



2023 Travel Schedule

Tours for OBU Alumni Association

SOUTHWEST U.S.

PRAGUE/BUDAPEST

CANADA/NEW ENGLAND

ROME/VENICE

ISRAEL



Dear OBU Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Bison Hill! The OBU Alumni Association is so excited to be launching the new Traveling Bison program! This is an opportunity for OBU Alumni and Friends to roam the globe and learn together. Our tours are open to anyone so invite your friends and

family to come along, too! This catalog will give you some basic information about our program and outline the tours we are offering in 2023. We are partnering with trusted tour operators who understand alumni travel and offer exciting itineraries both here in the USA and abroad. Our tours are designed to promote educational and cultural experiences, and when you travel with our program, a portion of your tour price will come right back to the OBU Alumni Association!

Please be aware that in this ever-changing travel climate, all prices, itineraries, dates and departures listed in this catalog are subject to change. Detailed brochures about each tour will be mailed or emailed six months to a year prior to departure. You can book any tour listed in this catalog NOW though, so don't wait if you see something that interests you. If there are specific brochures you want to make sure you receive, please contact

me at the OBU Alumni Association at 405.585.5413 or leaann.quirk@okbu.edu. I cannot stress the importance of booking a tour as early as you can to ensure you get the space you want! Tours fill up quickly and "early booking deadlines" are not a guarantee of space.

This is an exciting time for the OBU Alumni Association as we are starting many new initiatives that we hope everyone in our alumni community can be involved in. The best way to stay up-to-date is by making sure OBU has your most updated contact information. You can easily update your information and even provide life updates to OBU by visiting our website – okbu.edu/alumni/notes, or by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you for your ongoing support and loyalty. Alumni matter to the success of our beloved alma mater. Enjoy looking through this catalog and plan to roam the globe with The Herd in 2023!

God bless you and God bless OBU!

Sincerely,

Lea Ann Quirk
Director, OBU Alumni Association





OUR TOUR OPERATOR PARTNERS

Orbridge

1.866.639.0079

GO next

1.800.842.9023

**ODYSSEYS**
UNLIMITED

1.888.370.6765

SOUTHWEST NATIONAL PARKS

Canyons, arches and mesas

Immerse yourself in the majestic beauty of the American Southwest, discovering the geological wonders of our national parks, including visits to Grand Canyon, Zion and Bryce Canyon. Years of uplift and erosion have left a spectacular, monumental imprint across America's Southwest plateau. Go where slot canyons, arches, buttes and mesas fill vast horizons with impossible beauty and learn about the Americans of "Red Rock Country" who shaped our nation's history.





May 10-18, 2023

ORBRIDGE

Land Tour

Prices start at \$4,695
per person, double occupancy.

**For More Information
or to Book Online**

orbridge.com/grp_departures/cat/okbu

Call tour operator partner,
ORBRIDGE, directly at
1.866.639.0079.

DANUBE DELIGHTS

Prague to Budapest

OBU HOSTS

OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas and First Lady Jill Thomas



Enjoy the best of central Europe as you make your way from Prague to Budapest on this 7-night cruise aboard Emerald Cruises' *Emerald Dawn*, with an included 2-night pre-cruise program. Experience the ultimate river cruise that touches in Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Make your way through historical sites in Prague. Visit Regensburg's medieval center and see Passau's soaring St. Stephen's Cathedral with the largest pipe organ in Europe. Tour Melk Abbey, an 18th-century monastery and spend two days exploring the wonders of Budapest.





June 21-July 1, 2023

GO NEXT & EMERALD CRUISES

River Cruise

Prices start at \$5,390
per person, double occupancy,
roundtrip economy airfare included.

**For More Information
or to Book Online**

[gonext.com/groups/
oklahoma-baptist-university/](http://gonext.com/groups/oklahoma-baptist-university/)

Call tour operator partner,
GO NEXT directly at
1.800.842.9023.

AUTUMN VISTAS OF CANADA & NEW ENGLAND

New York to Montreal

Sail the autumnal coasts of Canada and New England on this 11-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises' newest ship, *Vista*. Try fresh-caught lobster in Boston and take a schooner ride around the Narragansett Bay in Newport. See the famous Reversing Falls in Saint John, participate in a fudge-making class in Sydney and enjoy a performance at the Théâtre Palais Municipal in Saguenay. In Québec City, delight in high tea at the iconic Château Frontenac.





September 18-29, 2023

GO NEXT & OCEANIA CRUISES

Ocean Cruise

Prices start at \$5,799
per person, double occupancy,
roundtrip economy airfare included.

For More Information

or to Book Online

[gonext.com/groups/
oklahoma-baptist-university/](https://gonext.com/groups/oklahoma-baptist-university/)

Call tour operator partner,

GO NEXT directly at

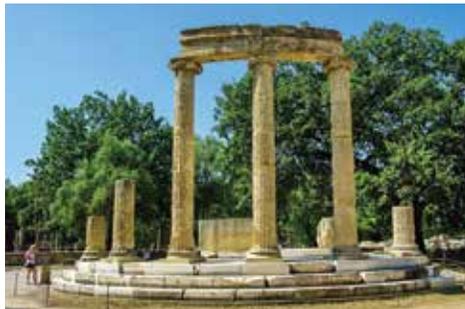
1.800.842.9023.

GLADIATORS TO GONDOLAS

Rome to Venice

The glorious Mediterranean is calling! Join us for a 10-night cruise from Rome to Venice aboard Oceania Cruises' *Riviera*. Take a boat ride along the Amalfi Coast, see St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta and sip hand-crafted wine in Messina. Visit ancient Olympia near Katakolon and take a beach day in Corfu. Explore a 14th-century monastery in Dubrovnik, shop at a farmer's market in Koper and take a gondola ride in Venice.





October 19-30, 2023

GO NEXT & OCEANIA CRUISES

Ocean Cruise

Prices start at \$3,449
per person, double occupancy,
roundtrip economy airfare included

For More Information

or to Book Online

[gonext.com/groups/
oklahoma-baptist-university/](http://gonext.com/groups/oklahoma-baptist-university/)

Call tour operator partner,

GO NEXT directly at

1.800.842.9023.

ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS

Tel Aviv to Jerusalem

OBU HOSTS

OBU President Dr. Heath A. Thomas
and First Lady Jill Thomas



Encounter a land of extraordinary beauty and belief, of history and hospitality, on this exceptional 12-day small group journey. Explore Tel Aviv, Israel's cultural capital, with its "White City" district – a UNESCO site, and ancient Jaffa. Experience the unique Ein Hod artists' village. In Galilee's hills, overnight at a hotel on the grounds of a kibbutz, visiting Capernaum's ruins. Staying at a historic hotel on the Sea of Galilee's shores, see the New Testament come to life at Tiberias, the Mount of Beatitudes and Nazareth. Based in Jerusalem's legendary King David Jerusalem Hotel for a final five nights, tour the "City of Gold's" most treasured sights. Enjoy an ethnic cooking class in Ein Karem. On a Dead Sea excursion, explore the Qumran Caves, tour Masada's celebrated ruins and float on the storied lake. Discover stunning, "rose-red" Petra and Amman with an optional 5-day/4-night Jordan post-tour extension.





December 2-13, 2023

ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED

Land Tour

Prices start at \$6,684 per person,
double occupancy,
roundtrip economy airfare included

For More Information

odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/africa-the-middle-east/israel-timeless-wonders/

To book this tour,
please call tour operator partner,
ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED, directly at
1.888.370.6765.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can travel with Traveling Bison?

The opportunity to travel with Traveling Bison and the OBU Alumni Association is open to all OBU alumni and friends.

Where can I get more detailed information about a certain trip?

Brochures or other available information may be requested from the OBU Alumni Association by emailing or calling our office. Brochures for each trip will be mailed by the tour operator approximately 6-12 months prior to departure, however, each tour operator makes their own decision on how many brochures to mail so not everyone in our travel pool receives every brochure. In most cases, there is no need to wait for a brochure to reserve space on a tour. Many tours fill quickly and we encourage you to call the tour operator to help you make your decision.

Do you offer specials or discounts?

Most of our travel partners offer special discounts throughout the year. In many cases, these special discounts are an EBD (Early Booking Discount) price. Book early to get the best price and to take advantage of special amenities (see each trip brochure for more details).

How do I register for a trip?

To register for the various travel opportunities listed in this catalog, please contact the respective tour operator for that trip. Contact information for the tour operators is listed on our website, will be outlined in individual trip brochures or may be obtained by calling the OBU Alumni Association.

What if I'm only booking for myself?

All trip pricing is based on double occupancy, or two people sharing a room or cabin, unless there is special "no single supplement" pricing specified. Many of the trips offered will require a single supplement for those who wish to travel alone. On most tours, a limited number of single rooms are available.

May I arrange my own air travel?

To lock in low airfares, our tour operators have negotiated special rates with major airlines that may require you to take non-direct flights. Please feel free to discuss "land only" options with the tour operator should you desire a more direct flight or want to use frequent flyer miles. The OBU Alumni Association has no control over air travel and sometimes challenging airport infrastructures. Important to remember: If you book your own flights, you are responsible for making connections with the main group.

Will my tour include an OBU faculty or staff host?

A minimum number of participants is required to secure the services of an OBU host. We make every effort to send a host from



OBU on as many departures as possible as we know this greatly enhances the travelers' experience and makes the trip unique. If this is important to you in making your decision to travel with our program, please call us to confirm our faculty/staff hosted tours and for more information.

How many OBU alumni and friends should I expect to travel with?

While we are optimistic that all of our tours will receive high reservation numbers, there is no way to predict the response to a particular

What happens if I need to cancel? Will I get a refund?

Tour participants are subject to cancellation penalties as outlined in the individual trip brochures. Cancellation penalties

penalties prior to making your trip deposit. Each tour operator has a unique cancellation and refund policy. Please review each trip brochure carefully prior to reserving space on a tour. We also strongly encourage purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

Should I purchase travel insurance? If so, how soon do I need to enroll?

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance to ensure coverage in case of illness, injury, medical evacuation, delay or unforeseen emergency.

Check back soon for more information on travel insurance offered through the OBU Alumni Association.

For other questions or more information, please contact the **OBU Alumni Association** at alumni@okbu.edu or 405.585.5413.

tour. Our group sizes could range from as small as two people to as large as 50. If it's one of our OBU exclusive, faculty-led tours, the group size will be kept to a maximum size of 24. You can always call the OBU Alumni Association to check the status of a trip's group size before or after you book a tour.

are structured to coincide with advance payments that our tour operators must make to their suppliers, and the penalties are strictly enforced due to these contractual commitments. Because our tour operators have different cancellation policies, please make sure that you understand all cancellation



We travel not to escape life,
but for life not to escape us.



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