



**Commonwealth
Club Travel**

ANCIENT EMPIRES

**Malta ♦ Sicily ♦ Isle of Capri
Amalfi Coast ♦ Pompeii ♦ Rome**

A voyage aboard the
Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
M.Y. VARIETY VOYAGER

September 21 to 29, 2016





Commonwealth Club Travel

Dear Club Members and Friends:

Discover the intriguing mélange of cultures that flourished in the wake of ancient empires while cruising to the resplendent shores of Italy, Sicily and Malta. This outstanding, custom-designed itinerary showcases the very best of this historic region at the best time of year and affords you the unique opportunity to travel with a small, intimate group while enjoying deluxe accommodations aboard the exclusively chartered *M.Y. VARIETY VOYAGER*, an authentic small ship that carries only 72 passengers and is able to call on ports inaccessible to larger vessels.

Cruise from Valletta to Rome along two of Europe's most ancient and dramatic coastlines and through the fabled Straits of Messina, situated between Sicily and mainland Italy. Marvel at Italy's stunning Amalfi Coast and the colorful seaside town of Sorrento; explore the fascinating hidden treasures of Sicily; stroll Malta's Roman avenues and Byzantine lanes; and see eight impressive UNESCO World Heritage sites. Gain insight into Roman life of A.D. 79 in the superbly excavated town of Pompeii. Discover Sicily's storied town of Taormina in the shadow of Mt. Etna, as well as the island's seldom-visited interior landscapes, including the often overlooked impressive Bronze Age archaeological site of Morgantina, the exquisite fourth-century Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina and Agrigento's majestic Valley of the Temples, one of the most memorable sights of the ancient world. Experience the rich history of Malta, the island nation where St. Paul was shipwrecked and that the Order of the Knights of St. John, Caravaggio, Sir Walter Scott and even Queen Elizabeth II once called home.

An onboard educational team will give insightful lectures to enhance your understanding of these ancient cities and islands, medieval ports and scenic landscapes that were once coveted territories of the world's most powerful empires.

This voyage is an excellent value and provides a unique and captivating itinerary of several of the most spectacular historical and cultural places in the world. I encourage you to book now while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

Best regards,

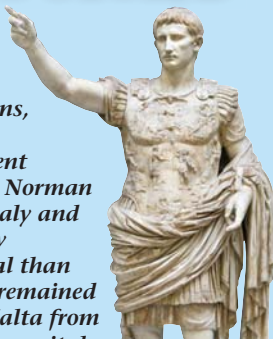


Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
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THE LEGACY OF EMPIRES

Experience the diverse cultural legacy of Italy, Sicily and Malta that began over 7000 years ago and continued to be shaped by their location between Europe and Africa and the seemingly endless roll call of empires who vied for control of their ancient coasts. On Sicily, traces of the Italians, Greeks, Goths, Moors, Normans, Castilians, Turks, Jesuits, Spanish and French are imprinted on the spectacular landscape and etched into ancient architecture, from Grecian temples and mosaic-adorned Roman villas to Norman palaces and medieval churches. Malta has held a strong connection to Italy and Sicily since A.D. 60, when a shipwrecked St. Paul brought Christianity by happenstance to the tiny archipelago. Perhaps none were more influential than the Crusader-era Knights of St. John, who settled on Malta in 1530 and remained for almost 300 years, while artisans, designers and craftsmen came to Malta from Italy, Sicily and Greece to build castles, cathedrals and the extraordinary capital city of Valletta. The mystique and extraordinary beauty of these history-laden lands beckon you today just as they once lured explorers, artists and powerful rulers.



Valletta, Malta

Founded in 1566 by the French Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of St. John, Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the world's earliest planned cities and today showcases incredible architecture from the 16th century onward, including splendid examples of Baroque, neoclassical and modern styles.

Visit the iconic, 16th-century, Baroque St. John's Co-Cathedral, an artistic display of masterpieces including Caravaggio's *The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist*. Enjoy a walking tour through the colonnaded Lower Barrakka Gardens, offering stunning vistas of Valletta's Grand Harbor, and the striking Grand Master's Palace. Enjoy a private tour led by a member of the noble de Piro family through the 16th-century Casa Rocca Piccola, their ancestral home and a historical showcase of Maltese nobility.

Be on deck this afternoon for an unforgettable cruise from the picturesque bay of the magnificent fortified city of Valletta, past the island shores where St. Paul the Apostle was shipwrecked en route to Rome.

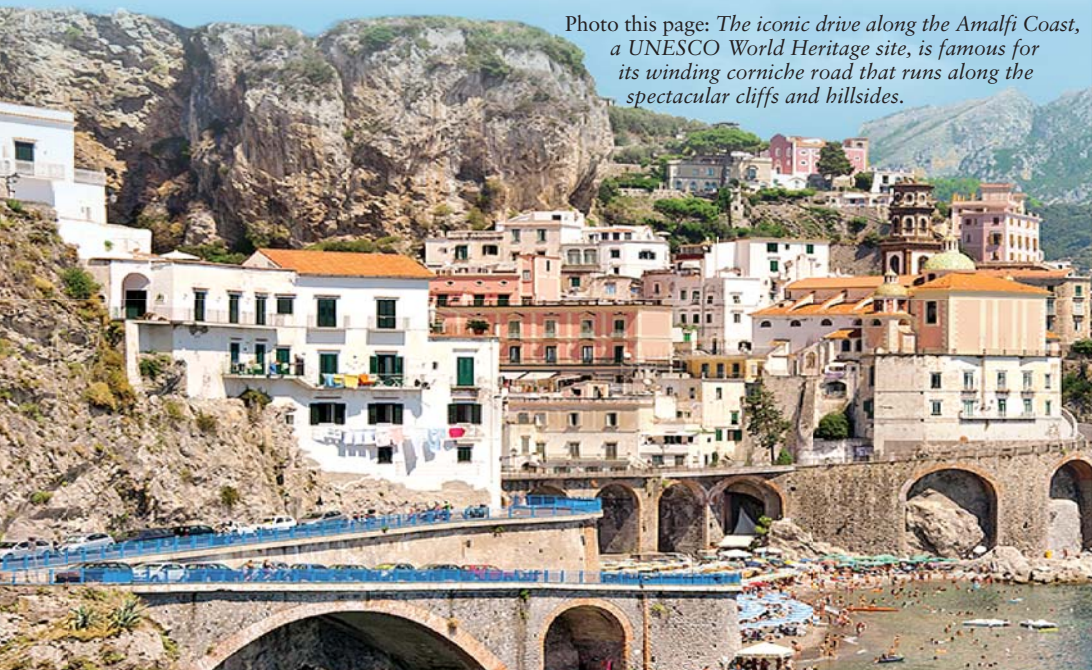


**DISTINCTIVELY
GOHAGAN & COMPANY**

- ◆ Unique and exclusive itinerary.
- ◆ Exclusively chartered, deluxe small ship.
- ◆ Only 72 guests.
- ◆ One port call each day.
- ◆ An excursion included in every port.
- ◆ See eight UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- ◆ Specially arranged educational lectures.
- ◆ Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.
- ◆ One crew member for every 1.5 guests.
- ◆ Early Booking Savings.

Cover photo: *First built in the third century B.C., the well-preserved ruins of Taormina's classical Greco-Roman theater lie in the shadow of Mt. Etna.*

Photo this page: *The iconic drive along the Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is famous for its winding corniche road that runs along the spectacular cliffs and hillsides.*





The ornate Baroque interior of 16th-century from the apostle's life.

Agrigento, Sicily, Italy

The world of classical antiquity comes alive in Agrigento's legendary Valle dei Templi (Valley of the Temples), a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, no fewer than eight Doric Greek shrines dating from the fifth century B.C. dot the landscape, including the Temple of Hera, with its graceful northern colonnade, and the Temple of Concordia, a beautifully preserved Greek monument. See the temples dedicated to Zeus and Heracles and the Sanctuary of the Chthonic Divinities—ancient Greek lords of Earth and the underworld. Visit the Agrigento Archaeological Museum and admire the collection of Greek, Etruscan, Phoenician, Carthaginian and Roman artifacts.

Licata for Syracuse

Tour the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Villa Romana del Casale—a vast fourth-century country estate noted for its intricate Roman mosaics adorning nearly every surface.

Enjoy an exclusively arranged visit to Morgantina, the impressive archaeological site inhabited by prehistoric man as early as the Bronze and Iron Ages. Ten years after World War II, several American universities began an extensive excavation here, revealing the ruins of an impressive Roman theater, a citadel, archaic tombs and an *agora* (marketplace). Enjoy a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Aidone, housed in a former Capuchin monastery.

Drive through the picturesque Sicilian landscape en route to Syracuse. Extolled for its beauty and grandeur since antiquity, this city reached its zenith of wealth and power under

Agrigento's well-preserved Temple of Concordia, whose façade is featured in UNESCO's logo, is one of the world's most notable examples of ancient Greek architecture.

ITINERARY

Day Destination

- ♦ **HISTORIC MALTA PRE-CRUISE OPTION**
- 1 Depart the U.S.
- 2 VALLETTA[®], MALTA/
Embark m.y. VARIETY VOYAGER (R,D)
- 3 VALLETTA (B,L,D)
- 4 PORTO EMPEDOCLE, SICILY, ITALY,
for AGRIGENTO[®]/LICATA (B,L,D)
- 5 LICATA for VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE[®]
and MORGANTINA/SYRACUSE[®] (B,L,D)
- 6 NAXOS for TAORMINA/
Cruise past STROMBOLI[®] (B,L,D)
- 7 ISLAND OF CAPRI/SORRENTO for
AMALFI COAST[®] and POSITANO (B,L,D)
- 8 SORRENTO for POMPEII[®] (B,L,R,D)
- 9 CIVITAVECCHIA/Disembark ship/
ROME[®]/Return to the U.S. (B)
- ♦ **ETERNAL ROME POST-CRUISE OPTION**

Dionysius the Elder, who established it as a center of philosophy and the arts 350 years after Greek colonists first settled there in 734 B.C. Today, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a virtual open-air museum of well-preserved classical monuments. Tour the historic quarter of Ortygia, the city's maritime heart, where the sixth-century B.C. Temple of Apollo stands as the finest example of Doric architecture in western Europe.





St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta depicts scenes

Visit the magnificent Greek Theater where Aeschylus once spoke to ancient Syracusans. Inside the Baroque cathedral, built on the ruins of a fifth-century B.C. temple to Athena, admire the unique baptismal font, an ancient marble *krater* (large vase) resting on 13th-century bronze lions.

Taormina

The charming, medieval town of Taormina commands one of the most impressive settings on the island and is the 2400-year-old center of Sicilian culture and commerce. See the imposing, snowcapped Mt. Etna, Europe's highest volcano and a UNESCO World Heritage site, and enjoy stunning panoramic views of Calabria. Visit the remarkably preserved third-century B.C. Greco-Roman theater, still in use today, located in perhaps one of the finest settings of any ancient Roman settlement on Earth. Admire the ornate, 14th-century Gothic-Catalan Corvaia Palace; the medieval Baroque portal of the Cathedral of St. Nicola; and the Roman Odeon, the "small theater" built in 21 B.C. Stroll along Taormina's famous Corso Umberto, a bustling pedestrian thoroughfare with distinctive Mediterranean flair.

Stromboli, Aeolian Islands

Be on deck this evening as the ship cruises in view of the most famous of the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Aeolian Islands—Stromboli, the "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean"—home to a volcano that has been mildly active for the past 2000 years.

Island of Capri

Legend has it that along the shores of the dramatic isle of Capri, Homer's Odysseus resisted the alluring call of the sirens. By small boat, enter the fabled Grotta Azzura, or Blue Grotto, a natural sea cave adorned with classical statues and illuminated by the brilliant blue reflection of underwater sunlight. *Sea conditions and weather permitting.*

Sorrento

An outpost of the ancient Roman Republic, today Sorrento is one of the most scenic towns in Italy and is the gateway to Mt. Vesuvius and the ancient ruins of Pompeii. This quaint seaside town features dramatic cliffs dotted with brightly hued buildings and abundant



Found in fragments in 1817, this statue of Apollo was one of the first bronzes to be excavated at Pompeii.

lemon and orange groves, making it the limoncello capital of the world.

Amalfi Coast

Italy's spectacular UNESCO World Heritage-designated Amalfi Coast is legendary for its natural wonders and dramatic cliffs dotted with secluded villages, opulent villas and sun-dappled beaches that epitomize the allure of the Italian Mediterranean seaside. Delight in a panoramic tour of this stunning coastline and enjoy time on your own in the lovely village of Positano—frequented by Picasso, Toscanini and Bernstein, popularized by John Steinbeck and now a favorite resort of international luminaries.

Pompeii

Discovered and excavated 17 centuries after the tephra of Mt. Vesuvius engulfed Pompeii in A.D. 79, the incredibly well-preserved ruins of this ancient Roman city are today a UNESCO World Heritage site providing an intimate look at the daily rituals of Pompeian life under the reign of Roman Emperor Titus. See the impressive amphitheater, the house of the wealthy Vetti family and the extraordinary Temple of Jupiter.

Rome

This UNESCO World Heritage site, former seat of the Roman Empire, today is the historic heart of Italy. From the iconic Colosseum and the Vatican to the Spanish Steps and the Catacombs, the remains of ancient Rome continue to astonish modern visitors.

For ages, the island of Stromboli has served as a beacon by day and a lighthouse by night to sailors.





DELUXE SMALL SHIP M.Y. VARIETY VOYAGER

The exclusively chartered, deluxe small ship M.Y. VARIETY VOYAGER is fully air conditioned and features only 36 cabins. Launched in 2012, it provides an authentic coastal cruise experience and can dock in smaller ports and inlets inaccessible to larger ships.

The ocean-view, stylishly appointed cabins are designed to accommodate two twin beds or one double bed and feature two windows, marble-accented private bathroom with shower, individual climate control, mini refrigerator, flat-screen satellite television, DVD player, music channels, safe, hair dryer and bathrobes.

Meals featuring Mediterranean and international cuisine are served alfresco or in single, unassigned seatings in the ship's attractive dining room, where passengers can enjoy unobstructed views of the sweeping scenery and coastline through floor-to-ceiling windows. Early-risers' coffee, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary house wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner; coffee and tea are served with each meal.

Inviting public areas include a lounge and bar, library, shaded outdoor lounge and bar, sun deck and a mini-spa and fitness area. Wi-Fi Internet access and laundry service are available on board. There is no doctor aboard the ship.

The English-speaking European crew provides courteous, professional service. The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art twin stabilizers and is meticulously maintained. It complies with the highest safety standards. The ship is equipped with two Zodiacs for shore transport in some small ports.



Category 1 Cabin



Dining Room



Lounge



Alfresco dining on the Sun Deck

Included

- ◆ Exclusive lectures and presentations by our study leader team
- ◆ All accommodations (based on double occupancy) including seven nights aboard the exclusively chartered, deluxe M.Y. VARIETY VOYAGER
- ◆ Seven-night cruise from Valletta, Malta, to Civitavecchia, Italy, with port calls at Porto Empedocle for Agrigento, Licata for Morgantina and Villa Romana del Casale, Syracuse, and Naxos for Taormina, Sicily; Island of Capri, and Sorrento for Amalfi Coast, Positano and Pompeii, Italy
- ◆ Meals as specified in the itinerary
- ◆ Complimentary house wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner; coffee and tea are served with each meal
- ◆ Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- ◆ All sightseeing and visits as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions
- ◆ Pre-tour information including a reading list
- ◆ Gratuities to guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
- ◆ All on-tour transportation unless otherwise noted
- ◆ Exclusive Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

Not Included

- ◆ International airfare
- ◆ Taxes of \$530 per person (subject to change)
- ◆ Gratuities to ship personnel (approximately \$105 per person)
- ◆ Hotel staff gratuities (Pre-/Post-Cruise Options) and gratuities for activities on your own
- ◆ Passport and visa fees
- ◆ Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
- ◆ Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
- ◆ Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
- ◆ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and Internet access
- ◆ Accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance
- ◆ Baggage charges on aircraft, airfare, and associated local taxes not listed as included
- ◆ Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
- ◆ All other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included" section



The Renaissance dome of St. Peter's Basilica in the heart of Vatican City has commanded the skyline of Rome since the 17th century.

Historic Malta Pre-Cruise Option

The extraordinary city of Valletta is referred to by UNESCO as “one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world,” where Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, French and British have contributed to this captivating city’s historically rich and diverse past.

During World War II, the island of Malta was the only Allied base between Gibraltar on the Iberian Peninsula and Alexandria, Egypt. Visit the underground Lascaris War Rooms, where General Eisenhower directed the invasion of Sicily in 1943 during World War II’s American-led “Operation Husky.” Tour the opulent interior of the 18th-century Palazzo Parisio and magnificent gardens, known as a “miniature Versailles.” Visit the medieval walled town of Mdina, where settlement pre-dates 4000 B.C., and tour its impressive Baroque-style cathedral.

Accommodations for one night are in the Five-Star PHOENICIA HOTEL, offering convenient access to Valletta’s highlights.

Eternal Rome Post-Cruise Option

Capital of the ancient Roman Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage site, the “Eternal City” of Rome showcases its spectacular landmarks from centuries as a center of power, culture and religion. Visit its ancient Colosseum, the Roman Forum and the Church of St. Peter in Chains, which houses Michelangelo’s incredible sculpture of *Moses*. Enjoy a tour of St. Peter’s Basilica and the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel.

Accommodations are for two nights in the Five-Star HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL DE LA VILLE, ideally located near the top of Rome’s world-famous Spanish Steps.

The Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Valletta’s strategic position on Malta’s Grand Harbor made it a coveted territory for countless civilizations.





The impossibly picturesque coastal village of Positano forms part of the world-famous Amalfi Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

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

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

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

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

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

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

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of The Commonwealth Club in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by March 7, 2016. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of The Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

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reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$800 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a "no-show," or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be sent with your confirmation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: Commonwealth Club CST#: 2096889-40; Gohagan CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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