



2025 TRAVEL SCHEDULE

traveling
BISON

OBU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear OBU Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Bison Hill! The OBU Alumni Association is excited to be launching a new year of travel opportunities with our Traveling Bison program! This program provides 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 2025. 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 anywhere from six months to a year prior to departure. However, you can book any tour listed in this catalog NOW, 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 leaann.quirk@okbu.edu or 405.585.5413. I cannot stress the importance of booking a tour as early as you can to ensure you get the space you want! Tours book up quickly and "early booking deadlines" are not a guarantee of space.

This is an exciting time for the OBU Alumni Association as we continue to create a variety of ways our alumni community can be engaged. 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 or by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you for your ongoing support and loyalty. Alumni and friends matter to the success of our beloved alma mater. Enjoy looking through this catalog and consider traveling with The Herd in 2025!

God bless you and God bless OBU!

Sincerely,
Lea Ann Quirk
Director
OBU Alumni Association





Great Trains and Grand Canyons

March 9-14, 2025

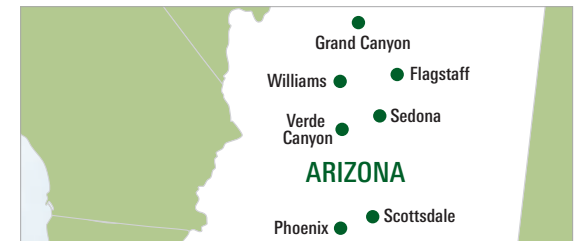
Land/Rail Tour

PREMIER
WORLD DISCOVERY

Prices starting at
\$3,825 per person, double
occupancy

TO BOOK
Call tour operator partner,
Premier World Discovery
directly, at 1.877.953.8687
or email them at info@
premierworlddiscovery.com.

“The Grand Canyon is the one great sight which every American should see.” That is what President Theodore Roosevelt said in 1903 when he first laid eyes upon one of nature’s most amazing treasures. Every traveler should explore our own beautiful American West, and that is exactly what you will do on this exciting travel program to Arizona. This travel experience features a combination of American West highlights with the scenery of Grand Canyon National Park and the red rocks of Sedona, the Native American history at Montezuma Castle National Monument, the Old West nostalgia of two train rides and five nights at the picturesque property in Sedona. When you visit the Grand Canyon, you’ll board the Grand Canyon Railway for a two-hour train journey that delivers you to the aw-inspiring South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park for free time and lunch on your own. Later, board your motorcoach to see the Grand Canyon from other points of interest. Just north of Phoenix, Sedona is known for its jeep rides, artist galleries and breathtaking red rock scenery. It’s the perfect “home base” for this six day/five night adventure.





Civil War: Stories of Rebellion and Reconciliation

May 4-10, 2025

Land Tour

ORBRIDGE

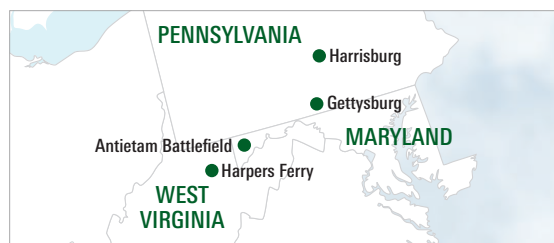
Prices starting at \$2,595 per person, double occupancy

TO BOOK
Call tour operator Orbridge directly, at 1.866.639.0079 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



orbridge.com/grp_departures/cat/okbu

On this educational and immersive tour, you will gain valuable insights from local historians and licensed battlefield experts in the heart of Gettysburg. Program highlights include the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitors Center and Museum, a guided viewing of the acclaimed "Battle of Gettysburg" Cyclorama painting, and exploration of Harper's Ferry National Historic Park. Guests will visit key sites of Antietam – Dunker Church, Sunken Road, and Burnside Bridges. Travel back in time with a guide in period attire at the meticulously restored 1860 Shriver House. Guests' accommodations are at the storied Gettysburg Hotel. Nestled in the heart of historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the Gettysburg Hotel stands as a timeless symbol of comfort, elegance and rich heritage. With its prime location just steps away from the iconic Gettysburg National Military Park, this distinguished establishment offering an unparalleled blend of modern luxury and historic charm.



OBU HOSTS
President Heath Thomas
and First Lady Jill Thomas

Journey to the Lands of Early Christianity and the World of the Apostle Paul

May 13-24, 2025

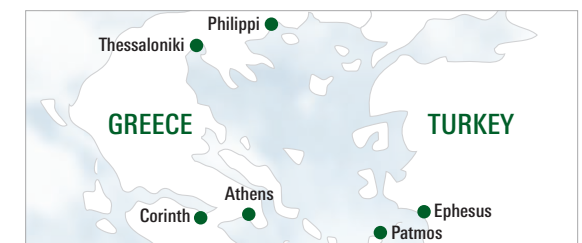
Land Tour

THALASSA JOURNEYS

Prices starting at \$6,490 per person, double occupancy

TO BOOK
Call tour operator Thalassa Journeys directly, at 1.866.633.3611.

Curated specially for OBU alumni and friends, this tour travels through a part of the world critical to the development of Christianity. Visit sites where the apostle Paul preached the gospel – including Corinth where Paul spent 18 months working as a tentmaker; and Ephesus, where we will stand in the very amphitheater where he spoke and faced down the jeers of pagan hecklers. In Thessaloniki and Philippi, both of which Paul also visited, we will discover many early Christian churches, some of which became important centers of worship and learning under the Byzantine Empire. On the sacred island of Patmos, we will see the cave where the apostle John was exiled, and where he received visions that inspired him to write the Book of Revelations. Superior hotel accommodations and most meals are included, as well as the services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.





Kenya Safari: The Big 5

June 11-21, 2025

Land Tour

ORBRIDGE

Prices starting at \$6,995 per person, double occupancy

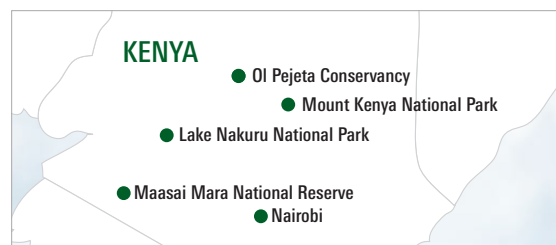
TO BOOK

Call tour operator Orbridge directly, at 1.866.639.0079 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



orbridge.com/grp_departures/cat/okbu

Venture with us into the heart of Kenya’s wilderness during this 11-day epic journey. Alongside expert guides, gain unparalleled access to Kenya’s national parks, reserves, and conservancies with opportunities to witness The Big 5 and a plethora of other wildlife in their natural environment. Explore extraordinary national parks and reserves in Kenya accompanied by expert naturalist guides who will enrich your experience through their knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm. Participate in up to 12 game drives aboard safari-outfitted 4x4 vehicles, featuring opportunities to observe the “Big 5” (endangered black rhino, leopard, elephant, Cape buffalo and lion). Engage with local communities for a deeper understanding of their rich cultures and vibrant traditions. Retreat to luxurious lodges and tented camps, each uniquely beautiful and authentic in décor. Soar above Maasai Mara National Reserve during an optional hot air balloon sunrise safari. This adventure promises unforgettable exploration of Kenya’s iconic landscapes, captivating cultural interactions, and exhilarating animal encounters.



Scotland: Highlands and Islands

June 21-July 2, 2025

Land Tour

ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED

Prices starting at \$7,596 per person, double occupancy, roundtrip airfare included

TO BOOK

Call tour operator Odysseys Unlimited directly, at 1.888.370.6765.

From city to country, loch to glen, encounter breathtaking natural beauty, a colorful past, and a cosmopolitan present on this sweet small group journey. The 12-day Scottish sojourn begins with vibrant Glasgow’s sights, including the Burrell Collection. In the scenic Highlands, see bonnie Loch Lomond and dramatic Glencoe, one of Scotland’s most beautiful spots. Embark on a stunning Isle of Skye excursion and a boat ride on fabled Loch Ness. History unfolds at Urquhart Castle and the evocative Culloden Moor battle site. Discover legendary Saint Andrews. Reaching stately Edinburgh, tour Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood, and other highlights, and enjoy independent exploration.





Radiant Alaska

July 29-August 8, 2025

Ocean Cruise

GO NEXT AND
OCEANIA CRUISES

Prices starting at \$3,899 per person, double occupancy, roundtrip airfare included

TO BOOK

Call tour operator Go Next directly, at 1.800.842.9023 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



gonext.com/groups/
oklahoma-baptist-university

Explore the “Last Frontier” on this riveting 10-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ Riviera. Revel in the scenery of steep forested mountain slopes and pristine waters while cruising the Inside Passage and Hubbard Glacier. Begin your journey in Seattle and set sail for the Inside Passage. Catch a crab feast or enjoy fresh salmon in the salmon capital of the world, Ketchikan, where they pull each day’s dinner fresh from the water. Witness nature’s masterpiece, the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, and let the sight of towering ice formations and sparkling blue hues leave you speechless. Feel the excitement of the gold rush in Skagway, a scenic valley town rooted in history and nestled amidst rugged, snow-capped mountains. Catch your breath in Icy Strait Point as majestic whales breach and spout in the distance. Get the local experience in Sitka by testing your luck on a thrilling salmon sportfishing excursion. Before your journey comes to an end in Seattle, make a memorable stop in Victoria, British Columbia, to seek out vibrant gardens, and bountiful local seafood specialties.



Discover the Canadian Rockies by Rail

August 23-29, 2025

Land/Rail Tour

ORBRIDGE

Prices starting at \$6,895 per person, double occupancy

TO BOOK

Call tour operator Orbridge directly, at 1.866.639.0079 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



orbridge.com/grp_
departures/cat/okbu

On board Rocky Mountaineer’s all-dome fleet, travel through otherwise inaccessible terrain to unlock the unparalleled beauty of British Columbia, Alberta, and the Canadian Rockies. Journey through breathtaking prairies and revel in the grand landscapes of some of Canada’s most mesmerizing mountain vistas. Discover Vancouver’s must-see gems, including Gastown and Granville Island, during a city tour and leisure time to explore. Delight in luxurious GoldLeaf Service on board the Rocky Mountaineer, featuring: bi-level coach with full-length panoramic windows; reclining upper-level heated seats; exclusive access to a private outdoor viewing platform; à la carte meal service in a lower-level dining room; and gourmet meals that feature locally sourced ingredients prepared by an onboard culinary team. Admire the scenery from the train’s glass-domed coach and outdoor viewing platforms as you traverse Canada’s countryside through the Rockies. Indulge in luxury during three nights in iconic Banff with additional time to soak in the local charm.





Northern Italy Immersion

September 5-13, 2025
Land Tour

ORBRIDGE

Prices starting at \$5,395 per person, double occupancy

TO BOOK
Call tour operator Orbridge directly, at 1.866.639.0079 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



orbridge.com/grp_departures/cat/okbu

Embark upon a cultural and gastronomic journey to the enchanting region of Northern Italy – an area renowned for spectacular landscapes and world-class cuisine. This meticulously crafted itinerary offers the unique opportunity to live like a local, featuring guided tours, private artisan visits and tastings and the ability to deeply connect with the beauty of Northern Italy’s culture and gracious hospitality. With your group (maximum 19 guests), enjoy seven nights accommodations at a historic country farmhouse. Join hands-on culinary experiences with skilled chefs to learn the art of crafting traditional Italian recipes passed down through generations. Cruise around scenic Lago d’Iseo with free time to discover its various island hamlets. Wander through Verona’s timeless streets, visit Juliet’s House, and be mesmerized by the grandeur of the Verona Arena. Enjoy a special excursion near Modena for a tasting of aged balsamic vinegar during a convivial meal with the property’s owner and his family. Explore Mantua’s Renaissance treasures, including Palazzo Ducale – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Hellenic Inspiration - Istanbul to Athens

September 26 - October 3, 2025
Ocean Cruise

GO NEXT AND OCEANIA CRUISES

Prices starting at \$3,999 per person, double occupancy, roundtrip airfare included

TO BOOK: Call tour operator Go Next directly, at 1.800.842.9023 or use the QR code to visit our co-branded website.



gonext.com/groups/oklahoma-baptist-university

Step into the depths of Greece and Turkey’s history and culture on this 7-night cruise aboard Oceania Cruises’ newest ship, Vista. Begin your journey in the mesmerizing city of Istanbul and set sail to the ancient city of Ephesus, where time stands still amidst majestic ruins. Traverse the well-preserved remnants of Kusadasi. Take a leisurely stroll along the shore on the enchanting island of Rhodes, absorbing the blue hues of the sea and the warmth of the sun. Venture to the capital of Crete, Heraklion, and step into the mythical world of the Minoans as you explore the Palace of Knossos. Unwind in Santorini against a backdrop of houses perched on volcanic cliffs. Seek solace on the streets of Mykonos, lined with charming boutiques and captivating cafes. Your journey comes to a close in Athens, the birthplace of democracy and a treasure trove of historical marvels.





Portrait of Italy

October 13-28, 2025

Land Tour

ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED

Prices starting at \$6,374 per person, double occupancy, roundtrip airfare included

TO BOOK
Call tour operator
Odysseys Unlimited directly,
at 1.888.370.6765.

From the breathtaking Amalfi Coast to eternal Rome, through the gentle Umbrian and Tuscan countryside to treasured Venice, this wide-ranging 16-day small group tour showcases ancient sites, contemporary life, priceless art, and unique accommodations. Begin on the storied Amalfi Coast, experiencing this stunning region by sea and by land and visiting Pompeii's exquisite ruins. Continuing on to the Eternal City for a three-night stay, tour the Colosseum, the Forum, monumental St. Peter's Square, and the sublime Sistine Chapel, and explore independently. Spend three nights in Italy's "green heart" of Umbria, enjoying a cooking demonstration in Orvieto and a visit to beloved Assisi. Journeying to alluring Tuscany, tour splendid Siena. Discover Florence, living monument to the Renaissance, and encounter classic Tuscany in the hill town of San Gimignano. Conclude your tour in magical Venice riddled with its trademark canals. Savor more time in Venice with an optional 3-day/2-night post-tour extension.



The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

November 26-29, 2025

Land Tour

SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT
TRAVEL

Prices starting at \$3,899 per person, double occupancy

TO BOOK
Call tour operator
Sports Entertainment Travel
directly at 1.833.203.4478 or
use the QR code to visit our
co-branded website.



www.obutravelingbison.com

For 100 years, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has been the official kick-off to the holiday season! Every year, the Emmy Award winning tradition is seen by more than 3.5 million people in New York and 50 million people at home, all tuned in to see the famous big balloons, a collection of amazing performances, one-of-a-kind floats and more! Join us to see one of the most popular events in New York City! Program highlights include Three (3) nights' accommodations at the Hilton New York Midtown, a Wednesday Welcome Reception with food located at the Hilton New York Midtown, Thanksgiving Day VIP parade viewing event and brunch at Quality Italian located on the parade route, Friday Admission to the Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes, a special Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade souvenir and more!



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. You do not have to be a graduate of OBU to travel with us!

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 6-9 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 in this catalog or on our website, please contact the respective tour operator for that trip. Contact information for the tour operators is included in this catalog and will be outlined in individual trip brochures. You can also call the OBU Alumni Association to get contact information.

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 specified by "no single supplement" text. 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 at the beginning of the tour.



Where will you GO next?

Go Next is a preferred partner of the Oklahoma Baptist University Alumni Association providing exceptional travel experiences for alumni. Turn your travel dreams into reality.

Hellenic Inspiration
Istanbul to Athens · Sep26-Oct 3, 2025
From \$4,249 per person
7 nights on Oceania Cruises' *Vista*

Radiant Alaska
Seattle to Seattle · July 29-August 8, 2025
From \$3,899 per person
10 nights on Oceania Cruises' *Riviera*

FREE Roundtrip Airfare · FREE Airport Transfers · FREE WiFi
FREE Shore Excursion Credit · FREE Gourmet Specialty Dining
Above offers are per stateroom, based on double occupancy, and subject to terms and conditions

DON'T MISS OUT! BOOK NOW:
gonext.com/OBU
800.842.9023



ODYSSEYS UNLIMITED

For reservations and information, call
Odysseys Unlimited
toll free 1.888.370.6765

Scotland: Highlands and Islands
June 21-July 2, 2025
12 days for \$7,596 total price
from Oklahoma City

Portrait of Italy
October 13-28, 2025
16 days for \$6,374 total price
from Oklahoma City

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 tour. Our group sizes could range from as small as two people to as large as 50. 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.

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 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 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. However, it is not required to travel with our program. The OBU Alumni Association partners with Meyer and Associates to offer comprehensive travel insurance options. You can visit our cobranded website using the QR code.



FOR OTHER QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION,

please contact the OBU Alumni Association at alumni@okbu.edu or 405.585.5413.

EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH US



Kenya Safari: The Big 5
June 11-21, 2025



Canadian Rockies by Rail
August 23-29, 2025



Civil War Historical Sites
May 4-8, 2025



Northern Italy Immersion
September 5-13, 2025




okbu.orbridge.com

Orbridge
DESTINATION SPECIALISTS

Journey beyond the ordinary

By its very nature, travel is a form of learning. Approached with a purpose, open to new experiences and willing to engage and understand, it has the power to transform us.



Journey to the Lands of Early Christianity
and the World of the Apostle Paul

May 13-24, 2025

For more information, call 1.866.633.3611.



traveling
BISON
OBU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



OBU
ALUMNI
500 W. University
Shawnee, OK 74804