

Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols

You are considering travel during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that is spread mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets and particles including airborne and aerosol transmission produced by an infected person, who may possibly be asymptomatic. It is also possible to contract COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface and then touching one's own mouth, nose, or eyes. COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within 6 feet), and studies suggest that it may be spread by people exhibiting symptoms (fever, dry cough, labored breathing), as well as those who are asymptomatic.

There is currently no FDA-approved vaccine for COVID-19, and until there is one, there will be additional risks associated with group travel. People with underlying conditions such as lung, kidney or heart disease; asthma; diabetes; and obesity are at higher risk for severe illness, as well as people who are immunocompromised or aged 65 and over. Still, people of every age and level of health have contracted COVID-19 and died as a result of infection. **It is your responsibility to know and understand your own underlying health conditions and risk factors and take appropriate measures to protect yourself from exposure to COVID-19.**

This tour will include only individuals who voluntarily choose to participate. Everyone has their own acceptable level of risk, and the decision to travel is a highly personal one. Academic Travel Abroad has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, vetting our hotels, restaurants, transportation companies and site visits for enhanced social distancing and sanitation procedures; training our tour staff on COVID-19 emergency procedures; and monitoring the medical resources of the places we visit. In return, we are asking our travelers to take responsibility for protecting their own safety, that of the group and of the local communities visited by adhering to a set of on-tour requirements. Please take your time to read through our requirements, which mitigate the risk of infection in areas where we have some degree of control. **Failure to comply with the on-tour requirements will result in your being excluded from the group tour.**

Health Monitoring

Travelers at high risk of contracting severe COVID-19 due to one or more underlying conditions will be asked to consult with a physician to review the risks associated with international travel. In addition, within ten days of the trip's departure, all travelers must consent to a health assessment by phone or video conference. Any travelers who present with COVID-19-related symptoms, or who have been in recent close contact with a COVID-19 infected person, will need to produce a doctor's clearance before being allowed to join the tour. The screening will also include questions about your recent travel history. Those who have been to areas with high infection rates may also be asked to produce a doctor's clearance before being allowed to join the tour.

During the tour, the Tour Manager will conduct a daily temperature check prior to the first group activity. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees (F) or higher will be required to separate from the group until a negative COVID-19 test is produced. Tour staff will assist travelers in obtaining the necessary testing, but the cost of testing will be at the traveler's expense.

Social Distancing, Face Masks, Handwashing

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19. When among other individuals, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet of space and wearing a face covering is strongly recommended.

On this tour, face coverings will be required while traveling on the motor coach, during all indoor group activities, and during outdoor group activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. The face covering requirement will *not* apply during group meals, but social distancing will be practiced. It is expected that travelers will also practice social distancing and use face coverings during times when the group is not together.

In order to maintain social distancing on the motor coach, the Tour Manager will assign seats that will be kept throughout the day. Seats will rotate from day to day, but a row of empty seats will be maintained between travelers at all times.

Washing hands at key times with soap and water is another important way to eliminate germs and avoid spreading them to those around you. Travelers will be expected to wash hands at key times, including before eating food, after using the restroom, and after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing. When hand washing isn't possible, using hand sanitizer is an acceptable alternative.

These requirements on tour may differ to local guidelines but are essential to ensure the safety of all our travelers and tour staff. **Anyone who refuses to wear a face covering when required or refuses to maintain social distancing on the motor coach will be asked to leave the tour**, and there will be no refund for the unused portion of the trip.

Quarantine

Travelers must agree to follow the recommendations of local health professionals regarding quarantining as a result of contracting or being exposed to COVID-19. Any traveler who tests positive for COVID-19 during the tour must leave the group and isolate themselves for the full amount of time recommended by local health officials. In the event of an infection among the group, the entire group may also be required to quarantine. The tour will not continue until the group has been given clearance by a local health professional to proceed.

Every effort will be made to recoup monies for any unused portion of a quarantined traveler's trip, but refunds cannot be guaranteed and are unlikely. Any additional hotel and meal costs associated with quarantine will be the traveler's responsibility. For this reason, **we strongly encourage all travelers to purchase a trip insurance policy that includes quarantine as part of its trip interruption coverage as well as robust medical coverage for sickness while traveling.**

If you prefer not to travel at this time, you may receive a full refund of any payment made up until 60 days prior to departure of this trip.

AS A CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ANY APPLICATION, EACH APPLICANT MUST AGREE TO THE STATEMENT SET FORTH BELOW:

The undersigned has read carefully the **Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols** set forth above, the schedule of activities for this trip, as well as the terms and conditions of application and participation as set forth in the trip web page, and recognizes and accepts the special risks associated with travel during the coronavirus outbreak, the trip and conditions, including the face covering, social distancing and quarantine policies. The undersigned further acknowledges, consents to, accepts and assumes the risks stated herein and behalf of himself/herself, his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby waives, releases and discharges First Division Museum and Academic Travel Abroad, its directors,

shareholders, employees, and agents, (collectively, Releasees) from liability, claims, demands, injuries, damages, consequential or indirect damages, actions or causes of action for personal injury, death, property damage or loss suffered by any person in connection with this trip, even if caused by the active and passive negligence or omission of trip staff, suppliers, or other related persons or entities, and further indemnifies, holds harmless and promises not to sue the Releasees from any and all liabilities or claims made as a result of participation in this activity, whether caused by the negligence of a Releasee or otherwise. In addition, by registering for this trip, the applicant certifies that he or she is mentally and physically capable of full participation in this trip, and has no symptoms of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and will notify Academic Travel Abroad if COVID-19-related symptoms develop prior to the trip's departure.

Academic Travel Abroad, Inc. is incorporated in the District of Columbia. All matters related to or arising out of this Agreement shall be governed by District of Columbia law and any legal dispute shall be determined by a state or federal court located in the District of Columbia to which the Parties expressly consent to venue and personal jurisdiction.

If any term of this Agreement is to any extent invalid, illegal, or incapable of being enforced, such term shall be excluded to the extent of such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability; all other terms hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

By registering for a First Division Museum program, the participant agrees to the **Informed Consent to Travel During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and Agreement to Adhere to Academic Travel Abroad's Traveler Health & Safety Protocols** and that the participant acknowledges that he/she has carefully read this paragraph and fully understands that this is a waiver and release of liability.

Date

Signature