

SIA Conferences & Tours Manual

Choosing dates

Annual Conference

The SIA's Annual Conference, also frequently called the "annual meeting" because the Society's business meeting is part of the agenda, is held each spring.

The conference can be scheduled any week from mid-May to mid-June, but late May or early June are preferred in order to avoid the end of the school year for academicians and the beginning of summer field work for archeologists.

To prevent conflicts for members of both groups, check the dates for the Vernacular Architecture Forum (<http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/>) and the Mining History Association (<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/>). If possible, do not schedule the SIA meeting for the same dates. Another option is to arrange to have a joint conference with one of these groups.

The SIA conference traditionally runs from Thursday afternoon to Sunday afternoon, and may have additional tours added to Thursday morning and/or the following Monday.

Fall Tour

Fall tours are usually held from mid-September to mid-October. Climate may play a partial role in determining dates as remote northern climates can already be quite cold by October.

Judaism's high holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur should be avoided. To check dates, use a reputable future calendar or a website of an official Jewish organization, such as B'nai B'rith (<http://bnaibrith.org/programs/jholidays/index.cfm>).

Columbus Day may be a good weekend because it will allow some working members to make use of the Monday holiday for travel.

To prevent conflicts for members of both groups, check the dates for the conference of the Society for the History of Technology (http://shot.press.jhu.edu/Annual_Meeting/Annual_Meeting_Main_Page.htm) and do not schedule the SIA tour at the same time.

The Fall Tour generally runs from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. Early Thursday or late Sunday tours may be added.

Study Tour

Foreign study tours are often planned in the off-season to reduce travel and hotel costs for members. The off-season varies depending on the part of the world being considered. For instance, we have often visited northern Europe in March.

Major religious holidays, such as Easter, Christmas, Passover, and Hanukkah should be avoided. National holidays, including Thanksgiving, may provide working members with the opportunity to use holidays in place of expending vacation time to be away from jobs, and need not be avoided.

All Events

All dates can be also affected by local events. Check local events calendars to avoid other large conferences or festivals which may be in town at the same time, or look at incorporating them into planning. A festival can add local flavor to the event, but may cause traffic headaches when buses are on tight schedules and other conferences can impact availability of hotel rooms. The local convention and visitors bureau is an excellent resource for such information.

Proposed dates must be approved by the SIA's Events Coordinator and will not be advertised to members until it is confirmed that adequate hotel accommodations are available in the area. (See "Negotiating Hotel Contracts")

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