands.
- ◆ Air-conditioned, outside accommodations with private bathroom facilities.
- ◆ Three meals each day, featuring international and Ecuadorian cuisine.
- ◆ Six multilingual naturalists who will share their in-depth insights and specialized expertise about the Galápagos' distinctive ecosystem and wildlife.
- ◆ Two island excursions each day (conditions and weather permitting) by Zodiac landing craft, focusing on the natural history, unique wildlife and conservation efforts in the Galápagos.
- ◆ Snorkeling equipment and glass-bottom boat for further exploration of the Galápagos' diverse marine life.

Flight from the Galápagos to Guayaquil.

In Guayaquil

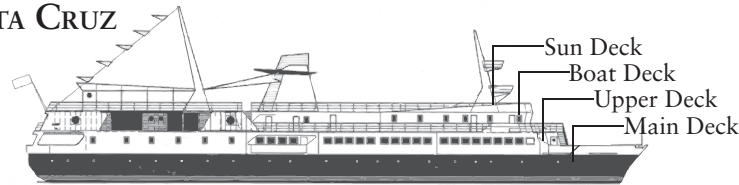
- ◆ One night in the deluxe HILTON COLÓN HOTEL.
- ◆ Full American breakfast.
- ◆ City orientation tour.
- ◆ Farewell reception.

Enhanced Travel Services

- ◆ All transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants who have purchased their international air tickets through Gohagan & Company and whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined in the itinerary, with experienced local guides.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions in Quito and Guayaquil and transfers.
- ◆ Galápagos National Park fee.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard ship and in the hotels.
- ◆ Experienced Travel Director to accompany you throughout the travel program.
- ◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.



M.V. SANTA CRUZ



Land/Cruise Tariff <i>(per person, based on double occupancy)</i>			
<i>Cabin Category*</i>	<i>Description - Each outside cabin is equipped with a private bathroom and shower, air conditioning and hair dryer.</i>	<i>Early Booking Price through August 4, 2011</i>	<i>Regular Price after August 4, 2011</i>
6	Standard cabin with two twin beds and a large porthole. <i>Main Deck, aft.</i>	\$3595	\$4595
5	Standard cabin with two twin beds and a large porthole. <i>Main Deck, midship.</i>	\$4495	\$5495
4	Standard cabin with two twin beds and a large window. <i>Upper Deck.</i>	\$5295	\$6295
3	Standard cabin with two twin beds or one double bed* and a large window. <i>Boat Deck.</i> (*very limited availability)	\$5895	\$6895
2	Larger standard cabin with two twin beds and an extra large porthole. <i>Boat Deck.</i>	\$6195	\$7195
1	Superior cabin with two twin beds or one double bed* and full-length windows. <i>Boat Deck.</i> (*very limited availability)	\$6495	\$7495
Junior Suite	Junior Suite with two twin beds, sofa bed and full-length windows. <i>Boat Deck.</i>	\$6595	\$7595
Master Suite	Master Suite with one double bed, sofa bed and sliding glass doors with private terrace and an extra large porthole. <i>Boat Deck.</i>	\$7395	\$8395
♦ Singles are available in category 5 at \$8295 and category 3 at \$9495 on or before August 4, 2011. Add \$1000 for reservations made after August 4, 2011. (very limited availability)			
♦ Taxes are an additional \$235 per person and are subject to change.			
*M.V. SANTA CRUZ has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.			

Wonders of the Galápagos Islands Reservation Form

<p>Send to: Attn: Ashley Hodges Alabama Alumni Association P.O. Box 861928 Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017 Phone: (205) 348-1547 Fax: (205) 348-5958</p>	<p><i>For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.</i></p>	<p>Please make my/our reservation(s) in category:</p> <p>1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Double occupancy (two twin beds). <input type="checkbox"/> Double occupancy (one double bed). <input type="checkbox"/> Single accommodations. <input type="checkbox"/> I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).</p>
<p>Title _____ Full name (exactly as it appears on your passport) _____ Class Year _____</p> <p>Title _____ Full name (exactly as it appears on your passport) _____ Class Year _____</p> <p>Address (no P.O. Box number please) _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Telephone: (Home) _____ (Business) _____</p> <p>Email Address _____ (Mobile) _____</p> <p>Preferred name(s) on badge(s) _____ Tour No. 099-02/24/12-155</p>		<p>Please make my/our reservation(s): Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Double at \$2695 per person. <input type="checkbox"/> Single at \$3295 per person. <input type="checkbox"/> I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).</p>
<p>Program reservations require a deposit of \$600 per person and \$200 per person Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$ _____ as deposit. Make checks payable to 2012 Wonders of the Galápagos Islands.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of \$ _____ to: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard</p> <p>Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____</p> <p>_____ Signature as it appears on credit card</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> I/We want you to book my/our air from _____ _____ (fill in departure city) to Quito, Ecuador, with return from Guayaquil, Ecuador, at an additional cost to be advised.‡</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Economy Class <input type="checkbox"/> Business Class <input type="checkbox"/> First Class</p>
<p>All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by November 21, 2011.</p>		<p>‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.</p>



Observe, as Charles Darwin did more than 150 years ago, the distinct creatures indigenous to the Galápagos Islands, like this land iguana.

CONTRACT: TERMS & CONDITIONS. IMPORTANT READ CAREFULLY.

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, the sponsoring institution or association, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Gohagan"), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity of any third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, sickness, illness, the lack of availability of or access to appropriate medical attention, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant on these trips at any time. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel/cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Gohagan may cancel a trip for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. All fares, as well as ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Gohagan shall not be required to refund any portion of the fare or make any other compensation under these circumstances. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels or hotels of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

NOT INCLUDED: Taxes; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry and telephone calls; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists and hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; excess baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the "Included Features" section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you have not purchased your international air arrangements through Gohagan or if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is non-refundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policy.

HEALTH: Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Participants must be able to climb stairs and step over raised thresholds or bulkheads aboard the ship without assistance, and participants must be able to get in and out of the Zodiacs and ascend/descend the ship's gangplank with minimal assistance.

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DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by **August 4, 2011**. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

ARBITRATION AGREEMENT: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to these Terms and Conditions, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent.

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.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract.

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