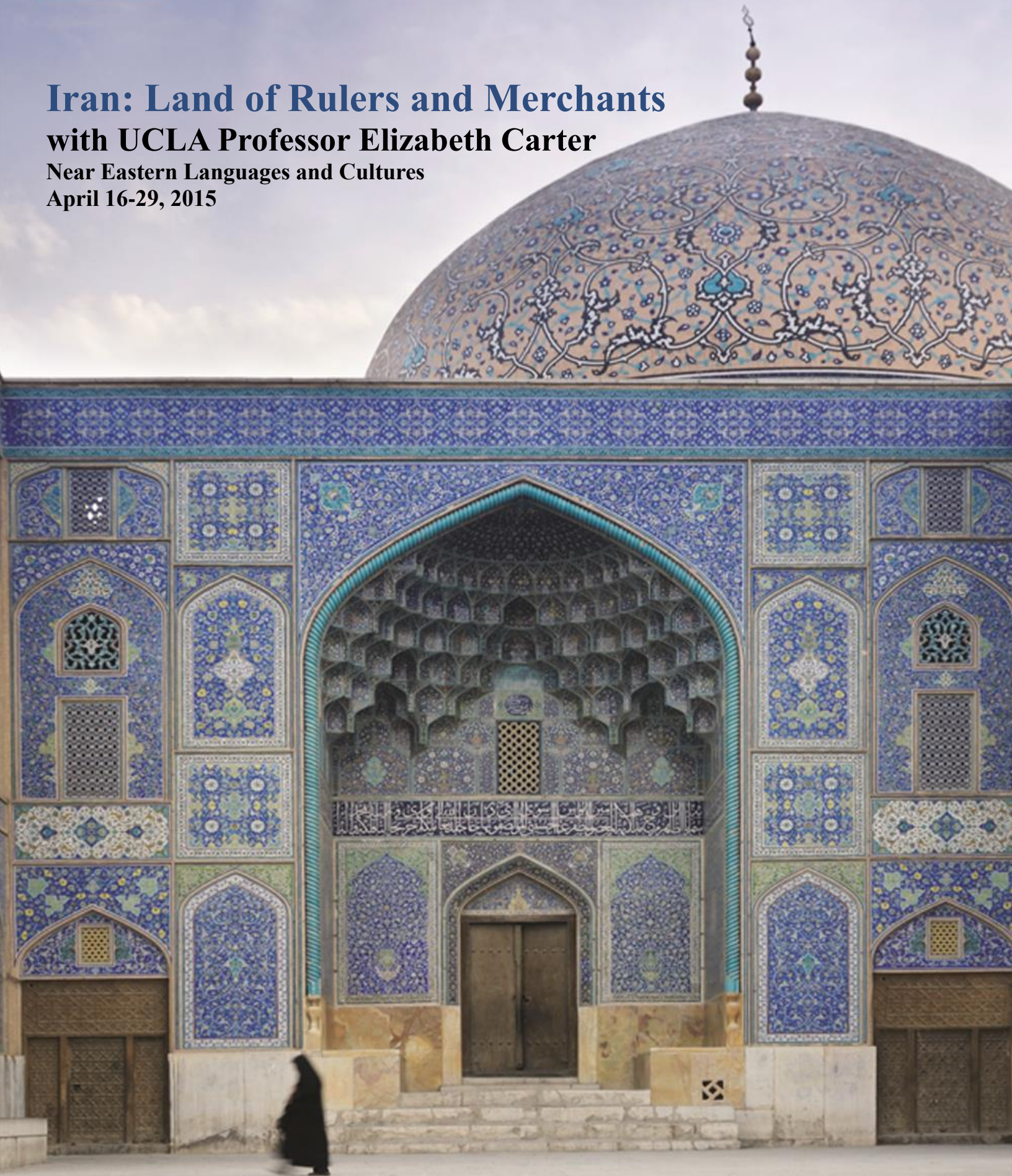


# Iran: Land of Rulers and Merchants

with **UCLA Professor Elizabeth Carter**

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures

April 16-29, 2015



# From the Director

Dear UCLA Alumni and Friends,

UCLA is excited to offer its second program to Iran led by UCLA faculty member, Dr. Elizabeth Carter. Join fellow alumni as we explore the ancient land of Persia – a country of golden deserts, glittering canals of water, crumbling clay – baked caravanserais and a horizon pierced by mosques and turquoise minarets.

Our program begins in Tehran with a chance to visit its excellent museums and meet with local Iranians. A flight brings the group to Kerman whose livelihood for many centuries depended on its position on the Asian trade routes. Discover the glorious city of Mahan, the final home of the Sufi saint and poet, Shah Nematollah Vali. His tomb is set in a peaceful garden filled with fountains and the sound of running water. In Yazd marvel at the ingenuity of the wind towers which cool the city and learn more about the Zoroastrian religion by visiting local villages. From Shiraz spend a day at the vast archaeological site of Persepolis. Superb bas-reliefs depict the flow of ritual processions that once passed through the palaces. The final three days are spent in the magnificent city of Isfahan whose monuments are recognized as the perfection of Islamic architecture. Return home from Isfahan.

Accompanying our group will be Dr. Elizabeth Carter who has traveled extensively in Iran, and led our 2010 UCLA Alumni Travel tour. Travelers on this trip raved about their time in this hospitable country, and we are confident that this tour will be just as good. Having an opportunity to connect with locals was a highlight for many of the travelers. If you would like to speak to someone that has traveled to Iran, please let us know.

Based on the pre-trip interest we anticipate this trip to sell-out. Early registrations are encouraged.

Sincerely,

Christel Pailet  
Director, Alumni Travel



*"Visiting Iran was a once in a lifetime trip. I'm so glad we had Amin and Professor Carter with us — their daily context and insight helped everyone make the absolute most of this unique adventure." Justin Beere '00*

# Iran: Land of Rulers and Merchants

April 16-29, 2015



**U.S. to TEHRAN**  
**Thursday, April 16**  
Depart the U.S.

**TEHRAN**  
**Friday, April 17**

**LALEH HOTEL**

Arrive in Istanbul in the early evening and connect with a flight to Tehran. Arrive in Tehran in the late evening and transfer to the Laleh Hotel, formerly the Intercontinental Hotel.

**TEHRAN**  
**Saturday, April 18**

Morning visit to the Archaeological Museum with its fine collection including a stone capital of a winged lion from Susa and a 6th-century B.C. audience hall relief of Darius the Great from the Treasury at Persepolis.

After a briefing with a local journalist, view the Iranian crown jewels. This spectacular collection is stored in the basement vault of the Bank Milli Iran, which includes the world's largest uncut diamond as well as the Peacock Throne. End the day at the lavish Golestan Palace - a masterpiece of the Qajar era.  
**B,L,D**

**TEHRAN**  
**Sunday, April 19**

Travel to northern Tehran to visit the modest home of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Jamaran. Continue on to the the Zahir of Dowleh Cemetery, the resting spot for many of Iran's writers and artists.

After lunch in a local restaurant visit the Niavaran Palace and Museum, the last home of Mohammad-Reza Shah and his family. Stop at the Aaran Gallery and meet with owner Nazila Noebashari for a lively discussion on contemporary art.  
**B,L,D**

**KERMAN**  
**Monday, April 20**

**PARS HOTEL**

Morning visit to the Reza Abbasi Museum which houses a collection belonging to a period from the 2nd millennium BC to the early 20th century.

Depart on an afternoon flight to Kerman. **B,L,D**

**KERMAN**

**Tuesday, April 21**

Drive to Rayen, a preserved medieval city molded from the red clay of the surrounding desert. Deserted city streets, houses of rich merchants, communal baths and shops still stand clearly visible. Enjoy lunch at the delightful Bagh-e Tarikhi Gardens, which were designed as traditional Persian gardens.

Drive to the beautiful town of Mahan well-known as the final home of the Sufi saint and poet, Shah Nematollah Vali. Shah Nematollah Vali, who died in 1431, was the founder of a Dervish order, centered in Mahan, which continues to be an active spiritual force in Iran today. **B,L,D**

**YAZD**

**MOSHIR GARDEN HOTEL**

**Wednesday, April 22**

This morning explore historical Kerman which includes an attractive ensemble of three buildings inside the Kerman Bazaar and a lovely madrasa built around a garden courtyard. Drive to Yazd passing through many acres of pistachios. **B,L,D**

**YAZD**

**Thursday, April 23**

Visit the town's principal mosque, the Friday Mosque, where the tiled portal is crowned by twin minarets, the tallest in the country. After lunch spend the afternoon concentrating on the Zoroastrian religion which at one time was the state creed. There are about 400,000 Zoroastrians left in the world, of which about 60,000 live in and around Yazd. Drive just outside of Yazd to a small village called Taft. Walk through this medieval town along narrow streets to their main fire temple - a simple building where a flame is always lit.

From here return to Yazd and visit the Ateshkade. It is said that the sacred flame here has been burning since about 470 A.D. The final stop for the day at sunset will be at two 'towers of silence' where, historically, Zoroastrians were laid to rest. **B,L,D**

**SHIRAZ**

**HOMA SHIRAZ HOTEL**

**Friday, April 24**

Morning drive to Shiraz stopping en route at the archaeological site of Pasargad. The town was built by Cyrus the Great who defeated Astyages the Mede in 550 BC and, built the first



Achaemenian capital on the site of his victory. The white limestone tomb of Cyrus stands apart from the scattered remains of gardens, palaces and temples. **B,L,D**

## SHIRAZ

**Saturday, April 25**

Morning excursion to Persepolis the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenian Empire and perhaps one of the most beautiful and spectacular archaeological sites surviving today. Visit Naghsh-E Rostam which contains the carved tombs of four Achaemenian rulers. After a truly wonderful day return to Shiraz and visit the bazaar, considered by many to be the finest in Iran and, here, discover the heart of the city. **B,L,D**

## ISFAHAN

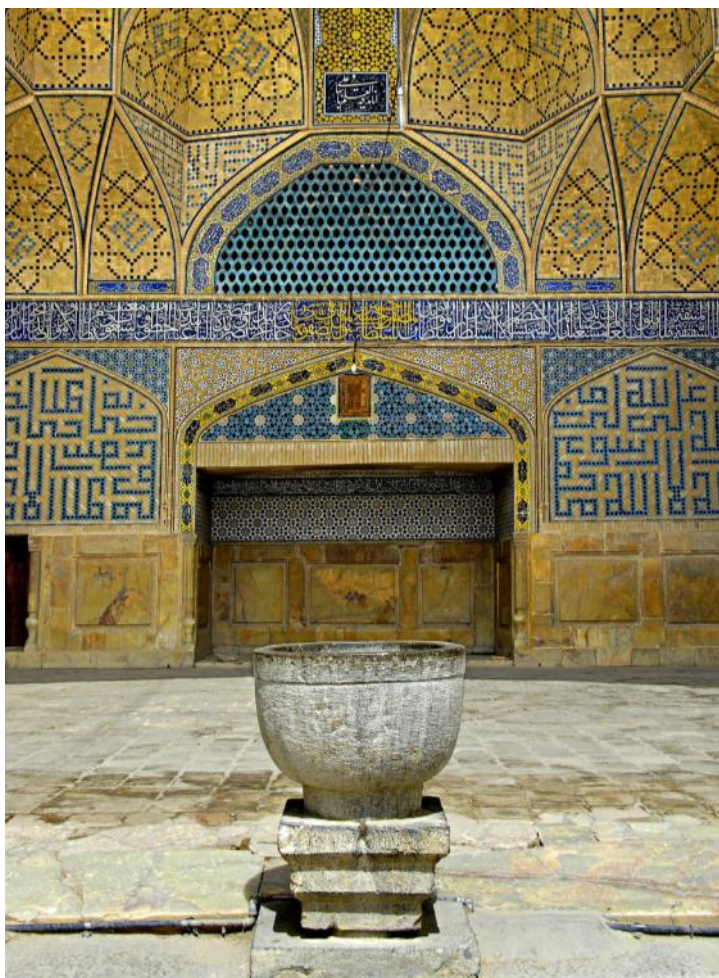
**Sunday, April 26**

Drive six hours to Isfahan, perhaps the most beautiful of all Iranian cities. After consolidating his control, Shah Abbas I initiated one of the world's grandest experiments in city planning. Mosques, palaces, bazaars and public parks were built under the monarch's personal supervision over the next thirty years. The result is glorious. **B,L,D**

## ISFAHAN

**Monday, April 27**

Spend the morning at the immense Maydan-e Shah, or Royal Square. The square is the central focus of this fascinating city and never failed to inspire and awe European merchants and ambassadors to the Safavid court.



The afternoon is spent exploring the Bazaar of Isfahan and learning more about traditional crafts in Iran. See carpets, meet a well-known painter of miniatures, wander through aisles of old copper and brass ware, gold jewelry, lacquered boxes and many other wonderful items. **B,L,D**

## ISFAHAN

**Tuesday, April 28**

This morning admire some of the five bridges crossing the Zayendehrud River at Isfahan. After seeing the Bridge of 33 Arches, drive to the Armenian quarter of Isfahan. This dates from the time of Shah Abbas who set up this colony of Christians from the town of Jolfa and named it New Jolfa. In the afternoon visit the Friday Mosque, which is like a museum with its tiled ivans, vaulted ceilings and lofty domes.

Farewell dinner at the hotel. **B,L,D**

## RETURN to US

**Wednesday, April 29**

Very early this morning, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Istanbul.

**Tour Price: \$5,985**

**Single Supplement: \$1,290 (Limited availability)**

### INCLUDED

Accommodation as listed in the itinerary in double occupancy • All meals • All sightseeing in a deluxe, air conditioned coach • Internal flights • Full lecture program • UCLA Professor \* • Pre-departure materials and reading list • The services of local Iranian guides • Gratuities

### NOT INCLUDED

International airfare into Tehran and out of Isfahan (approximately \$1,700 in economy) • Visa fees for Iran (\$112 at time of printing) • Luggage charges • Medical expenses • Trip Insurance • Items of a purely personal nature

*\*Based on a minimum group size of 15 people*





## Tour Lecturer

**E**lizabeth Carter received her Bachelor of Arts and doctorate in ancient Near Eastern civilizations from the

Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. She is currently a professor of Near Eastern archaeology and the Musa Sabi Term Chair in Iranian Studies (2009-2014) in the Near Eastern Languages and Cultures department at UCLA. Carter is interested in the social and cultural history of ancient Elam (southwestern and south central Iran) and carried out excavations at two of its major cities, Anshan and Susa. Her most recent publication is on “*Royal Women in Elamite Art*,” in *Extraction and Control, Studies in Honor of Matthew W. Stolper, SAOC 68*, Chicago, the Oriental Institute. Carter is currently working on a project on the Luristan Bronzes.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The infrastructure in Iran is quite good with modern roads and buses. Hotels are comfortable with private bathrooms and air-conditioning. Food is freshly prepared and we eat at delightful local restaurants. During the program participants should be dressed modestly and women will be required to have their head covered while in public areas. Please note that alcohol is illegal in Iran. More details will be provided upon registering for the trip.

Please note the State Department has had a Travel Warning for Iran since 1979. You can read this Travel Warning at: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_920.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_920.html).

## Terms & Conditions

Please read this information carefully as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following terms and conditions.

### RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT

To reserve your space on this program, a \$1000 deposit is required per person. Payable by check only to Distant Horizons. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due **60 days prior to departure**, check only.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If you must cancel the trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your written notification.

Refund for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:

- Notice more than 60 days prior to departure: a refund less a \$600 cancellation charge.
- Notice between 60 and 30 days prior to departure: a refund less 50% of the trip price.
- No refund shall be issued if cancellation is received less than 30 days prior to departure.
- No refunds shall be issued after the tour has commenced.
- No refunds shall be issued for occasional missed meals, sightseeing tours or any unused services.

Because these cancellation policies are strictly enforced, **we strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase trip cancellation insurance**. Information on trip cancellation insurance will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation form.

### RESPONSIBILITY

The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association as sponsor, and Distant Horizons as tour operator, is strictly limited. The UCLA Alumni Association and Distant Horizons purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent or arbitrary acts or omission of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The UCLA Alumni Association and Distant Horizons are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, and other independent suppliers.

*Distant Horizons is a California Seller of Travel (CST #2046776-40) and a participant in the California Travel Restitution Fund. Information regarding the rights of California residents to make a claim may be found at [trcinfo.org](http://trcinfo.org). California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account.*





# Alumni

## UCLA Alumni Travel Iran: Land of Rulers and Merchants April 16-29, 2015

Please print clearly

Name as it appears on your Passport

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on your Passport

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

UCLA Alumni Travel is a benefit of membership in the UCLA Alumni Association. The Association requires all alumni and friends to join to use our services. You may invite one companion to travel with you as a guest on your membership.

- Yes, I am a member of the UCLA Alumni Association.
- No, I am not a member. Please sign me up. I have enclosed a check for \$55 (annual membership) made payable to the UCLA Alumni Association.

### Air Arrangements

- I will be making my own air arrangements
- I wish to be contacted to discuss air arrangements

### Room Arrangements

- I will be sharing with \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to request a single room at an additional \$1,290 (limited availability)
- I request a roommate and understand that a roommate is not guaranteed. If a roommate cannot be found, I will be responsible for the single room supplement.

### Reservation Deposit, a deposit of \$1000 is required for each participant.

- Enclosed is a deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (check only, no credit cards are accepted, payable to Distant Horizons)

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis.

Reservations to be paid in full 60 days prior to departure, **February 15, 2015.**

Final payments must be made by check only.

I/We have read the tour conditions and responsibility clause and agree to all therein (all participants must sign).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly mail reservation form to:  
UCLA Alumni Association  
Attn: Alumni Travel  
James West Center  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397  
Fax: 310-209-4271