



AltShares Trust

ADVISED BY WATER ISLAND CAPITAL

MAY 7 · 2020 | ALTSHARES TRUST SUMMARY PROSPECTUS



ALTSHARES MERGER ARBITRAGE ETF

(NYSE Arca, Inc. Symbol: ARB)

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's prospectus, reports to shareholders and other information about the Fund online at <https://www.altsharesetfs.com>. You can also get this information at no cost by calling the Fund at (303) 623-2577 or by sending an e-mail request to the SEC at publicinfo@sec.gov. The Fund's prospectus and statement of additional information, both dated March 11, 2020, as supplemented from time to time, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, paper copies of the Fund's shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports from your financial intermediary, such as a broker-dealer or bank. Instead, the reports will be made available on a website, and you will be notified by mail each time a report is posted and provided with a website link to access the report.

If you have already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications electronically anytime by contacting your financial intermediary.

You may also elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge. You can inform your financial intermediary that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by contacting your financial intermediary. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held with your financial intermediary.



Investment Objective

AltShares Merger Arbitrage ETF (the "Fund") seeks to provide investment results that closely correspond, before fees and expenses, to the performance of its underlying index, the Water Island Merger Arbitrage USD Hedged Index (the "Underlying Index").

Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy, hold and sell Shares of the Fund. You may also pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the table and example below.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment):

Table with 2 columns: Expense Category and Class AltShares Merger Arbitrage ETF. Rows include Management Fee (0.75%), Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees (0.00%), Other Expenses (0.00%), and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses (0.75%).

(1) Pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 Distribution and Service Plan (the "Plan"), the Fund may bear a Rule 12b-1 fee not to exceed 0.25% per year of the Fund's average daily net assets. However, no such fee is currently paid by the Fund, and the Board of Trustees has not currently approved the commencement of any payments under the Plan.

(2) Based on estimated amounts for the current fiscal year.

Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that the Fund provides a return of 5% a year and that operating expenses remain the same. The example does not reflect any brokerage commissions that you may pay on purchases and sales of Shares. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, whether you do or do not redeem your Shares, your costs would be:

Table with 2 columns: One Year and Three Years. Values are \$77 and \$240 respectively.

Portfolio Turnover

The Fund may pay transaction costs, including commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Shares are held in a taxable account. Transaction costs, which are not reflected in the annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the Fund's performance. Because the Fund had not yet commenced operations prior to the date of this Prospectus, it does not have a portfolio turnover rate to provide.

Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to track the performance of the Underlying Index, which is designed to reflect a global merger arbitrage strategy. The most common approach to merger arbitrage, and the approach the Underlying Index (and by extension the Fund) reflects, is to seek to capture the difference (the "Spread") between the price at which the stock of a target company in a publicly announced merger, takeover, tender offer, or leveraged buy-out (the "Target") trades after the announcement of the acquisition and the price the acquiring company (the "Acquirer") has agreed to pay for the stock of the Target.

The Underlying Index is rebalanced and reconstituted twice per month. The Fund reconstitutes and rebalances on the same schedule as the Underlying Index. The Fund's investment adviser, Water Island Capital, LLC ("Adviser"), generally expects the Underlying Index to include between 30-50 Targets at each reconstitution. To gain exposure to the Underlying Index, the Fund will establish long positions in shares of the Target stocks. When the terms of a transaction call for the exchange of an Acquirer's common stock, the Underlying Index, as a result of the index methodology, will include short exposure in the Acquirer's stock at the deal's exchange ratio. This short exposure is designed to lock in the current deal spread, and to hedge against the risk of a decline in the deal value as a result of a decline in the value of the Acquirer's stock. The Fund may invest in derivatives, such as swaps, to obtain the exposure to long and short constituents of the Underlying Index.

The Underlying Index is comprised of securities of U.S. and foreign companies of any market capitalization, which may from time to time include small and medium capitalization companies. The Underlying Index is calculated in U.S. dollars. The Underlying Index "hedges" against fluctuations in the relative value of foreign currencies against the U.S. dollar. The Fund uses forward currency or futures contracts to effectuate these hedges in the Underlying Index. The amount of forward and futures contracts held by the Fund is based on the aggregate exposure of the Fund to each currency.

The Underlying Index may also include an allocation to cash-like instruments, such as ultra short-term bond exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). In addition, when a transaction closes, any allocation in the Underlying Index to the securities of the Target and/or Acquirer will be reallocated to such instruments.

The Underlying Index generally only allocates to cash when there are an insufficient number of Targets for inclusion in the Underlying Index and when a transaction represented by a Target in the Underlying Index has been consummated or abandoned. Accordingly, cash allocations in the Underlying Index and Fund are generally removed as part of each Underlying Index reconstitution, though cash allocations may continue to be included if there are an insufficient number of Targets.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (including borrowings for investment purposes) in the constituents of the Underlying Index and in financial instruments with economic characteristics similar to such constituents such as swaps on such constituents. Although the Fund expects to replicate (or hold all components of) the Underlying Index, the Fund reserves the right to use representative sampling to track the Underlying Index. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its assets in instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but that the Adviser believes will help the Fund track the Underlying Index. The Fund may also invest in financial instruments, including swap agreements, futures contracts, ETFs and options on securities or equity securities indices. With respect to derivatives, the Fund will invest principally in swaps and forward contracts on foreign currencies. The Fund will invest in other funds, principally ultra short-term bond ETFs and money market funds, only to reflect cash allocations by the Underlying Index.

The Fund is non-diversified. To the extent the Underlying Index is concentrated in a particular industry, the Fund is expected to be concentrated in that industry. As of December 31, 2019, the Underlying Index included 46 long positions and 14 short positions in companies with market capitalizations of between \$303 million and \$131 billion.

The Underlying Index was developed by Water Island Indices LLC (the "Index Provider"), an affiliate of the Adviser. The Index Calculation Agent is Solactive AG, which is not affiliated with the Index Provider, the Fund, or the Adviser. The Index Calculation Agent provides information to the Fund about the constituents of the Index and does not provide investment advice with respect to the desirability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities.

Principal Risks

As with all funds, investing in the Fund entails risks that could cause the Fund and the Fund's investors to lose money. The principal risks of investing in the Fund are as follows:

Merger Arbitrage Risk: The principal risk associated with the Fund's merger arbitrage investment strategy is that the proposed reorganizations in which the Fund invests may be renegotiated or terminated, in which case the Fund may realize losses.

Passive Investment Risk: The Fund is not actively managed, does not seek to "beat" the Underlying Index, and does not take temporary defensive positions when markets decline. Therefore, the Fund may not sell a security due to current or projected underperformance of a security, industry, or sector.

Short Position Risk: The Fund may obtain short exposure by trading a derivative instrument, such as a future, forward or swap. Short exposure involves the risk of a theoretically unlimited increase in the value of the underlying instrument which could cause the Fund to suffer a (potentially unlimited) loss. Short exposure generally introduces more risk to the Fund than long positions.

Concentration Risk: Because the Fund's assets are expected to be concentrated in an industry or group of industries or sectors to the same extent as the Underlying Index, the Fund is subject to loss due to adverse occurrences affecting that industry or group of industries or sectors. During such a period of concentration, the Fund may be subject to greater volatility than a fund that is more broadly diversified.

High Portfolio Turnover Risk: The Fund's strategy is expected to involve buying and selling portfolio securities frequently to rebalance the Fund's investment exposures, which may increase brokerage commission costs and reduce performance. High portfolio turnover also exposes shareholders to a higher current realization of short-term gains, which could cause higher taxes.

Equity Risk: Common stocks are susceptible to general stock market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence in and perceptions of their issuers change. Preferred stocks are subject to the risk that the dividend on the stock may be changed or omitted by the issuer, and that participation in the growth of an issuer may be limited.

Foreign Securities Risk: The securities of foreign issuers may be less liquid and more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. issuers. Transaction costs may be higher in foreign countries than in the United States. The U.S. dollar value of foreign securities traded in foreign currencies (and any dividends and interest earned) held by the Fund may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Foreign governments and economies often are less stable and foreign companies may not be subject to the same regulatory requirements and accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards of U.S. companies. As a consequence, there may be less publicly available information about such companies, which may negatively affect the value of foreign securities held by the Fund.

Market Risk: The value of the Fund's investments, and the net asset value ("NAV") of the Fund, will fluctuate over time. Investors could lose money due to this price fluctuation.

Derivatives Risk: A derivative instrument (such as a forward contract, option (both written and purchased), or swap contract) typically involves leverage and provides exposure to potential gain or loss from a change in the market price of the underlying asset (or a basket of assets or an index) in a



notional amount that exceeds the amount of cash or assets required to establish or maintain the derivative instrument. Adverse changes in the value or price of the underlying asset (or basket of assets or index), which the Fund may not directly own, can result in a loss to the Fund substantially greater than the amount invested in the derivative itself. The use of derivative instruments also exposes the Fund to additional risks and transaction costs.

Hedging Risk: Instruments used to hedge against an opposite position may offset losses, but they also may offset gains. Hedges may not be perfect or may not work as expected, adversely affecting performance.

Counterparty Risk: The Fund may enter into various types of derivative contracts with a counterparty that may be privately negotiated in the over-the-counter market. These contracts involve exposure to credit risk because contract performance depends, in part, on the financial condition of the counterparty. If the creditworthiness of the counterparty declines, the Fund may not receive payments owed under the contract, or such payments may be delayed, and the value of the counterparty agreements can be expected to decline, potentially resulting in losses to the Fund.

Swap Risks: In a standard “swap” transaction, two parties agree to exchange the returns (or differentials in rates of return) earned or realized on particular predetermined investments or instruments. Certain categories of swap agreements often have terms of greater than seven days and may be considered illiquid. Moreover, the Fund bears the risk of loss of the amount expected to be received under a swap agreement in the event of the default or bankruptcy of a swap agreement counterparty. New and additional government regulation of the swap market could result in higher Fund costs and expenses and could adversely affect the Fund’s ability, among other things, to terminate existing swap agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

ETF Risk: As an ETF, the Fund is subject to the following risks:

Premium-Discount Risk: Shares may trade above or below their NAV. Accordingly, investors may pay more than NAV when purchasing Shares or receive less than NAV when selling Shares.

Secondary Market Trading Risk: Investors buying or selling Shares in the secondary market may pay brokerage commissions or other charges, which may be a significant proportional cost for investors seeking to buy or sell Shares. There can be no assurance that an active or liquid trading market for Shares will develop or be maintained or that the Shares will continue to be listed. In addition, trading in Shares on the Exchange may be halted.

Cash Transactions Risk: The Fund may effect redemptions partly or wholly for cash, rather than through in-kind distributions of securities. Accordingly, the Fund may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds and it may recognize gains on sales of portfolio holdings. As a result, an investment in the Fund may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that primarily or wholly effects redemptions in-kind. Moreover, cash transactions may have to be carried out over several days if the securities markets are relatively illiquid at the time the Fund must sell securities and may involve considerable brokerage fees and taxes. These brokerage fees and taxes, which will be higher than if the Fund redeemed its shares principally in-kind, may be passed on to Authorized Participants (“APs”) in the form of transaction fees. As a result, the spreads between the bid and the offered prices of the Fund’s shares may be wider than those of shares of ETFs that primarily or wholly transact in-kind.

International Closed Market Trading Risk: Because certain of the Fund’s investments trade in markets that are closed when the Fund and Exchange are open, there are likely to be deviations between the current prices of such investments and the prices at which such investments are marked for purposes of the Fund’s NAV. As a result, Shares may appear to trade at a significant discount or premium to NAV.

Flash Crash Risk: Sharp price declines in securities owned by the Fund may trigger trading halts, which may result in the Fund’s shares trading in the market at an increasingly large discount to NAV during part (or all) of a trading day or cause the Fund itself to halt trading.

Authorized Participants Concentration Risk: The Fund may have a limited number of financial institutions that may act as APs. To the extent that those APs exit the business or are unable to process creation and/or redemption orders, Shares may trade at a discount to NAV like closed-end fund shares and may face delisting from the Exchange.

Large Shareholder Risk: Certain shareholders may own a substantial amount of the Fund’s Shares. Redemptions by large shareholders could have a significant negative impact on the Fund and transactions on the Exchange by large shareholders may have a material upward or downward effect on the market price of the Shares.

Investment Company and ETF Risk: Investing in securities issued by other investment companies, including ETFs, involves risks similar to those of investing directly in the securities and other assets held by the investment company or ETF. In addition, the Fund will indirectly bear its pro rata share of the fees and expenses incurred by a fund it invests in, including advisory fees. These expenses are in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Fund bears directly in connection with its own operations.

Small and Medium Capitalization Securities Risks: Securities issued by small and medium capitalization companies tend to be less liquid and more volatile than stocks of companies with relatively large market capitalizations. These securities may be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic events. The companies may have limited product lines, markets, and financial resources and may depend upon a relatively small management group.

Currency Risks: Fluctuations in exchange rates between the U.S. dollar and foreign currencies may negatively affect an investment in the Fund. Adverse changes in exchange rates may erode or reverse any gains produced by foreign currency-denominated investments and may widen any losses. The return of the forward currency contracts and currency futures contracts utilized for currency hedging may not perfectly offset the actual fluctuations of the foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar and may prevent the Fund from realizing gains from an increase in the value of the currency. In addition to currency risk, currency forward/futures contracts may be susceptible to credit risk and other risks. Further, in order to minimize transaction costs, or for other reasons, the Fund's exposure to non-U.S. currencies may not be hedged.

New Fund Risks: The Fund is new and does not have shares outstanding as of the date of this Prospectus. If the Fund does not grow large in size once it commences trading, it will be at greater risk than larger funds of wider bid-ask spreads for its shares, trading at a greater premium or discount to NAV, liquidation, and/or a stop to trading.

Non-Diversified Fund Risk: Because the Fund is non-diversified and may invest a greater portion of its assets in fewer issuers than a diversified fund, changes in the market value of a single portfolio holding (or a small number of holdings) may have a greater impact on the Fund's performance than would occur in a diversified fund and may cause the Fund's share price to be volatile.

Tracking Error Risk: Tracking error is the divergence of the Fund's performance from that of the Underlying Index, which may be due to the Fund's use of representative sampling, transaction and operating costs, and security valuation procedures. This risk is heightened during times of market volatility.

Performance

The Fund had not commenced operations as of the date of this Prospectus. Performance information will be available in the Prospectus after the Fund has been in operation for one full calendar year. When provided, the information will provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing how the Fund's average annual returns compare with a broad measure of market performance. Past performance does not necessarily indicate how the Fund will perform in the future. Updated performance information will be available at www.altsharesefcs.com.

Investment Adviser

Water Island Capital, LLC serves as the investment adviser of the Fund ("Adviser").

Portfolio Managers

John Orrico, Eric Becker and Christopher Plunkett have been jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund since its inception.

Purchase and Sale of Shares

Individual Shares of the Fund may only be bought and sold in secondary market transactions through a broker or dealer at a market price. Because the Shares trade at market prices rather than NAV, Shares may trade at a price greater than NAV (premium) or less than NAV (discount). An investor may incur costs attributable to the difference between the highest price a buyer is willing to pay to purchase Shares (bid) and the lowest price a seller is willing to accept for Shares (ask) when buying or selling Shares in the secondary market (i.e., the bid-ask spread).

Tax Information

The Fund's distributions are expected to be taxable as ordinary income or long-term capital gains, unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an IRA. Investment in the Fund through such an arrangement may be taxed later upon withdrawal of monies from the arrangement.

Purchases Through Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase Shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary, the Adviser or other related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend Shares over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.