Young Alumni Trips

Michigan State University Alumni Association

Alumni Journeys for Ages 20 - 35

- Discover Spain
- Destination Dubai
- Hops, Grains & Slainte
- New Years on Cloud 9

New in 2018
From $1,695
Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State University Young Alumni?

The MSU young alumni travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed hassle-free tours of the world.

Choose from four exciting destinations, travel with young alumni and friends of peer institutions, ages 20 – 35. These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and allow a connection back to Michigan State. They are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 40 years of experience in the young professional travel market. In this brochure you will find detailed itineraries, travel dates, pricing and how to book.

If you have any questions about our young alumni travel program, please contact us by emailing Regina Cross at crossreg@msu.edu or call (888) 697-2863.

Sincerely,

Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Association

Base land package price: $1,695 per tour.
Rates are based on two people sharing one room. A single room supplement of $395, $695 for the Destination Dubai tour applies.

*Special Alumni Land price per person. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great low airfares from most U.S. cities.
WHAT DO I GET?

**COVERAGE**

When you book your Young Alumni trip, the necessities of travel are taken care of. These include:
- **Superior Tourist Class Hotels or Better**
- **All Land Transportation**
- **Daily Breakfast**
- **Special Cultural Dinners**
- **Knowledgeable Tour Director**
- **Behind-the-Scenes Tours**

(See more in the inclusions on pages 4, 7, 11 & 15)

**EDUCATIONAL & ADVENTUROUS**

Whether you can’t wait to immerse yourself in the amazing scenery of the snow-capped mountains of the Alps or you want to sand surf in the desert. Or you’re more inclined to spend every moment you can enjoying the tastes of Ireland or you look forward to walking in the footsteps of Jon Snow (well maybe not all of them.) Each tour provides a beautiful balance of historical education and complete sensory and cultural immersion into these amazing countries.

**THE VERDICT**?

Don’t miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the places you have been dreaming of or reading about. Make new best friends from around the world and create memories that will keep these journeys alive forever.

It’s not rocket science. Group travel is a safer way to explore the world. These trips provide you with an exciting approach to learning and taking in all the history and culture around you. Open your mind, see the world and have the most fun you’ve ever had.

**GO-EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS**
NEW YEAR'S EVE ON CLOUD 9
6 DAYS

December 29, 2017 (land tour start date) - January 2, 2018

ABOUT THE TRIP:
Come celebrate New Year’s Eve in the Austrian Alps, high above the city of Innsbruck. Travel back in time, strolling down the charming narrow streets of the Old Town, exuding a special charm and sophistication that is unique in the Alps. Enjoy the festive atmosphere in the city, taste roasted chestnuts or enjoy a cup of hot chocolate in a fashionable café. Take part in our very own Winter Olympics on the mountain, then ring in the New Year over 6,200 feet above sea level at “Cloud 9” – an igloo club with stunning views of the city and the New Year’s Eve laser show. Bring your friends. You don’t want to miss out on this one!

HIGHLIGHTS:
Welcome dinner & orientation * Snow shoe hike * Igloo building class * Mountain top dinner * Sledding, skiing, and snowboarding * Historical city tour * Olympic Bergisel Stadium* Ambras Palace * New Year’s Eve gala dinner * New Year’s Day Champagne toast * Swarovski museum * Tyrolean Evening and farewell dinner*

PLUS:
Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
All scheduled sightseeing
All intra-European transportation by motor coach as per itinerary
All service charges and local taxes

WHAT’S INCLUDED:
The 8-day land package includes:
• 4 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
• Daily breakfast
• 3 three-course specialty dinners including
  • Welcome dinner of Austrian specialties
  • Festive New Year’s Eve dinner
  • Tyrolean Evening and farewell dinner
• 1 lunch at a mountain ski hut
• Welcome New Year’s toast at Swarovski
• Transfers between Munich airport and hotel in Innsbruck with purchase of AESU airfare
• Guided walking tour of Innsbruck with local historian
• Winter Olympics on the mountain
• New Year’s Eve Igloo party at Cloud 9, located 6,200 ft. above Innsbruck with fantastic views over the city and spectacular laser show at midnight

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)
Pre-post night packages in Munich available from $235 per person/shared room, $350 single

NOTE: The Cloud 9 igloo bar is built every year, subject to weather conditions. If temperatures above freezing prevent the igloo from being built, the organizers will provide the same entertainment in a festive Marquee Pavilion.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.
NEW YEAR'S EVE ON CLOUD 9

ITINERARY

DAY 1  TRAVEL TO EUROPE
Our Europe-bound jet heads for Munich, Germany.
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2  MUNICH * INNSBRUCK
Transfer to Innsbruck upon arrival at Munich airport. For travelers with AESU airfare, the tour director will meet you in the arrivals hall at Munich airport for your group transfer to Innsbruck, the capital of Austria’s Tyrol region. Take some time to rest up or start exploring the medieval old town, with spectacular views of mountain ranges, palaces and cathedrals. Tonight, join us for a welcome dinner of Austrian specialties and a program orientation with your tour director.
Meals: In-flight, Austrian welcome dinner

DAY 3  INNSBRUCK
Join us on the mountains for our very own Winter Olympics. A snow shoe hike will take us off the beaten path with fresh snow clinging to mountain peaks, spectacular views, and maybe even some wildlife sightings. After discovering our inner Inuit by building an igloo, we have earned a hearty meal in a ski hut on the mountain top. Then bundle up in hats and mittens to whiz down the mountain on a sled. If you would like to ski or snow board on your own, talk to your tour director about equipment rental and ski passes.
Meals: Breakfast, mountain lunch

DAY 4  INNSBRUCK
On this morning tour of Innsbruck our local historian takes us to the very center of Innsbruck to the famous ‘Golden roof’, decorated with 3,000 fire-gilded copper tiles. We pass the famous triumph gate of Innsbruck, ‘Hofburg’ Imperial Palace including the ‘Hofkirche’ chapel, then visit the Olympic Bergisel Stadium and Ski Jump, with the most amazing views over Innsbruck and the Inn Valley. Our final stop is Ambras Palace, built by Archduke Ferdinand II half a millennium ago. After a walk in the castle gardens, we return to town for a coffee and some of Austria’s legendary pastries at a traditional coffee house. Get ready to ring in the New Year in style. Our gala dinner is only the beginning of tonight’s celebration. After a feast of Tyrolian specialties accompanied by local wines, we take the Nordkettenbahn cable-car to ‘Cloud 9’ club with exclusive views of the New Year’s Eve laser show. In a setting over 6,200 feet above sea level, chill out and dance the night away at the club featuring some of Austria’s hottest DJs.
Meals: Breakfast, New Year’s Eve dinner & champagne toast

DAY 5  INNSBRUCK
Happy New Year! After a hearty breakfast, we make our way to Kristallwelten, Swarovski’s fascinating museum, a fairy-tale world of shimmering crystal. Travel through ‘14 chambers of wonder’ featuring marvelous paintings and sculptures such as the crystal tree or the giant ‘crystaloscope’, created by world-famous artists. Let’s toast to the New Year with a glass of champagne before heading back to town with leisure time to shop or relax before our farewell dinner at a rustic pub tonight. Bid farewell to new-found friends and make plans for your next young alumni adventure.
Meals: Breakfast, New Year’s cocktail, Farewell dinner

DAY 6  TRAVEL HOME
Travel home today with fond memories to last a lifetime and lots of energy for the New Year.
Meals: Breakfast, In-flight
How have you celebrated New Year’s Eve so far?

Family celebration. Check.
Party at a friend’s house. Check.
Wine & dine at a local restaurant. Check.
Rock out at a club. Check.
Glitzy party at a local hotel. Check.
Beach vacation. Check.
Do nothing. Check, check and check.

THIS YEAR: Celebrate at 6000 ft. above sea level in the Austrian Alps at Cloud 9 with an amazing view over Innsbruck in the company of like-minded people!

THE SETTING
Innsbruck, the capital of Austria’s state of Tyrol invites you with impressive mountain settings and a historic past. Strolling through the medieval old town, the Altstadt is almost like traveling back in time and the view up to the peaks of the Nordkette mountains is simply magical. The city is well-known for its Olympic ski jump, the Habsburg palace and the baroque cathedral. It is also a very young and vibrant town with a student population of 30,000 and the futuristic Nordpark cable station designed by architect Zaha Hadid has added a science fiction like touch to the city’s skyline. Innsbruck is also a paradise for foodies: shop at the Markthalle like the locals, visit the food stalls, and try Tyrolian sausages, Krapfen or Strudel. Yum!

AUSTRIAN TREASURES
The Swarovski story began with Daniel Swarovski, whose father, a glass cutter owned a small glass factory. As an apprentice Daniel became skilled in the art of glass-cutting and in 1892 patented an electric cutting machine to produce crystal glass. Today Swarovski Crystal World is one of Austria’s most famous tourist attractions, enchanting millions of visitors each year featuring the Giant, the Labyrinth, the Gardens and the recently re-designed Chambers of Wonder. One of the coolest things made with Swarovski crystal is the Star on top of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center. But we will find out ourselves why many of world’s leading designers use Swarovski crystal for their products. Maybe we’ll even find the perfect souvenir to take home?

OLYMPIC FAME
Don your winter gear, gloves, hat, and warm shoes for this great day outdoors. Snow Shoe Hiking: Far away from the prepared slopes and runs, reach well beyond what others will experience. Enjoy spectacular views off the beaten path and marvel at fresh snow clinging to a mountain cliff, glistening. Igloo Building: Arctic cultures such as Eskimos and Inuit developed the igloos. One of the best-known snow shelters, it is a brilliant use of engineering and resources. The simple dome made out of snow blocks is both strong and versatile and our group will have an opportunity to learn exactly how it is done. Tobogganing: No matter whether you are young or old, whether it is during the day or at night, tobogganing is one of the most enjoyable activities on a snow-covered mountain. A pure adrenaline rush!

THE CELEBRATION
Enjoy great views over Innsbruck with a glass of champagne (or beverage of your choice) in hand. We start off with a fantastic dinner of Tyrolian classics at the restaurant located high above the rooftops of Innsbruck. Then off to the Igloo Bar at Cloud 9 (Igloo pending weather conditions). At 6,200 ft. above sea level it is the perfect setting for a once-in-a-lifetime celebration. It is the Alps largest igloo event with a capacity of 350 people. DJs will keep the party going all night. At midnight enjoy amazing views over the city of Innsbruck with fireworks or laser shows to ring in the New Year. Dance the night away and celebrate the New Year on Cloud 9.

TYROLIAN TRADITIONS
One cannot leave Austria without having experienced an authentic Tyrolean evening. Many shows are family operated for decades and feature traditional music, folk dances, shoe-slapping and yodeling. Enjoy local cuisine such as Wiener Schnitzel, Tafelspitz, delicious Applestrudel or Kaiserschmarrn.
DESTINATION DUBAI
8 DAYS

May 5 (land tour start date) - May 11, 2018

ABO UT T H E T R I P :
Dubai conjures up images of gleaming skyscrapers set against the backdrop of the vast Arabian Desert and glistening sea. See Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world, set alongside ancient mosques. Bargain for gold, spices and handicrafts at the atmospheric “suqs” markets. Our Arabian adventure continues when we ride nature’s roller coaster—jeeps across the dunes. Overnight in the desert, ride camels, go sand surfing, then feast under the stars accompanied by traditional belly dancing. Find out for yourself why Dubai is one of the world’s most intriguing destinations.

HIGHLIGHTS:
Welcome orientation * Arabian welcome dinner cruise * Local guide city tour * Burj Khalifa observation deck * Al Fahidi Fort - Dubai Museum * Dhow dinner cruise * Spice market * Old Dubai * Dubai malls * Camel ride * Desert safari & camping * BBQ dinner * Jumeirah Beach * Farewell dinner . . . AND MUCH MORE!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)

Harbor Cruise
Board a luxurious motor-yacht and enjoy the unique skyline and sandy beaches of Dubai. Stretch out on the roomy sundeck and soak up the sun, dive into the blue water or simply unwind. We will stop along the way at the Burj Al Arab and will have a swimming stop in front of Dubai’s impressive skyline. Our way will take us around “the Palm”, the world’s biggest artificial island. Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks are provided on board and free of charge. Excursion includes 4 hour sailing trip (approx. time: 4 - 8 pm) around the island, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages and round-trip transfers to/from hotel/harbor.

Excursion to Abu Dhabi
On this private city sightseeing tour you will discover the wonders of Abu Dhabi, capital of the Emirates, known as the Arabian Jewel. Jebel Ali Port, the biggest man-made port in the world is one of the landmarks that we pass by on the way to Abu Dhabi. The cost includes a private English-speaking guide, round-trip transportation by air-conditioned motor coach, lunch en route. Tour starts at 8 am, approx. return to Dubai at 4 pm.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.
DAY 1 TRAVEL TO DUBAI
Embark on your overnight flight to begin your Dubai experience.
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 ARRIVE DUBAI * Arabian Dhow welcome dinner cruise
Travelers, who booked a flight with AESU, will be met and transferred to the hotel. Tonight meet in the hotel lobby for a welcome orientation with your tour director and fellow travelers, then join a traditional Arabian ‘dhow’ for an evening cruise. Enjoy a sumptuous welcome feast of Arabic and International cuisine while gently gliding past illuminated souks and palaces.
Meals: In-flight, Dinner Cruise

DAY 3 DUBAI * Half-day city tour
Our local guide introduces us to both the new and the old Dubai on our city tour. On this scenic route we will make photo stops at Burj Al Arab, the famous 7-star hotel and Jumeirah Mosque, the only Mosque allowing non-Muslims to enter. Visit the breathtaking observation deck at Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world and a magnificent centerpiece of downtown Dubai. We pass the Sheik’s stunning palace, travel along Dubai Creek, the lifeline and pulse of the city, before taking a stroll through the narrow lanes of Al Bastakiya, the old Dubai. We continue to the Al Fahidi Fort, housing the Dubai Museum. Board a water taxi, called ‘Abra’ to cross the lagoon to see the Bastakiya, the old Dubai. We continue to the Al Fahidi Fort, housing the Dubai Museum. Board a water taxi, called ‘Abra’ to cross the lagoon to see the Bastakiya, the old Dubai. We continue to the Al Fahidi Fort, housing the Dubai Museum.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 DUBAI * Overnight Desert Safari
Land cruisers pick us up at the hotel for an excursion across the dessert of Dubai. There are several photo stops during this exciting drive across the dunes. Upon arrival at the campsite, experience the beauty of the Arabian Desert as it was meant to be seen- on the back of a camel! For adrenaline junkies, no trip to Dubai is complete without at least one slide down a sand dune. Take advantage of the opportunity to experience the exhilaration of one of the most popular sports in the desert – sand boarding! If you prefer a more relaxing activity, try Arabic coffee and dates, have your hands or feet painted with henna or try a typical shisha while watching belly dancers perform by starlight after witnessing a magnificent desert sunset. Settle down for the night in tents and sleeping bags under the stars. Take the opportunity to enjoy the tranquility of the desert by night. Dubai Desert camping is a unique experience specially designed for nature lovers. Admire the beauty and magic of the Arabian Desert discover a variety of flora and fauna. Tents with sleeping pads/mattresses are set up for the night under the Arabian sky. Suggestion: Pack a flashlight, a change of clothes and a sweater for the night.
Meals: Breakfast, BBQ Dinner
*Overnight camp subject to weather conditions - heat index

**Important note: Please familiarize yourself with regards to dress code and acceptable behavior**

DAY 5 DUBAI * Dubai Shopping * Dubai Beach
Upon return to Dubai, enjoy some of the best, biggest, most luxurious, elegant, yet affordable malls in the world. Dubai Mall offers more than 1,200 shops and a multitude of restaurants and cafes. Dubai is land of sun and sand, so beaches form the most attractive part of its beauty. We check into our hotel this afternoon. The hotel is located at one of the world’s best and certainly Dubai’s most famous beach, Jumeirah Beach Park. Enjoy the remainder of the day exploring the hotel, laze on the beach, or partake in optional water sports activities.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 DUBAI * Dubai Beach – Optional excursion to Abu Dhabi and optional cruise
Enjoy idleness and the gentle breeze from the sea at your hotel’s swimming pool or Jacuzzi. The magnificent beach directly in front of your resort offers many watersports facilities. Consider an optional excursion to Abu Dhabi. We leave from the hotel at approx. 9 am in the morning and return around 2.30 pm. The capital of the United Arab Emirates is a fascinating mix of tradition and progression, from the majestic Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and the traditional Heritage Village to the magnificent Emirates Palace Hotel. See both faces of Abu Dhabi in this introductory city tour. Later on relax and enjoy an optional cruise on board a luxurious motor boat. Take in spectacular views of Dubai’s coastline as you sail around Palm Jumeirah, the world’s largest man-made island which has doubled the coastline of Dubai.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 DUBAI * Dubai Beach
Take in the sun for another day. At tonight’s farewell dinner, watch the chefs prepare your favorite dish with a new twist while you sample a variety of sumptuous international dishes. Finish your exciting culinary journey with heavenly international desserts.
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8 TRAVEL HOME
Today we transfer to the Dubai International Airport for our return flight home. Most flights to the US leave Dubai just after midnight. After check-out, your luggage can be stored with the hotel and you have access to all public hotel facilities until we depart for the airport. Travelers, registered for a transfer, meet in the hotel lobby and transfer to Dubai International Airport. We board our flight home with memories of one of the world’s most intriguing destinations and plans for our next alumni journey.
Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Meals: In-flight, Pie crust

**Important note: Please familiarize yourself with regards to dress code and acceptable behavior**
So - what is all the fuss about? Dubai’s bold architecture, mighty skylines and its obsession with ‘over-the-top’ attractions like the tallest building in the world or an indoor ski slope – not to mention the fact that the city has a rich culture, rooted in Bedouin heritage and traditions, performances and falconry. There is so much to learn, see and experience!

LUXURY
Feel pampered during your stay at four and five star hotels with amazing lobbies, pools, bars restaurants and accommodations.

CUISINE
Indian spices, Levantine specialties, Persian ingredients and the Bedouin lifestyle have all combined to influence the cuisine of Dubai. It gastronomy is as cosmopolitan as the city’s culture. It will be difficult to find a bad meal.

THE MARKETS
Vintage finds or emerging designer pieces, Dubai’s markets have it all. From organic produce to vintage pop-ups, to artisan finds and nighttime browsing, Dubai is experiencing a market boom. A number of meeting places have popped up all over the city, showcasing local produce and fabulous wares. Here are some of the most popular markets: Ripe Market (various beach locations across Dubai), The Market (The Beach at JBR), ARTE, The Makers Market (Time Square Centre, Mercato Mall, Oasis Mall), Dubai Flea Market (various locations), Reform Night Market (The Lakes), So Chick Pop-up Vintage Market (Alkerkal Avenue), Farmer’s Market on The Terrace (Bay Avenue, Business Bay). You may also enjoy haggling for gold, incense or spices in the bustling souk markets or visit some of Dubai’s posh shopping malls.

HISTORY
Looking at the expansive desert city packed with glistening high-rise towers, it is hard to imagine that the city started out as a tiny fishing village. It is thought that Bronze Age nomadic cattle herders were the first to settle here and by the fifth century CE the area we now know as Jumeirah had become a caravan station along the trade route linking Oman to what is now Iraq. The livelihood of the local people was mainly based on fishing, pearl diving, boat building, and providing accommodation and sustenance for the traders who would pass through on their way to sell gold, spices and textiles - the very goods that can be found in the souks today. In 1820, Britain negotiated a maritime truce with local rulers, and the trade routes were opened again. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum began the development of Dubai transforming the city from a small cluster of settlements near the Dubai Creek to a modern port city and commercial hub.

CULTURE
Dubai is a modern city that welcomes visitors from around the world. Religion plays a significant role in the culture of Dubai. Mosques can be found throughout the city and at sunset the call to prayer can be heard across the rooftops. Courtesy and hospitality are important virtues in the Arab world, and visitors will enjoy the friendliness and warm welcome provided by locals. Visitors should remember that, as Dubai is a Muslim city, a more modest code of behavior is required.
ARCHITECTURE

Anyone visiting Dubai for the first time can’t help but be impressed by the city’s skyline. There is Burj Khalifa, standing at just under 830 meters tall; it is not only the tallest building in Dubai, but the tallest on the planet. The rocket ship-like design makes this striking skyscraper look as if it’s going to take off any minute. Tom Wright, a British architect, designed the incredible Burj Al Arab, the fourth tallest hotel in the world. The city’s most iconic hotel soars skywards like a huge sail from its private island. The Cayan Tower is standing at an impressive 306m tall and the 73-storey building and because of its twist of 90 degrees it is a truly remarkable sight. Dubai is also filled with historical treasures. During a visit to Heritage Village, and Dubai Museum in the historic Al Fahidi Fort, one can find out about century-old buildings and Dubai’s Bedouin and pearl-trading past. At the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU) one can gain a better understanding of Emirati culture and heritage. The Sheikh Saeed Al-Maktoum’s House served as residence of the ruling family and Dubai’s visionary founder.

ENTERTAINMENT

Dubai sets the stage for world-class events and festivals year-round, from Dubai Music Week to the Emirates Airline Festival of Literature. For a night out on the town, the chic lounges, theatres and live music spaces live up to everyone’s expectations. Desert safaris offer endless options from henna painting to dune surfing. A night under the Arabian sky may just be a once-in-a-lifetime experience never to be forgotten.
ABOUT THE TRIP:

In 2015, NPR released an article discussing how the millennial generation differed from that of their parents and grandparents in one very particular way; a change in taste and palate. The days of sweet and simple seemed to be no more and the reign of sophisticated distilling and microbreweries had arrived, in conjunction with a passion for healthier eating and the growing craze known as ‘farm-to-table’. Young professionals are spending more on organic dining and craft beverages than ever before.

This tour is unique; it speaks to those who have nodded and smiled along with all the facts stated above but also to those looking to learn and explore this new lifestyle. Ireland, as rich with history as it is with beauty, offers travelers the chance to explore all of these facets, but provided by individuals and families who have spent a lifetime creating and perfecting these beverages and culinary experiences. Prepare to open your mind and your taste buds while travelling along the southern coast of Ireland from Dingle to Dublin. This journey is also filled with behind-the-scenes glimpses, sights you’ll never forget, and plenty of knowledge.

Don’t wait, come with us on the trip of a lifetime.

Sláinte!

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome dinner & orientation * Dingle Distillery exploration * Dingle harbor * Historic castles * Crean’s Brewery crafting & sampling * Macroom castle gate house * Franciscan Well Microbrewery visit and brick oven pizza lunch * English Market * Jameson Distillery experience * Middleton - historic market town * Ballymaloe farm-to-table organic gardens including lunch * Kildare sheep country * Irish farewell dinner *

Optional excursions: Dingle Peninsula kayaking * Blarney Castle & Cobh * Birr Castle * Tullamore Dew & Kilbeggan Distilleries * … AND MUCH MORE!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)

- Dingle peninsula kayaking
- Excursion to Blarney:
  - Access to the Castle grounds, gardens, and Blarney stone
  - Visit to the town of Cobh
- Excursion to Tullamore Dew & Kilbeggan Distilleries:
  - Tour and tasting at Tullamore Dew Distillery
  - Visit and tour of Birr Castle
  - Lunch in Birr
  - Tour and tasting at Kilbeggan Distillery

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.
HOPS, GRAINS, & SLÁINTE

ITINERARY

An Irish Journey of Taste, Knowledge & Adventure
June 24 (land tour start date) - June 30, 2018

DAY 1: DEPART FOR IRELAND
Today board your overnight flight to Shannon.
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2: ARRIVE IN SHANNON – DINGLE
Welcome to Ireland! Upon arriving at Shannon Airport, transfer to the hotel in Dingle. The afternoon is free for the group to explore the peninsula or relax at the hotel. At night, regroup for a welcome dinner and orientation with your tour director.
Meals: In-flight, dinner

Optional Excursion: Kayaking around the Dingle peninsula

DAY 3: DINGLE
Consider a morning kayaking excursion. Paddle around the peninsula and start your trip off with amazing views and some serious relaxation, or enjoy a free morning before we begin a tour and tasting of the Dingle Distillery. Afterwards we head to Crean’s Brewery for a visit. Meet the brewers who create this local Irish lager before sitting down and enjoying a pint. Spend the rest of the evening checking out some of the towns famous sights, insanely gorgeous views, go for an evening hike or even catch a movie at the small family owned Phoenix Cinema.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4: DINGLE – CORK
Today we travel to Cork. On the way, there will be a pit stop for refreshments in Macroom by the famous castle gate house before venturing on to Cork to see the Franciscan Well Microbrewery and to enjoy some lunch at the Well’s brick oven pizza pub situated right on the River Lee. Explore the brewery or head to the English Market, which is one of the oldest and most well-known markets in Ireland. A blend of local organic foods mixed with fares from all over, this market has been around since the 18th century. We continue to our hotel to check in and enjoy a bit of free time before going to dinner in the heart of Cork.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Optional Excursion: Tour of Blarney Castle & Cobh

DAY 5: CORK
On this free day in Cork, see what the city has to offer or consider taking a bus down to the fishing town of Kinsale for the day. This century’s old port offers a variety of activities from whale watching and sailing to ghost tours.
Meals: Breakfast

Optional Excursion: Tullamore Dew & Kilbeggan Distillery day trip including lunch

DAY 6: CORK - DUBLIN
On the way to your final destination, Dublin, stop to explore the Jameson Distillery in Middleton. Your route continues to beautiful Ballymaloe, a famous cooking school in Southern Ireland run by celebrity chef Darina Allen. The farm is accompanied by a full restaurant, shop, and café. We’ll tour the organic gardens of this amazing establishment that practiced “farm-to-table” service before it was cool. Afterwards we’ll enjoy lunch at the farms restaurant before heading to the hotel in Dublin. The rest of the night is open to exploring the city on your own.
Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Optional Excursion: Trip to Blarney Castle & Cobh

DAY 7: DUBLIN
Today is a free day to enjoy Dublin at your leisure. Still yearning to learn more about the art of distilling whiskey? Consider joining an optional excursion to the Tullamore Dew and Kilbeggan Distilleries. Tullamore Dew is a resoundingly popular Irish blend, particularly in overseas markets, where it is second only to Jameson, and Kilbeggan is the oldest working distillery in the world; this is an option you won’t want to miss. Those going on the excursion can expect a full day of whiskey filled knowledge with a pit stop at Birr Castle and lunch in between tours. At night, we meet up for our Irish farewell dinner at a local pub.
Meals: Breakfast, dinner

Optional Excursion: Tullamore Dew & Kilbeggan Distillery day trip including lunch

DAY 8: DUBLIN - US DEPARTURE
After breakfast, the group says goodbye to Ireland, filled with not only delicious Irish food and spirits but also with knowledge of what exactly goes into making some of the great beverages of this country and a feeling of having seen how incredible this isle truly is.
Meals: Breakfast, in-flight
“Whiskey is liquid sunshine.” – George Bernard Shaw

The origins of Irish whiskey are as clear as one’s head after enjoying several glasses of the golden, spicy spirit. It’s commonly believed that around 1000 A.D., Irish monks returned from their travels through the Mediterranean with a secret to distilling perfumes. In the classic Irish fashion, this method was quickly modified to produce a drinkable spirit and whiskey was born in all of its amber glory.

The foods of Ireland are defined by some of the finest ingredients in the world that until recently were mostly shipped to other countries’ kitchens, but now a lot more of these ingredients are staying local. Ireland has also embraced international culture, influenced by travel and immigration causing it to evolve further. The first establishment to really hone in on this craft - which many know as farm-to-table dining? Ballymaloe. They have in the years since continued to inspire artisanal food producers that are now across the country, making the most of what nature provides.

CREAN’S DINGLE BREWING COMPANY

Don’t leave Dingle without visiting this amazing little gem right outside of town. Officially opening in 2011, they have created a wonderful atmosphere in the brewery’s cozy tasting room. The brewery is named after the true Irish hero, Tom Crean. Known for his remarkable Antarctic expeditions, Tom’s story is one you’ll be sure to enjoy as you explore this 19th century building. You can tour the brewery and learn a bit about the history of beer, Tom Crean and the history of the building, with a tasting experience post tour you’ll be sure to be filled with history, warmth and happiness.

DINGLE DISTILLERY

Established in 2012 and billing itself as an ‘artisan’ distillery. The first whiskeys distilled and matured at the distillery were released in late 2016. The initiative to start a distillery in Dingle was that of the now deceased Oliver Hughes, who was also a founder of the Porterhouse brewing and restaurant group. The site, formerly the Fitzgerald sawmill, was converted for whiskey production in 2012, opening on 29 November. Using pot stills the distillery produces two casks of whiskey per day in Dingle, where the mildly cool climate is reportedly favourable for whiskey production. The distillery also has a still for the production of gin and vodka.

FRANCISCAN WELL BREWERY

Founded by Shane Long in 1998, it is now Ireland’s No.1 Craft Brewery. The brewery was founded on the North Mall in Cork City and is built on the site of an old Franciscan monastery and well dating back to the year 1219. Legend has it that water from the well had miraculous and curative properties, and people would come from afar to drink from it. When you first walk through the modest entrance of the Franciscan Well Brewery and Brew Pub you are struck by the passion of its brewers. This love for the well and its beer is infectious and emanates from all the staff. You quickly discover that the diverse and interesting clientele are also devotees in the strongest sense. The Brewery has combined modern technology with age old tradition, brewing classic beer styles including lager, ale, stout, and wheat beer. Putting innovation at the forefront of the brewing process.

THE ENGLISH MARKET

The term English Market was coined in the 19th Century to distinguish the market from the nearby St Peter’s Market, which was known as the Irish Market. The market changed little over the next century or so until it was seriously damaged by fire on 19 June 1980 and had to be extensively refurbished by Cork City Council. The refurbishment work was done in sympathy with the original Victorian building’s design and won a Gold Medal from the Europa Nostra heritage foundation for conservation shortly after its completion. Since its refurbishment the market has become more multicultural, and a variety of fresh produce from around the world can be bought there. The market is still best known however for its fresh fish and butchers, and it serves many of the city’s top restaurants.
The Midleton distilleries complex is situated in Midleton, County Cork, Ireland. It is owned by Pernod Ricard. Located alongside is the Old Midleton Distillery which was established in the early 17th century. Midleton is one of the most modern distilleries in the world and has its production areas linked via fibre-optic networks. The Midleton factory, with a production capacity of 64 million litres per annum, is the largest in Ireland. The New Midleton Distillery is next to the Old Midleton distillery, home of the visitors centre called the Jameson Experience. Like the visitors centre in Dublin at the Old Jameson Distillery, the tour explains the history of Jameson Whiskey.

The Yeats Room of Ballymaloe House is a restaurant located in Shanagarry in County Cork, Ireland. The oldest parts in the present Ballymaloe House can be traced back to an Anglo-Norman castle built on this site around 1450. The castle was held by members of the Desmond FitzGerald families of Cloyne, particularly Sir John FitzEdmund FitzGerald. Ballymaloe, which was initially run by Myrtle Allen, is now known as one of the most impeccable places to eat. It is the originator of the ‘farm-to-table’ style dining. Myrtle Allen was even awarded a Michelin Star for her expertise in this style.

Jameson Distillery Bow St. is the original site where Jameson Irish Whiskey was distilled until 1971. Though now a top notch tourist locale and an excellent place to have an authentic Jameson tasting experience, Jameson still possesses much of the equipment used while still distilling. Guided tours provide an inside look into this beloved whiskey at its very beginning stages of life when it was first created back in 1780.

The distillery was founded in 1757, John Locke took over the distillery in 1843, and was passed down to his granddaughters Mary Evelyn and Florence Emily in 1943. It closed completely in 1957 and the building began to fall into disrepair. Twenty-five years after its closure, the community of Kilbeggan restored the distillery and opened it to the public as a whiskey distillery museum.

The origins of Tullamore Dew date back to 1829, when a distillery was established in Tullamore by Michael Molloy. In 1954, the distillery ceased production, having, like many of those in Ireland at the time, been hit by declining sales due to a number of factors such as Prohibition, the Anglo-Irish Trade War and high taxes introduced by the Irish Free State. Nowadays, Tullamore Dew is a very commonly known whiskey across the globe, so to learn its origin and enjoy the freshest of tastings is quite the experience.

The building in which the Storehouse is located was constructed in 1902 as a fermentation plant for the St. James’s Gate Brewery. In 1997, it was decided to convert the building into the Guinness Storehouse, replacing the Guinness Hop Store as the Brewery’s visitor center. The Guinness Storehouse explains the history of Beer. The story is told through various interactive exhibition areas including ingredients, brewing, transport, cooperage, advertising and sponsorship.
DISCOVER SPAIN
8 DAYS

ABOUT THE TRIP:

For over 20 years, George RR Martin’s Song of Ice and Fire books have transported us to exotic locales without leaving the library. Then the HBO TV series, Game of Thrones, showed us where to find these destinations in our own world. The stairs of the Great Sept, the fighting pits of Meereen, the Water Gardens of Dorne, they’re all real locations and they’re waiting for you in Spain!

Discover Spain combines the best of Spain with exhilarating Game of Thrones filming locations. AESU will highlight our favorite GOT scenes within Spain’s best-known cities and take you to the hidden towns, forever changed by the GOT franchise. AESU organizes all the details so you can focus on immersing yourself in the scenery of Westeros and Essos and the beauty and culture of Spain.

Experience the Spanish style of living in Madrid and the culture of Seville. Taste the cuisine of Granada and marvel at the architecture of Barcelona, all the while imagining yourself adventuring through Dorne, Braavos, King’s Landing, Meereen and more.

HIGHLIGHTS:


GAME OF THRONES FILMING LOCATIONS

The Long Bridge of Volantis * The Stairs of the Sept of Baelor * The Citadel * Water Gardens of Dorne * Daznak’s Pit * The Streets of Braavos * The Dragon Pit * High Garden and the Reach * The Gardens of Quarth*... AND MUCH MORE

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)

- Osuna Excursion
- Braavos Market
- Mediterranean Sailing Trip

NOTE: Alhambra Palace tickets are in high demand and the number of daily visitors is restricted. Group tickets are therefore subject to availability and entrance cannot be guaranteed. A walking tour of Granada, including tapas brunch, will be provided as an alternate if tickets are not available.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.

WHAT’S INCLUDED:

The 8-day land package includes:
- 6 nights in superior tourist class hotels,
- 2-share with private bath and shower
- Daily continental breakfast
- 3 specialty dinners
- Guided Tours in Seville, Córdoba and Granada, all led by a local, Game of Thrones savvy historian
- High-speed trains between cities as per itinerary
- Entrance to the Alcázar and the Alhambra

Plus:
- Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
- Transfers by private, air-conditioned motorcoach and 2nd class train travel as per itinerary
- All scheduled sight-seeing
- All service charges and local taxes
- Included tour highlights
DISCOVER SPAIN

ITINERARY

September 2 (land tour start date) - September 8, 2018

DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO MADRID
Take off on your overnight flight to indescribable Madrid and start a one-of-a-kind, European adventure, where you’ll see the real-life cities and architecture that inspired the most exotic imagery in the Game of Thrones universe.
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 - MADRID
Use this free afternoon in Spain’s capital to explore Retiro Park and Madrid’s colorful plazas. Visit the Puerta del Sol and the Cervantes monument, perfect photo ops. Tonight meet fellow travelers at our orientation and savor local specialties at a traditional, Spanish tapas dinner.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 - MADRID - SEVILLE
This morning, we travel south by train to Seville where the Moorish architecture will inspire us as it did the Game of Thrones producers. On our city tour, we will visit places that evoke the striking landscapes of Dorne and the imposing architecture of Kings Landing. We’ll explore ancient Roman fortresses and medieval palaces, all the while imagining ourselves feeding Daenerys’ dragons in the ruins of Italica or challenging the Thirteen in the gardens of the Alcazar.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 - SEVILLE
Today adopt the Spanish pace of living. Enjoy a free day of exploring to fully embrace the culture of Seville. You can also join us for an optional tour to the small town of Osuna, a town that was home to the Game of Thrones cast and crew during season 5. We will visit Osuna’s renaissance bull ring, the filming location for the Daznak’s Pit scenes. Grab lunch at Casa Curro, the favorite restaurant of the GOT cast. Then return to Seville to continue the afternoon at your leisure.
Meals: Breakfast
Options: Osuna Excursion

DAY 5 - SEVILLE - CORDOBA - GRANADA
Today, join us on a morning trip to Cordoba, the Andalusian equivalent of Volantis. Follow in the footsteps of Tyrion and Varys by crossing the Guadalquivir River by way of the Roman Bridge of Cordoba, which doubles as the Long Bridge of Volantis. Then climb the Torre del Oro and channel Samwell Tarley exploring the High Tower of Oldtown. This evening, a quick train ride takes us through the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the hilltop city of Granada.
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 - GRANADA - BARCELONA
After breakfast, join us for a guided tour through Granada’s historical sites, followed by a trip to the Alhambra. Be dazzled by the reflecting pools and carved walls that inspired the Dornish Water Gardens. Tonight we board a high-speed train to Barcelona. With the blue Mediterranean by our side, we zigzag along the Costa Brava and in just over 5 hours we make our way to Barcelona, the ‘city of dreams’. Upon arrival, join us for a late night dinner at a local, Catalanian restaurant.
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7 - BARCELONA
Use your free day in Barcelona to see Gaudi’s art nouveau cathedral, the Picasso Museum, and the flower markets of Las Ramblas or take the funicular up to Montjuich for a panoramic view of the harbor. You can also join our final optional excursion. It begins with one last GOT adventure in Girona, the city where the Braavos market scenes are filmed. Deliberate over season 7 rumors on the stairs that Jaime rode up to challenge the High Sparrow or relive Arya’s flight from the Waif in the winding, medieval streets. Then we return to Barcelona and enjoy a relaxing lunch aboard a private sailboat, enjoying the Spanish sun while the Mediterranean coastline passes by. Use the rest of your free afternoon for some last-minute souvenir shopping and then see an authentic Flamenco show with us as a farewell to our Spanish, GOT adventure.
Meals: Breakfast
Options: Girona and Sailing Excursion

DAY 8 - US DEPARTURE
It’s not good bye, just hasta luego! Today we fly home with memories to last a lifetime or at least until the next season premier.
Meals: Breakfast, In-flight
TO ESSOS AND BACK
INSIDE THE WORLD OF GAME OF THRONES

Game of Thrones set designers and producers have their work cut out for them. Bringing George RR Martin’s fantastical landscapes and architecture to life is no small feat. The scenery and ancient architecture throughout Spain served as an unbelievable source of inspiration for the filming crew.

Spain’s culture, style, and atmosphere seamlessly melt into the fantasy, excitement, and storytelling the Game of Thrones franchise is known for. Spain’s culture is waiting to be experienced and, lucky for us, many Game of Thrones filming locations are ready to be explored! Join us on this trip to see these historical sights first hand and let your imagination run wild as we explore the Roman, Moorish, Medieval and Renaissance locations that inspired the Game of Thrones cast and crew.

ALCÁZAR

The Alcázar of Seville is a stunning example of Moorish architecture. The mudéjar buildings displayed against a backdrop of palm trees create the perfect setting for the secrecy and drama of Dorne, Westeros’ southernmost territory. The Alcázar’s grandeur is easily recognizable to Game of Thrones fans, as little of the original design was changed to accommodate filming. The castle’s spectacular grounds created the Water Gardens of Dorne but its interior was witness to some of history’s greatest moments. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella hosted Columbus in the ‘House of Trade’ after his journey to the Americas. Charles V was married here and portions of the palace are still used as a royal residence. When you stroll through the Alcázar’s gardens and palaces, it’s easy to see why the Game of Thrones producers were inspired to use this location exactly as it is.

RUINS OF ITALICA

The city of Italica was a center of Roman culture 2000 years ago. Today its scenic ruins in the south of Spain attract tourists from around the world. Italica may not be as famous as its Italian counterparts like Pompeii but don’t let its inconspicuous nature fool you. The Emperor Trajan was born here and the city was built to impress Rome’s grandeur upon its Spanish citizens. Although the population of the ancient city was modest, about 6,000 people, the buildings were magnificent and their ruins are still a sight to behold. Rumors say that the sandy remains of Italica’s amphitheater, the third largest amphitheater in ancient Rome, will be featured in the eagerly anticipated season 7 as King’s Landing’s Dragonpit.

GIRONA

The medieval city of Girona is sprinkled with locations Game of Thrones fans will recognize. Arya’s blind fight scene was filmed at the base of Girona’s Saint Mary Cathedral. The Cathedral’s gothic architecture wasn’t featured in Arya’s Braavos scenes but it will dazzle you. Watch your step as you twist and turn through the alleyways that Arya sprinted down during her flight from the waif. Girona’s main Cathedral dominates the city’s skyline and you’ll recognize it as the backdrop to Queen Circe’s walk of shame. The imposing Baroque façade reaches toward the sky as you climb the stairs that Jaime rode up to confront the High Sparrow. The Great Sept of King’s Landing may be gone, but Girona, with its medieval city center and stunning cathedrals, is still here for us to explore.

BULLRING OF OSUNA

Daenerys’ escape from the Sons of the Harpy was one of the most memorable scenes from season 5. With a little help from CGI, the Osuna’s renaissance-style bullring was transformed into Daenerys’ Pit in Meereen. It was built in 1904 by the same architect who built Seville’s Plaza de España and it seats 5,000 people. The bull ring is still functioning today, so you can get tickets to a fight or simply admire the architecture and indulge your imagination when the seats are empty. Upon seeing the sun glint off of the stone walls and hearing the crowds of enthralled spectators, you’ll find it’s easy to visualize the Mother of Dragons being surrounded by the Sons of the Harpy and rescued by Daenerys and Drogon.
The Alhambra was originally scouted as a filming location for GOT but ultimately lost to the Alcazar. The Alcazar’s smaller crowds made scheduling filming times easier. Because of the similar architectural styles, a visit to the Alhambra invites the imagination to envision Dorne’s Sunspear or the gardens of Qarth. The mudéjar architecture can be attributed to the Moorish Sultans who lived here during the 1300s. Before that, the site was home to a Roman fortress. Then during the Renaissance, the Alhambra became the center for the royal court of Ferdinand and Isabella. Their influence is evidenced by the Christian style buildings and gardens that can be found throughout the palace. Tour this magnificent palace and marvel at the foresight, engineering, and artistic skill that made the Alhambra’s wonders like the Court of Lions and the Hall of the Abencerrajes possible.

The Giralda Bell Tower is one of the most ancient buildings in Seville and likely served as inspiration for the tower at the Citadel, where Samwell Tarly learns the secrets and histories of the Seven Kingdoms. Originally a mosque, it stands at 320 feet tall. The tower is one of the largest church towers in the world and it demonstrates all of the different cultures that have influenced Seville. Its Moorish, Renaissance, medieval influences demonstrate the cultural blend that defines Spain. Climb the stairs to the top, enjoy the panoramic view of Seville and imagine releasing ravens to fly to the far reaches of Westeros.

The Roman Bridge of Cordoba was originally built in the early 1st century BC, though most of what we see today was built by the Moors during the 8th century or rebuilt during the 17th century. Its design is an unmistakable inspiration for the Longbridge of Volantis, featured during Tyrion and Varys’ venture eastward to meet the Mother of Dragons. The bridge is a main crossing point for the Guadalquivir River and was a vital player in the city of Cordoba’s medieval battles. Each of the bridge has its own fortifications. The north end features the Gate of the Bridge, built in the 1570s, and the southern end hosts the Calahorra Tower, which was built in the 12th century and boasts an intricate Moorish design.

TO ESSOS AND BACK
INSIDE THE WORLD OF GAME OF THRONES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU GO

HOW DO I BOOK?
Booking your trip is easy! To make your reservation click the "CHECK AVAILABILITY" button on any trip page to book your trip online, or you can call us at 1.800.638.7640 if you have any questions.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT? A VISA?
Travel to EUROPE: If you are an American or Canadian citizen, you only need a Passport. The easiest way to get a passport is through your local post office, County Court House, or Passport Agency. When applying, be sure to take with you your genuine birth certificate, which includes the registrar’s signature and a raised seal; two recent photographs that are 2" x 2", full face view, black/white or color; and (ii) like your Driver’s License. You may need a Visa for our tours if you are not an American or Canadian citizen. If you are a citizen of another country you must contact the appropriate consulates for each nation on the itinerary, and you must obtain a visa on your own.

Travel BEYOND Europe: Check on Visa requirements (incl. American or Canadian citizens) with the respective consulate or embassy. Some countries may charge for a tourist visa on entry or a departure tax on leaving the country.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED?
We recommend $50-$80 per day, depending on your spending habits. That money covers items of a personal nature, laundry, beverages with meals (except for coffee/tea at breakfast, water at dinner, and occasionally a glass of wine), meals not included on tour, and expenses for souvenir/gift shopping. We strongly recommend bringing a credit card (Visa, American Express, and Mastercard are the most widely accepted) as well as an ATM card. Check with your bank prior to departure to ensure your ATM card is usable overseas.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?
We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link: https://www.mhross.com/index.php/consumer/portal/AESU3922MD

HOW MUCH LUGGAGE SHOULD I TAKE?
Due to limited space on the tour motor coach, you may only bring ONE suitcase and ONE carry-on. Limit your suitcase size to no larger than 29" x 20" x 10" and your carry-on to no larger than 16" x 15" x 12". Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions.

Keep in mind that throughout the duration of the tour, you are responsible for your own luggage, so do not pack more than you can carry. Laundry facilities are available in major cities.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?
The easiest way to make your tour stress-free is to over pack! See more details in Planning & Packing section on your trip’s Toolbox pages. Download our suggested packing list.

WHAT ABOUT PACKING DOCUMENTS?
Never pack your passport! Always keep it with you. The same goes for cash and credit cards. Pack 2 extra passport photos if possible (in the event that you replace your passport), photo copies of your passport’s personal data pages, your flight itinerary and e-ticket information; a listing of your credit card and copies of any personal IDs. This info will be extremely valuable should you lose any actual documents. Always keep actual documents on your person, and never in your checked suitcase.

WHAT ARE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?
European trips: We stay in superior tourist class hotels, 3-star or 4-star, all with private bath/showers. Our hotels have been especially selected for their European atmosphere, friendly hospitality, cleanliness and location. TOUR ROOMING POLICY: All rates based on per/person 2-share basis. Two persons booking together as roommates receive a 2-share room. Solo travelers will be accommodated in a 2-share room, depending on availability. If you are traveling alone and do not want a single room, we will attempt to arrange for a 2-share room. If this is not possible, we will make arrangements for a single room and charge the applicable single supplement. You’ll be furnished a complete hotel address list with your final documents. Properties are subject to change and any substitutions would be the equivalent of those listed. Independent hotel reservations, certain special tours always apply a single supplement. Please check your itinerary and also see roommate question regarding Young Alumni Programs.

I DONT HAVE A ROOMMATE, WHAT DO I DO?
Going solo is not a problem with AESU. Many of our participants don’t have a travel companion when booking a trip. If you’re traveling alone, we will attempt to arrange for you to share a room (same gender) at NO EXTRA COST. Please read our rooming policy above. Our hotels are superior tourist class or better, with private bath/showers. Usually accommodations are two sharing a room, however, if you book a single room, our reservations agent can make arrangements for a single at the applicable single supplement rate.

I KNOW SOME MEALS ARE INCLUDED, BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?
Tours include breakfast daily, lunches & dinner as per itinerary. If you are a vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform your tour director as soon as you arrive. All included meals are pre-paid, so a substitute meal is always up to the goodwill of the establishment. We cannot guarantee that all special requests will be granted, but in the past, most restaurants have been cooperative. Please keep in mind that substitute meals may not be as varied as they are at home.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?
Check with your doctor or the CDC (wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an up to date vaccination record and any substitutions would be the equivalent of those listed. Independent hotel reservations, certain special tours always apply a single supplement. Please check your itinerary and also see roommate question regarding Young Alumni Programs.

DOES AESU SUPPORT ECO TRAVEL?
Every traveler shares a common responsibility to preserve our planet’s environment and respect its people. AESU enthusiastically endorses ASTA’s 10 Commandments, which effectively reaffirm that responsibility. Let’s live by these Commandments, to ensure our world’s beauty is preserved for our generation and for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to travel together and to discover our remarkable world in a responsible manner. Over a decade ago AESU founded “TRAVEL FOR GOOD” – many years before large travel companies became active in environmental travel.

Link to US State Department Travel Website
http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/english.html

WWW.ALMUNIWORLDTRAVEL.COM/2018/MSU.HTML
BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested $5 per day for tour director, $3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY EUROPE: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing.

EUROPEAN TOURS: All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to $300, cancellation between 94-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 40%. Cancellation within 16 days of departure or a “no-show” at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. UAE: All cancellations, for any reason whatsoever, will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation between 94-60 days of departure will result in a forfeiture of 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 59 days of departure or a “no-show” at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. 100%. AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS – ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Shuttle services or taxis are available. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU’s control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU’s liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner’s risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our website at www.aesu.com.

FOR MORE FAQ’S VISIT OUR WEBSITE