

*AADAS*

Association for the Advancement  
of Dutch-American Studies

# THE DUTCH: Emigration to North America



**April 29 – May 11, 2020**

Hosted by Henk Aay and Mary Risseeuw



**Why, from where, and how did the Dutch immigrate to North America (and other continents) beginning in the mid-nineteenth century and continuing until after WWII? And who left? This tour answers these and other migration questions. Led by Dutch experts, you visit provinces with a history of large outmigration, ports of embarkation and a variety of immigration exhibits at local museums. Are you interested in your own Dutch heritage? Plan to stay a few days longer to bring your own history to life.**

**DUTCH MIGRATION HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL**

From the beginning, migration has been part of human history. Like every other country, the area that today makes up the Netherlands has experienced both continuous immigration and emigration throughout its history.

First, immigration. During the early phases of hunting and gathering and agriculture different tribes came and settled. Later, refugees arrived from Jewish communities and Protestant areas in Catholic Europe. Many Germans and eastern Europeans came and settled to take advantage of economic opportunities during the 17th and 18th centuries.

During the 20th century, economic migrants from Mediterranean lands such as Turkey and Morocco and people from former Dutch colonial territories such as Suriname and Indonesia came to the

Netherlands in large numbers. More recently, many asylum seekers from countries around the world have made the Netherlands their home.



streams from the Netherlands were to its 16th and 17th-century colonies and trading centers in parts of what today are the United States, Suriname, South Africa, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Brazil. Another significant wave, this time largely to the United States, took place from the mid-19th century to around 1920. The availability of inexpensive land and the desire for religious freedom helped fuel this emigration. Right after WWII until the early 1960s, another emigration push—brought on by housing shortages, agricultural economies of scale and mechanization, and fear of another European war—brought Dutch residents to other mid-latitude countries around the world: Canada, United States,

Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. In this century, emigration has ticked up again but this time principally to other European Community countries.

Now for emigration. Our tour is focused on Dutch emigration to North America during the 19th and 20th centuries but it is important to have the bigger context in mind. The first significant emigration

ed by **Henk Aay and Mary Risseuw**

**SALE! Limited Time Only: Register by Oct. 1 to receive a \$100 discount.\***

**Tour Cost**  
\$4,454 per person from Chicago, based on double occupancy

REGISTER ONLINE AT **bookings.wittetravel.com**  
use booking code **042920AAY**

or complete and return the printed registration form.



**Henk** has 30 years of experience leading student and adult groups on tours of the Netherlands. He is Professor of Geography and

Environmental Studies, Emeritus at Calvin University. Since retiring from Calvin in 2012, he is Senior Research Fellow at the Van Raalte Institute at Hope College, where he focuses on Dutch American history and culture. He grew up in the Netherlands, is fluent in Dutch, and has spent a number of semesters on research and teaching leaves in the country.



**Mary** is a genealogist, historian, writer, teacher and lecturer. She has researched 19th & 20th century Dutch immigration to Wisconsin for 30 years

and has lectured throughout the Midwest and the Netherlands on the subject. She has a B.S. from UW-Madison and an M.A. & M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University. Mary has taken numerous trips to the Netherlands and has traveled extensively in the Achterhoek and Zeeland.



\*Discount will be added to your account after we process your registration. This will appear on your confirmation statement, sent by mail, within two weeks of your registration.



**April/May 2020**

**29, Wednesday**

### **Depart**

Check in at O'Hare International Airport for the overnight transatlantic flight to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. (D-in flight)

**30, Thursday**

### **Arrive, Arnhem, Zwolle**

Welcome to the Netherlands! After going through passport control and customs we meet our driver/guide, who takes us to the Open-air Museum in Arnhem. Because a significant number of 19th-century Dutch immigrants to the U.S. came from rural villages and farms, we will focus our visit on such displays.

A guide will show and interpret these exhibits for us. The museum tram line will allow us to easily move from one display to another. After the visit, we will drive to Zwolle and check into our hotel there.

After some rest and relaxation, we will enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

(B-in flight, D)

**1, Friday**

### **Frisian Coastal Communities | Region of High Outmigration**

After breakfast we will drive from Zwolle to Leeuwarden, the capital of the Province of Friesland. There we will meet Dr. Annemieke Galema, author of *Frisians to America, 1880-1914*. We will enjoy coffee, tea, and *oranjekoek(!)* and listen to her talk about emigration from Friesland. She will then guide us on a tour through the coastal areas of the province that experienced high outmigration. We will stop for lunch in Zwarte Haan in the region of Het Bildt. Over lunch, some Friesland guests will join our conversation. Each of our guests has relatives in North America. Then we return to Zwolle. (B, L)

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① Grote Markt in Zwolle  
[www.mkb-in-overijssel.nl](http://www.mkb-in-overijssel.nl)  
6.6.2013 public domain

② Aerial Photo of Dordrecht with the Grote or Onze Lieve Vrouwenkerk <https://beeldbank.rws.nl>, Rijkswaterstaat

Cover: Immigrants on Pier of the Holland America Line, by the Statendam, 1920  
Permission, Heritage Hall, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, MI

**2, Saturday**

### **Het Hogeland, Groningen | Region of High Outmigration**

Today we drive through the Hogeland, another region of 19th-century high outmigration. We will be joined by a historian from the University of Groningen. Our first stop is in Ulrum, Groningen, one of the first sites of the Secession of 1834 (a split in the Dutch Reformed Church). Seceders from the state church made up a significant portion of the early immigrants. After visiting the church in Ulrum we will drive through the region, taking note of the economic circumstances contributing to emigration from this area. We will stop for lunch at Verhilverdsum, a fortified house and country estate (*borg* in Dutch) and have another opportunity to talk with some residents who have relatives in North America. After lunch we will complete our tour of the area and head back to our hotel in Zwolle. (B, L)



### 3, Sunday Zwolle

Today *you* set the itinerary. Use your free day to explore Zwolle or take the train to neighboring places. Top sites in Zwolle include the Sassenpoort tower and gate, the Grote kerk, and the Museum de Fundatie. If you want get out of town consider visiting nearby Kampen (an old Hanseatic City), Hattem (a very attractive, nearby small city with many historic sites and museums), Staphorst (known for the traditional dress still worn by the elder generations), or Giethoorn (a town of thatched-roofed houses connected by waterways).

### 4, Monday Achterhoek, Gelderland | Region of High Outmigration

After breakfast we will head to Winterswijk, a town with strong connections to America's Midwest. From Winterswijk alone, 4,000 - 6,000 people emigrated between 1840 and 1920. Here, local historians will explain the emigration beginning in the 1840s of Achterhoek families to the Midwest and the impact on the local communities. We'll see the memorial to the victims of the *Phoenix* shipwreck, which burned on Lake Michigan in 1847. The tour will also include stops in Aalten and Bredevoort. We will tour the Dutch Reformed Church in Aalten and view the murals that were uncovered—dating to the time the church was Roman Catholic. In Bredevoort we will explore the remains of the castle and the 17th-century gate, St. Joriskerk, and the historic centre. From there we return to Zwolle, where the evening is free. (B, L)



### 5, Tuesday Liberation Day | Dutch Holiday

Today is the celebration of the surrender of Nazi Germany. Throughout the country, parades and festivals take place. The day is free, so that we can participate in this event at our leisure. Area museums will be open, so you can also continue your exploration of Zwolle and surroundings. Be sure to take some time to pack your bags; we'll be changing hotels tomorrow. (B)

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- ❶ Day Laborer Cottage, Nunspeet, Open Air Museum  
Creative Commons Naamsvermelding-GelijkDelen 4.0 Internationaal
  - ❷ Oude Bildtjijk, Oude Biltzijk  
Copyright Raimond Spekking, Wikimedia Commons
  - ❸ Farm Ottama in the Hogeland, Groningen (public domain) Wikimedia Commons
  - ❹ Part of the Open Air exhibits at the Maritime Museum Rotterdam, photo courtesy Henk Aay



**6, Wednesday**

### **Noord Brabant | Catholic Migration**

We will drive from Zwolle to the city of Nijmegen, home of Radboud University, a Catholic institution. There we will proceed to the Catholic Documentation Center where Dr. Hans Krabbendam is the director. He is the author of *Freedom on the Horizon: Dutch Immigration to America, 1840-1940*. He will talk about and show materials in the archive related to Dutch Catholic emigration to North America. He will then serve as our guide as we make our way to Uden, Noord Brabant and surrounding villages where many Catholic emigrants originated. We will enjoy lunch in Uden and again will have a chance to speak with residents who have relatives in North America. At the end of the tour, we will drive to Dordrecht, site of our second hotel. We'll have a group dinner after we settle in. (B, L, D)



**7, Thursday**

### **The Hague Archive | Antwerp Emigration Port**

We will begin our day at the National Archives in The Hague with a talk led by Johan van Lange highlighting the materials in their collection related to overseas emigration. Items from the collection will be available to browse and you will learn what the archives hold that may be relevant to your personal genealogy. After lunch in The Hague we will set out for Antwerp, Belgium to visit the Red Star Line Museum. Two million passengers travelled from Antwerp, the Red Star Line's main European port, to North America. The interactive displays, all with English signage, provide a fascinating insight in the journey of the emigrants. Concluding our visit, if there is time, we will explore the port area of Antwerp and the MAS before returning to Dordrecht. (B)

**8, Friday**

### **Rotterdam | Emigration Port**

Today we will drive from Dordrecht to the Maritime Museum in Rotterdam where curator, Irene Jacobs, will speak and show us some of the immigration artifacts in the collections of the museum. We will also have an opportunity to visit the general and special exhibits both in the building and in the old harbor section outside. After lunch we will proceed to the Holland America Line Building (now Hotel New York) on the Wilhelmina Quay; many Dutch emigrants left from this harbor. We then return to Dordrecht for the evening. (B, L)





**9, Saturday**  
**Zeeuws Vlaanderen | Region of High Outmigration**

In the 1840s and 1850s large numbers of emigrants left Zeeuws Vlaanderen (and other areas of Zeeland) for the U.S. Today, we will be met by local guides in Terneuzen, which is a city beautifully situated on the Western Scheldt (an estuary of the Scheldt River) running between the North Sea and Antwerp. They will explain the emigration history of this area between 1840 and 1920. Along the way we'll have a group lunch and we will also explore the area of Oostburg and Cadzand. Oostburg was heavily bombed during WWII and little of the original village remains. If time permits, we will also make a stop in St. Anna ter Muiden (a beautiful medieval village of 50 inhabitants) or visit the island of Walcheren with a stop in Middelburg. The Abdij in the city center and the canals are something to see! The evening in Dordrecht is at your leisure. (B, L)

**10, Sunday**  
**Dordrecht**

Today is free a day. Feel free to explore Dordrecht, do some last-minute shopping or take a day trip to someplace of interest. Visit the Grote Kerk, the Dordrecht Museum, het Hof van Dordrecht, the City Gate, and the Wijnstraat, or take a boat ride through the city's canals. Or head out to Biesbosch National Park, the largest freshwater tidal delta in Europe. For those who want to head out of town, public transport makes day trips possible. Tonight, we gather for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

**11, Monday**  
**Return**

After breakfast we head to the airport for our return flight. (B)

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- ❶ Church of St. Peter, Uden, Noord Brabant  
 Wikimedia commons
  - ❷ Aerial view of Terneuzen
  - ❸ Achterhoek, photo courtesy Mary Risseeuw



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**General Data Protection Policy.** We collect personal data, including, but not limited to legal name, gender, date of birth, passport information, dietary needs, and mobility concerns for the purpose of making travel arrangements on your behalf. We share this information with suppliers as it relates to the operation of your trip/tour. By signing the registration form/agreeing to the terms in TRIP, you agree to sharing your personal data for the purpose of making travel agreements on your behalf.

The cost of your tour includes:

**Air transportation** roundtrip from Chicago to Amsterdam with any regularly scheduled air carrier, based on a nonrefundable/nonchangeable fare, which requires a minimum of 10 passengers traveling round trip together. The identity of the carrier, which may include the carrier's code-share partner, will be assigned and disclosed in your final documents. Tickets are issued 45 days prior to departure. All current airlines taxes, security fees and fuel surcharges are included. Note that these items cannot be guaranteed until tickets are issued.

**Secure flight information.** The requirement to collect date of birth, gender, and full name are federally mandated by the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Secure Flight Program. While disclosure of this information is voluntary, if it is not provided, participants may be denied boarding. TSA's privacy policy, as well as additional details, can be found at [tsa.gov](http://tsa.gov) using the keywords Secure Flight. Witte takes all reasonable steps to safeguard the privacy of all information collected from its clients.

**Frequent flyer points** are not guaranteed in connection with group airfares. Some airlines may limit group airfare credits to 25% to 50% of the frequent flyer points that apply to individuals while others do not offer any credits for group airfares.

**Hazardous Materials.** Federal law forbids the carriage of hazardous materials aboard aircraft in your luggage or on your person. A violation can result in five years' imprisonment and penalties of \$250,000 or more (49 U.S.C. 5124). Hazardous materials include explosives, compressed gases, flammable liquids and solids, oxidizers, poisons, corrosives and radioactive materials. For more information, examples and special exceptions, visit: <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>.

**Land transportation.** A deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach is used for transfers, excursions, and travel between cities. Because motorcoach travel is restricted in many European cities, sightseeing is often done on foot or via public transportation.

**Accommodations** in moderate first-class to standard first-class hotels based on two people sharing a room with private facilities. When hotels in these categories are not available, top-quality superior tourist-class properties are selected. **The supplement for single accommodations is \$735.** If you register alone but want a roommate, we will do our best to assign one. If a single room must be assigned to any member of the group for any reason, even if it is at the last minute or while on tour, we will need to charge the single supplement. Changes in rooming arrangements requested by the participant 45 or fewer days prior to departure may result in additional charges.

**Meals.** Breakfast daily and lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary. Lunches and dinners do not include beverages.

**Tour Personnel.** A multi-lingual driver/guide to accompany the group from arrival in Amsterdam until departure. The driver/guide may be assisted by local guides as needed.

**Sightseeing and admission fees** in accordance with the itinerary.

**Tippping and taxes** are included for all services, including the tip for the driver/guide.

**The tour cost does not include** passports, airline luggage fees if charged, portage of luggage, optional travel protection plan including luggage and trip cancellation coverage, optional excursions, independent meals, and any other items not mentioned as included.

**Insecticide Disclosure.** Some countries require that aircraft be treated with insecticides prior to flight or while occupied. For a list of the countries with insecticide requirements, go to <http://airconsumer.dot.gov/spray.htm>.

**Optional travel protection.** Witte recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan. For your convenience, Witte offers a travel protection plan designed by Traveler Insurance Services. This travel protection can be purchased at any time prior to making the final payment for your tour. **If plan is purchased within 15 days of initial trip deposit, pre-existing medical conditions are waived when full trip cost is insured and traveler is medically able to travel at the time of plan purchase.** The plan cost for the travel protection plan that applies to your tour will be noted in your brochure and on the registration form. It may be necessary to increase the trip cost insured on the travel protection plan if you purchase additional services and/or upgrade any arrangements. This could increase the plan cost of the travel protection plan. The plan cost for this travel protection plan is non-refundable after a 15-day review period.

Schedule of Coverages	Maximum Coverage Amount (up to the limits shown below)
Trip Cancellation	100% of Insured Trip Cost
Trip Interruption	150% of Insured Trip Cost
Trip Delay	\$750 (\$150/day)
Missed Cruise Connection	\$750
Baggage & Personal Effects	\$2,000
Baggage Delay	\$250
Equipment Delay	\$200
Emergency Medical & Dental Expense	\$50,000(\$500 dental sublimit)
Emergency Evacuation and Repatriation	\$250,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000
24 Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services*	Included

\*Travel Assistance & Concierge Services are provided by the designated provider listed in the Policy. Maximum trip length allowed is 90 days. Coverage and rates may vary by state. Rates are subject to change. The product descriptions provided here are only brief summaries and may be changed without notice. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained

in the insurance policy. Prior to purchasing, you may view/download the Policy based on your state of residence at: <http://policy.travelexinsurance.com/335A-1217>. Travel Insurance is underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company (formerly known as Stonewall Insurance Company), 1314 Douglas Street, Suite 1400, Omaha, NE 68102. ZKN

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**Documentation:** Passports, Visas, and Travel Consent for Minors. All U.S. citizens are required to have a valid passport book to travel internationally. If you already have a passport book, check its expiration date now since the country visited on this tour requires passports to be valid for at least six months beyond the traveler's intended return date. If your passport is due to expire earlier, you will need to obtain a new one. If you do not have a passport book or need a new one, apply as soon as possible. If you plan to visit other countries on your own, contact Witte for any special requirements. All non-U.S. citizens should contact Witte for their special requirements. We will check the requirements for non-U.S. citizens at the time they register and again approximately 45 days prior to departure. Witte is not responsible for any changes in requirements for non-U.S. citizens that occur after our final check.

When travelling domestically or internationally, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) advise that everyone carry at least two forms of acceptable identification in order to board a flight found <http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/acceptable-ids>. Examples: DHS-designated enhanced driver's license, U.S. Passport, a foreign government passport. The name, date of birth and gender that appears on the identification card must exactly match the same data listed on airline ticket(s) and booking records

Minor children traveling internationally without both parents are strongly encouraged to carry a notarized note signed by both parents stating that they have permission to travel without one or both of them. It has become increasingly necessary to possess such a note, and will save time if questions arise departing from the U.S. or to exit a foreign country. In order to download a sample minor consent form go to: <https://www.us-passport-service-guide.com/minor-travel-consent-form.html>The sample form is a guide only. Parents who share custody of their children should carry copies of the legal custody documents. Important note: Parents are responsible to contact the embassy of the country or countries the minor child will be visiting to confirm all travel entry and exit requirements, which may include obtaining additional notarized documentation.

**HEALTH DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.** You are responsible to make absolutely certain to have the proper immunizations and required documentation of such immunizations before travel. Witte shall not assume responsibility for the accuracy of health requirements or vaccination documentation prior to departure or upon landing at the final destination. See your health practitioner for advice. Prior to travel, required inoculations, if any, must be recorded by your health practitioner on a valid vaccination certificate, and you must carry for proof of inoculation where required. If you are concerned about taking any medications or receiving certain inoculations, and adequate timing of such inoculations relative to your travel booking, consult your health practitioner BEFORE booking. Check the U.S. State Department websites <http://travel.state.gov> for relevant information relating to travel to specific destinations, the USA Centers for Disease Control <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/> and the World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/en/relating-to-health-issues>.

**Luggage allowance.** You may take one suitcase with a maximum size of 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) and weight of 50 lbs. You may also carry a purse, a camera and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum size of 45 linear inches and weight of 15 lbs. These size and weight restrictions conform to most airlines' requirements. Hand luggage does not fit in the overhead bins on the motorcoach. There may be room for it in the storage compartment under the coach or by an empty seat on board. If not, it will need to be placed on the floor in front of your feet.

**Tour cost.** The tour cost is based on a group of 22 passengers and current tariffs for air and land arrangements.

**Please note** that these travel arrangements are subject to possible price increases due to additional charges imposed by a supplier or government. You may be charged additional sums by Witte to offset increased fees, fuel surcharges, taxes, fluctuations in foreign exchange markets, and/or changes in group size. Before passing on an increase, Witte will use its best efforts to minimize the amount. If it is necessary to increase the tour cost, participants will be advised at final billing and provided with a summary of the contributing factors. Your signature below indicates consent to any post-purchase price increases.

**Reservations and payments.** To make reservations on this tour, complete the Registration Form and return it as indicated. Reservations cannot be accepted over the telephone. Payments are due as follows:

Deposit of \$1,000 per person with Registration Form by October 1, 2019. Reservations may be accepted after this date, provided space is still available.

Payment of \$2,000 per person by January 1, 2020

Balance due on receipt of final invoice sent approximately 30 to 45 days prior to departure

If you are registering for the tour after one of the above payment dates, increase your deposit amount accordingly so your account will be up to date. Please note that checks returned due to insufficient funds are subject to a \$30 service fee.

**Credit card payments.** Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express credit cards are accepted for the deposit. The deposit charge is processed shortly after receipt of your registration form.

**Cancellations and refunds.** Witte must receive notice of cancellation in writing. Penalties are per person and will be based on the date of receipt, as follows:

More than 90 days before departure	\$200
Between 90 and 46 days before departure	\$400
Between 45 and 31 days before departure	\$1,300
30 or fewer days before departure	No refund

**The service fee noted under "Special Flight Arrangements" and the nonrefundable portion of any special arrangements, or any other non-refundable arrangements made on behalf of the canceling participant, are also added to the above penalties.** Allow two to four weeks for processing of refunds. Note that payments made by check are refunded by check to the person or organization that made the payments, and payments charged to a credit card are credited back to the same credit card.

**Membership.** Witte reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a member of the tour and to expel from the tour any participant whose conduct or condition is incompatible with the interest of the group.

**Land-only participants.** If you wish to make your own flight arrangements, contact Witte for the land-

only cost at least 90 days prior to departure. Participants who make their own flight arrangements are strongly encouraged to coordinate their flight schedules with the group's flight schedule and to use the same airports. The group's airport transfers on the arrival and return days will be timed to the group's flight schedule. Land-only participants may need to arrange for their own airport transfers. Contact Witte for information and costs on options for private transfers. Witte cannot be responsible for any inconveniences to land-only participants resulting from changes in the group's flight schedule. Participants who change their status to land-only less than 90 days prior to departure may be subject to penalties imposed by the airlines.

**Domestic flight connections.** Note on your registration form if you would like to fly to and from the international departure city. You will be contacted with schedule options and costs. Witte must receive requests for connecting flights at least 45 days prior to departure.

**Special flight arrangements.** Note on your registration form if you would like to extend your stay and/or depart from and/or return to another city. The number of passengers who can deviate from the group's flight schedule is restricted. You will be contacted to let you know if the arrangements you requested are possible and to advise you of schedule options and costs. Upon confirmation of your special arrangements, a nonrefundable service fee of \$75 per person will be added to your account along with any additional air or land costs that may apply. In the event of cancellation, the service fee and any nonrefundable portion of special air or land arrangements made for you will be added to the penalties noted under "Cancellations and Refunds." Witte must receive requests for special flight arrangements at least 45 days prior to departure.

**Special meal requests and food allergies.** Note special meal requests and food allergies on your registration form. Witte cannot be responsible if special requests are not met but we will pass them on to the airlines, hotels and restaurants. If you have dietary restrictions or food allergies, be sure to carry your medications with you at all times. Also, discuss your special needs with your tour personnel and ask the wait staff about the foods you are served.

**Mobility Concerns.** Sightseeing on Witte tours almost always includes walking. Visits to historical places often mean climbing stairs and walking on uneven surfaces or cobblestones. The Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") is only applicable within the U.S., and facilities for disabled individuals are limited outside its borders. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travelers who need such assistance. Motorized scooters and wheelchairs are unsuitable for many trips. Transportation services, including many tour motor coaches, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps. Handicap accessibility is not always available. Witte tour personnel are not able to provide attendant services.

Consult your physician if you have any concerns about your ability to participate.

**Time away from the tour.** Advise Witte in writing at least 45 days before departure if you plan to spend some time away from the tour. Wherever possible, you will be credited for missed hotel nights.

**Final tour documents**—including itinerary, hotel list, passenger list, flight schedules with departure instructions, and luggage tags—are sent about 10 days prior to departure. Flight tickets are usually made available at the airport at check-in.

**Limitations of Responsibility and Disclosure.** The trip outlined herein has been contracted with various suppliers. Witte acts solely as a booking agent for supplier hotels, airlines, air charters, bus companies, ground transportation, cruise lines, boat purveyors or owners, and other independent contractors providing accommodations, transportation, and/or other services, and is not the source or provider of the travel services. Each of these supplier companies is an independent entity with its own management, and is not subject to the control of Witte. Participant is advised that the suppliers whose services appear in travel documentation are responsible for providing the travel services purchased, and consents to the use of those suppliers, and understands and agrees each supplier's Terms and Conditions are contained in printed form and are set forth on their respective Web sites, which govern the transaction. All bookings are accepted by Witte as agent for the travel suppliers on your itinerary. The transportation, accommodations and other services provided by the sea, ground, and air operator suppliers offered are subject to the terms and conditions contained in the tickets, exchange orders or vouchers issued by them and/or their suppliers, including Terms and Conditions on their respective Web sites.

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Weather conditions, including but not limited to the presence or absence of snow, sunshine, and rainfall are not guaranteed to occur or not occur, and are outside of Witte's control. Volcanic eruptions, ash clouds, and wind may be characterized as an adverse weather condition or a natural disaster by suppliers and your travel insurance company, which is beyond the control of Witte.

Witte shall not assume any responsibility for any air and/or ground schedule changes.

Witte reserves the right to make alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary.

**Force Majeure.** "Force Majeure" means, in relation to Witte, any circumstances beyond the reasonable control of Witte, (including, but without limitation, acts of God, explosion, tidal waves and flood, tempest, forceful wind, earthquakes, fire or accident, hostilities, war or threat of war declared or undeclared, acts or threats of terrorism, sabotage, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil disturbance, requisition, epidemic, sickness, quarantine, government intervention, invasion, act of foreign enemies, mobilization, embargo, weather conditions, defects in machinery and vehicles, delay, wildlife, contamination by radio-activity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste, or other untoward occurrences).

Witte shall not be deemed to be in breach of these terms and conditions or otherwise be liable to you, by reason of delay in performance, or by non-performance, of any of its obligations hereunder to the extent that any such delay or non-performance is due to any Force Majeure.

If Witte, and/or any of its travel suppliers, are affected by Force Majeure, they shall be entitled to, and may in their sole and absolute discretion, vary or cancel any itinerary or arrangement in relation to the trip. Payment of any refund by Witte to you as a result of the non-performance of any obligations due to Force Majeure shall remain in its sole and absolute discretion, although Witte shall use its reasonable efforts to reimburse you where possible. However, Witte shall be entitled to deduct from any refund recoverable the reasonable actual and potential costs to Witte of the Force Majeure and applicable cancellation fees.

Regarding civil unrest, once Witte has investigated the prevailing situation, as it deems fit, it shall remain in Witte's sole and absolute discretion whether to proceed with the trip. You may in such circumstances cancel the trip subject to Witte's and each supplier's terms and conditions.

**In case of insufficient participation,** geopolitical, or natural cause, or other circumstances beyond its control to the extent travel services cannot be provided wholly or partially, Witte may cancel the tour. In such cases, Witte will use its best efforts to supply alternative services and accommodations, and no refunds will be granted provided that the alternatives are comparable to the original services and accommodations included in the tour cost. In the event of cancellation of the tour by Witte, its liability will be limited to a refund in full of all monies paid by the participants. If available, Witte will offer an alternative trip, which the participants may accept or reject.

California Passengers: Witte is registered as a California Seller of Travel CST# 201-3304-40. Witte is a fully accredited tour operator with the Airlines Reporting Corporation, the International Airlines Travel Agency Network, and is a member of the National Tour Association, the mark of excellence in the group tour industry.

**Assumption of Risks/Safety.** Travel to certain destinations may involve greater risk than others. Witte urges all participants to remain informed on a daily basis as to current news events, as well as to review travel prohibitions, warnings, announcements and advisories issued by the U.S. Government prior to booking travel to international destinations. Information on conditions in various countries and the level of risk associated with travel to particular international destinations may be found at <http://www.state.gov>, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>, <http://www.tsa.gov>, <http://www.dot.gov>, <http://www.faa.gov>, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and <https://www.cbp.gov/travel>

In recognition of the inherent risk of travel and related activities in which you are intending to engage, you confirm that you are physically and mentally capable of participating in the travel booked, and that you willingly and voluntarily assume full responsibility for any injury, loss, or damage suffered by you or caused by you. By registering for any related travel activities, you certify that you do not have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for yourself or other participants.

The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. Registration is recommended and provided by going to <https://step.state.gov/step/>

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**Arbitration:** Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement of the performance thereunder, including without limitation any claim related to bodily injury, property damage or death, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Kentwood, Michigan, U.S., in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then existing, and judgment in the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the controversy. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive Michigan law. This agreement to arbitrate does not waive or modify the limitation of liability contained in this document.

**Exclusive Governing Law and Jurisdiction:** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Michigan, without regard to conflicts of laws principles. If the right to seek arbitration is for any reason waived by both parties, or if judicial review of any arbitration is sought, any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement shall be brought exclusively in the courts of Kent County, Michigan, and the parties hereby waive any objection to venue or jurisdiction in connection therewith. In connection with any action or legal proceeding arising out of this Agreement, the parties hereby specifically and knowingly waive any rights that either party might have to demand a jury trial. Use of the Witte website is unauthorized in any jurisdiction that does not give effect to all provisions of these terms and conditions, including, without limitation, this paragraph.

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