

**LSU**

**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

VILLAGE LIFE®

AROUND THE

# ITALIAN LAKES

LAKE COMO ♦ LAKE MAGGIORE ♦ LAKE ORTA

May 18 to 26, 2019



Dear Alumni and Friends of LSU:

*Buon giorno!*

High on the list of the world’s most captivating destinations is northern Italy’s fabled Lake District. Its extraordinary landscape of glacial waters, Alpine peaks and ancient towns painted in ocher and terra cotta hues, combined with its rich history and distinct *bella figura* Italian style, have inspired poets, composers, musicians, artists and philosophers for centuries.

Join our small group of alumni travelers in the quintessentially Italian *città di Como*—your picturesque “home” for a full week—for this one-of-a-kind, VILLAGE LIFE® AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES *soggiorno*, an exceptional way to experience the true essence of life in Italy’s beautiful regions of Lombardy and Piedmont. Our carefully designed, expert-guided excursions explore the artistic and architectural treasures commissioned by Roman aristocrats, medieval lords and Renaissance princes, including the fashionable city of Milan and a specially arranged viewing of Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, in the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie. Enriching presentations and the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, featuring local residents, offer you personal perspectives on Lombardy’s cultural heritage and contemporary life. You will taste northern Italy’s acclaimed cuisine and wines and learn basic Italian phrases to make your time in Como all the more delightful.

Your accommodations for this comprehensive program are ideally located in the heart of charming Como in the delightful, elegant lakeside PALACE HOTEL, just steps away from the city’s Gothic-style Duomo. This historic hotel overlooks stunning *Lago di Como* and welcomes guests with warm Italian hospitality and impeccable service.

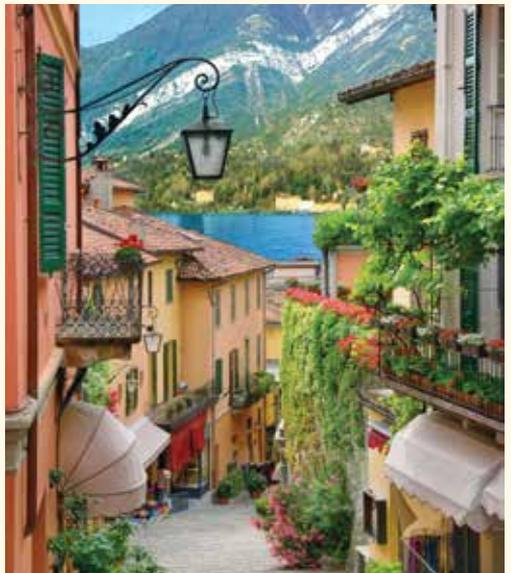
Indulge in the refined traditions of the Italian Lakes and join us on this unique travel program, where you unpack only once in one of Italy’s loveliest settings. It has sold out every time it has been offered, so I encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are still available.

*Ciao!*

Sincerely,



Tracy Jones  
Director, Touring Tigers Program  
[www.lsualumni.org](http://www.lsualumni.org)  
1-225-578-3838



Cover: Enjoy a private boat ride across the tranquil waters of Lake Orta, the hidden gem of the Italian Lake District.

The epitome of Lombardy’s old-world charm, Bellagio enchants with its authentic Italian ambiance.

## ITINERARY

### Day

#### 1 Depart the U.S.

#### 2 Milan,® Italy/Lake Como

- ♦ Check into the **PALACE HOTEL** in Como.

#### 3 Como

- ♦ Walking tour of Old Como.

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

- ♦ Lecture by Como scholar.

#### 4 Lake Maggiore/Borromean Islands/Stresa

- ♦ Private cruise on Lake Maggiore around the Borromean Islands.

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:

- ♦ Tour of Isola Bella's magnificent 17<sup>th</sup>-century palazzo and gardens.
- ♦ Explore the charming *strade* (streets) of Stresa at your own pace.

#### 5 Milan

- ♦ Guided tour of Milan.

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

- ♦ Visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

#### 6 Lake Como/Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio

- ♦ Private scenic cruise on Lake Como.

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:

- ♦ Specially arranged tour of the Italian National Trust's Villa del Balbianello.
- ♦ Explore charming Bellagio at your own pace.
- ♦ Exclusive **VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM**.

#### 7 Lake Orta

- ♦ Private boat ride across Lake Orta to visit the beautiful Isola San Giulio.
- ♦ Walking tour to medieval Orta San Giulio.

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

- ♦ Guided tour on Sacro Monte di Orta.®

#### 8 Como

##### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

- ♦ Day at leisure. Opt to stroll Como's colorful market and mingle with *Lombardi*.

#### 9 Como/Milan

*Post-Program Verona*® ♦ *Venice*® *Option\** *or*

- ♦ Return to the U.S.

*\*Available at additional cost.*



## VILLAGE LIFE®

### AROUND THE

## ITALIAN LAKES

Experience firsthand the authentic character of Italy's romantic Lombardy and Piedmont regions from the shores of picturesque Lake Como.

During this specially designed small group itinerary, explore the charming lakeside *città* (towns) and *villaggi* (villages) dotting the coasts of Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta. Stay in the center of medieval Como, falling into the daily rhythms and traditions of Italy's elite, and enjoy custom-designed **CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS**, including visits to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Sacro Monte di Orta, the exquisitely Italian Villa del Balbianello and the secluded Isola Bella, and a rare specially arranged viewing of da Vinci's unrivaled painting, *The Last Supper*, a fixation for scholars since its inception.

Engage with local *Lombardi* during the exclusive **VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM**, gain keen insights from a Como scholar and lifelong resident, sample savory regional specialties and hear the colorful Italian dialect. This popular program in the **VILLAGE LIFE®** series will immerse you in an intimate travel experience at just the right pace and includes ideally located accommodations, specially arranged meals and all excursions—truly an excellent value.



*Como's prospering silk industry encouraged a flux of world-class architecture, including the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Duomo di Como.*



Discover 16<sup>th</sup>-century chapels on Sacre di Orta, one of a series of sacred mountains, dedicated to St. Francis.



Isola Bella's Palazzo Borromeo showcases the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>-century work of Procaccini and Scaramuccia.

## Como

Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como has been internationally known for its silk-weaving industry since silkworms were first imported here in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. At one time, Como was the largest European silk producer—dyeing, weaving and designing fabrics to be shipped to the fashion houses of Milan, Paris and London. Enjoy ideally located accommodations for the entire week in the PALACE HOTEL on the shores of Lake Como and in the *centro storico* (old town) of this timeless Italian *città*. Stroll beside medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, neoclassical 19<sup>th</sup>-century villas and small family-owned *negozi* (shops) leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. See the magnificent Duomo di Como, considered the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy—which took nearly 400 years to complete, reflecting a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles.

### CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:

A local scholar of Como from the Roman era to the present, and resident art historian Giuseppina Lucini will present private, expert lectures.

During the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, residents will discuss contemporary life in the dazzling and historic Italian Lake District.

Savor the delights of a northern Italian dinner in a local *ristorante*. Peruse the fresh fruit and vegetables in the tri-weekly outdoor market, a local tradition for centuries.

## Lago Maggiore

Italy's second-largest lake is a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and a close rival to Lake Como as the most spectacular in the Lake District. Lake Maggiore's mild climate allows gardens to grow rare and exotic plants beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromeo Islands. Enjoy a private boat cruise amidst its charming islands that served as inspiration for Flaubert, Wagner and Goethe.

### Borromeo Islands

Cruise among Lake Maggiore's enticing islands, graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromeo Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family.



Visit Isola Bella's 16<sup>th</sup>-century villa and stroll through lush gardens, where Baroque style blends with topiary perfection.



Considered the “Pearl of Lake Como,” Bellagio is beloved by photographers for its sunset-hued houses and Alpine panoramas; from countless kings to Clark Gable, elite guests have enjoyed in this lakeside retreat.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** Visit the exquisitely preserved Isola Bella and walk through its splendid Italianate gardens, where white peacocks stroll among the seasonal blaze of roses, gardenias, azaleas and rhododendrons. Commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632, this secluded Baroque retreat is dedicated to his wife, Isabella. Tour the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the unforgettable grotto, decorated entirely with mosaics of marine life.

## Stresa

An 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century “Grand Tour” of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore. A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley’s famed reunion in *A Farewell to Arms*.

## Milan

The recognized capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage that blends its ornately preserved palaces, churches and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house and Milan’s exquisite Duomo.

### **CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:**

By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-site Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the enduring genius of Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, *The Last Supper*.

## Lago di Como

Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two

happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.”

Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—and perhaps most paradisaic—lake and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you survey the quaint coastal village of Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the slopes of snowcapped mountains.

## Villa del Balbianello

Just across Lake Como from Bellagio is the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this consummate Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to summit Mt. Everest, Guido Monzino, who bequeathed it to the Italian National Trust. It remains a paragon of authentic Italian luxury, and repository of 18<sup>th</sup>-century French and English furniture and the collection of Monzino’s Chinese, pre-Columbian and African art.

## Bellagio

Perched on a promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio is one of the Italian Lake District’s most internationally



Since the 14<sup>th</sup>-century, the Piazza del Duomo has marked Milan’s geographic, social and cultural heart.

## THE PALACE HOTEL

The ideally located, classic belle-époque PALACE HOTEL is a delightful establishment with an ideal setting on the *lungolago* (lakefront promenade) overlooking Lake Como, just steps away from Como's beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Venetian stucco artistry, Italian marble and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19<sup>th</sup>-century elegance throughout the hotel, while its expertly landscaped gardens are the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its summer terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the hotel's renowned homemade ice cream or a cup of cappuccino.

Each of the hotel's 94 comfortable guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar and hair dryer. Meals feature fresh seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.



well-known communes and has been a popular European holiday destination since Roman times. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Milanese nobility flocked here to build elaborate villas and cultivate subtropical gardens.

### Lago d'Orta

Serene Lake Orta, nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, is considered a Lake District best-kept secret. Enjoy a walking tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio's medieval village center, replete with cobblestone lanes that open up to a picturesque piazza; rich, ochre-hued houses fronted by decorative wrought-iron balconies; and attractive palazzos, once home to Italian nobility. Enjoy time at leisure in this beautiful village.

#### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:

Atop the summit of Sacro Monte di Orta—one of nine sacred mountains in northern Italy and a UNESCO World Heritage site—amidst a picturesque landscape of forested hills, visit several small chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, decorated with elaborate frescoes and built between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Isola San Giulio

Cruise across cobalt-blue Lake Orta in a private boat to diminutive Isola San Giulio, taking in stunning views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way. Robert Browning, Honoré de Balzac and Lord Byron all wrote of this intimate island's sublime beauty. Visit the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio, whose opulent interior is adorned with richly detailed frescoes painted upon the nave, chapel, vaults and aisles; then, stroll the monastery's lush grounds.



## Tesori di Verona e Venezia

### Post-Program Option

Discover the delightful treasures of two beloved Italian locales—fair Verona and extraordinary Venice. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Verona is renowned for its well-preserved Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, delightful piazzas and magnificent Roman monuments and is the legendary setting for Shakespeare's timeless romance, *Romeo and Juliet*. See the star-crossed Juliet's famous balcony and the spectacular 2000-year-old Roman Arena—the third-largest such edifice in the world, still in use today.

Tour Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, and the Gothic-style Doge's Palace. Visit the charming archipelago's island of Burano, known for its skilled fishermen and their colorful houses. Enjoy three nights in the HOTEL BONVECCHIATI, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century palazzo ideally located just a short walk from Venice's famous Piazza San Marco.



The Post-Program Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

# Included Features

## In Como

- ◆ Seven nights in the charming **PALACE HOTEL** on the southern shore of Lake Como.
- ◆ Full buffet breakfast each morning.
- ◆ Three dinners in the hotel and one dinner in a traditional restaurant, featuring northern Italian specialties paired with Italian wines.
- ◆ Welcome Reception.

## Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments

- ◆ Walking tour of Old Como.
- ◆ Spectacular, full-day scenic tour of **Lake Maggiore**, featuring a private cruise of the Borromean Islands and time to experience **Stresa's** spectacular views and tropical gardens at leisure.
- ◆ Visit to Lake Maggiore's **Isola Bella** with a walk through the gardens of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Palazzo Borromeo.
- ◆ Full-day excursion to **Milan** to visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala and the exquisite Duomo.
- ◆ Visit to UNESCO World Heritage-designated Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, with a specially arranged viewing of **Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper***.
- ◆ Private boat cruise across **Lake Como** to medieval **Bellagio**, including time at your own pace to explore this romantic and most famous village on Lake Como.
- ◆ Private guided tour of the Italian National Trust's magnificent 18<sup>th</sup>-century **Villa del Balbianello**.
- ◆ Specially arranged **VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM** with local Lombardy residents.
- ◆ Excursion by private boat to **Lake Orta's** island of **San Giulio**, including a visit to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century basilica, renowned for its medieval pulpit made of black Oira marble and a walking tour of the beautiful medieval village.
- ◆ Guided tour of the fresco-adorned chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi on **Sacro Monte**, a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking Lake Orta.
- ◆ Opportunities to explore **local markets** in Como at your own pace.
- ◆ Opportunities to savor northern Italy's traditional cuisine during included meals and on your own.
- ◆ Occasion to interact with locals and immerse yourself in Lombardy life.
- ◆ Italian language introduction.



## Always Included

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for all included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.



# The Romantic Allure of the Italian Lake District



Lombardy  
Coat of Arms  
1815-1866

For centuries, Italy's Lake District has seduced hearts, minds and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Wordsworth, Shelley, Wharton, Verdi, Puccini, Toscanini, Twain and Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Romans, Middle Ages and Renaissance, nobility built palatial holiday villas, filled them with priceless art and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their "Grand Tour" of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade and banking activities that extended throughout the continent.

To this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy. The mild climate and the snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the wealthy, as well as celebrities and visitors from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como, Maggiore and picturesque Orta to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—"Pearl of the Lake"—to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

*The beautiful town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore has beckoned artists, authors and European aristocracy for centuries.*





Nestled on the shores of Lake Como and surrounded by majestic Alpine peaks, the legendary Villa del Balbianello has one of the most beautiful and dramatic settings in all of Italy.

| <b>LAND TARIFF</b> <i>excluding taxes*</i>                           | Early Booking Tariff* through<br>October 22, 2018 | Tariff* after<br>October 22, 2018 |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Per person, based on double occupancy                                | <b>\$3695</b>                                     | \$3995                            |
| <b>Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1000.*</b> |   |                                   |

\*Taxes are an additional \$195 per person and are subject to change.

**VILLAGE LIFE** AROUND THE ITALIAN LAKES RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446

For further information, call the offices of Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State Zip Code

Telephone: (Home) (Mobile)

Email Address (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 068-05/18/19-056

Program reservations require a deposit of \$600 per person and \$200 per person Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as deposit.  
Make checks payable to **Gohagan & Company**.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:  
 Visa  MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

**All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by February 12, 2019.**

**Please make my/our reservation(s):**

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

**Please make my/our reservation(s):**

**Tesori di Verona e Venezia Post-Program Option**

- Double at \$1795 per person.
- Single at \$2595 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,<sup>†</sup> from:

(fill in departure city)

- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

<sup>†</sup>Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.



*Captivating visitors, artists and locals for centuries, the alluring Italian Lakes possess an inexhaustible charm.*

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Company

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

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**NOT INCLUDED:** Taxes; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional sightseeing excursions; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport tax(es); airfare and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the "Included Features" section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s); meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included Features" section.

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan. **LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.

**PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

**DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS:** Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by **October 22, 2018**. In the event a "discounted" reservation must be cancelled, no "replacement" reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A "replacement" reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

LSU Alumni Association  
3838 West Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4686

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 45 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; from 22 through 44 days prior to departure, 75% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan and others for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

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