

YOUR  
LOGO  
HERE

*Celebrating the Iditarod*

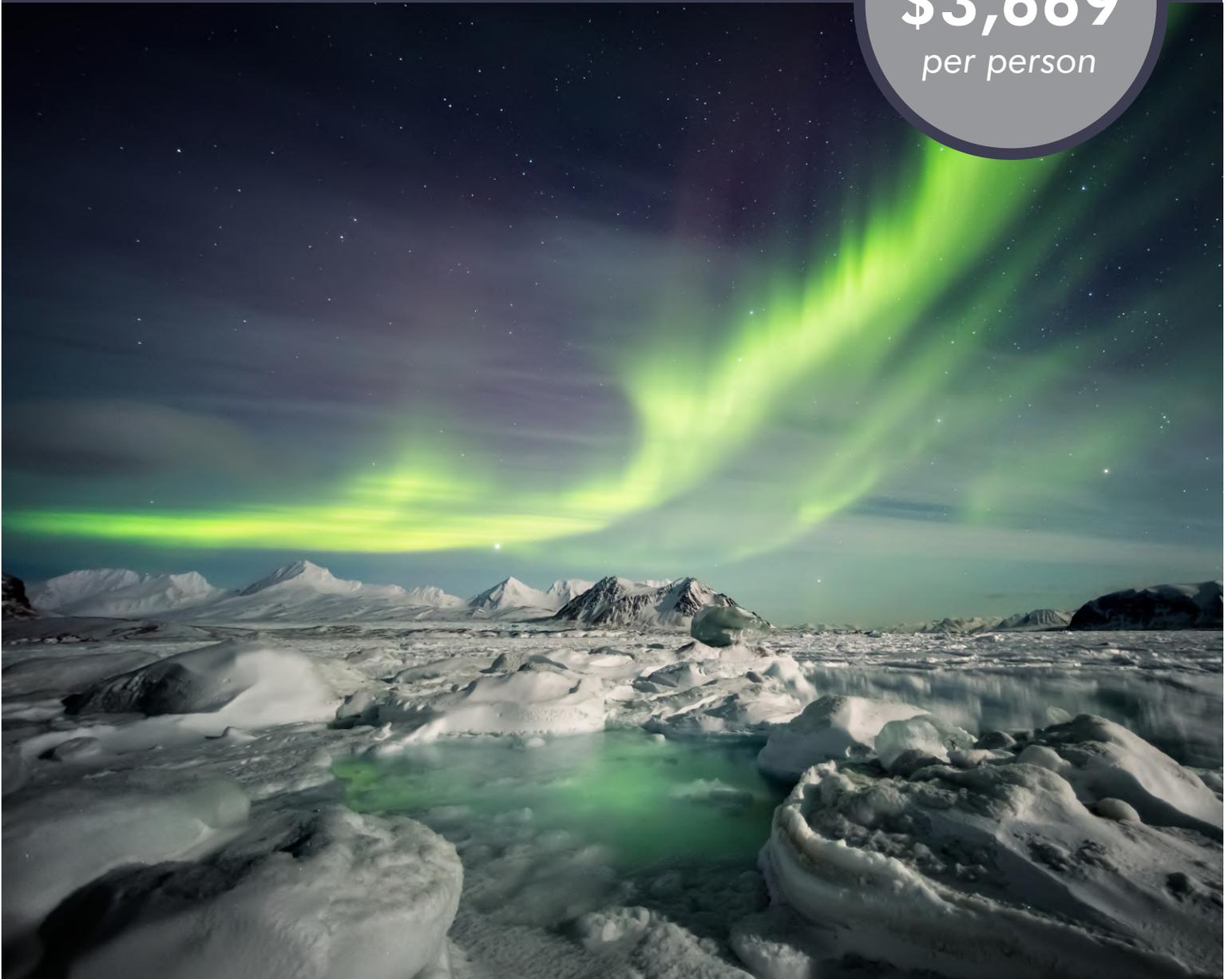
# ALASKA WINTER SPECTACULAR

March 2022/2023

**Highlights:**

Iditarod Ceremonial Start; Alaska Native Heritage Center; Blackstone Bay cruise; tram ride up Mt. Alyeska; aurora borealis viewing; Ice Alaska World Ice Art Championship; dog sledding; Chena Hot Springs; North Pole

starting at  
**\$3,669**  
per person





©State of Alaska/Matt Hage

Iditarod Ceremonial Start



©State of Alaska/Matt Hage

Alaska Native Heritage Center

**DAY 1 ANCHORAGE**

Today we will transfer to the airport for our flight to **Anchorage, Alaska**, where we'll settle into the beautiful **Anchorage Hilton Hotel** for the next three nights. This property is the ideal location to witness the exhilaration of the Iditarod Ceremonial Start and the **Fur Rendezvous Festival**, known locally as Rondy. This lively festival has been proudly epitomizing the pioneering spirit of Alaskans since 1935 and is one of the biggest winter celebrations in the United States. Various events include the Outhouse Races with custom outhouses on skis, the Fur Auction honoring the historic economic importance of the Alaska fur trade, The Blanket Toss which was developed to help hunters on the treeless tundra spot game in the distance, and the exciting Rondy Carnival. The evening is ours to explore the area and have dinner on our own.

*Note: The airport location and airline will be confirmed no sooner than nine months before departure.*

**DAY 2 ANCHORAGE (Breakfast, Dinner)**

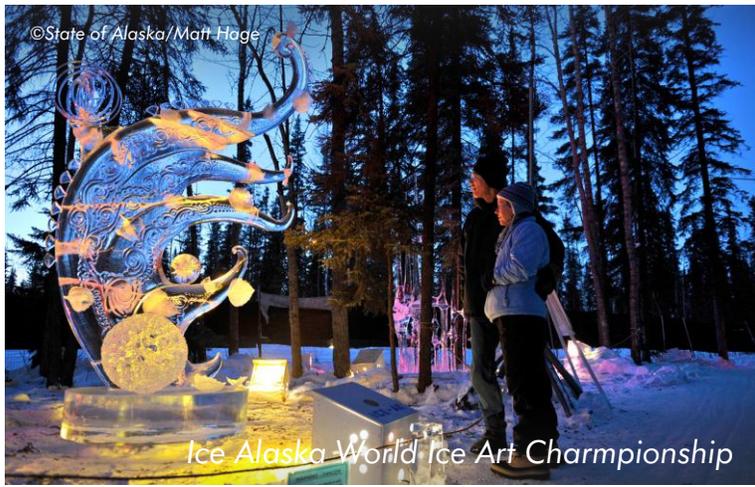
We will feel the pulse of excitement in the air as Alaskans and visitors alike witness the **ceremonial start of the Iditarod**. This morning the Iditarod teams will be lined up on 4th Avenue awaiting their turn to start their eleven-mile journey through the city via streets and trails. Following breakfast be sure to cheer on your favorites and enjoy this special 50th Anniversary year. The Iditarod, nicknamed "The Last Great Race on Earth," is the premier event in dog sled racing. The competition is almost as fierce as the forces of nature that are faced in this battle from Anchorage to Nome. Today is the perfect opportunity to meet mushers, gather autographs, and take photographs of them with their dog sled team. These four-legged athletes receive superior care and nutrition before and during the Iditarod. Browse souvenirs from street vendors and then have lunch at one of the many restaurants or enjoy a tasty reindeer sausage from a food stand. This afternoon includes a visit to the **Alaska Native Heritage Center** to explore Alaska's eleven major Native cultures and their traditions. The center features permanent collections as well as traditional Native dwellings that circle Lake Tiulana. Then we'll return to town just in time to witness a festival highlight, the **Run with the Reindeer Race**. Similar to Spain's "Running of the Bulls," "Run with the Reindeer" is exactly that, but this wacky event features many runners dressed in hilarious costumes. Don't forget your camera! A delicious dinner will cap off our incredible day.

**DAY 3 ANCHORAGE (Breakfast, Dinner)**

With the festivities being just steps away from the hotel, we'll easily enjoy Rondy's fun and crazy events, browse the shops, and explore Anchorage's museums. For those seeking unique adventures, two optional excursions are available. The first is a thrilling ninety-minute **glacier and wildlife flightseeing tour** and the other is a compelling **introduction to the art of snowshoeing**. Lunch is on our own before a **highlight tour of Anchorage**. We'll learn about Captain's Cook's 1778 exploration voyage, hear accounts of the devastating 1964 earthquake at Earthquake Park, visit the seaplane base at Lake Hood, and more. Then we're off to explore the **GCI Snow Sculpture Competition** in which artists compete for snow dominance and the chance to represent Alaska at the U.S. Nationals. The display of carvings made from eight-foot blocks of compressed snow is impressive! Then it's all aboard for the drive to the **Alaska Railroad Train Depot** to admire miniature train displays. Tonight is an evening filled with great food, popcorn throwing, and laughter! We will enjoy dinner at the popular **49th Street Brewing Company** and have a fun-filled evening at the **Fur Rondy Melodrama**, one of the festival's most popular events.

**DAY 4 GIRDWOOD (Breakfast, Box Lunch, Dinner)**

Today we say goodbye to Anchorage and **travel to Whittier via a 2.5-mile tunnel**, the longest combined rail and highway tunnel in North America. Upon arrival we'll **board the Voyager and cruise Blackstone Bay**, traveling to the face of the Beloit and Blackstone tidewater glaciers and past numerous frozen waterfalls and hanging glaciers. Once back on land, we will head to **Girdwood**, learning along the way about the fascinating science of the aurora borealis in preparation for evenings to come. The trip south is one of the most scenic in Alaska, with the waters of Turnagain Arm on one side and the Chugach Mountains on the other. Our hotel is the gem of Alaska, the **Alyeska Resort** in the Chugach Mountains. This luxurious resort offers beautiful guest rooms and amazing views. Settle in and then join the group for an **aerial tram ride to the top of Mt. Alyeska** for a fabulous meal in an elegant setting at **Seven Glaciers Restaurant**. At an elevation of 2,300 feet, the views include Turnagain Arm, seven hanging glaciers, and endless peaks of the Chugach Mountain Range. This evening will be our first opportunity to witness the amazing wonder and awe of the **northern lights!** Auroral intensity varies from night to night and hour by hour, so a northern light wake-up call is a great option.



## DAY 5

## TALKEETNA

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Our day's adventure begins with a visit to **The Musk Ox Farm** for an educational walking tour that will teach us about these animals with a two-layered coat well-adapted to the frigid climate. Qiviut is the soft underwool that is used to create beautiful garments softer than cashmere and eight times warmer than wool. Time will be available to shop for unique qiviut items before we venture to **Talkeetna** with lunch on our own en route. Historic Talkeetna was established as a mining town and trading post, and it is here where we will stop in to see **Aurora Dora** to hear aurora hunting tales and browse her breathtaking photography. Our accommodations this evening will be at the **Talkeetna Alaskan Lodge** with its majestic views of the Alaska Range and Denali. Following dinner as a group, consider sitting near the crackling fire to await the amazing **aurora borealis** that beautifully highlights Denali, the tallest peak in North America. Sign up for an aurora wake-up call tonight if you would like.

## DAY 6

## FAIRBANKS

(Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we will travel back to Anchorage for a quick flight to **Fairbanks** that will provide stunning views of the region as we fly over Denali National Park. Upon arrival we'll settle into the **Springhill Suites** in the heart of downtown and freshen up before dinner. The excitement will continue tonight as we venture to the **Ice Alaska World Ice Art Championship** to view over one hundred competition sculptures and exhibition pieces. Each year the finest sculptors from around the globe converge on Fairbanks to compete in the world's most challenging and prestigious ice sculpting competition. The incredible, illuminated sculptures can be viewed on a leisurely stroll along a winding, forest path. You won't believe your eyes at the skill and incredible detail of these masterpieces! Later this evening, you may choose an **optional ice fishing and aurora viewing excursion**. This 3.5-hour tour includes everything you need to ice fish in a heated cabin while also hunting the aurora.

## DAY 7

## FAIRBANKS

(Breakfast, Dinner)

Today is a day for dreams to come true and experiences to touch your soul, and it all begins with an **exhilarating dog sled ride!** Sit back and relax as a skilled musher leads their dog sled team on a trip of a lifetime. We'll glide along a snow-covered trail into a magical, winter wonderland where the only sounds to hear are the musher's commands and those of our heart as it pumps with excitement. Afterward we will return to Fairbanks for some time to explore the quaint shops filled with Alaskan treasures and enjoy lunch on our own. Consider visiting the Yukon Quest Visitor Center which tells the story of the famous, 1,000-mile Yukon Quest international dog sled race. Then it's time to check into **Chena Hot Springs Resort**, which is world-renowned as one of the best places on Earth to see the aurora borealis. A guided tour of the **Aurora Ice Museum** awaits us here. The museum was built from over 1,000 tons of ice and snow and boasts a number of iconic ice sculptures! Next up is a **geothermal renewable energy tour** highlighting the resort's power plant and greenhouses. The geothermal system is fed by water that has been circulating deep underground for thousands of years. A lovely dinner is included followed by plenty of time to enjoy the resort's **natural hot springs rock lake**. As you soak in these soothing mineral waters, enjoy every moment while awaiting the northern lights that will dance above your head. It makes for a thrilling evening!

## DAY 8

## OVERNIGHT FLIGHT

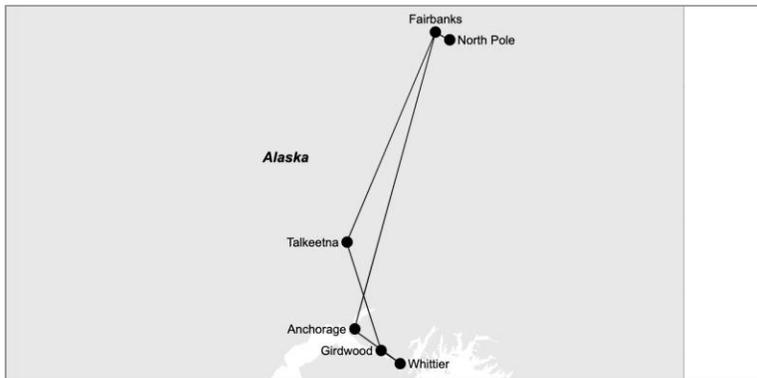
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

This morning's touring will take us to the town of **North Pole!** If you'd like one more authentic Alaska excursion, be sure to consider the **optional snowmobile guided tour** to explore a winter paradise of spruce forests, wide open spaces, and wildlife. The rest of the group will make a photo stop at the North Pole. This pole is one of two poles made during a campaign to properly mark the top of the Earth. On December 11, 1951, its twin was pushed out of an aircraft to mark the geographic north pole. A stop at the North Pole wouldn't be complete without a visit to the **Santa Claus House**. Time will be available to shop for holiday treasures and even have letters from Santa sent to friends and family. We will then head back to Fairbanks for lunch at **Big Daddy's BBQ**, a local favorite featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives* with Guy Fieri. One last stop will be made at the **Trans-Alaska Pipeline Viewpoint** for photos before we head to the airport. This impressive pipeline carries oil 800 miles from Prudhoe Bay on the Arctic Ocean to the pipeline terminus at Port Valdez. A short flight back to Anchorage will be followed by a farewell dinner. Then it's back to the Anchorage airport for our overnight flight home.

## DAY 9

## HOME

We will arrive home early this morning.



# STARTING PRICE\*

**\$3,669 per person, Double Occupancy**  
**\$4,309 per person, Single Occupancy**

\*Tour pricing based on a minimum of 25 full-fare passengers

## OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION

Club Name **RECOMMENDS** all travelers purchase a Travel Protection Plan. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan provided by Travellex Insurance Services:

**\$XXX per person, Double or Single**  
 (Payment may be sent with your deposit or with final payment to Club Name)

Travel Protection Plan may be purchased any time before or with final payment to Club Name.

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**A \$500 deposit per person is required with your registration form in order to reserve your spot.**  
**FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE TO XXX:**  
**XXX X, 202X**

For further information or questions, please contact:  
**Club Director Name**  
 (XXX) XXX-XXXX  
 name@email.com

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 tour by **STAR**  
 DESTINATIONS

## INCLUSIONS

- Private Motorcoach Transportation
- 7 Nights' Accommodations
- 16 Meals (7 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
- Admission to Attractions as Stated on Itinerary
- Porter Service of One Bag Per Person at Hotels
- Taxes & Gratuities for Included Services
- Professional Tour Manager
- 1 Single Occupancy Comp (based on 25 full-fare passengers; airfare not included)
- Travel Show
- Pre-Departure Meeting
- 100 Brochures/Marketing Materials
- Complete Document Packet for Each Traveler
- Special Surprises

Not included in the price of this tour: local airport transfers, airfare, rebate, meals/beverages other than those listed on the itinerary, beverages other than tea or coffee with included meals, items of a personal nature/souvenirs, optional excursions, phone calls and faxes from hotels, travel protection plan, current baggage fees at the airport as assessed by the airline, and any service not listed in the above inclusions.

### Activity Levels

1. **Easy to Minimal:** Mostly panoramic sightseeing; 1-2 hours of easy-paced walking at a time; minimal stairs and uneven surfaces; must be able to physically get on/off the motorcoach.
2. **Minimal to Moderate:** 2-3 hours of easy-paced walking at a time; some stairs and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.
3. **Moderate:** 3-4 hours of walking/standing at a time; some stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.
4. **Moderate to Energetic:** 4-6 hours of walking/standing/physical activity; stairs, inclines, and uneven surfaces due to nature of attractions.
5. **Energetic:** Excellent health is required for this on-the-go tour; involves strenuous activities and more than 6 hours of activity at a more vigorous pace.

Optional activities listed are Level 5 - Energetic

**DOCUMENTATION:** A current government-issued photo ID is required for this trip.

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN:** Club Name recommends that you purchase a Travel Protection Plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected so you can relax and enjoy your trip. Participants may purchase this coverage from the provider of your choice. For your convenience, we offer a Travel Protection Plan, 360° Group Premier provided by Travellex Insurance Services, that helps provide coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, theft or damage, medical expense and emergency evacuation coverage, and more. For more information, please see the product flyer included with this brochure. If you would like to purchase the offered plan, please check the applicable box on the registration form. Please Note: The plan cannot be purchased after final payment. To view/download the Policy, which provides the full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, go to: <http://policy.travellexinsurance.com/APGB-1217>. To view state specific fraud warnings, visit: <https://www.travellexinsurance.com/company/fraud-warning>. The purchase of this product is not required in order to purchase any other travel product or service. Your travel retailer might not be licensed to sell travel insurance and will only be able to provide general information about the product. An unlicensed travel retailer may not answer questions about the terms and conditions of the insurance offered and may not evaluate the adequacy of your existing insurance coverage. The products being offered provide insurance coverage that only applies during your covered trip. You may have insurance coverage from other sources that provide similar benefits but may be subject to different restrictions depending upon the coverage. You may wish to compare the terms of the travel policy offered through Travellex with any existing life, health, home, and automobile insurance policies you may have. If you have questions about your coverage under your existing insurance policies, contact your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Travellex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #OD10209. Travel Insurance is offered on behalf of and under the direction of Travellex Insurance Services. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. 7D4

**CANCELLATION:** Full refund of all monies is made if cancellation is received in writing to Club Name prior to final payment. A 100% fee is charged if the cancellation occurs between final payment and departure. If the reason for cancellation is due to a covered reason, you may be eligible for reimbursement for such fees from your Travel Protection Plan provider.

**TRAVELERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** You must advise Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) at the time of registration of any disability requiring special attention. SDI will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of travelers. The Americans with Disabilities Act is applicable only in the U.S., and accommodations outside the U.S. may be more limited. Travelers requiring assistance are required to be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the assistance. Neither SDI personnel nor its suppliers may lift or physically assist with travelers' special needs including, but not limited to, walking, dining, or other routine activities. Travelers thinking they may need assistance should call SDI to determine what accommodations may reasonably be provided. Arrangements at an additional cost are the financial responsibility of the traveler.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Star Destinations, Inc. (SDI) acts as an agent for, and makes arrangements with, airlines, hotels, railroads, bus lines, cruise lines, adventure companies, and other independent parties to provide you with the travel services and accommodations. Although great care is taken in choosing suppliers, we are unable to directly control them and therefore cannot be held responsible or liable for their acts or omissions. The travel services are subject to the conditions imposed by these suppliers, and their liability may be limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, and international conventions and agreements. Should for any reason beyond our control the hotel or establishment described in the attached itinerary not be available, SDI and its agents reserve the right to substitute with similar or superior category. SDI cannot assume responsibility for any claims, losses, damages, costs or expenses arising out of injury, accident or death, damage, loss, or delay of baggage or other property, or delay, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset, disappointment, distress, or frustration, whether physical or mental, resulting from a) mechanical breakdowns, dangers inherent to the sea, fire, theft, civil disturbances, strikes, government actions, weather, and other factors and causes beyond our control. In addition, in the case of a pandemic, worldwide disturbance, or disturbance in your tour destination that interrupts or cancels your planned tour, SDI will do everything possible to retrieve any refundable components of your tour but cannot be held responsible for any non-refundable portions of the tour; b) passenger's failure to follow instructions of SDI or its representatives; c) any other cause beyond the control of SDI. In addition, SDI reserves the right to vary the tour price advertised or printed to cover any increase in air fare, fuel price, government taxes and charges, exchange rate fluctuations, or other tour-related tariffs and costs subject to price guarantee. Pricing may be increased due to requirements for social distancing, health safety, or scheduling that have not yet been determined by transportation companies, hotels, attractions, etc. If you request a variation or change to your booking, SDI may choose to accept or reject that request at its sole discretion. If SDI accepts your request, you must pay the variation fee and any costs associated with it.

It is the sole discretion of SDI to refuse transport to any passenger, or require any passenger to leave the tour, if it is reasonably believed that the passenger (1) is dangerous to others or to himself or herself; (2) has engaged in, is engaged in, or is threatening to engage in, behavior that may adversely affect the safety, security, comfort, enjoyment, or well-being of other passengers or SDI representatives, including, but not limited to, behavior that is disruptive, verbally abusive, physically abusive, obnoxious, harassing, discriminatory, or obscene; or (3) has failed or refused, or is failing or refusing, to follow SDI's rules and procedures or the instructions of SDI or its representatives. In the event a passenger is removed, such passenger may be left at any city without any liability to SDI or its representatives. SDI shall not be required to refund any portion of the price paid by any passenger who is removed under the terms of this paragraph, nor shall SDI be responsible for expenses for lodging, medical care, meals, transportation, or any other expenses incurred by the passenger. SDI shall be entitled to recover from the passenger any costs or expenses incurred by SDI or its representatives in the removal of the passenger or the exercise or enforcement of this clause.