



**ISAC**



# **The Holy Land**

## **Heritage of Humanity**

with Dr. Yorke Rowan, Research Professor in the Archaeology of the Southern Levant

**February 26 – March 10, 2024**



## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

**JOIN** Dr. Yorke Rowan in Israel for a look at its prehistoric past with exclusive behind-the-scenes access to active archaeological sites

**ATTEND** an exclusive panel discussion in Tel Aviv led by a distinguished panel of Arab and Jewish scholars

**UNCOVER** 4,000 years of history during an expert-led walking tour of ancient Jaffa's well-preserved Mediterranean port and wander through Tel Aviv's UNESCO-listed 1930s Bauhaus "White City" neighborhood on an insightful architectural tour

**GAIN** rare guided entry to subterranean 12th-century Crusader ruins on an exclusive tour of Acre's perfectly preserved, UNESCO-listed underground fortress

**ASCEND** to Masada by cable car for sweeping vistas of the desert landscape below and explore the breathtaking, UNESCO-recognized fortress built by Herod the Great

**ACCOMPANY** experts for inside looks at Jerusalem's ancient holy sites like the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the treasures on sacred Mount Zion

**TAKE** a curator-guided tour of Jerusalem's Israel Museum featuring a special viewing of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book

**MARVEL** at the ingenious water system during an exclusive scholar-led tour of Megiddo's archaeological ruins dating back to biblical times and behold the world's oldest arched mud-brick gate during special access to the rich archaeological site of Tel Dan in Galilee

**DISCOVER** the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Qumran archaeological site

## TRAVELING WITH YOU



**Dr. Yorke Rowan** is Research Professor in the Archaeology of the Southern Levant (Israel, Jordan, and Palestine) at the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures of the University of Chicago. Trained as an anthropological archaeologist, he focuses on later prehistory (Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze), with thematic research interests in death, prehistoric ritual performance, and material objects mediating these human actions. He co-directs the Galilee Prehistory Project, an ISAC field program, and Kites in Context, an ISAC and UPenn project in Jordan's Black Desert. He also co-directs the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project surveying and excavating in Jordan's Wisad Pools. His recent edited volumes include *The Social Archaeology of the Levant: From Prehistory to Present*, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual*, and *Culture, Chronology, and the Chalcolithic: Theory and Transition*. He is preparing a monograph on Marj Rabba, the first Galilee Prehistory Project site, and a monograph on Tel Yaquash, an Early Bronze Age Jordan Valley site excavated by Doug Esse and David Schloen.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

## INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT CULTURES

West Asia & North Africa

Dear Alumni, Parents, Families, and Friends,

In February 2024, please join us in Israel for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure of grand scope. This program features a rare inside look at important excavations undertaken by ISAC's Galilee Prehistory Project. Uncover the Holy Land's secrets, including dazzling UNESCO-listed prehistoric and ancient treasures and active archaeological sites. Over this 12-night program, join acclaimed scholars behind the scenes at Israel's finest museum collections and explore sacred Jewish, Christian, and Islamic wonders.

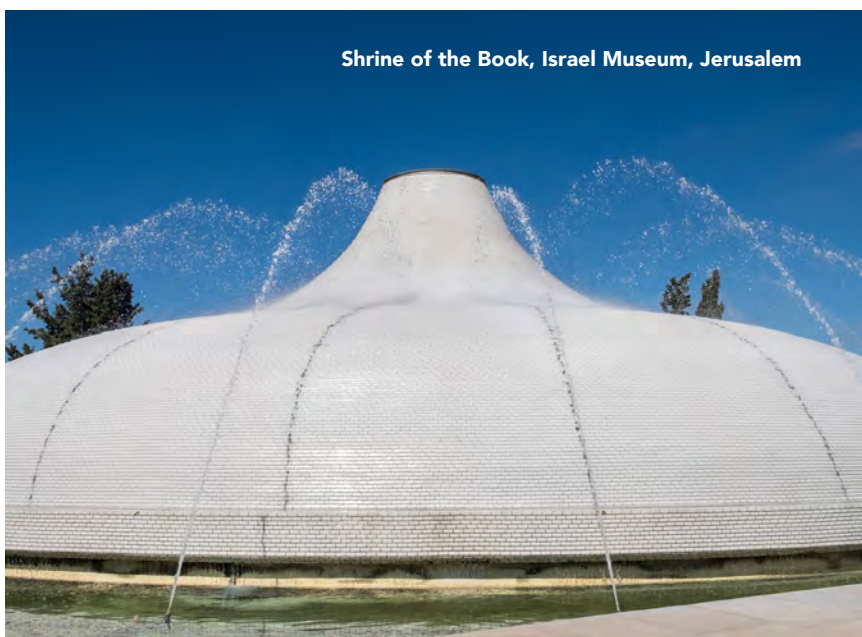
Travel with the guidance of archaeologist **Dr. Yorke Rowan**, Research Professor in the Archaeology of the Southern Levant. From Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, immerse yourself in breathtaking landscapes of sacred mountains, desert dunes, Dead Sea beaches, and sun-dappled Mediterranean coastlines. Stop for private access to exquisitely preserved cultural treasures of groups who've claimed this region, from the Phoenicians and Romans to the Byzantines and Crusaders. Explore legendary ancient cities like Safed, Capernaum, and Yodfat. Take inside looks at Herod the Great's ancient city of Caesarea, with its Roman and Crusader ruins, and Megiddo's Bronze Age temples.

Accompany scholars inside prehistoric cave dwellings and a UNESCO-listed collection of prehistoric settlement mounds. Discover medieval castles, fortresses, synagogues, and mosques. Soar above the Judean Desert on a cable car to Masada, Herod's astonishing UNESCO-listed fortress. Our journey concludes in Jerusalem, where experts will take us behind the scenes of the Old City and Mount Zion's sacred sites. Enjoy private access to the Israel Museum's Shrine of the Book, home to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Stay in elegant accommodations in Tel Aviv, Haifa, the Upper Galilee, a Dead Sea resort, and Jerusalem. Savor meals in picturesque settings and an exclusive wine tasting in the verdant Golan Heights. Please join us on this unforgettable journey of discovery in Israel.

Sincerely,

Theo van den Hout  
Interim Director  
Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures



Shrine of the Book, Israel Museum, Jerusalem



# The Holy Land Heritage of Humanity

February 26 – March 10, 2024



## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26: DEPARTURE

Depart for Tel Aviv on an overnight flight.

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. This evening, gather for a welcome reception to meet your study leader and fellow travelers.

R

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28: TEL AVIV, ISRAEL / JAFFA / TEL AVIV

Engage in a discussion alongside a distinguished panel of Arab and Jewish professors at Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew Union College. Delve into the pressing issues that shape Israeli society today, analyzing whether the nation is experiencing heightened unity or undergoing a gradual fragmentation into distinct social groups.

After the panel, visit the ancient Old City of Jaffa, a Mediterranean port whose remarkable heritage spans more than 4,000 years. Then embark on a guided walking tour through Tel Aviv's White City. UNESCO has recognized this neighborhood as a World Cultural Heritage Site for its ensemble of approximately 4,000 Bauhaus or International-style buildings dating to the 1930s, the world's largest concentration of such architectural gems.

Later, explore Tel Aviv's MUZA-Eretz Israel Museum, home to an extensive collection illuminating Israel's heritage, from archaeology, ethnography, and Judaica to Jewish and Israeli art. For those seeking a modern perspective, an optional visit to the vast Tel Aviv Museum of Art is available. You may browse its extensive collections, including local modern and contemporary art and international works by masters such as Joan Miró and Roy Lichtenstein.

Conclude the day with a delightful Middle Eastern-style welcome dinner, savoring the flavors of the Levant.

B,L,D

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29: TEL AVIV / CAESAREA / MEGGIDO / HAIFA

After a morning lecture at the hotel, transfer north to Herod the Great's ancient port city of Caesarea, an archaeological site in which gorgeous beaches are juxtaposed with restored Roman, Byzantine, and Crusader ruins. Explore the reconstructed Roman theater, the Caesarea Museum, and the Crusader city walls and cathedral.

After lunch, proceed to Megiddo, site of historic ISAC excavations. The ancient city of Megiddo is also part of Israel's UNESCO-listed group of particularly well-preserved Biblical Tels (prehistoric settlement mounds). Discover Megiddo's spectacular remains, including Early Bronze Age temples and an ingenious water system.

In the afternoon, check into your hotel in Haifa, Israel's largest port city. Enjoy a leisurely walk in the historic German Colony near the Bahá'í Gardens and spend an evening at leisure, perhaps dining in one of Haifa's excellent restaurants.

B,L

## FRIDAY, MARCH 1: HAIFA / ACRE / EL WAD CAVE / ISFIYA / HAIFA

Venture to the ancient Mediterranean port city of Acre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site continuously inhabited since 3,000 B.C. and ruled throughout its history by Israelites, Assyrians, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Romans, Crusaders, and Ottomans. In this gorgeous fortified seaside city, admire the beautiful 18th-century el-Jazzar Mosque, also known as the White Mosque of Acre, Israel's largest mosque outside of Jerusalem.

Across from the mosque is the entrance to the subterranean Crusader city, dating from the 12th century and almost fully preserved. One of the more spectacular rooms is the Knights'







Halls. More than 700 years ago, the Hospitallers, a military order focused on healing the sick and protecting pilgrims, used this space as their headquarters after relocating from Jerusalem during the Crusades.

Journey south of Haifa to the Carmel Caves area, where you will have an in-depth inside look at the El Wad Cave. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of human habitation dating back 20,000 years at this site.

Proceed to the summit of Carmel Mountain, where you will have a guided tour of Isfiya, one of Israel's oldest Druze villages.

In the evening, join a local family at their private home to experience an authentic dinner with a scenic view. B,L,D

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 2: HAIFA/ YODFAT / NATUR / KFAR BLUM**

Enjoy a morning visit to Yodfat, an ancient fortified Jewish village. In 67 A.D., Roman invaders sacked and later destroyed the city, a siege captured by Roman-Jewish historian Flavius Josephus in his book *The Jewish War*, written circa 75 A.D. Yodfat's topographical position, situated on a hilltop flanked on three sides by steep ravines, meant it was only accessible to an invasion from the north. Discover Yodfat's fortifications and have a glimpse of Jewish life during Roman times. Savor the vistas from this elevated site, including the city of Nazareth.

Transfer to the pastoral Hula Valley and the kibbutz of Kfar Blum for check-in at the hotel, stopping for dinner together en route. B,L,D

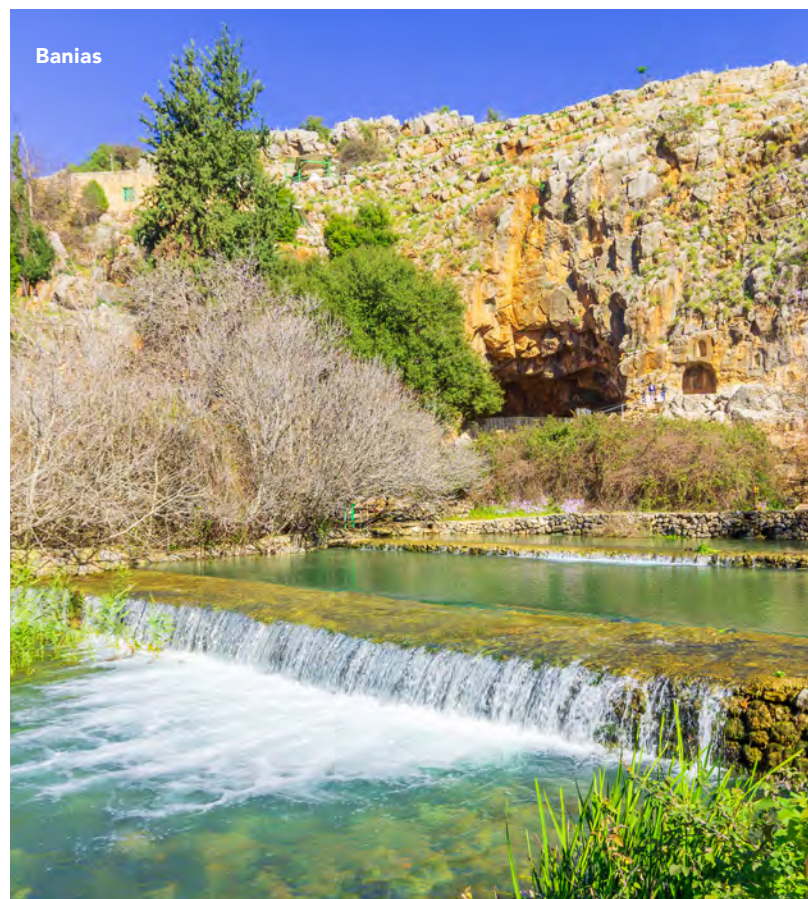
## **SUNDAY, MARCH 3: KFAR BLUM / TEL DAN / BANIAS / KATZRIN**

Begin the morning at Tel Dan, one of the Near East's most significant archaeological sites, located in the upper Galilee next to the Golan Heights. Spanning multiple civilizations and epochs, Tel Dan showcases remarkable discoveries such as Early Bronze Age fortifications, the world's oldest mud-brick arched gate, a splendid Mycenaean tomb, an Iron Age settlement associated with the Israelites, and a collection of artifacts from the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman eras.

At the foot of Mount Hermon, explore beautiful Banias, the site of the ancient Graeco-Roman city of Caesarea Philippi and a magnificent natural spring. Continue on to Nimrod Fortress, built by the Ayyubids and expanded by the Mamluks in the 13th century. This formidable medieval castle safeguarded the route to Damascus from Western armies. With its well-preserved structure, imposing towers, and a vast water reservoir, the fortress stands as the region's largest and most well-preserved ruin.

After lunch at your leisure, make your way to the top of Mount Bental and gaze across the Golan Heights into Syria for a powerful look at Israel's geopolitical and security situation. Stop at the nearby Golan Archaeological Museum, which displays various local finds spanning from the Bronze Age to the Ottoman period, including basalt lintels and Aramaic inscriptions from 32 Byzantine-era Golan synagogues.

Transfer to the ancient Katzrin Park, an active archaeological site and a partially reconstructed Byzantine-era village that offers an exclusive look at life during the Talmudic period. End the day with a glass of wine at the Golan Heights Winery in Katzrin, with dinner at the hotel in Kfar Blum this evening. B,D







#### **MONDAY, MARCH 4: KFAR BLUM / SAFED / CAPERNAUM / TIBERIAS**

After a morning lecture, visit Safed (Tzfat), one of Judaism's four holy cities and the center of Jewish mysticism. Enjoy a walking tour through the town, stopping to see its ancient synagogues as well as new galleries showcasing an energetic art scene.

End the morning at the ancient village of Capernaum and its modern St. Peter's Church. Built in 1989, this Catholic pilgrimage church sits atop eight outer support pillars over the scanty remains of Capernaum's central Christian shrine.

For lunch, head east to Tiberias, the main town on the Sea of Galilee. Take an inside look at the tomb of Moses Maimonides, which houses the remains of the great medieval Torah scholar and stands as one of Israel's most significant Jewish pilgrimage sites. Return to Kfar Blum and gather for dinner this evening. B,L,D

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 5: KFAR BLUM / QUMRAN / EIN BOKEK**

Travel south toward the Dead Sea, making some interesting stops en route. Visit the Tzipori National Park, known for its extraordinary ancient mosaics and its central role in Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple. View the magnificent ancient synagogue of Beit Alfa, dating back to the sixth century A.D. Located on the northern slopes of Mount Gilboa, the synagogue features one of Israel's most preserved and beautiful zodiac mosaics, telling the biblical story of Abraham's offering of Isaac to God.

After lunch, visit Qumran, the area where the Dead Sea Sect established a community, and see the caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Upon arrival in Ein Bokek, Israel's beach-lined gateway to the Dead Sea, check into the hotel, where you will have dinner this evening. B,L,D

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6: EIN BOKEK / MASADA / DEAD SEA**

Enjoy an excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Masada. Ascend by cable car more than 1,000 feet above the desert landscapes to this fortress built by Herod the Great. A relaxing lunch is arranged at a restaurant on the Dead Sea, and you may wish to float in the sea's buoyant mineral-rich waters. Return to the hotel for dinner. B,L,D

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 7: EIN BOKEK / MAMSHIT / BEERSHEBA / TEL GEZER / JERUSALEM**

Check out of the hotel and transfer to Mamshit, an ancient Nabataean city located in southern Israel's Negev Desert. Once an important center of the incense trade, Mamshit features well-preserved Roman-era structures, including a marketplace, a bathhouse, and a restored Roman villa. Then visit Beersheba, the capital of the Negev region, home of the thriving Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the site of Abraham's encampment in biblical Canaan.

After lunch, visit Tel Gezer, an important archaeological site in the Shephelah region amid the northern Judean foothills. Set on a hill overlooking the coastal plain at one of the region's best viewpoints, the site bears impressive archaeological ruins, including Bronze Age remains, Canaanite city ruins, fortifications, and ancient waterworks.

As we approach Jerusalem, stop at Mount Scopus, believed to be the site of the biblical Mount of Olives. From this vantage point, delight in an enchanting view of Jerusalem, historically an awe-inspiring sight for first-time visitors.

In the restored ancient Citadel of the Old City, visit the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem for a viewing of *The Night Spectacular*. This cinematic celebration depicting the story of the city will be strikingly projected upon the walls of the Citadel. Dinner this evening will be at leisure. B,L







## FRIDAY, MARCH 8: JERUSALEM

After a morning lecture, venture to the vibrant Old City of Jerusalem, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a sacred hub of the three Abrahamic faiths—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Enjoy expert-led inside looks at some of the world's most important religious sites including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Western Wall, and the Dome of the Rock. Explore the Western Wall Tunnels, the underground continuation of the Kotel, and examine important archaeological discoveries that are transforming our understanding of daily life in ancient Jerusalem. Return to the hotel for a shabbat dinner. B,L,D

## SATURDAY, MARCH 9: JERUSALEM

Join expert guides on a tour of the Christian sites on Mount Zion, which overlooks Jerusalem's Old City. Explore the Church of the Dormition, a century-old church marking the spot where the Virgin Mary died, according to legend. You will also have an inside look at the Gothic-style Cenacle, the room said to be the site of Christ's Last Supper; and, in the same building, the King David Tomb, discovered in the 12th century. Enjoy some free time for lunch.

In the afternoon, visit the Israel Museum to see the Shrine of the Book, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls. You will also have a special look at the museum's Second Temple Jerusalem Model, a 1,000-square-meter reconstruction of the city at its height circa 66 A.D. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

## SUNDAY, MARCH 10: JERUSALEM / TEL AVIV / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning for the Tel Aviv airport and your flights home. B

**PLEASE NOTE:** This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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## PROGRAM RATE

**\$11,499 per person, double rate**

**\$14,499 single rate**

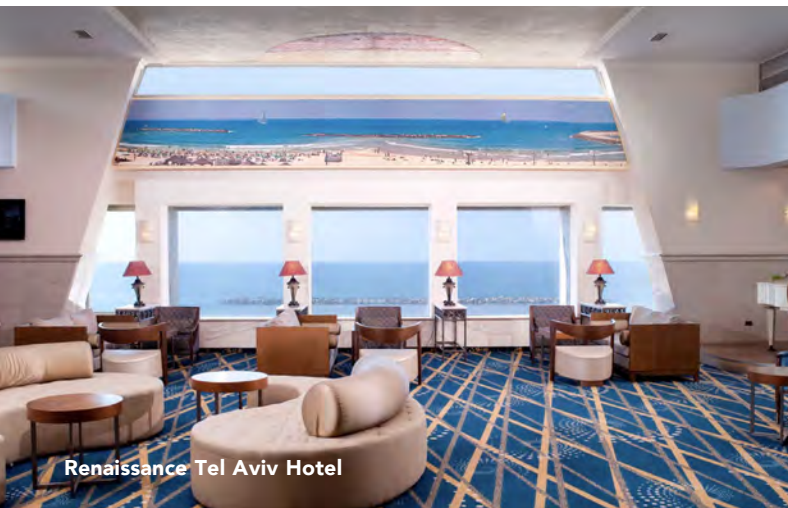
## RATE INCLUDES

- Twelve nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED IN RATES** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



## ACCOMMODATIONS



Renaissance Tel Aviv Hotel

### RENAISSANCE TEL AVIV HOTEL

Located in Tel Aviv's city center, the hotel offers newly renovated rooms with ocean views, situated on a beach where you can sink into the warm white sand and the Mediterranean Sea.

### DAN PANORAMA HAIFA

Contemporary in style and young in spirit, this hotel rises 21 stories above historic Mount Carmel, the scene of the famous biblical confrontation between the Prophet Elijah and the idol-worshippers.

### PASTORAL KFAR BLUM HOTEL

In the heart of the Hula Valley in the Upper Galilee, this cultural getaway offers a comfortable, peaceful experience near attractions such as Lake Hula, Manara Cliff, and Mount Hermon.

### ISROTEL NEVO DEAD SEA HOTEL, EIN BOKEK

Inspired by the Dead Sea's many natural wonders, this hotel features rooms that all have balconies, most with magnificent views of the iconic Dead Sea itself.

### HERBERT SAMUEL JERUSALEM HOTEL

In this five-star hotel close to the heart of Old Jerusalem, experience modern luxury with amazing city views, modern amenities, and spacious rooms.

Herbert Samuel Jerusalem Hotel



Port of Acre

## INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT CULTURES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO THE HOLY LAND FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 10, 2024 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: [trips@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:trips@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with

### FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

☐ Debit card

☐ Credit card

☐ Wire transfer

Name on credit/debit card

Credit/debit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date