

CLASSICAL MUSIC ON THE ROMANTIC DANUBE

DANUBE CRUISE FROM HUNGARY TO SLOVAKIA, AUSTRIA & GERMANY September 15 – 25, 2021 (11 days)





Explore the beauty, culture and history as we cruise these fabled shores and experience an exceptional concert program DANUBE CRUISE: BUDAPEST – BRATISLAVA – VIENNA – WACHAU VALLEY – DUERNSTEIN – LINZ – SALZBURG – PASSAU – VILSHOFEN



4603 Main Street Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6 Canada tel: (604) 291-1332 or 1 (800) 665-0998 Fax: (604) 291-1378 e-mail: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com

CONCERT TOURING WITH SPECIAL TRAVEL



Dear Travellers,

As international travel is pretty much suspended for 2020, we are delighted to be able to reposition this wonderful tour to 2021. Join us for an extraordinary journey through a fabled landscape which has long inspired composers, writers and artists of all disciplines.

Cruising from Budapest through Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany scenic towns and lyrical landscapes will be revealed, punctuated by majestic cities, some previously shrouded by the Iron Curtain. These comprise a backdrop

for our cruise's unrivalled musical score, steeped in the works of the region's great composers.

We're delighted to rejoin AmaWaterways for the superb crusing experience and cuisine they consistently provide. The AmaCerto will be our stage for a glorious cruise upon the blue Danube from Budapest to Vienna and beyond. This graciously appointed vessel, paired with exceptional service and fine dining assures a thoroughly enjoyable and effortless holiday.

We'll enjoy exceptional concerts both aboard and in magnificent venues, set in the landscapes which inspired the very music we'll be hearing. Cultivation and culture developed around the waterways, the arteries upon which trade and travel have thrived for centuries, so historic centres and points of interest are near every stop.

An exceptional program of some of the finest classical compositions has been assembled under the direction of legendary Canadian musician and impresario George Zukerman, O.C., O.B.C. and our

guest artists, the Juno Awardwinning **Gryphon Trio**. The accomplished members of this outstanding chamber ensemble co-direct the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival.

Mr. Zukerman is a celebrated broadcaster and raconteur, long the Artistic Director of White Rock Concert Society of British Columbia. Though he retired from performing in 2012, during his 62-year career playing on international stages he was acclaimed world-wide as the "High Priest" of the bassoon. This is our 11th Classical Music collaboration with the master.

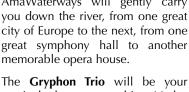
This is what makes our Classical Music Travel programs so special and unique; handcrafted itineraries combining memorable musical performances with the joy of experiencing other cultures and countries. We do it in comfort and style, with engaging travel companions who share your passion for both music and travel! We look forward to having you join us!

Gery Valtiner, Program Director

NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hello Danube Travellers,

I have good news for you. The Danube is still there, perhaps once again its legendary blue. Vienna is still there. Budapest is waiting for you. Europe is open for business. The airlines will take you there. and with STI's superb organization, AmaWaterways will gently carry you down the river, from one great city of Europe to the next, from one great symphony hall to another memorable opera house.



musical hosts on this 11-day journey. They will play for you on board, and in private on-shore concerts. They will guide you to the opera and the symphony, while Gery Valtiner of STI will guide you to the glories of Central Europe – that world of great musical tradition, art and history.

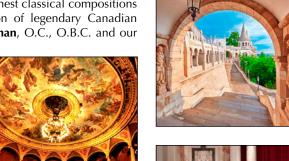
Because of the uncertainty that has prevailed over this past year, the major European cultural organizations have delayed announcing their detailed 2021-22 programmes. But we know that as the world starts up again, concert series, opera schedules, as well as museum exhibitions and special European events will gradually resume. You will be visiting the birthplace of so much of the great classical repertoire of our Western musical heritage.

I invite you to join the Gryphon Trio and the STI team on this oncein-a-lifetime Danube cruise. You can once more fall in love with

travel, gloried music, gourmet dining and immaculate personalized Special Travel service.

We look forward to welcoming you on board the AmaCerto. Few cruises could so aptly live up to the name of the ship on which you will certainly enjoy many memorable days!

George Zukerman, O.C., O.B.C







THE GRYPHON TRIO

NOTES FROM THE MUSICAL HOSTS

The Gryphon Trio has firmly established itself as one of the world's preeminent piano trios, garnering acclaim and impressing international audiences with its highly refined, dynamic and performances. memorable repertoire With a that ranges from traditional to contemporary and from classicism European modern-day multimedia, the Gryphons are committed to redefining chamber music for the 21st century.



Creative innovators with an appetite for discovery and new directions, the Gryphon Trio has commissioned over 75 new works, and frequently collaborates on projects that push the boundaries of chamber music. The trio tours regularly throughout North America and Europe, and their 19 recordings are an encyclopedia of works for the genre. Honours include two Juno Awards for Classical Album of the Year (most recently, that for 2019!) and the prestigious 2013 Walter Carsen Prize for Excellence in the Performing Arts from the Canada Council.

Deeply committed to music education and audience development, the Gryphons conduct master classes and workshops at universities and conservatories, and are artists-in-residence at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and Trinity College. Dr. Jamie Parker is the Rupert E. Edwards Chair in Piano Performance and Annalee Patipatanakoon is Associate Professor of Violin and Head of Strings at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. Since 2010, the Trio's multi-faceted arts creation program Listen Up! has engaged elementary school students, teachers and parents in 13 Canadian

communities and provided them with the experience and knowledge required to participate actively in the arts.

The Gryphon Trio has had a long association with Ottawa Chamberfest, one of the world's largest chamber music festivals. Cellist Roman Borys is Artistic and Executive Director while Ms. Patipatanakoon and Dr. Parker serve as Artistic Advisors.

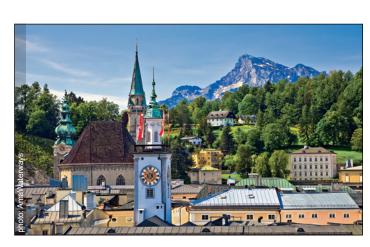




river has inspired generations of artists, poets and musicians. Indulge your passion for timeless architecture and art in four magnificent capitals: Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna and Prague. Cruise through enchanting Wachau Valley and let the melodies of the Danube carry you from one gem to another on a regal journey through time. We are looking forward to being your hosts and keenly anticipate sharing this journey with you. The Gryphon Trio

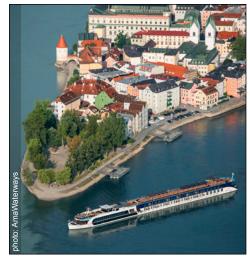
Journey along the Danube and

see firsthand why this storied









| CONCERT PROGRAMME | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Friday | Sep 17 | Budapest | Symphony or opera at Béla Bartók National Concert Hall or Hungarian State Opera. | | |
| Saturday | Sep 18 | Budapest | Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue. | | |
| Sunday | Sep 19 | Bratislava | Opera at the Slovak National Theatre. | | |
| Monday | Sep 20 | Vienna | Symphony at the Musikverein. | | |
| Tuesday | Sep 21 | Vienna | Performance at Vienna State Opera or local venue. | | |
| Wednesday | Sep 22 | Wachau | Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue. | | |
| Thursday | Sep 23 | Linz | Chamber music or symphony at a local venue in Linz. | | |
| Friday | Sep 24 | Passau-Vilshofen | Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue. | | |



CLASSICAL MUSIC ON THE DANUBE

BUDAPEST-BRATISLAVA-VIENNA-DUERNSTEIN-LINZ-SALZBURG-PASSAU-VILSHOFEN

September 15 – 25, 2021 (11 days)

Day 1 Wednesday, September 15

CANADA – BUDAPEST

We board our overnight flight to Budapest.

Day 2 Thursday, September 16

ARRIVE IN BUDAPEST

Upon arrival in **Budapest**, we transfer to our hotel and check in. We'll gather for a **Welcome Drink** and overview of our **Classical Music on the Danube** Cruise.

The Gryphon Trio, Roman Borys, Dr. Jamie Parker and Annalee Patipatanakoon will be our musical hosts, providing an introduction to the Danube Concert Series arranged in cooperation with Artistic Director George Zukerman, OC, OBC. (D)

Day 3 Friday, September 17

BUDAPEST

This ancient and artistic capital offers tremendous culture, tradition, and an air of myth and mystery. We take a **Panoramic Tour** of both the Buda (hill) and the Pest (flat) sides of the river, beginning with the **Great Market Hall**. We'll see **Heroes Square** and **Castle Hill**, home to the **Royal Palace**; the **Fisherman's Bastion**, which enjoys a splendid view of the twin cities of Buda and Pest spread over both banks of the River; and **Matthias Church** with its richly painted interior. (B,L,D)

CONCERT:

Symphony or Opera at Béla Bartók National Concert Hall or Hungarian State Opera.

Day 4 Saturday, September 18

EMBARKATION BUDAPEST

This morning we enjoy a **Tour** of the historic **Opera** house. We have a little time at leisure to enjoy this ancient and artistic capital and this afternoon we embark upon our **7-night luxury Danube journey** with an Evening Illumination cruise to enjoy the city's shimmering riverfront. (B,D)

CONCERT:

Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue.

Day 5 Sunday, September 19

BRATISLAVA

The "Coronation City of Kings" saw 11 Hungarian kings and queens crowned between 1536 and 1830. We'll discover some of its history during our **Walking Tour** past sites such as the Old Town Hall, Mirbach Palace and St. Martin's Cathedral. Those wishing a more active challenge can hike up to Bratislava Castle to enjoy magnificent views of the city. (B,L,D)

CONCERT:

Opera at the Slovak National Theatre.

Day 6 Monday, September 20

VIENNA

We'll experience the regal elegance of **Vienna** on a **City Tour** which will take us by the majestic **Opera House** and **Hofburg Palace**, the former Imperial Palace of the Habsburg Emperors. We conclude our tour in Vienna's stately and historic city centre, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the afternoon, enjoy leisure time to further explore this iconic city. (B,L,D)

CONCERT:

Symphony at the Musikverein.

Day 7 Tuesday, September 21

VIENNA

Enjoy a day at leisure in **Vienna**; numerous options await you. There are a wealth of monumental buildings, historic sites and famed institutions. Perhaps visit some of its museums, an art exhibit at the Belvedere, or the Spanish Riding School at the Hofburg. Stroll cosmopolitan Kartnerstrasse and enjoy a slice of Sacher torte, or seek out the city panorama from the Prater ferris wheel. Explore the Ringstrasse, Vienna's ring road lined with majestic buildings, monuments and parks. Maybe make a trip to Schoenbrunn Palace, where a six year old prodigy named Mozart gave his first concert, for the indomitable Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa in 1762.

Or consider joining us for a special music-related jaunt beyond the city, as we visit Vienna Zentralfriedhof, the world's second-largest cemetery, and resting place of many famous musicians. Then we'll drive to Eisenstadt in neighbouring Burgenland, enjoy lunch, and visit Esterhazy Palace and the Bergkirche which houses the Haydn Mausoleum. (B,L,D)

CONCERT:

Performance at Vienna State Opera or local venue.

NOTE: Performance details are preliminary and subject to change; slight adjustments to our sightseeing programme may have to be made once performance schedule is finalized.









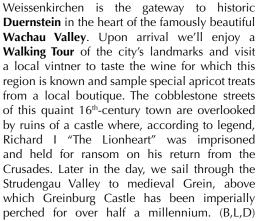








Day 8 Wednesday, September 22 DUERNSTEIN – WEISSENKIRCHEN





CONCERT:

Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue.



Day 9 Thursday, September 23 LINZ – SALZBURG

Arriving in **Linz**, we'll depart for **Salzburg**, the birthplace of Mozart and setting for the *Sound of Music*. We'll enjoy a **Tour** of Salzburg's lovely historic centre, Mirabell Gardens, Residenz Square and the Old Market.

If you prefer, there are optional excursions including a bike tour of the city's famed "Cultural Mile" and the Danube. We'll reconvene aboard ship in Linz for dinner. (B,L*,D) *Lunch may not be included when opting for full day excursions.



CONCERT:

Chamber music or symphony at a local venue in Linz



PASSAU – VILSHOFEN

Friday, September 24

The fairytale city of **Passau**, the 'City of Three Rivers,' was founded more than 2,000 years ago at a strategic junction of the three waterways. On our **Walking Tour** we will see the city fortifications and marvel at Gothic and Italian Baroque architecture and St. Stephan's Cathedral, home to Europe's largest pipe organ.

A scenic cruise then transports us to the charming 1,200-year old town of **Vilshofen**, on the confluence of the rivers Vils and Danube. Vilshofen's beautiful old town, located directly on the banks of the Danube and the Vils, when seen from the river resembles a floating peninsula. Above the town the imposing double towers of the Benedictine Abbey Schweiklberg dominate the landscape. (B,L,D)

CONCERT:

Chamber music by the Gryphon Trio at a local venue.

Day 11 Saturday, September 25 DISEMBARKATION – END OF TOUR

Our journey ends as we disembark at Vilshofen today. We include transfers to Munich, Salzburg or Prague airports, depending on your preference. Or you may opt to extend your adventure to explore the scenic and cultural landscape on your own. (B)



This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from the venues – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace. Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis









INCLUDED

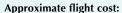
- 2 nights at a **four star** hotel in Budapest.
- 7 nights aboard the luxurious MS AmaCerto.
- Private coach for all transfers and land tours.
- Transfer to Munich, Salzburg or Prague airport.
- **ALL CONCERTS & SPECIAL MUSIC EVENTS** as indicated in itinerary.
- All excursions, special events, city tours and visits as noted in itinerary.
- Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D), as indicated in itinerary.
- Gourmet meals aboard ship (Full Breakfast, menu service for both Lunch and Dinner).
- Cocktail Receptions and Gala Dinners as noted in itinerary.
- Tapas, Snacks and Tea can be ordered in the Main Lounge between meals.
- Complimentary wine, beer, soft drinks and specialty coffees with lunch and dinner aboard.
- Free Coffee, Tea, Ice Water and Iced Tea are included all day. Cappuccino, Latte and Espresso can be requested free of charge during all meals.
- Porterage.
- Gratuities for ship's crew.
- Port charges and harbour taxes, local taxes and service charges.

NOT INCLUDED

- Air Fare.
- Airport departure taxes (vary by your chosen departure gateway.) Most airlines now apply Seat Assignment charges. We will advise you if so and how much at time of booking.
- Travel Insurance.
- Gratuities for excursion drivers and guides.
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary.
- Drinks and items of a personal nature.



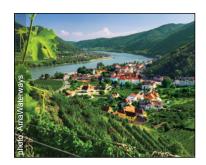
Accurate flight costs are not available at time of printing. We will offer a special group air fare to travellers joining our program at the best possible rate. There is also the option of extending your stay in Europe. If you choose our flights, transfer to and from the airports is included. You may also purchase your own flights and meet us at the hotel, if you wish to arrange your own stopovers, book on points, fly Business Class, etc. As soon as the flight costs are available, we will send a note to everyone booked on the program, so you have all the information you need to select the best option for you.



(in Canadian funds departing various Canadian gateways, taxes included) \$1,400 - \$1,600















11-day tour program, priced per person based on double occupancy, in Canadian funds

| Categ | ory of Cabin | in Twin/ Double | Single Supplement |
|-------|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| E | Piano Deck, Midship 160 sq. ft. with fixed windows | \$6,500 | + \$4,300 |
| D | Piano Deck, Forward 160 sq. ft. with fixed windows | \$6,800 | + \$4,500 |
| C | Violin & Cello Decks, Aft 170 sq. ft. with French Balcony | \$7,500 | + \$4,900 |
| BB | Cello Deck, Midship - Forward 210 sq. ft. Twin Balconies | \$8,500 | + \$5,600 |
| BA | Violin Deck, Midship 210 sq. ft. with Twin Balconies | \$8,800 | + \$5,800 |
| AB | Cello Deck, Midship 235 sq. ft. Twin Balconies | \$9,300 | + \$6,200 |
| AA | Violin Deck, Midship 235 sq. ft. with Twin Balconies | \$9,600 | + \$6,400 |
| AA+ | Violin Deck, Forward 290 sq. ft. with Twin Balconies | \$11,000 | + \$7,500 |
| Suite | Violin Deck, Forward 300 sq ft. with Twin Balconies | \$11,500 | + \$8,000 |

























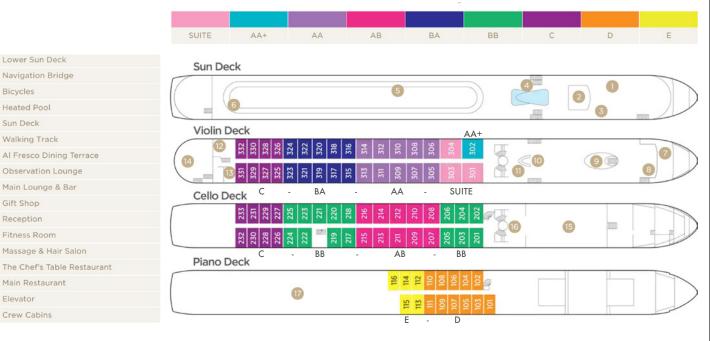






A M A W A T E R W A Y S

DECK PLAN



THE MS AMACERTO

443′ x 38′ built 2012

When you sail with AmaWaterways, you will experience the luxury of *more* – more ways to discover, more ways to indulge and more onboard amenities. With an award-winning fleet, critically acclaimed dining and unique tour options, you will have the trip of a lifetime.

- More Views: most staterooms feature both a French balcony and an outside balcony, maximizing the natural light and panoramas.
- More Luxury: 81 spacious staterooms, with Category BB and higher an exceptionally spacious 210-290 sq. ft., and 300 sq. ft. Suites. All feature in-room temperature control, deluxe hotel-style bedding with Egyptian linen, down pillows and duvet, spacious bathrooms with multi-jet showerheads, large wardrobe, full-length mirror, hair dryer, safe, direct-dial telephone, flat screen TV which also serves as a computer, entertainment on demand system with complimentary TV, movies and music, complimentary Internet and WiFi, complimentary bottled water replenished daily, desk and chair. (Note: elevator between Violin and Cello decks only, does not provide access to Piano or Sun Decks)
- More Space: we carry fewer guests to allow more space and amenities, while public spaces like restaurants and lounges are never crowded.
- More Dining: AmaWaterways is a member of the prestigious

international gastronomic association, La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs. Our expert chefs craft exquisite, regionally-inspired cuisine as well as traditional Western offerings for both our Main and Chef's Table specialty restaurant. Each meal is specially paired with a changing selection of premium local reds and whites from Europe's renowned wine regions. Sparkling wine and fresh juice accompany breakfast, and unlimited wine and beer are available with the menu service at lunch and dinner. Delicious tapas and snacks can also be ordered in the Main Lounge between meals.

- More Service: with a higher staff-to-guest ratio (1 to every 3 guests) our professionally-trained team can fully dedicate themselves to providing each guest with the highest level of service. A proactive, personalized approach to exceeding expectations is our hallmark.
- More Ways to Relax: enjoy a massage after a day of exploring, stay in shape with our fitness room, or enjoy a cocktail at the Sun Deck pool's swim-up bar while you watch castles glide by.
- More In Touch: free Internet access, ship-wide WiFi and a computer in your stateroom if you prefer to browse at a desk or leave your mobile device at home.
- Heated Sun Deck Swimming Pool with a swim-up bar.
- AmaCerto inspires you to be the best version of yourself with a walking track, fitness room and fleet of bicycles onboard for passengers to enjoy on their own or on guided bike tours.





RESERVATION FORM □ CLASSICAL MUSIC ON THE DANUBE CRUISE September 15 - 25, 2021 (11 days) Please fill out this form in full and mail it with your deposit of \$800 and the travel insurance payment for each traveller. Insurance is optional but strongly recommended. Please write names exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not "Bill"). **TRAVELLER #1 TRAVELLER #2** Mr/Mrs/Ms Mr/Mrs/Ms First Name First Name Middle Name(s) Middle Name(s) Last Name Last Name Date of Birth: dd/mm/yy Date of Birth: dd/mm/yy City of Birth: City of Birth: **Country of Birth:** Country of Birth: Passport #: Passport #: **Passport Expiry Date: Passport Expiry Date: Passport Issuing Country: Passport Issuing Country:** Preferred First Name (for name tag): Preferred First Name (for name tag): **ADDRESS** Street: Province/State: City: Postal Code: Country: Cell No.: Home No.: Email: **Accommodation:** ☐ Double Sharing With: ☐ Single **Cabin Category Selected:** \Box E \Box D \square BB \square BA \square AB □ AA+ ☐ Suite Seating Preference on Aircraft: ☐ Aisle □ Window Special Dietary Meal Request: (where available) **Next of Kin (in case of emergency):** Ph: TRAVEL INSURANCE (to be purchased at time of deposit) ☐ All-Inclusive ☐ Trip Cancellation ☐ Declined Amount of premium (please contact office) \$ **PAYMENT** deposit + insurance premium \$ ☐ Please make cheques payable to: SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL 4603 Main Street, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R6 Canada phone: (604) 291-1332 1 (800) 665-0998 BC Reg # 23625 ☐ Visa/Mastercard Card No. Expiry date_ Name on card Amount to be charged \$ I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure. Date: Signature:







FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

A deposit of \$800 per person is required at the time of reservation on this Special Travel International (hereafter called STI) tour.

A second payment of \$800 per person is then due by January 15, 2021.

A third payment of \$1,000 per person is due by March 15, 2021.

The final payment is due by July 15, 2021.

Travel documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.



All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.



Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by STI. Deposits are non-refundable. The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:





P.S.: Different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.



We offer ALL-INCLUSIVE, CANCELLATION and MEDICAL insurance packages.

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE PACKAGE consists of:

- Cancellation & Interruption
- Emergency Medical (\$5 Million limit)
- · Flight Accident
- Travel Accident
- Baggage & Personal Effects

Please Note: Travellers need to have current Provincial Health Plan coverage in order to qualify for the ALL-INCLUSIVE insurance package.

If you wish you may also choose the **Cancellation & Interruption** insurance alone; this plan is suitable if you have sufficient medical coverage already.

The exact premium will depend on age, trip length and total travel cost.

Please contact our office for the applicable insurance premium.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss/expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

INSURANCE:

STI recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travel (in situations where insurance is not included in the tour price).

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents and visas required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.





