

Holland & Belgium

Cruise the Magnificent Waterways and Canals

*An Exclusive Educational
and Travel Experience*



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Traveling Aggies

APRIL 3-11, 2015

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard the exclusively chartered **MS Amadeus Silver**.
- Stroll through the famous **Keukenhof Gardens**, the world's most expansive and stunning floral display, where 70 acres of tulips and hyacinths bloom each spring.
- Admire the art of **Rembrandt** and see the scenes that inspired him.
- Enjoy a specially arranged presentation on the Dutch and Belgian masters, and see masterpieces at the **Mauritshuis**.
- Visit the fascinating **Delta Project**, a tribute to the Netherlands' 2,000-year battle against the sea.
- Experience the medieval architecture and unique ambience of Belgium with visits to beautiful **Antwerp** and **Bruges**.

T

here is no better way to experience the beauty, history and culture of Holland and Belgium than by cruising their legendary waterways.

Travel into the heart of one of Europe's most colorful and fascinating regions with a unique educational program that creatively combines learning, recreation, relaxation and fellowship aboard the elite and modern MS Amadeus Silver. Explore 700-year-old Amsterdam, a beguiling city of canals and museums. Witness nature in a technicolor palette at Keukenhof Gardens. Step into The Hague and feel the reverberations of political history. Glimpse the scenes Vermeer immortalized in the picture-perfect vistas of Delft. See the renowned Zeeland coast. In Belgium, admire the unrivaled charm of the important port city of Antwerp and the amazing architecture and art of Bruges. Enrich your life with this special travel program, an educational adventure you will never forget!

UNESCO

The **Historic Center of Bruges** and the **17th-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam Inside the Singelgracht** are UNESCO World Heritage sites featured in this program.





Left:
Amsterdam
Below:
Flower seller



Howdy, Ags!

Tulips and painted pottery, tatted lace and diamonds — these iconic treasures are found in the lovely countries on the North Sea coast. Discover both the renowned and the hidden gems of Holland and Belgium. Along the way, explore historic, cosmopolitan cities and charming canalside villages. Pamper yourself with the modern comforts and impeccable, old-world services of the MS Amadeus Silver, an elegant river cruiser.

Travel experts have meticulously planned this exciting program, which showcases the highlights of Holland and Belgium. Enjoy preferred access to popular attractions and an exclusive educational program that will enhance your appreciation of the people and the culture. Our educational program features expert local speakers and is the hallmark of our Alumni Campus Abroad programs.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group of like-minded people, and during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries.

Space is limited, and this trip is sure to fill up quickly, so make your reservations today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director, Travel Programs
The Association of Former Students

AggieNetwork.com/Travel

“We experienced a first class trip. The Association of Former Students and AHI did a great job.”

Dan '77 & Lynda Kaspar

“We went, we saw, we fell in love. It was the experience of a lifetime.”

Richard '62 & Marvel
Love

“We've always known Ags are the best. Traveling Ags know how to travel in style. We all felt as though we were pampered the entire trip.”

David '80 & Dawn
Henderson

“Travel the World and spread the spirit of Texas A&M. Join the fun and travel with The Association of Former Students' Travel Program.”

Roger '52 &
Helen Jenswold



Mauritshuis and The Hague

Keukenhof Gardens

This world-renowned floral spectacular has a rich history, beginning as the kitchen garden of a 15th-century countess. It is the only place on earth where you can witness the unforgettable sight of seven million bulbs blooming at once: daffodils, hyacinths, croci and, of course, the Netherlands' signature tulips. The grounds, covering nearly 80 acres, are a wonderland of stunning gardens and glassy ponds.



Amsterdam

The traditional images of the Netherlands — picturesque windmills, wooden shoes and fields of tulips — find their contrasts in the capital city of Amsterdam. Often described as “a city with a split personality,” Amsterdam blends a deeply historic and reserved core with a thoroughly modern tolerance that is unmatched anywhere else in the world. Medieval gables, time-worn churches and tranquil courtyards set the stage for the city’s vital, exuberant culture. One hundred miles of canals expand outward in concentric circles like a cobweb, tracing their way through a city of amazingly diverse architecture, from quaint 17th-century half-timbered houses to patrician Louis XIV manors. The decorative gables of the houses reach for the sky in a variety of shapes, revealing the ages of the houses and the status of the families that once occupied them. The scalloped skyline is best appreciated from the many gracefully arched bridges that span the canals — Amsterdam is known as the City of 1,001 Bridges for a good reason! In its thriving café culture, a wide variety of ethnic foods can be found at restaurants tucked away in the city’s winding side streets and lining the curves of its canals.



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam





Giethoorn

Laced with footpaths and narrow canals traversed by wooden, arched bridges, the whimsical village of Giethoorn seems to have materialized out of a fairy tale. No cars are allowed, as they'd have nowhere to drive. Lush gardens encircle colorful, 18th-century thatched farmhouses and cottages, and the entire town is surrounded by the Weerribben-Wieden nature preserve. Giethoorn became famous when Dutch filmmaker Bert Haanstra filmed his 1958 comedy "Fanfare" here, but that's where the invasion of the outside world ends. Rove through the picturesque canals by boat, grab a bicycle or wander by foot through the tiny hamlet and immerse yourself in the simple pleasures of small-town Dutch life.

The Hague

The seat of the Dutch government and its Parliament, The Hague is the provincial capital of the Netherlands. This elegant and beautiful city exudes graciousness with its open squares, several lovely canals and more than 700 public gardens. It also projects a formal lifestyle that befits its role as a diplomatic capital and world center of international peace and justice. The Upper and Lower Chambers of the Dutch Parliament occupy the grounds of the old Castle of the Counts. And the city wears a decidedly intellectual air thanks to its wealth of museums dedicated to arts and sciences. The Mauritshuis, a storied 17th-century museum closed for two years for renovations, reopens in summer 2014. The renowned museum houses a collection of art from Dutch and Flemish artists spanning more than 400 years, but

The 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'



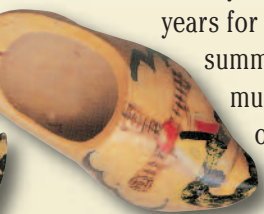
After two years touring the world, including exhibits in the United States and Japan, Johannes Vermeer's renowned "Girl with a Pearl Earring" will return to its home museum in summer 2014, when the Mauritshuis is set to reopen to the public for the first time since renovations began in 2012.

The 17th-century Mauritshuis has counted "Girl with a Pearl Earring" among its collection since 1902, when A. A. de Torres, who bought the painting in the 1880s, died and bequeathed the masterpiece to the museum.

Vermeer's most well-known work is undated, but scholars have estimated it was completed in the mid-1600s. It is easily recognized by the soft-featured girl looking over her left shoulder, wearing a bright blue turban and, of course, a single visible shiny pearl earring.

The painting, which has a three-dimensional quality, showcases Vermeer's skills as a realist painter, as well as his ability to capture light and focus on a moment.

For centuries, art enthusiasts and museumgoers have asked one question more than any other about the girl in the painting: Who is she? One theory among scholars is that it is Maria, Vermeer's daughter. However, many art critics agree the "Girl with a Pearl Earring" is a *tronie*, a popular work during the Golden Age of Dutch painting that depicts a face, character or expression, and not a portrait.



Right: Gallery, Mauritshuis





Left: Delft

*Lower left:
World-famous
Delft porcelain*

Below: Bruges

Right: Antwerp



most of the works are from the Dutch Golden Age, including pieces from Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt.

Delft

Known for its famous blue-and-white Delftware porcelain, Delft preserves a distinctly historic look, perhaps more than any town in the Netherlands. In some places, so little has changed that you can even recognize the views made famous by Delft's illustrious son, the Golden Age painter Vermeer. For the majority of his life and career in the mid-17th century, Vermeer lived on Markt, the city's market square surrounded by the spires of historic churches and the majestic bulk of the old Town Hall. Delft's townscape reveals the beauty of times past. Enjoy romantic glimpses of tree-lined medieval canals spanned by bridges and dotted with gabled patrician houses along their banks.



Veere

The sleepy port of Veere is one of the prettiest towns in the Netherlands. The impressive houses and public buildings that line its quaint streets stand testament to Veere's history of prosperity.

Neeltje Jans

Showcased in the heart of the Netherlands' Delta area is a proud symbol of the Dutch engineering mastery over the nation's



natural rival. Located on the artificial Neeltje Jans Island, the Delta Works Expo illustrates the delicate balance of the Netherlands' relationship with the ever-encroaching sea through educational, interactive displays that demonstrate the beauty and power of water.

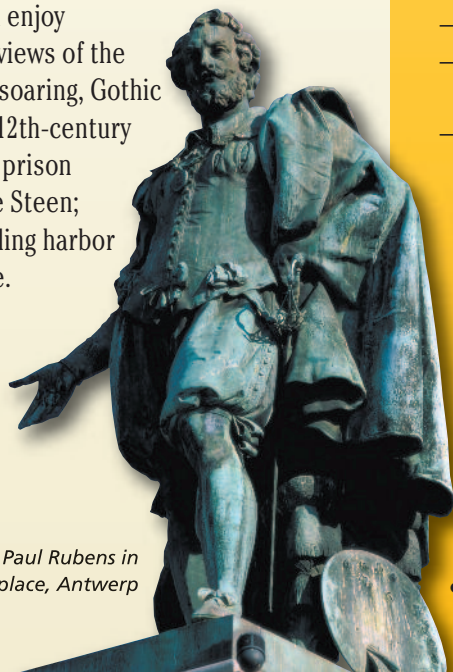
Bruges

Nicknamed the Venice of the North, beautiful Bruges is an unforgettable labyrinth of ivy-clad canals and winding, cobbled streets. Located in the heart of Flemish Belgium, its Old Town market square is lined by a stately neo-Gothic Provincial Court, the city's signature belfry tower and cloth hall, and cafés fronted by colorful table umbrellas. Nearby, underneath a 400-foot brick spire, the Church of Our Lady houses the famous "Madonna and Child," sculpted by a young Michelangelo. Several art galleries and museums showcase priceless paintings from the revolutionary Flemish Primitive movement that evolved in Bruges during the 1420s.



Antwerp

Glistening Antwerp is one of the world's largest seaports and one of Belgium's most interesting cities. From the 15th to the 17th centuries, Antwerp was a hotbed of artistic fervor — Quentin Massys, “Velvet” Breughel and many others all lived and worked in Antwerp. Their treasures are preserved today in Antwerp's many churches and museums. The prosperity of countless centuries is revealed in the city's outstanding architecture, beautiful old houses and 16th-century Town Hall. Explore the shops lining the city's charming squares and narrow, cobbled streets. Here you'll find the Diamond District, where 85% of the world's diamonds — nearly 25 million carats — are cut and polished each year. Relax at a café above the banks of the Schelde, and enjoy magnificent views of the Cathedral, a soaring, Gothic beacon; the 12th-century fortress and prison known as the Steen; and the bustling harbor and riverside.



Statue of Peter Paul Rubens in his birthplace, Antwerp

INCLUDED FEATURES

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Seven nights aboard the exclusively chartered **MS Amadeus Silver**.

MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal plan**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and seven dinners. Coffee or tea is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend a special Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for a Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Reception, followed by a Farewell Dinner.

YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

(For full details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- **Informative programs**, presented by local experts, enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.
- **All excursions:**
 - Board a canal cruise in Amsterdam.
 - Admire colorful fields of tulips at the Keukenhof Gardens.
 - Set out on a walking tour of Antwerp.
 - Stroll through the charming, road-free village of Giethoorn.
 - Travel to The Hague and visit the Mauritshuis.
 - Visit Delft, the birthplace of Vermeer.
 - Enjoy a tour of the Delta Project on the Zeeland Coast.
 - Experience the romantic ambience of medieval Bruges.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Tipping of all excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



AHI EXCLUSIVE RIVER CRUISE EXTRAS:

All AHI River Cruises feature:

- A first-class river cruise ship providing all outward-facing accommodations; friendly, personalized service; limited capacity; and exclusively designed sailing itineraries.
- Delicious dining aboard the ship featuring special extras such as morning coffee, wine with dinner and expertly prepared culinary specialties of the region.
- Expert local guides leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.



MS AMADEUS SILVER

The state-of-the-art MS Amadeus Silver debuted in 2013 as a flagship of the innovative Lüftner cruise line. This stylish ship offers the utmost in service, safety and comfort. Step into the elegant reception area and immerse yourself in the ambience of a high-end hotel. Relax on the sun deck, indulge in a soothing massage, browse in the boutique or connect with friends at the Internet station. If you wish to be more active, practice your golf game on the putting green or exercise in the fitness room. Savor international cuisine at the restaurant's delicious breakfast and lunch buffets, and enjoy regional specialties at dinner. At the end of each day, return to the comforts of your cabin, appointed in bright, modern décor and featuring a river view, a satellite TV and a private bathroom with shower.



Upper: Each cabin features a river view
Lower: MS Amadeus Silver restaurant

Reserve your Holland & Belgium cruise, today!

Trip #:1-21874W

Send to: The Association of Former Students
 Attn: Traveling Aggies
 505 George Bush Drive
 College Station, TX 77840-2918
 Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**
 Toll Free: **800-633-7514**

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1: _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Guest 2: _____
 Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____) Cell: (_____) _____

Sharing room with _____ (Form sent separately).

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____ (2) _____
 Class Year Class Year

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Cruise and AHI FlexAir Program

I/we reserve the Cruise Program and request AHI FlexAir to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with a return from Brussels, Belgium to depart from:

_____ Departure City

- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.
- Please contact me regarding air flight options.

Cruise Only Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Cabin Category Desired: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____
- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$795 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first-served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by Jan. 18, 2015 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports or, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions; wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature. **MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-**The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

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BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

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CRUISE PROGRAM

April 4-11, 2015

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price
E-Haydn (Aft)	\$2,745	\$250	\$2,495*
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$2,845	\$250	\$2,595*
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$3,145	\$250	\$2,895*
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995*
A-Mozart	\$3,545	\$250	\$3,295*
Suite-Mozart (Forward)	\$3,845	\$250	\$3,595*

Suites have a balcony. A, B, and C cabins have a dropdown panoramic window. D and E cabins have a window.

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT and Port Tax supplement is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air program costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$795 (limited availability).

AHI FLEXAIR

April 3-11, 2015

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.



PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Depart for Amsterdam, the Netherlands. †

† *Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.*

DAY TWO

D

Upon arrival in Amsterdam, transfer† to the pier and embark the MS Amadeus Silver.

Educational Focus: *Contemporary Holland.* Review the current state of affairs in the Netherlands and discuss its future as a member of the European Union.

Excursion: *Canal Cruise.* Admire Amsterdam from the water during a cruise through its scenic ring of canals to see its important sites.

DAY THREE

B/L/D

Excursion: *Keukenhof Gardens.* Journey through Dutch flower fields to the renowned Keukenhof Gardens, an 80-acre paradise of tulips and other flowers, complete with Europe's largest fountain and a 700-tree labyrinth.

Independent Exploration: Your afternoon is at leisure to explore Amsterdam.

Cruise to Kampen, where the ship overnights.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY FOUR

B/L/D

Excursion: *Giethoorn.* Stroll through this charming, road-free village located in a nature preserve. With four miles of canals and exquisite 18th-century farmhouses, Giethoorn seems to have popped out of the pages of a storybook.

Independent Exploration: Spend some time at leisure in the historic city of Kampen.

Educational Focus: *The Dutch Masters.*

Consider how the pioneering brush strokes of artists like Rembrandt van Rijn, Johannes Vermeer, Jans Steen and Frans Hals forever changed the art of painting.

Cruise to Utrecht, where the ship overnights.

DAY FIVE

B/D

Excursion: *Delft and The Hague.* Discover Delft, the home of Vermeer and the site of a collection of lovely canal houses, as well as the purveyor of a world-renowned tradition of ceramics. Stroll its Market Square and admire the sights of Old Delft, including the Palace Prinsenhof, once home to William of Orange. Continue to The Hague, home of the royal residence and a number of world-class museums. Visit the Mauritshuis, which houses some of Rembrandt and Vermeer's finest works. Rejoin the ship in Schoonhoven and cruise to Willemstad, where the ship overnights.

DAY SIX

B/L/D

This morning, cruise to Veere.

Educational Focus and Excursion:

Holland's Battle against the Sea. Travel along the Zeeland coast to the artificial island of Neeltje Jans and its Delta Expo. Learn about the Delta Works, a series of massive dams and storm surge barriers, conceived after the 1953 North Sea flood and built over a period of 30 years. These 65 enormous gates can be slammed shut on the North Sea when powerful storms strike — an engineering masterpiece that now protects the third of the landmass of the Netherlands that sits below sea level.

Independent Exploration: The rest of your day is at leisure in Veere.

DAY SEVEN

B/D

This morning, cruise to Middelburg.

Excursion: *Bruges.* This romantic town's nickname, the Venice of the North, is well deserved. Stroll along winding cobbled lanes and across tiny arched bridges over ivy-clad canals to discover charming buildings and impressive art collections. See the colorful shops and cafés of the Markt and Burg Central Square.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy an evening at leisure in Antwerp, where the ship overnights.

DAY EIGHT

B/L/D

Educational Focus: *Contemporary*

Belgium. Learn about this region of Europe, which is located at the historical crossroads of many major trading routes. Belgium is a bilingual country, with deep cultural, geographic and linguistic divisions between the Dutch speakers of Flanders and the French speakers of Wallonia.

Excursion: *Antwerp.* This morning, stroll through Antwerp, one of Europe's leading art centers. Home of painter Peter Paul Rubens and the School of the Southern Netherlands, Antwerp dates back to the 13th century and features a wealth of medieval architecture.

Independent Exploration: Your final afternoon is at leisure in Antwerp.

Tonight, gather for a Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

DAY NINE

B

Disembark the ship and transfer to Brussels for the return flights to your gateway city. †

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some events on this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as

B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

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Paid
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Top to bottom:
Windmill
Young Dutch girl
Painting by the Dutch Master Vermeer
Amsterdam
Cover photo:
Bruges



A word about your Tour Operator

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of more than 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors** who attend to every detail of your journey.
- **Expertise of local guides** who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



*The Association of Former Students
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