

Culinary Spring Journey in the Mountains of Aso

5 nights 6 days



The Aso area is a beautifully blended mix of abundant nature and human settlements. In Japan, rural mountain areas where people live by the land are called “*Satoyama*”. Directly translated, the word means “mountain village”. On a deeper level, it indicates an ecosystem maintained by humans coexisting with mountains and woodlands through agricultural practices. In other words, *satoyama* refers to the traditional rural landscapes that once typified most of Japan.

In Aso, the *satoyama* culture runs deep. Everything from the soaring cedar trees to the vast pasturelands is woven together with the lives of people. The time of year when this *satoyama* culture truly flourishes is in the spring. As beautiful cherry blossoms decorate the landscapes, locals enter the mountains searching for seasonal wild plants while competing with wild boars to dig up the best bamboo shoots.

In this light culinary adventure, we will penetrate deep into the heart of *satoyama* culture and come in contact with the essence of Japanese culture. Interact with local people and learn about wild plants and other blessings of the mountain. Enjoy an exciting variety of locally sourced cuisine unique to the area, hot springs, cycling, and hiking in one of Japan’s most beautiful seasons.

Highlights:

- Explore authentic Japanese "satoyama" cuisine
- Hunt for wild plants together with a local herb adviser
- Cycle through the beautiful rural areas during Japan's best season
- Harvest bamboo shoots and prepare them in a giant volcanic steam cooker
- Hike through pasturelands on the ancient mountain Waita

Location:

The Aso area of Kumamoto prefecture is part of Aso-Kuju National Park and Unesco's Global Geoparks. The area is distinguished by dynamic and beautiful landscapes shaped by the still-active volcano. Symbolic aspects are the vast pasturelands and the inhabited volcanic caldera.

Main Activity: Cultural/culinary experience

Difficulty: 2

Availability: March and April

Tour Duration: 5 Nights 6 Days

Pax: Minimum 2 Maximum 8

Price per person: JPY 257,000

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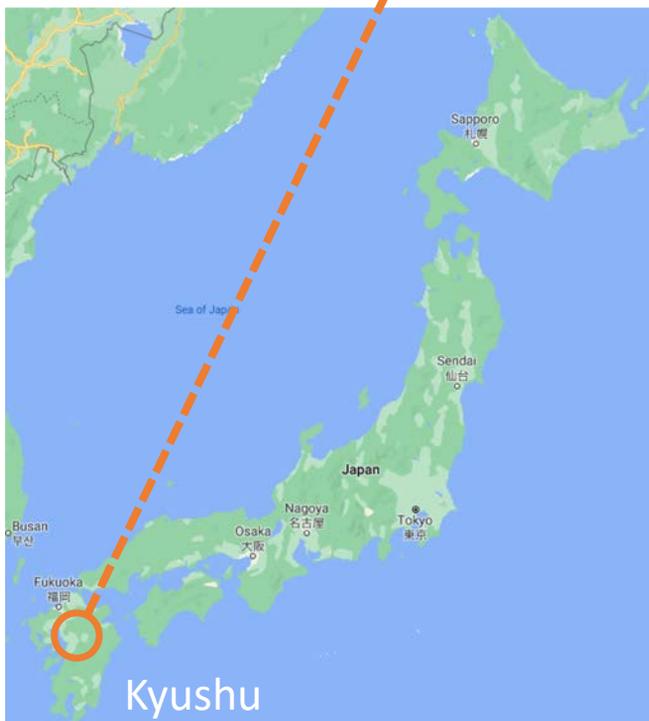
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Route map



A - B. Day 1 - Enter Aso!

B - D. Day 2 - Satoyama cycling course

D - E. Day 3 - Nature walk and Shiitake farm

F - G. Day 4 - Bamboo hunting and steam

G - H. Day 5 - Mt. Waita hiking course

Day-by-day Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrival at Kumamoto airport, enter Aso!

You will arrive at Kumamoto airport and meet your group around 15:00. After a short introduction we will board our transportation to head towards Aso. On the bus you will be briefed about the area and the upcoming days.

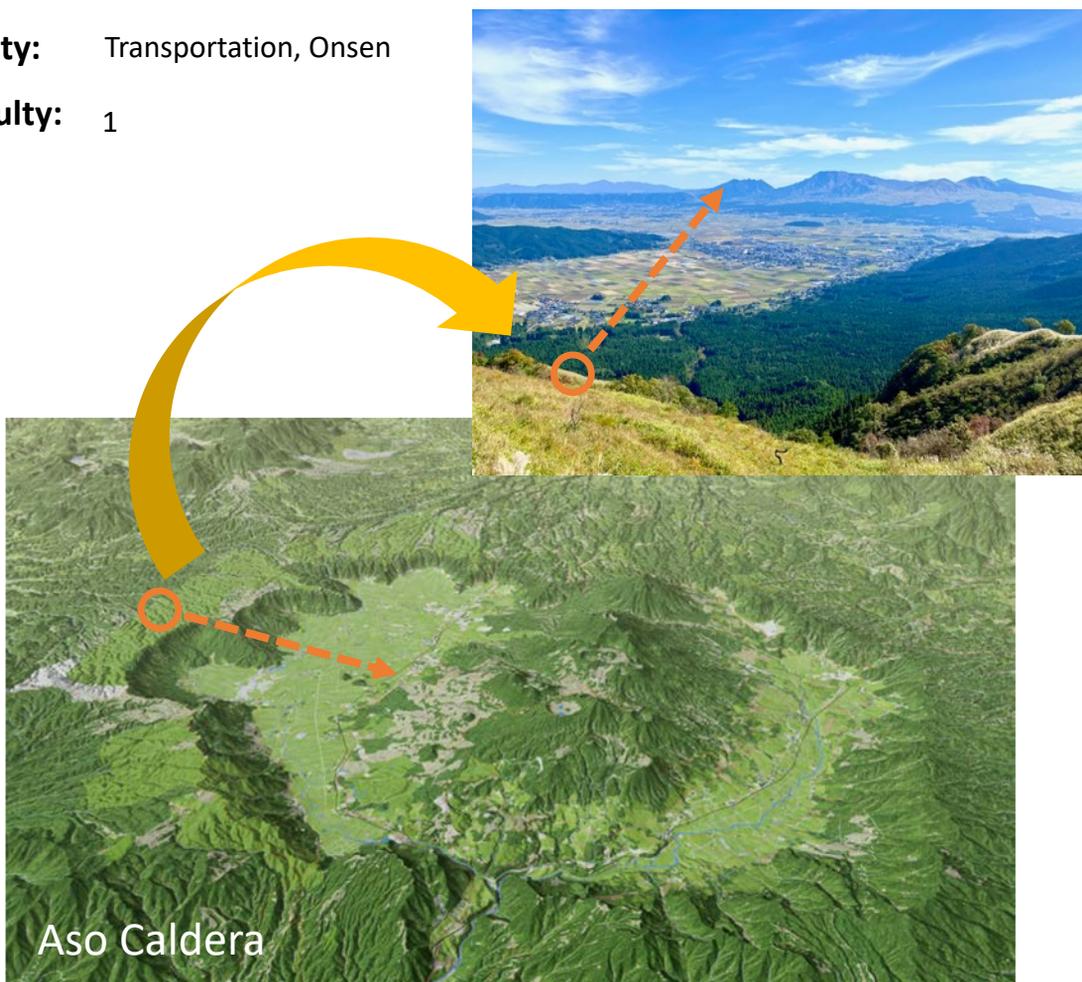
We will make a quick stop at Mt. Tawara's lookout post to get an overview of the Aso area and grab some nice pictures of the scenery before continuing on towards our lodging for the night. Our hotel is a traditional Japanese onsen (hot spring) inn. Before arrival, you will also be briefed about how to properly use an onsen.

Arrival at our hotel, Senomoto Highland Hotel, is estimated around 16:00 o'clock. After checking in, there will be time to visit the onsen and freshen up before dinner. The guide will be available for instructions about bathing in the onsen.

Dinner will be had at the accommodation from 18:00.

Activity: Transportation, Onsen

Difficulty: 1



Day 2 – Rural cycling tour in Minamioguni town

Today the adventure begins for real and we will start off the day by enjoying a refreshing morning yoga beneath an open sky while looking out over the stunning highlands. After stretching out our bodies, a healthy breakfast awaits us at the hotel

At 09:00 we will saddle up and head out on our cycling adventure to familiarize ourselves with the area. This pleasant cycling route will display the dynamic landscapes of Aso. Firstly, we will breeze through the vast grasslands of Aso, atop of the northern wall of the caldera. After a while, we will leave the grasslands behind us and head into the woodlands that eventually lead us into the lovely mountain villages surrounded by rice paddies. Our first stop will be at one of the oldest villages in Minamioguni town, Mangan-ji. Here we will jump off our bikes and explore the small rustic little village on foot before having a lunch break.

Lunch

We will have lunch at a small restaurant in Mangan-ji area, run by a lovely elderly lady who cooks amazing local cuisine. The lunch will consist of seasonal veggies, traditional countryside dishes, and if we're lucky, maybe even some game!



After lunch we will keep cycling for another 2,5 hours exploring rural villages and pastoral landscapes while stopping at points of interest such as small and intimate local shrines. Around 15:30 we will arrive at one of Minamioguni town's five onsen areas, Ota Onsen. Not nearly as famous as its counterpart Kurokawa Onsen, but the quality is at least as good and this guarantees us an authentic experience undisturbed by mass tourism.

Activity: Cycling. 24 km course, mostly downhill on paved roads. Maximal height difference 524 m.

Difficulty: 2



Day 3 – Nature walk & wild plant hunting

In spring, many people venture to Aso in order to gather wild plants such as mugwort, bracken, aralia sprouts, and butter bur flowers. Today we will take part in this annual tradition and go for a nature walk in the area close to our accommodation.

After breakfast, the morning hours until lunch will be spent with a local herb adviser, Mrs. Shigeko Wakizono. She isn't born in the area but chose to live here in part because of the abundant amount of edible weed and wild plants. Together we will go on a pleasant nature walk and learn from Mrs. Shigeko while we hunt for and gather these spring delicacies. The route will vary from time to time but imagine an easy walk on forest trails.

Lunch

As you might have guessed, lunch will be made from our haul of wild plants that we will cook and prepare together with Mrs. Shigeko in her home located close to Ota Onsen.

After having lunch we will say goodbye to Mrs. Shigeko and go for a quick ride with the car. It will bring us to another one of nature's delicious treasures. This time we will visit a mushroom farmer that specializes in growing "Shiitake" mushrooms on natural wood. Today, less than 10% of all shiitake produced in Japan are grown this way. Enjoy the flavorful taste of freshly picked mushrooms, grilled on a charcoal brazier!

Dinner

Tonight's dinner will not be had at the hotel. Instead we will go for a short drive and visit the town's local izakaya. This hidden gem is a place only known to locals and is visited and loved by people of all ages.

Activity:

- Nature walk. Distance: 5-10 km, mostly flat woodlands
- Town exploration. Distance 3-5 km, mostly flat woodland, stairs, and paved roads but some steep hills up and down
- Tour of the mushroom farm

Difficulty: 2



Day 4 – The golden delicacy of spring, Takenoko!

Many people love Japan for its beautiful bamboo forests, but few have experience digging up the actual bamboo shoots and eating them more or less fresh from the soil!

On this fourth day, we will go hunting for Japan’s number one spring delicacy, “*takenoko*”!

After breakfast, we will head out to experience something very unique! Together with two locals, who normally have no relation to the tourism industry, we will head into a small bamboo forest to dig up bamboo shoots. These fascinating plants grow at an incredible rate, and some species can even grow up to 91 cm in a single day. So timing is important! If you miss your chance, they will become hard and inedible. After our harvest, we will head to a giant volcanic steam cooker in the onsen area Waita, where we will prepare our bamboo shoots.

Lunch

Lunch will be a mix of steamed vegetables, locally sourced food, and of course, the freshly steamed bamboo shoots that the locals call “*takenoko sashimi*”, similar to the raw fish sashimi. This is a dish that even few Japanese have experienced!

The onsen village Waita is a fascinating place where volcanic steam rises up all around the village. The villagers have even built a thermal powerplant to produce clean energy by utilizing volcanic steam. And do I need to mention that there are many great onsens here as well? The afternoon will be spent here before heading to our next accommodation, an atmospheric hideaway in the mountains on the border of Kumamoto and Oita prefecture.

Dinner

Dinner will be BBQ at our accommodation, Jizobaru village, an atmospheric lodging in Japanese style, dedicated to sustainability, food, and relaxation.

Activity:

- Takenoko harvesting & volcano steam cooking
- Village exploration/onsen

Difficulty: 1



Day 5 – Mt. Waita hiking & onsen relaxation!

Our last full day of the trip has arrived and it's time for a proper workout! Today we will traverse the ancient mountain Waita that was created through a volcanic eruption 500,000 years ago.

After finishing breakfast at our accommodation, we will head out at 08:00 and start our climb from 08:30. The hike begins at 845 meters elevation and will take us through pasturelands and forests. If we are lucky, we might even happen upon some cows grazing peacefully in the mountains. Partially the road is quite steep, and you will work up a sweat, but it's fully possible to walk and no actual climbing is required.

We are estimated to reach the peak of the mountain at noon.

Lunch

At the top of Mt. Waita, we will cook a simple ramen noodle meal. This might sound simple, but at the top of the mountain, it is the most satisfying delicacy of all.

After having lunch, we will head down towards a small onsen town called Suji-yu. Suji-yu Onsen has a long history of over 1000 years and is nudged in neatly between mount Waita and the Kuju mountain range. Our hike down will be a gentle slope and we should be able to enjoy the beautiful sight of the Kuju mountain range towering before us. The last night will be spent at the atmospheric inn Shugetsu. All participants will enjoy private detached rooms with their own open-air hot springs for maximal relaxation on this final night.

Dinner

Dinner will be had at the hotel and for the ones who want to enjoy their final night for as long as possible, drinks can be enjoyed at the local izakaya Takumi nearby.

Activity: Hiking. 11 km course with a difference in elevation of 655 m. Wood and grassland trails. Some walking through high grass. Partially steep sections, no actual climbing necessary.

Difficulty: 3



Day 6 – Transfer to Kumamoto Airport/Fukuoka Airport, farewells

The final day will be a simple day. Enjoy a relaxing morning before we transfer to the airport and say our farewells.

After having breakfast at the hotel, we will check out from the hotel at 10:00, and the transportation leaves at 10:30, so make sure to be prepared. The estimated time of arrival at the airport is 12:30 (might vary slightly depending on the destination). Your guide will see you through all the way to the airport where we will say our heartfelt goodbyes. Thank you for taking part in our tour and we hope to see you soon again!

Accommodations :

Day 1 : Onsen hotel. Private room with ensuite.

Day 2 : Traditional Japanese inn. Private room with ensuite.

Day 3: Traditional Japanese inn. Private room with ensuite.)

Day 4: Airbnb-style, traditional building in the mountains, rented and renovated. Bathrooms are shared. (Rooms might be shared with travelers of the same sex)

Day 5 : Traditional Japanese inn. Private room with ensuite.

What's included

- 4 nights accommodation, single occupancy basis (Due to limited capacity we may ask you to share a room with another guest of the same gender. In this case we will inform you in advance). 1 nights accommodation in a rentable home with shared spaces.
- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
- Snacks and refreshments
- English speaking guide(s)
- Necessary basic equipment for activities (see detailed list)

Not included

- Airfares
- Personal expenses
- Alcoholic drink with included meals

Please note that you will be asked to show your passport when checking into accommodation in Japan. It is a requirement for accommodation providers to take a photocopy of the passport of oversea guests.

We provide & What to bring

We provide

- Road bike/mountain bike/e-bike
- Cycling gear (helmet, gloves)
- You will be asked to provide information regarding weight, length, etc
- Gear for outdoor cooking

What to bring

The Japanese spring is one of the most pleasant seasons in regards to temperature but weather can change quickly, especially in the mountains, so remember to have clothing that can handle some cold and rain.

Essentials

- Windproof/coldproof/waterproof jacket
- Sneakers
- Shoes suitable for hiking
- Comfortable clothing for exercise
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Travel insurance
- Passport
- Cash in Japanese yen. ATM might be few and many places only accept cash.

Recommended

- Gloves
- Cycle pants
- Portable toilet
- Camera

About us

SMO Minamioguni (SMO) is a company in the Aso area of Kumamoto that operates a small tour business called "Satoyama Journey." Our goal is to bring small groups of visitors on a unique journey into life in the Japanese countryside by introducing satoyama-culture, the Japanese way of living in harmony with the native woodlands and mountains. Furthermore, we also pride ourselves on being a local company. At SMO, we work with a complete perspective on community development, including everything from operating the farmers' market to supporting local entrepreneurship. We might be a comparatively new contender on the market, but our goals and aspiration know no limits!

Guides

▶ Through-guide Max Wall

Mr. Max is born in Sweden but live and work as a certified interpretation guide in Japan. He is a versatile person who, in addition to guiding, also manage relations with providers, develop new content, write articles, and work with the local community. Apart from having passed the highest level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, he is certified as a social worker and in basic first aid. Max's goal is to revitalize the area and preserve local culture through responsible tourism.



▶ Komorebi-an Tayutayu

Ms. Shigeko Wakizono is a herb specialist and advisor who is very knowledgeable about nature and the local area. She lives mostly by eating what grows naturally and there is no one more fit to guide us on our nature walk while looking for wild plants. Furthermore, she also runs a small B&B and in 2020, she was nominated as a finalist, and awarded the "forever young" price, in Mrs. International 2020 (Japan).

▶ TRIM COMPANY

Our cycling guide is Mr. Hashimoto Kota, born and raised in the Aso area. He left Kumamoto once to work in Osaka but soon felt that the big city life didn't fit him and returned back home. He has been a dedicated cyclist for many years and decided to start his own company to arrange cycle tours and rent gear in the Aso area.

Mr. Max will be the main guide on our third day of mountain village cycling but Mr. Kota will follow us along in the support car to provide support whenever necessary.

Breakfast & Dinner

At some points in the itinerary breakfasts & dinners aren't specified. This indicates that we will eat at our accommodation. This is a common way of traveling in Japan and the meals are often one of the most sought-after experiences.

The meal often comes as a set course menu or buffet, containing seasonal Japanese dishes served beautifully on separate plates. This is a great way to experience Japanese cuisine and offers a complete, healthy and varied meal.

If you have certain requirements or wish to explore local restaurants, let us know and we will do our best to cater to your needs!



What is an Izakaya?

Izakaya is a type of Japanese bar/restaurant. Drinking and eating often goes hand in hand at this type of establishment, but of course you can enjoy soft drinks as well. The menu is often varied including everything from raw fish to fried potato. The izakaya-style resembles the Spanish "*tapas*" where you order a variety of smaller dishes and share. The izakaya is a casual environment and a popular place for after-work drinking in Japan.



What is an *onsen*?

If you visit Japan, you are guaranteed to come across the word *onsen*. *Onsen* means "hot spring" and is an important part of Japanese culture. There are over 27,000 *onsen* in Japan and these natural hot springs are often known for their atmospheric locations and health benefits. Kumamoto ranks in at number 5 on the list of most *onsen* in Japan and approximately half of them are located in Aso area.

Onsen is a great part of Japanese culture and here are a few things to make your first experience into a smooth one.

- Bathing is done naked. Sorry, no swimsuit allowed and your towel can't touch the water.
- Make sure to wash your body before entering the bath to keep it clean.
- The baths are shared spaces so be respectful and don't disturb other guests.
- Remember to dry yourself before entering the changing room, no one likes wet floors!

If you feel hesitant about sharing baths or being seen by others, there are many *onsen* in Kyushu that can be rented privately at a cheap price!

Relaxing in an *onsen* is a wonderful way to finish a day of adventures! Enjoy!



What is a *ryokan*?

Ryokan is a traditional Japanese inn where you can enjoy Japanese cuisine and *onsen*.

They are often run locally and staying at a *ryokan* is a good way to experience a part of Japanese culture. The rooms mostly follow typical Japanese design with tatami mats, partitions made from rice paper and futon mattresses for sleeping on the floor.

Furthermore, you will be provided with a "*yukata*", a light version of the famous kimono, that you can wear anywhere inside the *ryokan*, and sometimes even outside!

We often use *ryokan* and similar accommodations during our trips to support local business owners. If you know that you might have problems sleeping on a futon or any other concerns, make sure to let us know when you make your booking.

Information and Requirements

Dietary Restrictions

Experiencing the local food is, in and of itself, an adventure and we believe from the bottom of our hearts that it will enrich your overall trip. However, we understand that this isn't possible for all visitors and in all circumstances. With this in mind, we are more than willing to cater for allergies, dietary restriction, or other special requirements. To enable us to do this efficiently, it is important that you inform us at once through the Booking Form. Once we have your information, we will do our best to accommodate your dietary needs. We do hope that you will be understanding and flexible since the rural areas we visit might have certain limitations to what they can provide. For example, if you require halal food, the substitute may be a vegetarian dish instead.

Furthermore, from our experience MSG and gluten-free food can be hard to find, especially in rural areas. If you are allergic to any of these, make sure to let us know and we will give you more detailed information on what kind of food that can be expected.

Emergency Response Plan

Making sure that your trip ends safely is one of our absolute top priorities. Which is why our guide is educated in first-aid and always carry a first-aid kit. We also always have stand-by staff who control distance to closest hospitals and can act quickly in case of emergencies. Furthermore, if weather conditions are judged to be a safety risk, we might adjust the schedule to ensure a safe experience.

Weather Conditions

Aso is located on a high altitude ranging from about 450 – 1600 meter above sea level. This means that the weather and temperature can change greatly during one single day depending on location and circumstances. The average temperature in March/April is usually around 14 - 19°C during the day and 5 – 10°C during night. This means that the climate is mild but packing a few warmer options might be wise. The average precipitation during this season is relatively low hover slightly above 200 mm a month. Bringing a wind and waterproof jacket might be a good idea to keep the experience pleasant!

Reservation & Cancellation Policy

Reservation

When we receive your booking through the form on our website, we will send you an email with a registration form where we ask you to fill in personal information such as contact details and dietary requirements. This is in order for us to be able to provide you with a safe and comfortable experience. Once we have confirmed your information, you will be sent a link to complete the deposit/payment in order to finalize your booking.

Payment Methods

We will send a booking confirmation by email with an invoice requesting a deposit.

*A 20% deposit is required to confirm the booking.

*The remaining cost (balance payment) is due 21 days before the start of the tour.

*Payment is acceptable by credit card or bank transfer:

A. Bank Transfer

* Please process the payment from your local bank in Yen.

* All transaction fees will be paid by the remitter.

B. Credit card

*We will send you a link with a form to fill in your credit card details

Cancellation

- Cancellation fees apply from 20 days prior to the starting date of the tour
- 20% of the tour price will apply 20 days prior to the starting date of the tour
- 30% of the tour price will apply 7 days prior to the starting date of the tour
- 40% of the tour price will apply 1 days prior to the starting date of the tour
- 50% of the tour price will apply on the starting day of the tour
- 100% of the tour price will apply after the start of the tour or if the traveler does not participate in the tour without previous notice

Statement of Travel Terms and Conditions

(for Agent-Organized Domestic Tours Within Japan)

These Terms and Conditions shall apply to “SMO Minamioguni Satoyama Journey” as well as agent-organized tours offered by the companies listed in Article 2.

Article 1 Significance of Statement of Terms and Conditions

This Statement of Terms and Conditions constitutes the written statement of transaction terms and conditions provided for under Article 12-4 of Japan’s Travel Agency Act and constitutes part of the contract documents provided under Article 12-5 of said Act.

Article 2 Agreement regarding Participation in Agent-Organized Tour

- (1) This tour is organized and implemented by one of the following travel service companies (hereinafter referred to as “the Company”) as identified in the pertinent web information or brochure. The Customer is entering into an agreement with the Company regarding participation in an agent-organized tour (hereinafter referred to as the “Tour Participation Agreement”).
 - SMO Minamioguni Corp. (1789-1 Akababa, minamioguni-machi, Aso-gun, Kumamoto ; Governor of Kumamoto Registered Travel Agency No. 266)
- (2) The Company agrees to undertake the arrangements and to provide the necessary itinerary management services in order to ensure that the Customer is able to receive the transportation, accommodations and other travel-related services to be provided by the relevant providers in accordance with the travel itinerary prepared by the Company (hereinafter referred to as the “Travel Services”).
- (3) The terms and conditions applicable to the Tour Participation Agreement are those set forth in the pertinent web information and brochure, this Statement of Travel Terms and Conditions, the written confirmation referred to as the Final Travel Itinerary which is to be furnished to the Customer prior to departure (hereinafter referred to as the “Final Travel Itinerary”) and the provisions contained in the Company’s General Terms and Conditions regarding Agent-Organized Tour Participation Agreements (hereinafter referred to as the “Company’s General Terms and Conditions”).

Article 3-1 Tour Participation Requests and Formation of Binding Agreement

- (1) Customers interested in signing up for the tour should submit the required information to the Company or one of its Sales Location identified under “Sales Locations” (hereinafter collectively referred to as “the Company or its Sales Location”) along with a deposit in the amount indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure. For operational reasons, the Customer may be required to furnish the required information using a prescribed form or screen. The deposit shall be applied towards payment for travel. The Tour Participation Agreement between the Customer and the Company shall become legally binding upon agreement by the Company or its Sales Location to enter into the Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer and receipt of the deposit.
- (2) ① The Company or its Sales Location may accept tour reservation requests by telephone, mail, facsimile or other electronic means. In such case, the Tour Participation Agreement shall not become legally binding at the time that said reservation request is received. Rather, the Customer shall be required to confirm the details of said reservation request and to remit payment of the deposit within three (3) days from the day following the date on which the Company or its Sales Location furnishes notice of acceptance of the Customer’s reservation request. If payment of the deposit is not received by the deadline

stated above, the Company or its Sales Location shall treat said reservation request as null and void.

- ② If the Customer makes a reservation request online but wishes to make payment at a Sales Location, the Customer shall be required to confirm the details of the reservation request and make payment of the deposit within two (2) days from the day following the date on which the Company or Sales Location furnishes notice of acceptance of the Customer's reservation request. If payment of the deposit is not received by the deadline stated above, the Company or its Sales Location shall treat said reservation request as null and void.
- (3) In the case of telephonic reservation requests, the Tour Participation Agreement shall become legally binding upon receipt by the Company or its Sales Location of the deposit pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (2) of this Article 3-1. In the case of reservation requests made by mail or facsimile, the Tour Participation Agreement shall become legally binding upon receipt of the deposit and the issuance of notice by the Company or its Sales Location of acceptance of the Customer's reservation request. If a reservation request is made by telephone, mail, facsimile or other electronic means but the Customer intends to pay by credit card, the formation of a legally binding agreement shall be governed by the provisions set forth in Paragraph (3) of Article 24 below.
- (4) If the Company or its Sales Location receive a tour reservation request from an Authorized Contracting Party acting on behalf of travellers who will constitute a group or party, the Company or its Sales Location shall deem said Authorized Contracting Party to possess full powers of agency to act on behalf of said group or party in connection with all contractual matters, including but not limited to the execution and termination of agreements.
- (5) The Authorized Contracting Party shall be required to submit a list of the members of the group or party to the Company or its Sales Location by the deadline specified by the Company or its Sales Location. The Authorized Contracting Party shall be responsible for obtaining consent from all members of the group or party with respect to the furnishing of personal information to third-parties in accordance with Article 26 below.
- (6) Neither the Company nor its Sales Location shall assume any responsibility whatsoever with regard to any obligations or duties currently owed or anticipated to be owed at any future time by the Authorized Contracting Party to any members of the group or party.
- (7) If the Authorized Contracting Party will not be traveling with the group, the member of the group preselected by said Authorized Contracting Party shall be deemed by the Company or its Sales Location to be serving as the Authorized Contracting Party subsequent to the commencement of the tour.

Article 3-2 Special Provisions regarding Waitlisting

If the Company is unable to execute a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer for a tour requested by the Customer for any reason, including but not limited to a lack of available spots, the Company –at the specific request of the Customer - may enter into a special arrangement with the Customer pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth below under which the Company shall enter into a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer if and when it becomes possible to do so at a future point in time (hereinafter referred to as "Waitlisting").

- (1) If the Customer wishes to be Waitlisted, the Customer shall confirm how long the Customer is willing to wait for a response from the Company (hereinafter referred to as the "Waitlist Period") and shall submit the required tour participation request along with an amount equal to that of the required deposit. During Waitlisting, there exists no legally binding Tour

Participation Agreement between the Company and the Customer nor does the Company make any promise to the Customer that a Tour Participation Agreement will be executed at some future time.

- (2) The Company shall hold 'in trust' for the Customer an amount equal to that of the required deposit described in the preceding Paragraph (1). If it becomes possible to execute a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer at a later point in time, the Company shall issue notice to the Customer of the Company's agreement to enter into a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer and shall apply the above-mentioned amount held in trust for the Customer towards the payment of the required deposit.
- (3) The Tour Participation Agreement between the Company and the Customer shall become legally binding upon the issuance of notice by the Company to the Customer of the Company's agreement to enter into a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer as described in Paragraph (2) above. (If notice of the Company's consent to enter into the Tour Participation Agreement is furnished electronically, the Tour Participation Agreement shall become legally binding upon delivery of said notice to the Customer).
- (4) If the Company is unable to enter into a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer prior to the expiration of the Waitlist Period, the Company shall refund the entire above- mentioned amount held in trust to the Customer.
- (5) If the Company receives a request from the Customer to terminate the Waitlisting arrangement before the Company has furnished notice to the Customer of its agreement to enter into a Tour Participation Agreement with the Customer, the Company shall refund the entire above-mentioned amount held in trust to the Customer. In such case, the Company shall not charge any cancellation fees even if the Customer's request for termination of the Waitlist arrangement is received during the period otherwise subject to the assessment of cancellation fees by the Company.

Article 4 Terms and Conditions regarding Tour Participation

- (1) Written parental consent shall be required for all travelers under the age of twenty (20). Travelers less than fifteen (15) years of age or who have not yet matriculated in middle school must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- (2) If any special requirements have been established by the Company regarding participation in the tour, the Company reserves the right to refuse participation to any individual who fails to satisfy any such requirements, including but not limited to participant gender, age, qualifications and/or skills.
- (3) The Company reserves the right to refuse participation to any individual that is determined to be a member of an organized crime group, affiliated with an organized crime group or otherwise associated with any criminal or corruptive element.
- (4) The Company reserves the right to refuse participation to any Customer who makes any violent or improper request towards the Company or its Sales Location or employs any threatening behavior or violence in connection with the transaction.
- (5) The Company reserves the right to refuse participation to any Customer who takes any action which serves to defame the Company or its Sales Location or to obstruct the operations thereof through the dissemination of false information or the use of fraud or force.
- (6) Individuals with health conditions, individuals requiring the use of a wheelchair or other assistive device, individuals with any physical and/or mental disabilities, individuals with any food and/or animal allergies, individuals who are pregnant or may be expecting, individuals requiring the assistance of a service dog (seeing-eye dog, hearing dog, etc.) or otherwise

requiring any special accommodations should inform the Company or its Sales Location of their needs when submitting the tour participation request. (In addition, please immediately advise the Company or its Sales Location in the event that the need for any such special accommodation arises subsequent to the execution of the Tour Participation Agreement.) In order to enable us to better serve you, please provide a specific description of the accommodations that will be required during travel.

- (7) To the extent reasonably possible, the Company shall accommodate requests received pursuant to the preceding Paragraph (6). In order to better serve you, the Company or its Sales Location may ask to be furnished with additional information either orally or in writing regarding the traveller's condition and any required accommodations.
- (8) In order to ensure the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour, the Company reserves the right to condition the Customer's participation upon the accompaniment of a helper or companion, the submittal of a physician's note and/or a partial modification to the tour itinerary. In addition, the Company reserves the right to refuse to accommodate any tour participation request and/or to terminate any Tour Participation Agreement in the event that the Company is unable to arrange for any accommodations required by the Customer. As a general rule, the Customer shall be responsible for any expenses required in connection with any special accommodations arranged by the Company for the Customer pursuant to any request for accommodations received from the Customer.
- (9) If the Company needs to contact the Customer in connection with any situation described under Paragraphs (1), (2), (6), (7) and/or (8) above, the Company shall, as a general rule, contact the Customer within one (1) week from the date on which the Customer's reservation request is received (in the case of Paragraphs (1) and/or (2)) or within one (1) week from the date on which the Customer furnishes the relevant information (in the case of Paragraphs (6), (7) and/or (8)).
- (10) If the Company determines that a Customer requires a diagnosis or treatment by a physician during travel for any reason, including but not limited to illness or injury, the Company shall take the measures necessary in order to ensure the expeditious implementation of the tour. The Customer shall be responsible for any costs associated with any such measures.
- (11) As a general rule, independent activity by the Customer for personal reasons is not permitted. Depending on the tour, the Company may agree to permit independent activity under conditions to be separately established.
- (12) The Company reserves the right to refuse participation to any Customer that the Company determines may be disruptive to other customers or may interfere with the expeditious implementation of group activity.
- (13) The Company additionally reserves the right to refuse any tour participation requests for operational reasons.

Article 5 Delivery of Contract Documents and Final Travel Itinerary

- (1) Upon formation of a legally binding Tour Participation Agreement, the Company or its Sales Location shall promptly furnish the Customer with a travel itinerary as well as contract documents describing the travel services to be provided, other terms and conditions of travel and information concerning the responsibilities of the Company and/or its Sales Location. The contract documents shall consist of the pertinent tour website and/or brochure, this Statement of Travel Terms and Conditions and other relevant documents.
- (2) As a supplement to the contract documents described in Paragraph 5(1) above, the Company or its Sales Location shall furnish the Customer with a Final Travel Itinerary no later

than the day prior to the commencement of the tour containing final information regarding the time/location of tour convocation as well as the names of the travel service providers (transportation, lodging, etc.) to be used. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a request for tour participation is received from the Customer seven (7) days or less prior to the day preceding the tour commencement date, the Final Travel Itinerary may be furnished to the Customer on the tour commencement date.

Article 6 Payment for the Tour

Payment for the tour must be made by the twentieth (20th) day prior to the day preceding the tour commencement date. Customers submitting tour participation requests subsequent to the thirteenth (13th) day prior to the day preceding the tour commencement date must pay for the tour prior to the tour commencement date and in no case later than the deadline for payment specified by the Company or its Sales Location. If the Customer is a cardholder of a credit card issued by a partner credit card company, the Company, with the consent of the Customer, may charge payment for the tour (including the deposit and any items identified as Additional Charges) as well as any applicable cancellation fees and/or other charges under Article 14, additional charges under Article 10 and any traveler substitution fees under Article 13 to said credit card without obtaining the signature of the Customer even in the absence of an agreement between the Customer and the Company regarding Credit Card Payment Authorization under Article 24 below. In such case, unless otherwise requested by the Customer, the Card Transaction Date shall be the date on which said consent is given by the Customer.

Article 7 Tour Pricing

- (1) Unless otherwise specifically noted, adult rates shall apply to travelers twelve (12) years of age or older and child rates shall apply to travelers between the ages of six and eleven (or between the ages of three and eleven for tours involving air travel).
- (2) Tour pricing is indicated separately based on tour features. Please confirm applicable pricing based on departure date and number of participants.
- (3) The "Tour Price" is calculated based on the provisions concerning the "deposit" set forth in Article 3 above, the provisions concerning "cancellation fees" described in Paragraph (1) of Article 14 below, the provisions concerning "amount equal to the applicable cancellation fees" described in Paragraph (3) of Article 14 below and the provisions concerning the amount of any "Modification Indemnification" payable under Article 23 below. The Tour Price (or base tour price) shall be computed based on price information indicated in the pertinent tour advertisement, website or brochure increased by any applicable "Additional Charges" and decreased by any applicable "Discounts".

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- (3) The "Tour Price" is calculated based on the provisions concerning the "deposit" set forth in Article 3 above, the provisions concerning "cancellation fees" described in Paragraph (1) of Article 14 below, the provisions concerning "amount equal to the applicable cancellation fees" described in Paragraph (3) of Article 14 below and the provisions concerning the amount of any "Modification Indemnification" payable under Article 23 below. The Tour Price (or base tour price) shall be computed based on price information indicated in the pertinent tour advertisement, website or brochure increased by any applicable "Additional Charges" and decreased by any applicable "Discounts".

Article 9 What is Not Included in the Tour Price

Items not described in Paragraphs (1) through (3) of the preceding Article 8 are not included in the Tour Price. A partial enumeration of such items is provided below for illustrative purposes:

- (1) Excess Baggage Charges (for baggage exceeding specified weights, size or number)
- (2) Airport facility usage fees (unless otherwise explicitly indicated in the pertinent web information or tour brochure)
- (3) Laundry, telephone/telecommunications charges, additional food or beverage costs and other charges of a personal nature along with any taxes and service fees associated therewith.
- (4) Charges for participation in (separately priced) optional tours
- (5) Additional transportation carrier charges and/or surcharges (fuel surcharges, etc.)
- (6) Transportation and/or accommodations costs between the Customer's personal residence and the point of departure or arrival.

Article 10 Additional Charges

The "Additional Charges" referenced in Article 7 above refer to the following charges (except when indicated as included in the Tour Price).

- ① Additional charges for hotel or room category upgrades offered as "Upgrade Options" by the Company in the pertinent web information, brochure or other relevant literature.
- ② Additional charges for 'meals' and similar such items if the base tour package does not include meals, etc.
- ③ Additional charges for extended hotel stays described by the Company as "Extended Stay Options" in the pertinent web information, brochure or other relevant literature.
- ④ Other items or classes of service described as "Additional Charges" in the pertinent web information, brochure or other relevant literature (including but not limited to any cost differential for any change to class of airline service, Additional Charges for straight-through check-in and Additional Charges for selection of Customer-preferred airlines if indicated as permitted in the pertinent brochure.)

Article 11 Changes to Terms of Tour Participation Agreement

The Company reserves the right to modify the tour itinerary and/or the travel services subsequent to the execution of the Tour Participation Agreement in the event of natural disaster, war, rioting, suspension of travel services by any provider of transportation, accommodations or other travel services, government order, the furnishing of transportation service in a manner that is inconsistent with the original transportation service plan, or in the event of the occurrence of any other cause beyond the Company's control when such modification is unavoidable in order to ensure the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour. In such case, prior to making any modifications to the tour itinerary and/or travel services, the Company shall promptly explain to the Customer (a) why the cause requiring any such modification is beyond the Company's control and (b) the cause-and-effect relationship between the cause of said modification and the modification to be made. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company may provide said explanation to the Customer subsequent to the implementation of any such modifications in unavoidable emergency situations.

Article 12 Changes to the Tour Price

Subsequent to the execution of the Tour Participation Agreement, the Company shall make no changes to the Tour Price nor to the amounts of any Additional Charges or Discounts except in the following situations:

- (1) If fares and/or fees charged by any transportation carrier whose services are to be used as part of the tour are revised to an extent that significantly exceeds the normally anticipated range for any reason (including but not limited to a substantial change in economic conditions), the Company shall modify the Tour Price to reflect said cost differential. The Company shall furnish the Customer with notice regarding any increases to the Tour Price no later than the fifteenth (15th) day prior to the day preceding the tour commencement date.
- (2) In the event of any substantial reduction to the applicable fares and fees described under Paragraph (1) above, the Company shall decrease the Tour Price by the amount of said reduction.
- (3) In the event that any modification to the content of the tour results in a reduction in the costs required to implement the tour, the Company shall reduce the Tour Price by the amount of said differential.
- (4) In the event that any modification to the content of the tour described in Article 11 above results in an increase in the costs required to implement the tour (including cancellation fees or other charges either paid or payable in connection with any travel services not received as a result of said modification), the Company shall modify the Tour Price to reflect said differential. However, this provision shall not apply in the event that the modification arises out of the lack of available seats, rooms or other capacity limitations despite the fact that service is otherwise provided by the relevant provider to other patrons (i.e. overbooking).
- (5) If the Company has indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or other relevant literature that the Tour Price depends on the number of users of a particular provider of transportation, accommodations or other travel services, the Company shall modify the Tour Price within the range described in the contract documents in the event of any change to said number of users subsequent to the execution of the Tour Participation Agreement. However, this provision shall not apply if the cause of said change is attributable to the Company.

Article 13 Traveler Substitution

With the consent of the Company, the Customer may assign his/her status under the Agreement to another individual. In such case, the Customer shall be required to provide the required information to the Company. Such substitutions shall be subject to the prescribed charges. (The Company reserves the right to also charge for any costs associated with reticketing in the event that airline tickets have already been issued.) In addition, the assignment of status under the Agreement shall become valid only once the Company has granted its consent thereto. Once

said assignment of status is valid, the individual who has taken assignment to the Customer's status under the Tour Participation Agreement shall assume all rights and obligations of the Customer in connection with this Tour Participation Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Company reserves the right to refuse to accommodate any traveler substitution for any reason, including but not limited to refusal by any provider of transportation, accommodations or other travel services to accommodate a substitution of travelers.

Article 14 Cancellation Fees

- (1) If the Customer cancels travel for personal reasons subsequent to the formation of a legally binding Tour Participation Agreement, the Customer shall be required to pay the cancellation

fees indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure and the relevant tour participant[s] shall be required to pay any cost differential associated with any change in the number of travelers occupying any guestrooms.

- (2) The Customer shall also be liable for payment of the prescribed cancellation fees in the event of cancellation by the Customer due to the Customer's inability to obtain financing due to any cause not attributable to the Company.
- (3) If the Customer fails to make payment of the Tour Price by the deadline, the Company shall deem the Customer to have terminated the Tour Participation Agreement as of the day following said payment deadline and an amount equal to the applicable cancellation fee shall be charged and payable by the Customer to the Company.
- (4) Any modification to the departure date or any partial modification to the itinerary (including but not limited to transportation and accommodations) made by the Customer for the Customer's own personal reasons shall be deemed a cancellation of the Customer's participation in the overall tour and shall subject the Customer to the payment of the prescribed cancellation fees.

Article 15 Termination Prior to Commencement of Tour

(1) Termination Rights of Customer

- ① The Customer may terminate the Tour Participation Agreement at any time by paying the cancellation fees indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure. However, requests for termination shall only be accepted during business hours at the sales location where the Customer signed up to participate in the tour.
- ② The Customer may terminate the Tour Participation Agreement without incurring cancellation fees in the following situations:
 - a. In the event of any modification to the terms and conditions of the Tour Participation Agreement. (Note that this provision is limited only to material modifications, including but not limited to those described in the left-hand column of the table in Article 23 below).
 - b. If the Tour Price is increased pursuant to Paragraph 12(1) above.
 - c. If the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour becomes impossible or promises to become impossible for any reason, including but not limited to natural disaster, war, rioting, suspension of the furnishing of travel services by any transportation, accommodations or other travel service provider, or government order.
 - d. If the Company or its Sales Location fail to furnish the Customer with a Final Travel Itinerary as described in Paragraph 5(2) above by the deadline specified in said Paragraph.
 - e. If it becomes impossible to implement the tour in accordance with the travel itinerary described in the pertinent web information or brochure due to any cause attributable to the Company.

(2) Termination Rights of Company

- ① The Company may terminate the Tour Participation Agreement if the Customer fails to remit payment of the Tour Price by the deadline specified in Article 6 above. In such case, an amount equal to the cancellation fee prescribed under Subparagraph (1)① of this Article 15 shall be charged and payable by the Customer to the Company.
- ② The Company may terminate the Tour Participation Agreement in the following situations:
 - a. If the Customer is determined not to satisfy any gender, age, qualifications, skill or other requirement for tour participation explicitly pre-disclosed by the Company.
 - b. If the Company determines that any provision contained in Paragraphs (3) – (5) of Article 4 applies to the Customer.

- c. If the Company determines that the Customer is unable to withstand the demands of the tour for any reason, including but not limited to illness or the absence of a helper.
 - d. If the Company determines that the Customer is disruptive to other customers or may interfere with the expeditious implementation of group activity.
 - e. If the Customer makes any overly burdensome demands in connection with the Agreement.
 - f. If the number of tour participants is less than the minimum required number identified in the pertinent web information or travel brochure. In such case, the Company shall notify the Customer of cancellation of the tour by the thirteenth (13th) day prior to the day preceding the tour commencement date (or by the third day prior to the tour commencement date in the case of single-day tours).
 - g. If any condition required for the implementation of the tour as explicitly pre-disclosed by the Company (such as inadequate snowfall in the case of ski tours) is unsatisfied or is highly unlikely to be satisfied.
 - h. If the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour in accordance with the travel itinerary described in the pertinent web information or brochure becomes impossible or promises to become impossible for any reason beyond the control of the Company, including but not limited to natural disaster, war, rioting, suspension of travel services by any transportation, accommodations or other travel service provider or government order.
- ③ In the event of termination of the Tour Participation Agreement by the Company in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (2) ① of this Article 15, the Company shall refund any amount already received from the Customer as payment for the tour (or deposit) less the applicable cancellation fee. In the event of termination of the Tour Participation Agreement pursuant to Paragraph (2) ② of this Article 15, the Company shall refund the entire amount already received from the Customer as payment for the tour (or deposit).

Article 16 Termination Subsequent to Commencement of Tour

(1) Termination Rights of Customer

- ① If the Customer separates from the tour during travel for personal reasons, the Customer shall be deemed to have forfeited his/her rights and shall not be eligible for any refund.
- ② If the Customer is unable to receive any travel services described in the pertinent web information or brochure due to any cause not attributable to the Customer, the Customer shall be entitled to terminate the Agreement without incurring any cancellation fees for the portion of travel services which the Customer was unable to receive.
- ③ In the situation described in the preceding Paragraph (1) ② of this Article 16, the Company shall refund the Customer for those portions of the Tour Price corresponding to the travel services that the Customer was unable to receive. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the cause pursuant to which the Customer was not able to receive said travel services is not attributable to the Company, the Company shall subtract from the refund to be paid to the Customer the amount of any cancellation fees and/or other charges either paid or payable in connection with said travel services.

(2) Termination Rights of Company

- ① The Company shall be entitled to terminate any portion of the Tour Participation Agreement in any of the situations described below. In such case, the Company shall be required to first provide the Customer with an explanation of the basis for said termination.
 - a. If the Company determines that the Customer is unable to withstand the demands of

continued participation in the tour for any reason, including but not limited to illness or the absence of a helper.

- b. If the Company determines that any of the provisions of Paragraphs (3) – (5) of Article 4 applies to the Customer.
- c. If the Customer fails to comply with any instructions issued by the tour conductor or any other representative of the Company for the purpose of ensuring the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour or if the Customer is otherwise disruptive to the orderly implementation of group activity or interferes with the smooth and expeditious implementation of the tour in any way, including but not limited to the use of violence or threats directed towards any tour conductor, any representative issuing instructions on behalf of the Company or any other traveler.
- d. If it becomes impossible to continue the tour for any reason beyond the control of the Company, including but not limited to natural disaster, war, rioting, suspension of travel services by any transportation, accommodations or other provider, or government order.

② Effects of Termination; Refunds

In the event of termination of the Tour Participation Agreement by the Company for any cause described in Paragraph (2)① of this Article 16, the Customer shall be responsible for any amounts either paid or payable to any providers of any travel services that the Customer was unable to receive as a result of said termination, including but not limited to charges described as cancellation fees. In such case, the Company shall refund to the Customer the amount corresponding to the portion of travel services not received by the Customer reduced by any amounts either paid or payable to said travel service providers, including but not limited to charges described as cancellation fees.

- ③ If the Company terminates the Tour Participation Agreement pursuant to Subparagraph (a) or (d) of Paragraph (2)① of this Article 16, the Company shall, upon request by and at the expense of the Customer, make the necessary arrangements in order to enable the Customer to return to the point of departure.
- ④ In the event of termination of the Tour Participation Agreement by the Company pursuant to Subparagraph (2)① of this Article 16, termination shall be applicable only with respect to the future contractual relationship between the Company and the Customer. To wit, the obligations of the Company in connection with any travel services already received by the Customer shall be deemed to have been effectively discharged.

Article 17 Refund of Tour Price

- (1) If the Company is required to issue a refund to the Customer in the case of a reduction to the Tour Price pursuant to the provisions of Paragraphs (2), (3) or (5) of Article 12 above or in the event of termination of the Tour Participation Agreement by either the Customer or the Company pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Articles 14 through 16, said refund shall be issued within seven (7) days from the day following termination in the event of refunds arising from termination prior to tour commencement and within thirty (30) days from the day following the tour completion date set forth in the pertinent web information or brochure in the event of refunds arising from a reduction to the Tour Price or termination subsequent to tour commencement.
- (2) Nothing in Paragraph 16(1) above shall prevent the Customer or the Company from exercising any rights to seek compensation for damages pursuant to the provisions set forth in Article 19 (Responsibilities of the Company) or Article 21 (Responsibilities of the Customer) below.
- (3) The Customer should make any refund request within one (1) month from the departure

date at the sales location where the Customer signed up to participate in the tour.

- (4) In order to process any refund in connection with travel vouchers that have already been furnished to the Customer, the Customer will need to submit said vouchers to the Company or its Sales Location. It may not be possible to process a refund of the Tour Price without the return of said vouchers.

Article 18 Tour Conductors

- (1) If a tour itinerary is described as "Accompanied by Tour Conductor", the tour shall be accompanied by a tour conductor throughout the duration of the itinerary. As a general rule, the services to be provided by the tour conductor shall consist of those services required in order to ensure the expeditious implementation of the itinerary set forth in the contract documents. In order to ensure the safe and expeditious implementation of the tour, the Customer shall be required to comply with any instructions issued by the tour conductor during the tour. As a general rule, tour conductor services shall be rendered from 8:00AM through 8:00PM.
- (2) As a general rule, if an itinerary is described as "Accompanied by Local Tour Conductor", the tour shall be accompanied by a local tour conductor from the time of arrival at the destination of travel to the time of departure from said destination. The services to be provided by any such local tour conductor shall be consistent with those of a tour conductor described in the preceding Paragraph 18(1).
- (3) If an itinerary is described as "Support Furnished by Local Staff", the tour is not accompanied by a tour conductor. In such case, local staff shall provide the support services required in order to facilitate the tour.
- (4) Individual travel plans are not accompanied by tour conductors or any similar such personnel. If the Customer is traveling without the accompaniment of a tour conductor, the Customer is required to manage his/her own travel itinerary. Although the Customer will be provided with the vouchers required in order to receive travel services, the Customer is responsible for undertaking all formalities required in order to receive the travel services. Please contact your sales office in the event of the suspension of any travel services by any transportation carrier or other provider or in the event that the Customer unexpectedly needs to cancel travel for personal reasons. If you are unable to communicate with your sales office because it is closed or outside business hours, please contact the providers scheduled to provide you with any remaining services (hotel, transportation, etc.) in order to inform them of your cancellation and/or to process any such cancellation. If you fail to contact the service providers to inform them of your cancellation and/or to process any such cancellation, you will be deemed to have forfeited your rights and will therefore become ineligible to receive any refunds. Thank you for your understanding.
- (5) For segments of travel unaccompanied by a tour conductor or segments of travel or services for which local staff support is not scheduled to be furnished, the Customer should make the necessary arrangements to obtain and secure alternative services in the event of the occurrence of any cause (including but not limited to adverse weather conditions) necessitating a change to any scheduled services.

Article 19 Responsibilities of the Company

- (1) The Company shall be responsible for compensating the Customer for any losses incurred by the Customer as a result of any willful or negligent act on the part of the Company or any agent performing travel arrangement services on behalf of the Company in connection with performance under the Tour Participation Agreement. However, said responsibility shall only

apply in those instances in which notice is received by the Company within two (2) years from the day following the occurrence of any such loss.

(2) As a general rule, the Company shall assume no responsibility under Paragraph (1) above if the Customer incurs any loss due to the following causes (this non-exhaustive list is presented here for illustrative purposes):

- ① Natural disaster, war, rioting and/or any modification to the tour itinerary or tour cancellation resulting therefrom
- ② Losses resulting from accidents or fires involving any provider of transportation, accommodations or other travel services
- ③ Suspension of service by any provider of transportation, accommodations or other travel services and/or any modification of the tour itinerary or tour cancellation resulting therefrom
- ④ Government order, quarantine due to communicable disease and/or any modification to the tour itinerary or tour cancellation resulting therefrom
- ⑤ Accidents occurring during free activity time
- ⑥ Food poisoning
- ⑦ Theft
- ⑧ Delays, suspension of service, schedule changes or rerouting by any transportation provider or any modifications to the tour itinerary or any curtailment of stay at the destination resulting therefrom.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions regarding the deadline for furnishing notice of loss to the Company set forth in Paragraph (1) above, the Company shall only furnish compensation for losses involving baggage under said Paragraph (1) if notice is received by the Company within fourteen (14) days from the day following the occurrence of said loss. Irrespective of the amount of said damages, the maximum amount of compensation to be furnished by the Company for losses involving baggage shall be limited to 150,000 yen per person (except in instances involving any willful or grossly negligent act on the part of the Company).

Article 20 Special Compensation

(1) Irrespective of whether or not any liability is incurred by the Company pursuant to Paragraph (1) of the preceding Article 19, the Company shall pay the Customer a Death Indemnity (15,000,000 yen), Permanent Disability Indemnity (up to a maximum of 15,000,000 yen), Inpatient Solatium (20,000 yen – 200,000 yen) or Outpatient Solatium (10,000 yen – 50,000 yen) for certain damages sustained to life or limb if the Customer suffers any sudden and unforeseen accident while participating in an agent-organized tour and an indemnity for losses involving baggage (up to a maximum of 100,000 yen per piece or pair and up to a maximum of 150,000 yen per agent-organized tour participant) in accordance with the Special Compensation Rules set forth in the Company's General Terms and Conditions.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in the preceding Paragraph (1), losses occurring on a day during which no travel services that constitute part of the Company-organized tour are furnished shall not be considered as having occurred during the Customer's participation in the tour as long as said day is explicitly indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure as a day on which no travel services are to be furnished.

(3) The Company shall not pay any indemnity or solatium under Paragraph (1) above for any losses incurred by the Customer during participation in an agent-organized tour if said losses result from a willful act or drunk driving by the Customer, illness or similar such cause, or as a result of any accident occurring during any dangerous activity, including but not limited to mountain climbing (involving the use of mountain climbing gear such as ice axes, climbing

irons, ropes and/or hammers), luge riding, bobsled riding, skydiving, hang gliding, flying aboard any ultralight aircraft (powered hang gliders, microlight aircraft, etc.) and/or gyroplaning during free activity time if such activity is not included in the agent-organized tour. The foregoing exception shall not apply in the event that said activity is included in the agent-organized tour itinerary.

- (4) The Company shall not pay any indemnification for losses in connection with any items identified as excluded from indemnification in the Company's General Terms and Conditions, including but not limited to cash, securities, credit cards, vouchers, airline tickets, passports, driver's licenses, visas, certificates of deposit, certificates of savings (including passbooks and ATM cards), data or any similar such items, and contact lenses.
- (5) If the Company is subject to an obligation to pay any indemnification under Paragraph (1) above as well as an obligation to pay any compensation for losses as described under the preceding Article 19, the Company shall be deemed to have performed its obligation to pay both said indemnification and said compensation to the extent of the amount paid by the Company in performance of either of these two obligations.

Article 21 Responsibilities of the Customer

- (1) The Customer shall be responsible for compensating the Company for any losses incurred by the Company as a result of any willful or negligent act or violation of law, public order or decency by the Customer or any failure of the Customer to comply with the provisions of the Company's General Terms and Conditions.
- (2) In executing the Agent-Organized Tour Participation Agreement, the Customer shall strive to make effective use of the information furnished by the Company and to understand the provisions of said Agreement, including but not limited to the Customer's rights and obligations.
- (3) In order to ensure the expeditious receipt of the travel services described in the contract documents, if the Customer becomes aware subsequent to the commencement of the tour that travel services have been provided that differ from those specified in the contract documents, the Customer shall promptly and at the affected point of travel bring said discrepancy to the attention of a tour conductor, meet-and-greet staff, local guide, provider of the relevant travel services or the sales location where the Customer signed up to participate in the tour.
- (4) The Company reserves the right to take any necessary measures in the event that the Company deems that a Customer requires protection during travel for any reason, including but not limited to illness or injury. In such case, if the cause thereof is not attributable to the Company, the Customer shall be responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of any such measures and shall be required to pay the Company for said expenses in the manner specified by the Company by the deadline specified by the Company.
- (5) In the event of the loss of any travel vouchers, the Customer shall be responsible for any fares and/or fees charged by any transportation carrier in connection with the reissuance thereof. In such case, the Customer shall be liable for the payment of the fares and fees prescribed by the relevant carrier.

Article 22 Optional Tours; Reference Information

- (1) The Company shall treat optional tours that are organized and implemented by the Company and made available to participants in the agent-organized tour subject to the receipt of a separate participation fee (hereinafter referred to as "Company-Implemented Optional Tours") as constituting part of the primary Agent-Organized Tour Participation Agreement for

purposes of the applicability of the provisions of Article 20 (Special Compensation) above. Company-Implemented Optional Tours shall be explicitly so identified in the pertinent web information, brochure or other relevant literature.

- (2) If the pertinent web information or brochure explicitly indicate that an optional tour is operated by a company other than the Company, the Company shall pay the indemnities and/or solatiums described in Article 20 (Special Compensation) above for losses sustained by the Customer during participation in said optional tour as described in said Paragraph 20 (with the exception that this provision shall not apply if the Customer participates in said optional tour on a day during the agent-organized tour on which “no activity is scheduled” and said absence of scheduled activity is indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation.) In addition, the responsibilities of the optional tour operator and the Customer shall be governed entirely by the policies established by said operator and applicable local law.
- (3) If the Company provides information regarding available sports or other activities on any pertinent website, brochure or other relevant literature for ‘reference purposes’, the Company shall explicitly indicate that said information is simply being provided for reference. In such case, while the Special Compensation Rules described in Article 20 above shall apply with respect to any damages incurred by the Customer during participation in any such sports or other activity (with the exception that this provision shall not apply if the Customer participates in said optional tour on a day during the agent- organized tour on which “no activity is scheduled” and said absence of scheduled activity is indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation), the Company shall assume no other liability in connection therewith.

Article 23 Itinerary Guarantees

- (1) In the event of any material modification to the terms and/or conditions of the Agreement described in the left-hand column of the table below (with the exception of modifications described in Subparagraphs ①, ② and ③ below), the Company shall pay the Customer a Modification Indemnity in an amount obtained by multiplying the Tour Price as defined under Article 7 above by the percentage indicated in the right-hand column of the table below. Said payment shall be made to the Customer within thirty (30) days from the day following the tour completion date. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if it is evident that the Company is liable for said modification under the provisions of Paragraph 19(1) above, said payment shall be made by the Company not as a Modification Indemnity but rather as payment towards all or part of the Company’s responsibility to compensate the Customer for losses.
 - ① The Company shall not pay a Modification Indemnity in the event of any modification arising out any of the causes set forth below. (Note: The Company shall pay a Modification Indemnity in the event of any modification arising out of the lack of available seats, rooms or other capacity limitations despite the fact that service is otherwise provided by the relevant provider to other patrons (i.e. overbooking).
 - a. inclement weather conditions or natural disaster impacting the tour itinerary
 - b. war
 - c. rioting
 - d. government order
 - e. suspension of travel services (cancellation of service, suspension of service, suspension of operations, etc.) by any transportation, accommodations or travel service provider
 - f. transportation service that is inconsistent with the original transportation service plan (delays, transportation schedule changes, etc.)

- g. necessary measures taken to protect the life and limb of tour participants.
- ② If the Tour Participation Agreement is terminated pursuant to the provisions of Article 15 or Article 16 above, the Company shall not pay any Modification Indemnity with respect to any modification associated with any such terminated portions of the tour.
- ③ In the event of a modification to the order in which travel services are to be provided according to the pertinent web information or brochure, the Company shall not pay a Modification Indemnity if the Customer is able to receive the relevant services during the course of the tour.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in Paragraph (1) above, the maximum amount of the Modification Indemnity to be paid by the Company under a single Tour Participation Agreement shall be the amount obtained by multiplying the Tour Price as defined in Article 7 above by fifteen percent (15%). In addition, the Company shall not pay a Modification Indemnity to the Customer if the amount of any such Modification Indemnity to be paid to the Customer under any single Tour Participation Agreement is less than 1,000 yen.
- (3) With the consent of the Customer, the Company may compensate the Customer by furnishing merchandise and/or services in lieu of making a monetary payment of any Modification Indemnity or compensation for damages.

Amount of Modification Indemnity per Incident = Tour Price x Percentage Shown Below

Modification Eligible for Payment of Modification Indemnity by Company	If notice furnished to Customer by day preceding tour commencement date	If notice furnished to Customer on or after tour commencement date
① Any modification to the tour commencement date or tour completion date indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation	1.5%	3.0%
② Any modification to any sightseeing venues or facilities (including restaurants) or other travel destinations indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation	1.0%	2.0%
③ Any downgrade to a lower transportation class or less expensive amenities than those shown in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation (only if the total cost of the resulting class of service or amenities is lower than that of the class of service and amenities indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation)	1.0%	2.0%
④ Any modification to the mode of transportation or the name of the transportation carriers indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation.	1.0%	2.0%
⑤ Any modification to the airport in Japan constituting the point of origin of the tour or the return flight back to the airport constituting the completion point of the tour as indicated in the pertinent site information, brochure or final documentation	1.0%	2.0%

⑥ Any modification of any direct flight between Japan and any non- Japan destination indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation to a flight with stops or connections	1.0%	2.0%
⑦ Any modification to the category of accommodations or the name of the accommodations providers indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation (excluding those instances in which the Company has designated a grade of accommodations and the grade of the new accommodations exceeds the grade of the accommodations indicated in the contract documents)	1.0%	2.0%
⑧ Any modification to the category, amenities, views or other characteristics of guestrooms indicated in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation	1.0%	2.0%
⑨ Any modification described in Items ④ through ⑧ above that constitute a modification to an item included in the name of the tour as reflected in the pertinent web information, brochure or final documentation	2.5%	5.0%

Notes:

- 1 Changes between information indicated in the pertinent website or brochure and the information contained in the final documentation as well as changes between information contained in the final documentation and travel services actually furnished shall each respectively be treated as separate modifications for the purpose of calculating the Modification Indemnity.
- 2 Modifications described under ⑨ above shall be calculated using the percentage rates shown in (9), not the percentage rates shown under ①-⑧.
- 3 'One Incident' shall refer to one ride in the case of transportation, one night in the case of accommodations and one item in the case of other travel services.
- 4 If multiple modifications described in ④, ⑦ or ⑧ arise within the duration of a single ride or a single night, said modifications shall be collectively treated as one ride or one night.
- 5 If transportation services described in ③ or ④ include the use of sleeping accommodations, each affected night shall be treated as one incident.
- 6 Modifications to the name of transportation carriers or accommodations providers under ④ and ⑦ refer respectively to changes to the actual transportation or accommodations provider used.
- 7 A modification to the name of a transportation carrier under ④ shall not be considered a modification for the purposes of calculating the Modification Indemnity if it entails an upgrade a higher class of service or amenities.
- 8 Grades of accommodations are based on the list set forth in the contract documents and available for viewing on the Company's website at the time of execution of the Tour Participation Agreement.

Article 24 Agreements regarding Credit Card Payment Preauthorization

The Company or its Sales Location may accept tour participation requests from any cardholder (hereinafter referred to as the "Cardholder") of any credit card issued by the Company or by any company partnering with the Company (hereinafter referred to as a "Partner Credit Card Company") subject to submittal of the designated form confirming that payment for the tour,

applicable cancellation fees and other charges may be charged to the Cardholder's credit card without the Cardholder's signature" (hereinafter referred to as an "agreement regarding Credit Card Payment Preauthorization"). Terms and conditions governing agreements regarding Credit Card Payment Preauthorization differ from those governing conventional tour participation agreements in the manner described below. (Certain sales location may be unable to accommodate Credit Card Payment Preauthorization. In addition, certain sales locations may only be able to accommodate Preauthorization for certain credit cards.)

- (1) For purposes of this Article 24, the "Card Transaction Date" shall refer to the date on which any obligation to make payment for the tour or to refund any applicable sums is to be performed by the Cardholder or the Company pursuant to the Tour Participation Agreement.
- (2) Customers shall be required to furnish a credit card number, expiration date and other relevant card information to the Company or its Sales Location at the time they submit the tour participation request.
- (3) Tour Participation Agreements based on Credit Card Payment Preauthorization shall become legally binding upon issuance of notice by the Company or its Sales Location of agreement by the Company or its Sales Location to execute the Agreement in the event that said notice is issued by telephone or mail. Tour Participation Agreements based on Credit Card Payment Preauthorization shall become legally binding upon delivery to the Customer of notice of the agreement of the Company or its Sales Location to execute the Agreement in the event that said notice is issued via e-mail or other electronic means.
- (4) The Company or its Sales Location may charge payment of the Tour Price as indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure and/or any applicable cancellation fees under Article 14 above without obtaining the signature of the Cardholder on the form designated by the Partner Credit Card Company. In such case, the Card Transaction Date for payment of the Tour Price shall be the date of the legal formation of the Agreement.
- (5) Upon receipt of a request for termination of the Agreement, the Company or its Sales Location shall refund to the Customer's credit card the payment of the Tour Price less any applicable cancellation fees within seven (7) days from the day following the receipt of said termination request (or within thirty (30) days in the case of a reduction to the Tour Price or termination subsequent to tour commencement).
- (6) If payment cannot be made using the Cardholder's credit card for any reason, including but not limited to a lack of available credit, the Company or its Sales Location shall terminate the Credit Card Payment Preauthorization between the Customer and the Company. In such case, the Customer shall be required to make payment of the Tour Price in cash by the deadline separately specified by the Company or its Sales Location. If payment is not received by said deadline, an amount equal to the cancellation fees described in Paragraph (1) of Article 14 shall be charged and payable by the Customer to the Company.

Article 25 Domestic (Japan) Travel Insurance

Injury during travel may result in considerable expenses for medical care, evacuation and other services. In some cases, it may be extremely difficult to pursue a claim for accident-related damages and/or to collect damages from the party/parties at fault. In order to protect against these risks, we recommend that Customers enroll in domestic (Japan) travel insurance with adequate coverages. Please inquire with your sales representative for details regarding domestic (Japan) travel insurance.

Article 26 Handling of Personal Information

- (1) Upon submittal of the Customer's tour participation request, the Company and/or its Sales Locations acquire certain personal information that the Customer provides on the prescribed tour participation request form. While Customers are free to determine what personal information they choose to share with the Company and its Sales Location, the Company and its Sales Location reserve the right to refuse to accommodate any requests for tour participation or other services in the event that the Customer opts not to provide any or all requested personal information and the non-furnishing of said personal information renders it impossible for the Company or its Sales Location to contact the Customer, arrange for travel services or undertake any formalities required in order to enable the Customer to receive said services. The (General) Travel Service Supervisor identified by the Company or its Sales Location shall act on behalf of the Company's Personal Information Officer in order to ensure the proper handling of personal information acquired by the Company and/or its Sales Location.
- (2) In addition to using any personal information acquired pursuant to the preceding paragraph to contact the Customer, the Company and/or its Sales Location may also furnish said personal information as well as searchable personal information data sets containing customer flight information to transportation carriers, accommodations providers and other travel service providers identified in the pertinent brochure and/or in the Final Travel Itinerary referenced in Paragraph (2) of Article 5 above as well as to insurance carriers and gift shops by transmitting said information in advance via electronic or other means to the extent necessary in order to arrange the requested travel services in connection with the tour, undertake any formalities required in order to enable the Customer to receive said services, and to the extent necessary in order to obtain insurance to protect against any costs arising out of the Company's responsibilities under the Tour Participation Agreement or as a result of accidents, as well as to the extent necessary in order to enhance the Customer's shopping experience at gift shops at the travel destination. In addition, the Company and/or its Sales Location may also use a Customer's personal information in order to (1) provide information regarding products, services and promotional campaigns offered by the Company and/or its Sales Locations and business partners, (2) request feedback and input following the completion of travel, (3) request participation in surveys, (4) offer special services and benefits, and (5) compile statistical data.
- (3) The Company or its Sales Locations may request the personal information of an individual who is to serve as the Customer's emergency contact person during travel in the event of illness, accident or other contingency. The personal information of said emergency contact person shall be used if the Company or its Sales Location deem it necessary to contact said emergency contact person if the Customer suffers any illness or encounters any other unforeseen circumstances during travel. The Customer shall be responsible for obtaining the consent of his/her emergency contact person regarding the furnishing of said personal information to the Company and/or its Sales Location.
- (4) In retaining any third parties to perform travel arrangement services, tour conducting services, airport meet-and-greet services or any similar such services on behalf of the Company, the Company may outsource, in whole or in part, operations involving the handling of personal information acquired pursuant to Paragraph (1) above. In such instance, the Company shall select its vendors based on the same standards established by the Company and shall share said personal information with any such vendors only upon execution of a non-disclosure agreement.

Article 27 Reference Dates

The Reference Date for this Statement of Travel Terms and Conditions as well as the Reference Date for tour pricing shall be explicitly indicated in the pertinent web information or brochure.

Article 28 Miscellaneous Provisions

- (1) The Customer shall be responsible for all expenses arising in connection with any requests made by the Customer to any tour conductor or other individual for personal services, shopping or other assistance, all expenses arising in connection with any injury or illness sustained by the Customer, all expenses involved in the loss of any belongings or the recovery of any forgotten items arising out of the Customer's negligence as well as any expenses incurred in the arrangement of any independent activity.
- (2) While the Company or its Sales Location may provide the Customer with information regarding gift shops for the convenience of the Customer, all purchases shall be made by the Customer at the Customer's own risk. We are unable to assist the Customer in processing exchanges or returns for any purchases.
- (3) If the Customer agrees to participate in any program under which an airline may ask the Customer to voluntarily board an aircraft other than the Customer's scheduled aircraft (flexible travel) and the Customer boards any aircraft other than the aircraft arranged by the Company, the Company shall be deemed to have discharged its obligations in connection with the arrangement of travel and itinerary management and shall be relieved of any responsibility associated with any itinerary guarantees or special compensation in connection with the affected portion of travel. Thank you for your understanding.
- (4) The Company shall not re-conduct any tours under any circumstances.
- (5) By participating in an agent-organized tour organized by the Company or its Sales Location, the Customer may be eligible to participate in an airline frequent flyer program. The Customer should direct any inquiries regarding frequent flyer programs (including inquiries regarding enrollment) to the airlines. In addition, the Company and its Sales Location shall assume no liability under Paragraph (1) of Article 19 or Paragraph (1) of Article 23 in the event of any changes to the terms of any such frequent flyer program in the event of a change in the airline flown.

*As a general rule, additional alcoholic beverages, food or other services requested by the Customer at any Japanese-style inn (ryokan), hotel or similar such facility are subject to consumption taxes and other applicable taxes. Thank you for your understanding.

Article 29 Applicable Language and Governing Law

This is an English-language translation of the Company's standard Japanese-language.

This translation is provided strictly for the convenience of the Customer. In the event of any discrepancy between this translation and the original Japanese-language document, the Japanese-language version shall control in all respects.

This Agreement between the Customer and the Company shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Japan. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the District Court in the first instance.