

Worldwide Archaeology Tours Collection 2025

Discover Archaeology, History and Ancient Civilisations

10 new tours | Small groups | Guided by experts

Save up to £650pp* | £0 Single Supplement places available



Welcome to Andante Travels' 2025 Tours Collection

Dear Traveller,

We are delighted to present our third edition brochure for 2025, featuring an extensive collection of tours that offer a fascinating window into the past.

Since Andante Travels was founded in 1985, our team of experts has grown, and our itineraries broadened to include even more exciting archaeological mysteries and wonders, and historic sites to explore. 2025 brings with it not just our 40th-anniversary celebration but the partial opening of the highly anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza. Also known as the Giza Museum, this is a state-of-the-art facility that has been 20 years in the making. Located in Giza, it is situated near the pyramids, offering a stunning backdrop for visitors. A real must-visit for anyone interested in Egyptology.

In addition to this exciting news, we have added even more tours to this collection. Set your sights on Cairo with Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries, led by an expert in ancient Egyptology, Lucia Gahlin, and our tour highlight, a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza.

New tours include an ode to the eternal city where once all roads led, magnificent Rome. Enjoy a deep dive into the Roman Empire with visits to iconic ruins, temples and ancient cities. In Greece, let Dr Rita Roussos introduce you to the ancient Minoan civilization and in Morocco: Tangier to Marrakesh, discover a whole new world full of colour and discover the Islamic heritage of Morocco with expert guide Dr Eireann Marshall.

Whichever tour you choose, you can be assured of a memorable time away with one-of-a-kind discoveries to treasure. In the meantime, we're here for you whatever you need – personal advice, ideas, insights, extra arrangements and more.

Thank you for 40 years of adventure, and here's to 40 more years of archaeological discovery ahead.



We look forward to the pleasure of your company in 2025.

Jackie Willis

CEO



OF EXPERTISE & EXPERIENCE

An important milestone...

We are thrilled to celebrate our 40th anniversary, marking four decades of innovation, dedication, and growth.

Founded in 1985, Andante Travels started as a small group with a big vision. Over the years, we have expanded our horizons to deliver exceptional tours to our valued customers and create immersive experiences that uncover the rich tapestry of the ancient world. Today we are proud to be one of the foremost providers of archaeological tours.

Trust Andante Travels to deliver exceptional tours backed up by our expertise and experience.

Travel for less with our Special Offers

SAVE up to £650pp*

Enjoy a saving on selected tours departing in 2025. See our tour pages for the saving you can make on each departure date.

Offer ends 31st January 2025

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We still have some tour departures in 2025 with no single supplement to pay, please refer to page 7 for more details. - Look out for the sticker on the tour pages.

SPECIAL OFFERS TERMS & CONDITIONS:

We reserve the right to withdraw special offers at any time and they are not valid for all bookings on private groups or travel agent bookings.

2025 SPECIAL OFFER: The discounts advertised are off the full selling price. Valid for new bookings only, made up until and including 31st January 2025, and on a limited number of places on each tour departing in 2025. *The discount of £650 per person applies to our Brazil – Rock Art & the Pantanal p138. These discounts can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES: There are a limited number of £0 single supplement places on selected departures in 2025. These places are also subject to hotel availability. This discount can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

Get in touch with an expert

If you are interested in joining one of our tours and want to know more, please give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today. They are ready to help with all of your questions.

01772 286 009 | andantetravels.co.uk

NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 2025 TRAVEL TO EUROPE: EES & ETIAS

If you are travelling to Europe, new mandatory border checks (EES) and travel authorisation requirements (ETIAS) are likely to be introduced at some point in 2025. Please read the information on page 170 carefully to understand how this may affect your journey and what pre-travel requirements you will need to make. Further details can be found at <http://travel-europe.europa.eu>.

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Often imitated, never matched. Expert-led archaeological tours.

Unearth history's treasures with Andante, the pioneering British specialist on in-depth archaeological travels. Venturing beyond mere cultural excursions, we craft extraordinary journeys, granting you access to the world's most significant historical sites. With 24-hour support from our dedicated team and meticulously planned itineraries, rely on Andante for an unparalleled odyssey into antiquity.



“A full and very well-managed few days.
A great learning experience with a friendly and like-minded group.”



EXCEPTIONAL
feefo

Reasons to book

WITH ANDANTE TRAVELS

We keep it small with a maximum group size of 18



We take you to see the key sights - our expertise and 40 years of experience ensure you see the best of your destination



We don't cut corners – we make sure you're not rushed and have sufficient time at each site



Learn from our high calibre Guide Lecturers - our experts will accompany you on all visits and all are highly regarded in their area of expertise



Tour Managers accompany most tours - leaving our Guide Lecturers to focus on bringing you the best insight



Expertly planned itineraries - carefully thought out to follow a theme



Excellent value – we include all local transport, meals, and on most tours wine at dinner, no passing around a hat for tips as these are all included



Individuality - we never treat you like a number, make you wear a badge or wave an umbrella at you



Expert service - our team are on hand to support, before, during and after your tour



ACTIVITY LEVEL RATINGS EXPLAINED

We have designed a grading system to help you understand how strenuous or relaxed your tour is likely to be. The levels are determined by components that make up a tour, such as distance and terrain walked, the driving distances covered and each day's length – from the moment you leave the hotel to your return.

Level 1 - Gentle
●○○○○

A tour that is determined as gentle will have a relaxed pace, with little walking and less exertion where travel and day length are concerned.

Level 2 - Light
●●○○○

On light tours, anticipate mild walking with a mostly relaxed pace. There will be more visits and travelling than on our gentle tours, but not by much.

Level 3 - Moderate
●●●○○

A decent level of fitness is required for our moderate tours. There could be walking between sites, more standing and more travelling to encounter.

Level 4 - Active
●●●●○

If you choose an active tour, come prepared for longer days – and ones that fit more in. More walking, bigger distances covered and more energy!

Level 5 - Challenging
●●●●●

For challenging tours, you'll need to be physically fit. Days could include long drives, hikes and multiple visits, meaning they'll be lengthy and tiring.

Look out for this panel on all our tour pages

Activity Level ○○○○○

With us, travel solo but not alone

Travel takes us out of our comfort zones and inspires us to see, taste and try new things. It constantly challenges us, not only to adapt to and explore new surroundings, but also to engage with different people, to embrace adventures as they come and to share new and meaningful experiences. It can be daunting when travelling alone but with Andante Travels, you are never alone unless you choose to be.



A COMPANIONABLE EXPERIENCE

Our tours are inclusive, informal and fun and Andante guests are some of the most interesting people you could care to meet. Travelling in a party of people who share your interests is an enriching experience. Friendships are quickly formed – and some last for decades with guests meeting up long after their tour has returned and arranging to travel together on future adventures.

As part of an Andante escorted tour, you will have the reassurance that our tour staff are very much part of the group. Unlike some guides who only engage when leading and make themselves scarce as soon as the opportunity arises, Andante staff are with you every step of the way, sharing the same experiences, enjoying the same meals (and often the same tipple at the bar), and laughing at the same absurdities that can happen on tour (a tortoise holding up the bus springs to mind!). Meal times are therefore never solitary, evenings are never dull and our tours are delightfully companionable. Regardless of whether you are travelling with friends, with a partner or solo, rest assured you'll be at the heart of it all with Andante.

YOUR TOUR AND YOUR EXPERIENCE

We may travel as a group but we always respect the individual. There is no badge-wearing, roll-calling, umbrella-waving or whistle-blowing on Andante tours. And, wherever possible, we build time into our site visits to allow our guests the freedom to explore and make discoveries of their own. So, if you want to spend some time sketching, writing, meditating on a mosaic or settling down for a chat and a coffee with new friends, we are the travel company for you. Choose to explore incredible sites in the company of our expert guides and you'll see that our tours are well suited to solo travellers.

“...one of the things we love about Andante is the rest of the tour group. You seem to attract a very compatible and engaging group of people who get along very well and also contribute greatly to the discussions.”

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

Over half of our guests travel solo and many of them tell us that single supplements across the travel industry, including ours, are sometimes too high. They feel disadvantaged for travelling alone. We listened, and we negotiated over 150 places on a selection of our tours in 2025 with £0 single supplement and we still have a few left on selected tours next year to take advantage of.

What's more, we offer double rooms (for sole use) as standard for our solo travellers so you will never be stuck in a room with just a single bed in a distant corner of a hotel. And our Tour Managers are experts in supporting solo travellers on the road. This is all part of our commitment to become the very best special interest travel company for solo guests. Look out for the sticker on these tour pages.

**£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE**

Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania
Departing: 5th May & 29th September - page 16

Romans on the Bay of Naples
Departing: 20th October & 3rd November -
page 22

Puglia & Basilicata
Departing: 23rd September - page 28

The Samnites
Departing: 26th April & 15th October - page 30

Athens
Departing: 6th November - page 46

The Ancient Argolid
Departing: 21st October - page 48

Cave Art of the Dordogne
Departing: 9th September - page 74

Berlin - Beyond the Wall
Departing: 4th December - page 78

Rock Art of Portugal & Spain
Departing: 19th May - page 82

The Romans in Algeria
Departing: 23rd November - page 98

Armenia & Georgia
Departing: 2nd October - page 130

Uzbekistan
Departing: 12th September - page 132

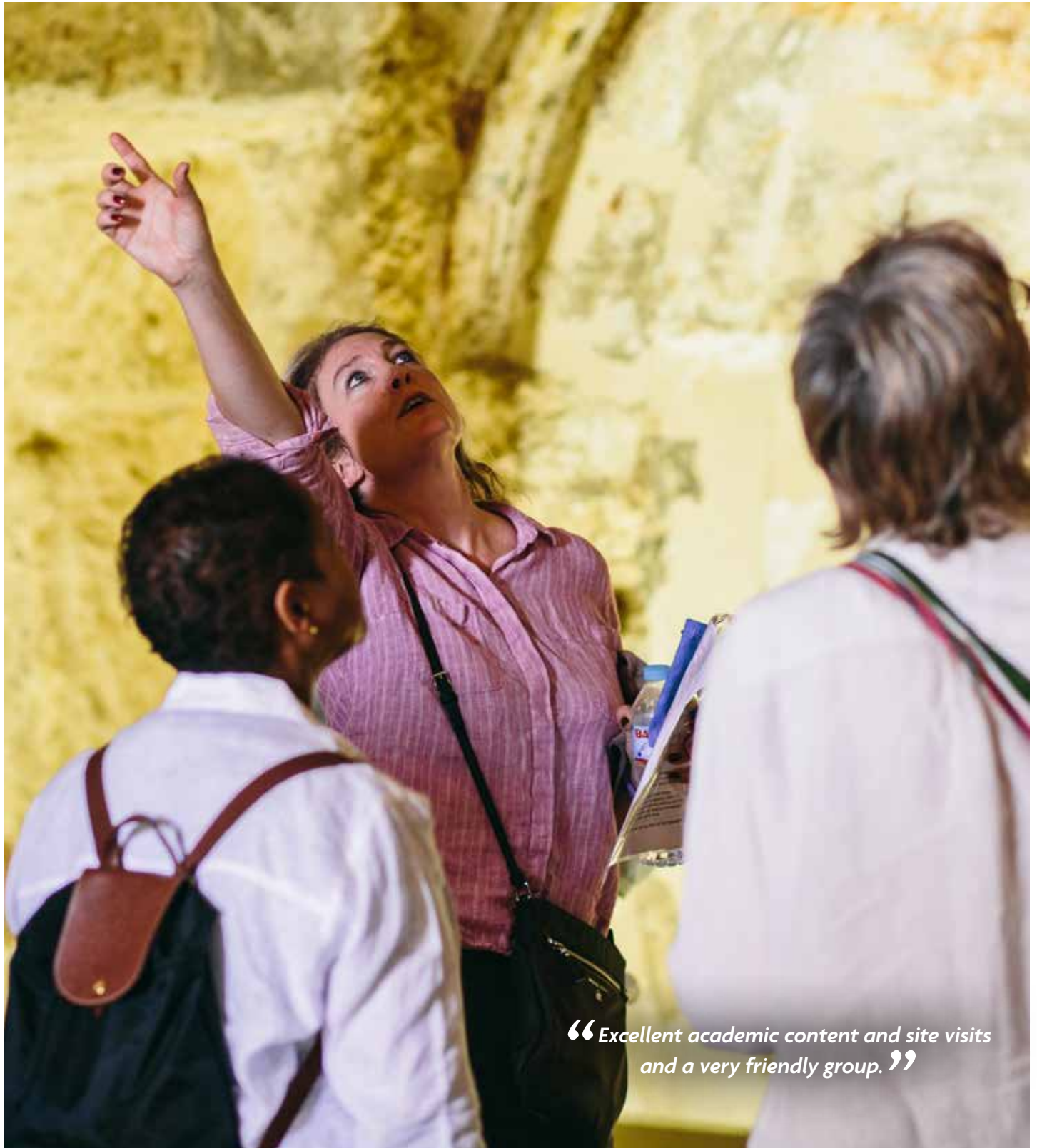
Mongolia
Departing: 25th June - page 134

**Archaeology & Wildlife
of the Pembrokeshire Coast**
Departing: 21st May - page 153

Cruising the Seine
Departing: 2nd April - page 156

Benefit from expert knowledge to enhance your tour

What makes an Andante Travels tour a cut above the rest? One of the main reasons is our expert Guide Lecturers. They are not just guest speakers who rely on local guides to point the way. Our outstanding team of engaging presenters will lead you through the sites you see, focusing on the detailed indicators of the past, explaining how things work and what a miracle of human ingenuity they represent. And they are your travelling companion, part of the group, there at all times to join in the laughter and chat, your expert on hand to converse with and put those all-important questions to. Guests who travel with us frequently tell us that it is not only the high quality of guiding they receive but also the informality and easiness of travelling with an Andante lecturer which keeps them coming back.



“Excellent academic content and site visits and a very friendly group.”

Oliver Gilkes



One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Join Oliver on The Samnites p30, Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice p38, Macedonia p60 and on our new Albania tour p92.

Dr Eireann Marshall



A previous Wanderlust World Guide Awards-winner, Eireann is set to lead several of our tours in 2025 including Puglia & Basilicata p28, Archaeology in the Heart of Italy p34, Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto p42, The Archaeology of Roman Istria p86, Morocco & Andalucia p102 and Carthage & Roman Tunisia p106.

Terry Richardson



Terry has a background in Ancient History and Classical Civilisations, is the author of several Rough Guide publications, and has also written about Turkey and Istanbul for Wanderlust, the Daily Telegraph and The Guardian. Join him on our Byzantium & Ottoman Island tour p122 and Turkey: from Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe p124.

Dr Jamie Sewell



Dr Jamie Sewell has fifteen years' experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Romania and Italy, including Pompeii. Join Jamie on our Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour p16, our new Rome tour p20, Classical Sicily p32 and Tunisia - North & South p104.

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley



Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley is a lecturer at Cardiff University, where she teaches Greek art and archaeology. You can Join her on The Ancient Argolid p48, The Peloponnese p50, Crete & Santorini p52, Macedonia p56 and Wild Thrace p62.

Tony O'Connor



A specialist in the Roman Empire and an archaeologist with extensive field experience, join Tony on our Pompeii tour p16, Classical Sicily p32, Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice p36, Lake Garda & The Cities of Veneto p38, The Romans in Algeria p98, Tunisia - North & South p104 & Carthage & Roman Tunisia p106.

Dr Paul Bahn



Dr Paul Bahn is the leading expert on prehistoric rock art worldwide, and is certainly one of our best-known archaeologists. In 2025 you can join Paul on our Cave Art of the Dordogne tour p74, Rock Art of Spain & Portugal p82, and our unique tours to Brazil - Rock Art & the Pantanal p138 and Chile & Easter Island p142.

John Shepherd



Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist. Join John on our Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour p16, our new Rome tour p20, Romans on the Bay of Naples p22, Hidden Paris p66, and on our cruises.

Lucia Gahlin



A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years. You can join her on our new Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries tour p108, Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries p112 and Egypt Encompassed p114, to discover the archaeology of this great civilisation.

Andante value so much included

The price you pay for your Andante Travels tour offers excellent value for money. Most aspects of your tour are included, covering everything from return flights and entry to all sites mentioned in the itinerary to tips and treats. More often than not, wine is also included with dinner. Consequently, the only additional expenses you may need to budget for during your holiday are souvenirs and drinks at the bar.

If you require assistance with official form-filling or advice on what to pack, our friendly team is always available to help from the office. While you are on holiday, our Tour Manager is there to assist you, whether it's a quick phone call or just a short distance away. With round-the-clock support from our operations team, we are ready to provide practical assistance at every stage of your tour.



NO STONE IS LEFT UNTURNED TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE THE MOST INCLUSIVE HOLIDAY

We make sure that we have included as much as possible in the cost of your holiday. From group flights and transfers, guides and entrance fees, tips for local staff, domestic flights where appropriate and, on most of our tours, all meals which often include wine with dinner. It's all covered so you can simply relax and enjoy your tour.



INSIDER KNOWLEDGE

We know the destinations and sites we visit inside and out, which enables us to create the most in-depth, all-encompassing, and immersive tours possible for our guests. We know the best way to get you there, the most effective routes to travel around and how to make your time on site as memorable and worthwhile as it can be.



SMALL GROUPS MEAN MORE ATTENTION

Most of our tours are limited to 18 guests, which means that you get the chance to get up close and personal to those things you've only ever read about or seen on TV or film.



THE BEST GUIDE LECTURERS, TOUR MANAGERS AND LOCAL GUIDES

Every tour with Andante Travels is accompanied by a Guide Lecturer and a Tour Manager. Often you will be further joined by a local guide who adds an element of local flavour to the expertise from your Guide Lecturer. This means that you are never short of someone who will help you satisfy your curiosity.



KEEPING CLOSE TO OUR SITES

All our accommodation is carefully chosen to help you get the most out of your tour. Location is key as we want to be close to the sites we visit and keep travelling between them to a minimum. Your accommodation costs are all included in the price of your holiday; however if you do fancy that extra bit of luxury, do contact us and we will be pleased to advise on room upgrades.



DINE WITH US

We know how important a good meal is whilst you are enjoying your holiday, so we have made sure that the majority of your meals are included in the price. Dinner is often taken at a local restaurant and most evening meals include wine.



AND THE ESSENTIALS...

Of course, all your group flights to and from the UK are included as well as all overseas group transfers.

Upgrade your experience with Andante extras

VISA SERVICE



We have partnered up with The Travel Visa Company who are a leading provider of travel visa services in the UK, with over 25 years of experience in helping travellers navigate the complexities of international travel.

Their team of dedicated visa experts also serve independent travellers based in the UK, offering personalised assistance and streamlined application processing. With their knowledge and expertise, they ensure a hassle-free experience for all travellers, from the initial application to the final approval.

They offer a comprehensive range of visa services for destinations globally and will be including the new ETIAS process for UK travellers when it goes live in 2025.

You can call them on **01270 904901** or contact them via their website www.andantetravels.co.uk/visas

UK TRAVEL SERVICE

We make it easy to join your Andante Travels tour with a full UK Travel service. If you need help travelling in the UK, with overnight airport accommodation or regional flights, we are here to help.

Regional flights - We offer flights from your local airport to many European destinations and further afield to join your holiday.

Connecting flights - If your holiday destination is not served by your regional airport, we can arrange UK connecting flights or travel to London airports.

Rail and air travel - Let us help with your travel by rail or air to your tour starting-point.

Car parking - Let us help with your airport or port parking.

Airport hotels - Relax with an overnight stay before or after your tour.

For that little something extra - Beat the crowds and relax with an airport lounge and Fast Track security where available.

FLY IN STYLE WITH OUR FLIGHT UPGRADES

Do you fancy a bit more leg room, a more generous luggage allowance, lounge access or a flatbed if you are flying overnight, then upgrading your flight will make your journey much more comfortable.

Below you will see the flight upgrade options available; other airlines are also available – please call for details.

World Traveller Plus

Travelling in World Traveller Plus; British Airways' Premium Economy cabin*, you will enjoy a smaller cabin with wider seats, a greater recline, lumbar support, a head and footrest and more leg room. You will be served two delicious meals and a complimentary bar service, whilst enjoying the personal entertainment system with noise cancelling headphones. A more generous luggage allowance and an onboard amenity kit will be provided as well as priority boarding.

** Product available on British Airways on long haul flights only*

Club Europe

Start your Club Europe journey with access to comfortable departure lounges**, dedicated check-in** desks and priority boarding. On board you will have more personal space to relax and enjoy the selection of delicious meals including full British breakfast, lunch, traditional afternoon tea and dinner. Alongside your meals, you can enjoy a range of hot, cold, and alcoholic drinks. You also benefit from a larger baggage allowance than in Euro Traveller.

*** Where available*

Club World

Relax in style before your flight with a dedicated check-in and lounge access. Once on-board, you will enjoy a fully flatbed on all long-haul flights with luxury bedding and an amenity kit. Delicious food and drink are served using local ingredients, and you can select your main course, served with a starter, dessert, and cheese. During your flight you can choose from snacks, plus hot, cold, and alcoholic drinks, all delivered to your seat. Their signature afternoon tea also features on some routes.



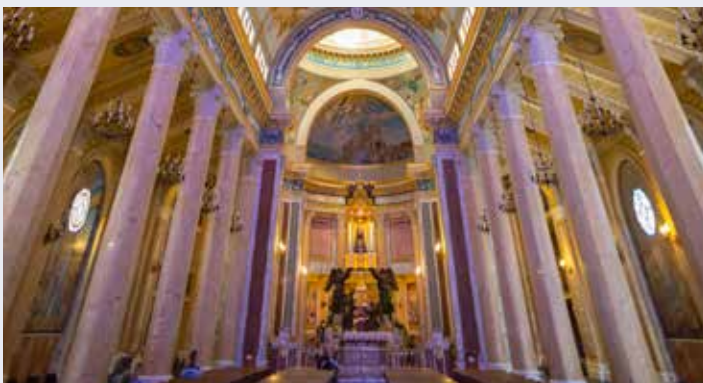
BRITISH AIRWAYS 



Call our travel experts to secure your tour enhancements on 01772 286 009

New adventures in 2025 with Andante Travels

As we look ahead to 2025, the ancient world is set to offer even more exciting and unique experiences. From exploring history's treasures to venturing beyond the expected, the upcoming year promises to be filled with unforgettable journeys. At Andante Travels, we're excited to introduce new tours in our 2025 collection. Egypt – New Museums & Discoveries, Rome - the perfect introduction to the 'Eternal City,' Sicily & the Aeolian Islands, on which we explore the archaeology of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands, and Roman Provence, where idyllic landscapes are home to Europe's finest Roman remains.



SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

Departing: 27th May 2025

As far back as we can trace, Sicily was an island that numerous peoples Sicels, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, French, Spanish, Bourbons—flocked to and fought for. The variety of historical cultures on this sun-soaked island is unmatched in the Mediterranean. There is so much to see here, this new tour provides an opportunity to visit some of the less frequented sites on, or just off, the shores of this beautiful island. See page 26

ROMAN PROVENCE

Departing: 20th October 2025

The idyllic landscapes of Provence are home to some of Europe's finest Roman remains. We discover ancient ruins and magnificent temples, so unspoiled, it's been suggested that the Romans never left this province. Explore two of the best-preserved monuments in Europe – the Maison Carrée in Nîmes and the theatre of Orange, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as less well known sites like the Gallo-Roman town of Glanum set in the rocks of Les Alpilles. See page 68



ROME

Departing: 25th April & 1st November 2025

Rome is one of the most charismatic and engaging of the great cities of the world and this tour is the perfect introduction to the 'Eternal City' in the company of archaeologists and historians who will bring to life the triumphs, tragedies and political intrigue that characterised the Roman Empire. See page 20



PREHISTORIC ITALY

Departing: 31st May 2025

Throughout history, the fertile (and beautiful) Val Camonica valleys were an important route through the Italian Alps connecting northern and southern Europe. These Alpine valleys also hold one of the largest collections of Prehistoric rock art in the world - Italy's first World Heritage Site. See page 24



FRONTIER LANDS OF ROMANIA

Departing: 13th September 2025

Romania offers a fascinating and under-explored historical narrative which is uncovered by its photogenic and diverse remains. This is a unique tour covering Greek colonies, notably the ancient city of Tomis, on the Black Sea, the Roman ruins, as well as the world famous Bran Castle. See page 88



ALBANIA

Departing: 19th April & 1st September 2025

Albania holds an array of splendours set in a dramatic scenery of mountains, deep blue seas and wide plains but perhaps the most important element of this tour is Oliver Gilkes, who started working here just after the fall of the old regime. See page 92



MOROCCO: TANGIER TO MARRAKESH

Departing: 12th December 2025

Morocco is known as the 'Maghreb el-Aqsa', the land of the further west, encircled by three great seas and tucked in at the corner of Africa. This tour programme focuses on the legacy of the medieval dynasties of Morocco and its Imperial Cities on a journey which extends from the northern tip of the country at Tangiers to the borders of the desert at Marrakesh in the south. Page 100



EGYPT - NEW MUSEUMS AND DISCOVERIES

Departing: 25th March 2025

Archaeology in Egypt is seeing another Golden Age, this time led by local Egyptians themselves. This tour focuses on the new discoveries in Saqqara to the newly renovated Greco Romano Museum in Alexandria and the long-awaited, much anticipated brand new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza. See page 108



MONGOLIA

Departing: 24th June 2025

Experience Mongolia's ancient history and breathtaking landscapes. Visit burial sites, legendary cities, and Bronze Age relics. Discover the Mongol Empire's fortresses and immerse yourself in nomadic culture. Explore the wild beauty of rural Mongolia and encounter the Flaming Cliffs. You can also add an optional Naadam Festival extension. Page 134

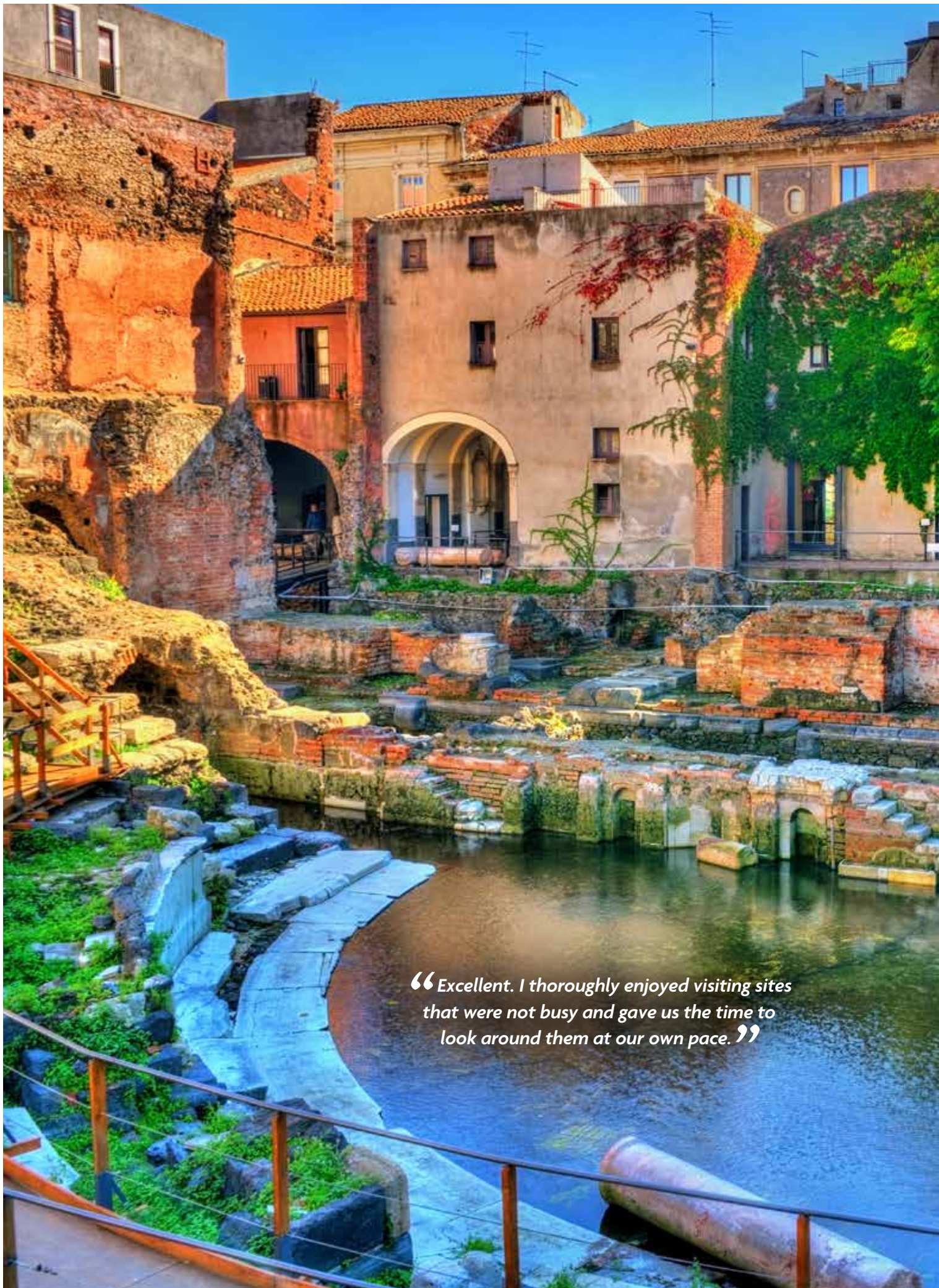


ANTIQUITY OF THE AEGEAN

Departing: 29th May & 9th October 2025

The Aegean has been the setting for so much in mythology and history from the Bronze Age, through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onwards to the Byzantine age. This wonderfully encompassing cruise arcs across the Aegean just as it spans through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean. Page 164

“A stand-out, 5-star experience; thank you to everybody involved in putting this together.”



“Excellent. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting sites that were not busy and gave us the time to look around them at our own pace.”



Italy

It is not an exaggeration to say that the peninsula of Italy, shaped as it is by its vast history, is crawling with world-class sites and monuments. Here, we find the haunting site of Pompeii, the Valley of the Temples, the phenomenal remains in the city of Rome and much, much more. Our Italy portfolio has expanded over the years, and we are proud to present our full – and possibly largest – collection of itineraries that can take you there in 2025.

What is staggering about Italy’s cultural remains is not just the sheer number of them – 53 cultural World Heritage Sites and 31 tentative World Heritage Sites – but the wonderful variety. From the white-tipped peaks of the Dolomites to the orange groves at the foot of Mount Etna, this destination offers a unique insight into our cultural past, not just because it is the homeland of the Eternal City but because it hosts such a rich collection of archaeological sites, including the world-famous, utterly breathtaking Vesuvian towns.

Southern Italy, called Magna Graecia by the Romans, was once one of the most affluent parts of ancient Greece, conquered by the Normans and later ruled by an Islamic Caliphate. As a result, it is home to some of the most awesome Greek Temples and impressive Norman castles in the world. Sardinia and Sicily, two of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, traded with and were colonised by peoples from all over southern Europe and North Africa, and are blessed with a plethora of extraordinary Neolithic and Bronze Age sites as well as Phoenician settlements, giving rise to the culturally rich havens that they are today.

Moreover, Italy has been indelibly influenced by that city on the Tiber, which was the epicentre of an empire that encompassed all of the Mediterranean, as well as a third of the world’s population at the time. For its centrality to Christianity, Rome can still lay claim being called the Caput Mundi and nowhere is this more felt than in Italian cities, which were nearly all shaped in the Roman period and reinvigorated in the Medieval and Renaissance, which sought, above all, to emulate Rome. It is for the splendour of its medieval cityscapes and richness of its Renaissance architecture that central and northern Italy is justly famous. It is here that artists, trying to go back to Roman aesthetics, produced those uniquely exquisite frescoes that adorn churches and palazzi, as well as canvases that grace a multitude of museums.



Explore the recently excavated House of the Leda or the newly opened Regio V in Pompeii

Spend four nights on Lipari while exploring the archaeology of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands

Enjoy a private visit to the 15th-century Biblioteca Marciana, famed for its collection of Byzantine manuscripts

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Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

New discoveries at Pompeii included

8 DAYS FROM £3,100pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



Nowhere in the world gives deeper insight into Roman life than the dramatic seaside towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Before the cataclysmic eruption of Vesuvius these were thriving, lively seaside towns.

Pompeii, a trading town equipped with many bars, shops and brothels, while neighbouring Herculaneum was an affluent and elegant town. All this came to an abrupt halt, however, one autumnal day in AD 79, when Vesuvius - which had done little more than rumble for years - erupted with incredible force.

Two thousand years later, the sites of the Bay of Naples confront the modern visitor with a vivid, haunting immediacy like nothing else in the ancient world. In some cases we even know the names, professions and personal histories of the people who owned the villas and shops we visit. The preservation of Herculaneum, Pompeii and its surrounding sites is remarkable and the archaeology beyond compare, which is why we have been leading tours here for over 30 years. And this is an exciting time for visitors as new discoveries are being made and new houses opened. Walk with us as the Romans did, from amphitheatre to baths to forum, as our Guide Lecturer conjures an evocative picture of the everyday life of these prosperous Roman towns.

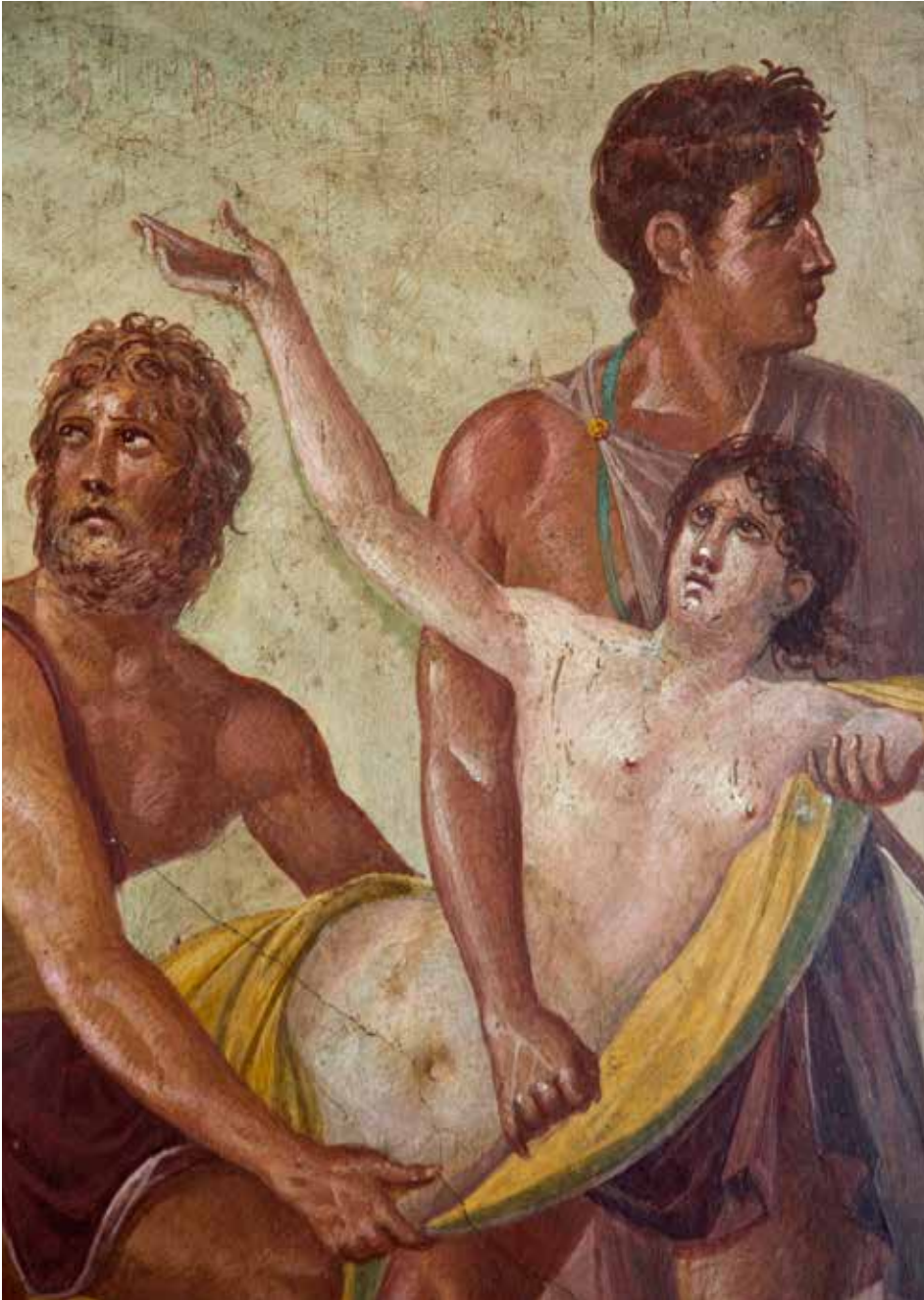




Enjoy visits to off the beaten track villas at Stabiae

Private access to the Cave of Sejanus (Grotta di Seiano) and the adjoining Villa of Pausilypon with its dramatic coastal views

Explore the newly excavated House of the Leda and other newly opened houses



Day One | London - Naples - Cava de' Tirreni

Today we fly from London to Naples and then we transfer to our hotel on arrival.

Day Two | Cava de' Tirreni - Paestum

Our day begins with a visit to the fascinating site at **Paestum**, ancient Poseidonia. Long before the Romans came, this was a thriving Greek city that was part of greater Greece from the 6th century BC. After lunch, we visit the **Paestum Museum**, famed for its archaic metopes and its painted tombs. We will also be able to visit the magnificent **Store Rooms** of Paestum.

Day Three | Pompeii

We devote the entire day to **Pompeii**. No other site compares in revealing details of daily life in a Roman town. We visit some of the most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum, bath-houses, bars and even brothels. Fountains in the street are worn from where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti can still be seen on the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid the crowds, we visit some houses that are newly reopened to the public.

Day Four | Naples - Pozzuoli

Our first visit of the day is to the fabulous **National Archaeological Museum** in Naples, home to exceptional collections of artefacts. After lunch, we move on to **Pozzuoli** and visit one of the world's most impressive amphitheatres. Later, we

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 7th April departure.



Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 28th April departure.



Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specializes in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military. Join Tony on our 5th May departure.



Dr Gillian Shepherd

Director of the Trendall Center for Ancient Mediterranean Studies at La Trobe in Australia, Gillian specialises in the Greek colonisation of Italy and Sicily. She is especially interested in the historiography of colonisation. Join Gillian on our 15th September departure.



John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Join John on our 29th September departure.



Diana Blumberg

Diana Blumberg is an archaeological scientist who specialises in the analysis of archaeological materials. She has worked on archaeological field schools in both Pompeii and Portus (the latter being one of the harbours of ancient Rome). Join Diana on our 6th October departure.



are granted private access to the **Cave of Sejanus**, an impressive tunnel dating to the age of Augustus, which gives access to the lovely seaside villa of **Pausilypon**. During our visit here, we can see a theatre and odeon, built at a later date.

Day Five | Stabiae

Go off the beaten track today to the villas of **Stabiae**, an exclusive Roman resort for the very wealthy. The vast **Villa San Marco**, with its swimming pool and bath complex, is one of the most opulent along this coast and it remains very impressive in its scale. Subject to renovations being completed, we hope to visit the **Villa Arianna**,

Continued...



“It was my first tour - and it was fascinating, fun, a great pace, easy, delicious, comfortable... I was really delighted with it all... we laughed and we learnt”

with its wonderful frescoes and fabulous views over the Bay of Naples. After lunch we visit the **Archaeological Museum of Castellammare di Stabia Libero D'Orsi** which opened in September 2020 specifically for the exhibition of the many important items found in the region of Stabia. There are a large number of finds on display, some never before exhibited in Italy, including frescoes, inlaid floors, stuccoes, sculptures and tableware.

Day Six | Herculaneum

This morning we head to **Herculaneum**, which perfectly complements a visit to Pompeii. This seaside city was buried to a significantly greater depth than Pompeii — under 23 metres of pyroclastic to be exact — perfectly preserving every-day objects as well as houses up to their rooftops. In addition to the site, we explore the Antiquarium, newly opened after 44 years, and which houses precious articles found along Herculaneum's sea front, including a well-preserved boat. After lunch we visit Boscoreale where we visit the Villa Regina, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas we have seen on other days, this is a modest small holding which provides us with evidence of how ordinary people lived.



Regio IX Excavations in Pompeii

The Great Pompeii Project was initiated in 2012 with the intention of better conserving the archaeological site of Pompeii. A major threat to its security is the embankments of unexcavated areas that are next to those already excavated. Addressing the water damage and associated erosion of these has been identified as a priority in preserving the site and making as much of it as accessible as possible. The more usual restoration of already excavated houses, including their decoration, is included in the work of the project so that a greater number of buildings in the site of Pompeii are safe to be explored by the two million people who visit it each year. The Project's focus on Regio IX in recent years has brought to light exciting finds and at the same time shown how an interdisciplinary approach has given a new dimension to our understanding of life in Pompeii at the time of the eruption as well as of the eruption itself. Among these finds are three skeletons, whose manner of death is as gruesome as the initial evidence might suggest but in a surprising way; a domus from the Samnite period, repurposed into a bakery, which has shown us a small detail about how the Pompeian's were experts at reusing and recycling materials; seismological evidence that confirms to modern volcanologists the accuracy of the account written by the eye-witness Pliny the Younger for his friend, the historian, Tacitus.

Boscoreale is a locality north of Pompeii located on the slopes of Vesuvius, identified by some with the Pagus Augustus Felix Suburbanus . With the inauguration of the Great Pompeii, in October 2023, the Antiquarium of Boscoreale was reopened with a room dedicated to the excavations underway in the suburban villa of Civita Giuliana, with the ceremonial chariot found there in 2021.

Day Seven | Vesuvius - Oplontis

Today, we ascend to the great volcanic crater of **Vesuvius**. The majority of our journey will be by bus, but the final part requires a short walk, which will be well worth the effort. The walk starts at Monte Somma, the crater of the AD 79 eruption, where we grasp the scale of it. After the ascent

and peering into the crater being forged since the ancient eruption, you will see fumaroles and the layers of previous eruptions, while walking around the perimeter of the crater affords magnificent views over the Bay of Naples. On good days, you can even make out Pompeii. After lunch, we will continue on to the impressive villa at **Oplontis**, which boasts sumptuous frescoes, a bath complex, an enormous swimming pool, and interesting slave quarters. This villa was supposedly owned by Emperor Nero and was both destroyed and subsequently preserved by Vesuvius' eruption.

Day Eight | Cava de' Tirreni - Naples - London

After breakfast, our tour ends and we catch our return flight back to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Scapolatiello or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
7th Apr - 14th Apr	£3,190	£265
28th Apr - 5th May	£3,190	£265
5th - 12th May	£3,300 £3,100	£265 £0
15th - 22nd Sep	£3,300	£265
29th Sep - 6th Oct	£3,300 £3,100	£265 £0
6th Oct - 13th Oct	£3,300	£265

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NEW
FOR 2025

Rome

The Eternal City

7 DAYS FROM £4,040pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Rome is one of the most charismatic and engaging of the great cities of the world, her monuments an omnipresent testament to a past in which she controlled an Empire reaching from Scotland to Syria. Surprisingly, it is also an intimate city - the historic centre is small, and it is easy to understand based on the ancient layout. This tour is the perfect introduction to the 'Eternal City' in the company of archaeologist and historians who will bring to life the triumphs, tragedies and political intrigue that characterised the Roman Empire. We stay at the Albergo Santa Chiara in the very heart of the ancient city, situated directly behind the Pantheon, the perfect base for exploring Rome. It has been privately owned by the Corteggiani family since 1838 and consequently retains a feel of personal warmth and friendliness.



Explore the underground ruins of Nero's infamous Golden House, a revolution in architecture and luxurious design

Walk along the Appian Way, visiting the Villa of the Quintili and the Circus of Maxentius

Discover two important sites outside the city centre – the port of Ostia and Hadrian's Palace at Tivoli

Day One | London - Rome

We fly to Rome and transfer to our hotel in the heart of the city.

Day Two | Forum & Colosseum

This morning, we shall start at the **Imperial Fora** with the famous monument of **Trajan's Column** and proceed from there through the **Forum Romanum** the political heart of the city and empire, a site of profound historical events such as the Gracchi riots and Caesar's funeral. We continue to the **Palatine** to visit the ruins of the Imperial palaces and in the afternoon we will explore the **Colosseum**, the iconic Flavian Amphitheatre – the largest of its type ever constructed. We end the day at the adjacent decorative **Arch of Constantine**

Day Three | The Appian Way

Today we drive to the **Appian Way** and visit some of the villas of the senatorial aristocracy found there. Here we will see the vast suburban estate of the **Quintili**, so sumptuous that the emperor Commodus executed its owners and confiscated it. We proceed to the equally extensive **Villa of the Emperor Maxentius** built as a dynastic centre for his family. It includes the palace/villa, a chariot racing circus and large mausoleum. We will focus on the well-preserved Circus which includes starting gates. In the afternoon we will visit another huge imperial project, the **Baths of Caracalla**, capable of accommodating thousands at a time.

Day Four | Domus Aurea & Celian Hill

This morning we visit the legendary **Golden House** which the Emperor Nero built after the great fire of Rome as a *rus in urbe*, a countryside in the city, and as such included artificial lakes, fountains, vineyards. The megalomaniac building was eventually demolished by his successors and can now only be visited at certain times, in groups, where its ongoing restoration can be viewed. We continue to the extraordinary church of **San Clemente** to discover its underground surprises and the **Domus Romane Del Celio**, Roman houses which date from the 2nd century. Later we also visit the **Parco Archeologico del Celio** which opened recently. The museum houses the remaining fragments of the *Forma Urbis Romae*, the giant marble map of ancient Rome engraved in the 3rd century during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus. The last time the

remains of the ancient map were seen by the public was a century ago when they were on display in the garden of the Palazzo dei Conservatori on the Capitoline Hill.

Day Five | Tivoli

We leave the city and make the short drive to **Tivoli** where the Emperor Hadrian chose to build his palace. **Hadrian's Villa** which sprawls across the rolling countryside at the foot of the hills below the town of Tivoli. Beginning around AD 117 Hadrian took a small family villa owned by his wife and added on a whole series of grand pavilions, many of them modelled after places he had seen on his travels around the empire. The complex ended up larger than most Roman cities. We visit the town this afternoon and pay a visit to the great 16th century **Villa D'Este**. Built by Cardinal Ippolito D'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia and a major figure in the church politics of the era.

Day Six | Field Of Mars & Ara Pacis

This morning we take a walk through part of the **Field of Mars**, originally an open area lying just outside Rome's earliest defences. It was used first as a training area and for meetings of public assemblies, then gradually monumentalised to provide a new zone of civic buildings to serve Rome's growing population. Later we visit the **Ara Pacis**, an altar commissioned by the Roman Senate to honour the return of Augustus after his campaigns in Gaul. The afternoon is free to spend as you wish.

Day Seven | Rome - London

On our final day we shall leave Rome and travel to **Ostia Antica**, the ancient harbour city of Rome close to the mouth of the Tiber. Originally Rome's first colony, it became a thriving port, handling the transshipment of goods and foodstuffs from sea going vessels to river barges in new harbours provided by Claudius and Trajan. Ostia still has the atmosphere of a seaport, with its docks, warehouses, apartment blocks, theatre and temples to a range of foreign and Roman deities. It is well-preserved, thanks to rising water levels in the late Roman period and lack of subsequent building, and it has been extensively excavated. From Ostia, we continue to the airport for our afternoon flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 25th April departure.



John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Join John on our 1st November departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Albergo Santa Chiara

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
25th Apr - 1st May	£4,240	£4,040 £395
1st - 7th Nov	£4,240	£4,040 £395

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Romans on the Bay of Naples

New discoveries and highlights in the shadow of Vesuvius

8 DAYS FROM £2,790pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



The extraordinary Roman sites in the Bay of Naples have undergone an incredible regeneration in recent years. This beautiful stretch of coast, which was developed in the Roman era by elites and emperors in search of leisure, has witnessed exciting new archaeological activities, as well as an unprecedented number of newly opened sites. While much attention has been given to the wonderful new excavations of Pompeii, much less has been said about the opening of new sections of Herculaneum, the opening of Roman sites in Positano and Boscoreale, and the excavations taking place in Terzigno and Somma Vesuviana. This tour offers a fresh take of Romans in the Bay of Naples, taking into consideration these new discoveries and sites, and offering an up-to-date examination of this prosperous and beautiful part of the ancient world. There has never been a better time to visit the towns in the shadow of Vesuvius with the advantage of it being a less crowded time of year.

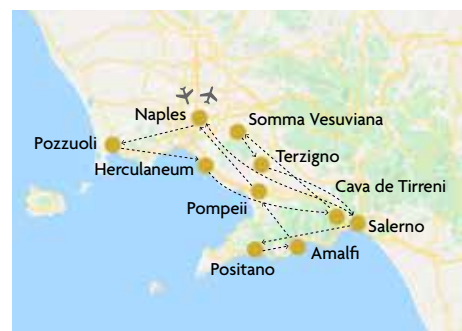
Day One | London - Naples - Cava de Tirreni

Today we fly from London to Naples and then we transfer to our hotel on arrival.

Day Two | Positano & Amalfi

This morning we drive to Positano, where we visit the **Roman Villa and museum**, with its dazzling frescoes. Discovered under the church of Santa Maria Assunta, this villa maritima, one of many opulent coastal villas built along the Bay of Naples, may have been owned by the gladiator Posides who was a slave freed by the emperor Claudius. After a period of restoration, the villa has only

recently been opened to the public. After lunch, we travel down the Amalfi Coast to Amalfi to explore the **Cathedral of St. Andrew** first built in the 9th century and which is a mixture of different styles from its Arabic-Norman beginnings to the Renaissance and Baroque. The cathedral has magnificent bronze doors from the 11th century, the earliest in Italy after the Roman period, and a wonderful Romanesque campanile decorated with Majolica tiles and interlacing arches. We proceed to the Arabic style 13th century **Cloister of Paradise** which has a wonderful peristyle, as well as 13th century frescoes.



Day Three | Pompeii

We devote the entire day to **Pompeii**. No site compares in revealing the details of daily life in a Roman town. We visit some of the most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum, bath-houses, bars, and brothels. Fountains in the street are worn where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti still marks the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid crowds, we visit several villas that are newly reopened to the public.



- Examine the newly opened Regio V in Pompeii*
- Explore the newly opened Roman Villa at Positano, with its wonderful frescoes*
- Visit the newly opened Museum at Terzigno, which houses incredible remains of newly excavated villas*

Day Four | Naples

We start the day with a visit to the fabulous **Museum of Archaeology** in Naples, which exhibits the precious frescoes and mosaics discovered in the Vesuvian towns, including the Alexander Mosaic and the paintings of Sappho and the Pompeii riot. The western wing has recently re-opened following a decades long renovation project and showcases hundreds of previously stored finds from key sites in Campania. After lunch we explore two fascinating sites in Naples. Our first visit is to the church of **Santa Chiara**, burial place of the Angevin kings, and Bourbon dynasty where we admire the cloisters with their magnificent 18th century majolica tiles. Next, we visit **San Lorenzo Maggiore** founded in the late 13th century as a Franciscan church on the site of the site of the basilica (covered hall) of the Roman Forum.

Day Five | Baia & Pozzuoli

We enjoy a morning of Roman waterworks, beginning with a visit to the amazing **Piscina Mirabilis** - a huge cistern which stored water for the fleet stationed in the harbour at Misenum. We continue to **Baia**, terraced into the side of an extinct volcanic crater, and developed entirely in the Roman period to cater to the desires of the super-rich who built enormous villas in order to take advantage of thermal springs. We visit the **Archaeological Park** where the imperial family built an enormous thermal and palatial complex. After lunch, we venture to the **Flavian amphitheatre** in Pozzuoli, one of the largest amphitheatres in the ancient world. Here we will explore the best-preserved service rooms of any extant amphitheatre.

Day Six | Herculaneum, Boscoreale & Terzigno

Today we visit **Herculaneum**, sealed by 23 metres of pyroclastic flow from the same eruption which buried Pompeii. The nature of the eruption has meant that organic materials have survived, making this a more poignant site than Pompeii: here we see a wonderfully preserved wine shop,

the stunning **House of the Stags** with its pergola overlooking the sea and many fragments which attest to the everyday life in this upmarket city. There has never been a better time to visit the site, as two new museums have recently opened, as well as the **House of the Bicentenary** opened for the first time after decades. After an included lunch in Herculaneum, we visit Boscoreale where we visit the **Villa Regina**, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas we have seen on other days, this is a modest small holding which provides us with evidence of how ordinary people lived. We then head to the **Museum of Archaeology at Terzigno**, which houses precious remains and frescoes of 3 ancient farms destroyed by the AD 79 earthquake and excavated only recently.

Day Seven | Villa Sora & Somma Vesuviana

Today we go off-the-beaten-track to the **villas of Stabiae**, an exclusive setting for the very wealthiest and influential of the Roman elite. The vast Villa San Marco, with its swimming pool and bath complex, is one of the most opulent along this coast and still remains very impressive in its scale. We also visit the **Villa Arianna**, with its wonderful frescoes and fabulous views over the Bay of Naples. After lunch we visit the spectacular villa, often called **Villa Poppaea**, at Oplontis. This was only properly brought to light just 50 years ago and so the interior decoration is pristine, with so many excellent wall paintings. The authorities have also returned some of the artworks to the villa, so it is possible now to get a better idea of the quality of the sculptures that decorated this very high-ranking property.

Day Eight | Cava de Tirreni - Naples - London

We end our tour with one final private visit to the extraordinary archives of the **Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity at Cava de Tirreni**, which contains 15,000 parchments dating as early as the 8th century. We then head to the airport to catch our flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Join John on our 20th October departure.



Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specializes in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military. Join Tony on our 3rd November departure.



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Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Scapoliello or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db Share	SS
20th - 27th Oct	£3,040 £2,890	£265 £0
3rd - 10th Nov	£2,940 £2,790	£265 £0

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NEW
FOR 2025

Prehistoric Italy

Ötzi and the Alpine Valleys of Val Camonica

6 DAYS FROM £2,995pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Throughout history, the fertile (and beautiful) Val Camonica valleys were an important route through the Italian Alps connecting northern and southern Europe. Prehistorians have theorised that the continuing movement of peoples and goods, especially during the Bronze and Iron Ages, gave rise to a dynamic prehistoric society – the history of which is packed into this ice-scoured landscape of lakes and mountains.

The Alpine valleys of Val Camonica hold one of the largest collections of Prehistoric rock art in the world - Italy's first World Heritage Site. From 6,000 years ago – from the Neolithic all the way through the Roman period – the inhabitants of Val Camonica etched pictures into the rock. Each depiction is unique, creating a varied and concentrated gallery of prehistoric life: there are animals, humans, boats, carts, huts - some strung together into narratives - an almost overwhelming profusion of detail.



Discover Ötzi, the Ice Man, the most complete ambassador from the Copper Age, with all that he was wearing and carrying

Enjoy a morning in Ledro on the scenic shores of the mountain lake as we study the well preserved remains of a Bronze Age village

Explore the prehistoric gallery of over 100,000 rock art depictions at the rock art sites in Naquane Park

Day One | London – Verona - Boario Terme

We fly to Verona and transfer to our hotel in Boario Terme.

Day Two | Val Camonica

We begin our survey of the extraordinary rock art with a two-day exploration of Val Camonica. Today we visit the incredible rock art sites in Naquane Park, which extends over 14 hectares. The valley is 75kms in length and contains more than 100,000 prehistoric rock art images depicting people, animals, tools and weapons. We continue with a visit to the huge Copper Age engraved boulders at Massi di Cemno. Excavations here uncovered a significant multi-period sanctuary. In the afternoon, we spend time in the National Museum of Prehistory della Val Camonica. Here, we will see a marvellous collection of statue stelae and a wide range of finds from decades of excavations in the valley.

Day Three | Val Camonica

This morning, we visit the rock art sites in the archaeological park of Seradina-Bedolini showing scenes of hunting, war, magic and agriculture. After lunch, we contrast art with everyday domestic life as we view reconstructed prehistoric houses – and more rock art – at Foppe di Nadro. Here, we can see a Neolithic hut and also a Rhaetic Iron Age house, giving a good idea of how the people that made the rock art lived.

Day Four | Boario Terme - Lake Ledro - Trento

Today we make our way through the foothills of the Alps to the shores of beautiful Lake Ledro where a Bronze Age pile dwelling village (known as a palafitta) was discovered in 1929. We visit the Pile Dwelling Museum to see the finds from the site and view its reconstructed houses. Images of possible prehistoric houses carved in the rocks at Val Camonica may represent settlements such as

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Tertia Bennett

An archaeologist specialising in rock art, Tertia runs a research project exploring Scotland's Neolithic rock carvings and is also an Honorary Fellow at Edinburgh University.



these. The remarkable finds excavated from the lake village include baked bread moulded around heated stones. In the afternoon we continue to Riva del Garda and La Rocca Museum, where the exhibits include Copper Age statues.

Day Five | Bolzano & Trento

We drive further into the Alps and visit the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, home of Ötzi, the Ice Man. Scientists and archaeologists have unravelled (and continue to unravel) the tiniest details of his life during the Copper Age, 5,000 years ago. His body has yielded information on how he lived and what he ate, how his tattoos possibly indicate acupuncture points, how he survived and how he died. The original artefacts are very well displayed, along with the excellent reconstructions and are irresistibly fascinating. After lunch we return to Trento to visit the magnificent Romanesque cathedral and the excavations of a Roman street below one of its piazzas, the Bishop's Palace.

Day Six | Trento - Verona - London

We make our way to Verona for our return flight to London.



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Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Boario & Trento

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
31st May - 5th Jun	£3,245	£2,995 £320

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Sicily & the Aeolian Islands

Explore unearthed treasures, stunning cities and geographical wonders

Please call or visit our website for pricing details

Activity Level ●●●○○



As far back as we can trace, Sicily was an island that numerous civilisations – Sicels, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, French, Spanish, Bourbons – flocked to and fought for as a result of its strategic position. Every conquering nation left its indelible mark on the island, creating a unique mosaic of influences and a treasure trove of ancient gems, which we uncover on this extensive tour. We also venture out to the Aeolian Islands, a UNESCO-listed archipelago renowned for its natural beauty, and visit the remains of the villages once inhabited by their Neolithic settlers.

Day One | London - Catania

We fly from London to Catania and transfer to our hotel in Taormina.

Day Two | Messina

On our first morning, we make our way north to Messina, a charming harbour city with a rich history, documented in the **Messina Regional Museum**. Housed in a former silk mill, it showcases a wide range of art and artefacts from ancient, medieval and modern times. We then cross by hydrofoil to Villa San Giovanni, located on the mainland, and make our way to the **National Archaeological Museum of Reggio Calabria**. Hosting an extensive collection of Greek and Roman objects and significant archaeological finds which range from ceramics to ancient coins, it is most famous for its display of the **Riace Bronzes**.

Day Three | Taormina & Catania

Today we step into an ancient world in Taormina, beginning with **Naumachia**, the remains of a Roman wall that was built in the 1st century BCE which once surrounded the gymnasium. We then admire the **Greek theatre** (originally built in the 3rd century BC and later renovated by the Romans, with breathtaking views of the sparkling sea and Mount Etna), Roman houses, **Palazzo Corvaja** and the **Roman odeon**, a smaller theatre used for musical performances and poetry readings. This afternoon we drive to **Catania**, stopping for refreshment en route at the lovely coastal town of **Giardini Naxos**. Catania is a stunning city on the eastern coast of Sicily with a UNESCO-listed centre of beautiful baroque buildings. There is plenty to see in the main square, including the 18th-century **Elephant Fountain**, and the spectacular **cathedral**.

Day Four | Taormina - Lipari

We make our way to the coastal town of **Milazzo**, where we visit the imposing **castle**, with its storied past as a royal residence, military fortress and prison. Next, we visit the **Antiquarium of Milazzo**, a significant archaeological museum which traces the history of the region, from prehistoric times through to the Roman era and beyond. The museum's exhibits include pottery, tools, coins and more, providing insights into the daily lives and cultures of the past inhabitants of Milazzo. After lunch, we sail to Lipari, the largest of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands, known for its stunning natural beauty, with rugged coastlines and clear blue waters.

Day Five | Lipari

We enjoy a day of exploration on **Lipari**, beginning with a walk in the upper town. We head to the **Contrada Diana**, an archaeological site and necropolis famous for its extensive archaeological remains that date back to the Greek and Roman periods. The centuries-old treasures continue with **Lipari Castle**, boasting a once-strategic position perched high atop a scenic promontory. With structures dating back to the Bronze Age, it has been occupied by various civilizations, including



Spend four nights on Lipari while we explore the archaeology of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands

Admire the remarkably beautiful 5th-century Riace Bronzes rescued from the Ionian Sea

Discover Catania, 'the city under the volcano', with its architecture shaped by Mount Etna itself

Enjoy a private visit to Cappella Palatina, a glorious mix of architectural styles

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Normans and Spaniards. The complex features the remains of ancient walls and towers plus the **Cathedral of San Bartolomeo** and the **Aeolian Archaeological Museum**. The museum's collection spans several millennia, showcasing items from the Neolithic period to the Roman era.

Day Six | Salina & Filicudi

We sail to **Salina**, the archipelago's second largest island, and investigate the local archaeology. Our first visit is to Portella, a prehistoric village that was only discovered during reconstruction works to the main road. Afterwards, we continue to the **Rinicedda Neolithic site**, which has revealed numerous well-preserved relics and structures dating back to around 5000 to 4000 BCE. We fast forward to the Roman period at the baths at **Contrada Barone**. Located in the heart of the city, our next stop, the **Civic Museum at Lingua**, is dedicated to preserving and showcasing the region's rich heritage. After lunch we take the ferry to Filicudi, where we discover a duo of prehistoric sites; the Bronze Age **Montagnola di Capo di Graziano** and the **Filo di Braccio** site meanwhile dates back to the Neolithic period and was discovered in the late 20th century.

Day Seven | Panarea & Stromboli

This morning's destination is **Panarea**, the smallest of the inhabited Aeolian Islands, where we visit **Capo Milazzese**. This archaeological site dates back to the Bronze Age, with excavations revealing circular huts, pottery and various treasures that suggest the area was once a thriving settlement. Weather permitting, we then take a sightseeing cruise around **Stromboli**, offering an unforgettable chance to see one of the world's most active volcanoes up close. It has been in almost continuous eruption for the past 2,000 years, with its volcanic activity characterised by frequent, mild explosive eruptions.

Day Eight | Lipari - Palermo

After breakfast, we return to the mainland and make our way to Palermo. En route, we stop at **Tindari Archaeological Park**, a significant site boasting well-preserved ruins from the ancient city of Tyndaris, founded in 396 BCE by Dionysius I of Syracuse. Making our way west along the coast, we stop for lunch in **Cefalù**, where we also visit its most prominent landmark, the cathedral. Built in the 12th century, it is a stunning example of Norman architecture. We arrive in Palermo in the late afternoon and transfer to our hotel in the city centre.

Day Nine | Palermo

We spend the day exploring **Palermo**, the capital of Sicily founded by the Phoenicians in 734BC and later succeeded by civilisations such as the Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Normans. There are plenty of treasures to admire from different civilisations in the **Antonio Salinas Regional Archaeology Museum**, where just a few highlights include the Palermo Stone, an ancient Egyptian artefact and the Selinunte metopes, exquisite examples of Greek temple art. Our site visits include La Martorana, also known as the **Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio** and the magnificent **Palermo Cathedral**, originally built in 1185 and showcasing a blend of various architectural styles. Our next stop, the **Normal Palace Phoenician Antiquarium**, is a remarkable museum that documents the rich heritage of the Phoenician civilization. To round off our day, we are treated to a private visit to the breathtaking **Cappella Palatina**, not only a significant religious site but also a symbol of the cultural fusion that characterised medieval Sicily.

Day Ten | Segesta & Monreale

Today we explore **Segesta**, one of the major cities of the enigmatic Elymian civilisation. The city's strategic location and alliances with powerful

entities such as Athens and Carthage influenced the course of its history here. We then journey to the ochre-hued town of **Monreale**, known for its impressive Norman-Byzantine cathedral. Built in the 12th century, this architectural wonder is famous for its magnificent mosaics that cover over 6,000 square meters, depicting biblical scenes and figures. The town also offers picturesque views of the surrounding valleys and the Conca d'Oro, a fertile valley known for its citrus groves.

Day Eleven | Palermo - London

We transfer from Palermo to the airport for our return flight to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Taormina, Lipari & Palermo

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
27th May - 6th June		
Please call or visit our website for prices		
For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/asai		

Puglia & Basilicata

Discover the extraordinary Sassi di Matera

9 DAYS FROM £4,410pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Both geographically and culturally, the southernmost 'heel' of Italy offers a diversity unmatched elsewhere in the south. This sunny, dry region, dotted with dazzling white villages, was once fought over by the Greeks, Romans, Normans, Swabians and Angevins, all of whom lived and prospered here and left the marks of their passing upon the landscape forever.



Day One | London - Puglia - Lecce

We arrive into Puglia from London and drive to Lecce. Time permitting, we will have an introductory stroll around the city.

Day Two | Lecce - Otranto

We begin our day in **Lecce**, visiting some of the churches and the amphitheatre of the Roman city of Lupiae. When Lecce became part of the Kingdom of Naples, it took on a new cultural identity, becoming the 'Apulian Athens'. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, this fostered the development of the 'Lecce Baroque' style, characterised by exuberant carving. We proceed to an off-the-beaten-track private visit to the



Discover the charming white-washed trulli of UNESCO-listed Alberobello

Tour ancient Matera, setting for Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* and 2019's European Capital of Culture

Experience the wonderful Baroque city of Lecce and its many historic sites

Pay a visit to Castel del Monte, the most spectacular castle in all of southern Italy

Roca Vecchia Archaeological Park. We then visit the beautiful seaside city of **Otranto**, which was violently besieged by the Ottomans in 1480. Here, we visit the **cathedral** and the Byzantine **Church of San Pietro**.

Day Three | Egnatia - Alberobello

Today we drive to the ancient site of **Egnatia**, a Messapian city that was also a strategic trading centre in the Roman period. We move on to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Alberobello** before enjoying some free time to explore this city with its unique architecture at our own pace.

Day Four | Matera

We spend all day in **Matera**, the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Carlo Levi, author of *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, gave a heartbreaking account of the desperate poverty he witnessed during his years of exile in Matera in the 1940s. We begin with an exploration of the extraordinary **Sassi di Matera**, a network of rock-cut cave dwellings and frescoed Byzantine churches. In the afternoon we have some free time for independent wandering.

Day Five | Massafra - Taranto

Today we drive to **Massafra** to explore this lesser-known city, which is home to cave dwellings and wonderful Byzantine churches replete with frescoes. From here we continue to **Taranto** and explore the outstanding **National Archaeological Museum**, one of the most important in all of Italy.

Day Six | Metapontum - Gioia del Colle

This morning we head to **Metapontum**, one of the most opulent cities in Magna Graecia. We visit the **Temple of Hera** before continuing on to **Gioia del Colle** to see the wonderful castle rebuilt by Frederick II. As well as visiting the castle itself, we will also explore the **National Archaeological Museum** housed within it.

Day Seven | Castel del Monte - Trani

We start with a visit to **Castel del Monte** to see the spectacular 13th century hunting lodge of the Emperor Frederick II. We spend the afternoon in **Trani**, where we visit the exquisite **cathedral** that is located on the seafront. Afterwards, there will be free time to explore at our leisure.

Day Eight | Venosa - Melfi

We travel to **Venosa** to visit the 12th century **Abbey of the Holy Trinity**, which houses an important Norman tomb. Next, we explore the Roman site of **Venusia** before continuing to **Melfi** to visit an impressive Norman castle, which is home to the **National Archaeological Museum**. During our visit here, we find a priceless Bronze Age statuette and the Roman sarcophagus of Rapolla.

Day Nine | Trani - Puglia - London

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Grand Hotel di Lecce, Hotel San Domenico al Piano di Matera and the Giardino degli Ulivi Resort & Spa or the Hotel San Paolo or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
23rd Sep - 1st Oct	£4,410	£585

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/abap

The Samnites

War and peace in the ancient Apennines

7 DAYS FROM £3,180pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



For three hundred years the hardy peoples of central Italy were Rome's bitterest enemies. Rome fought three wars against the tenacious mountaineers who had a habit of humiliating Roman generals. The Samnite Wars were fundamental for establishing Rome's control over the Italian peninsula, as well as developing Roman warfare. As an indication of this, the Via Appia was created because of the Samnite Wars, in order to facilitate troop movements. In later centuries, the homeland of the Samnites was vital for feeding the great cities of the north and south. Set amongst spectacular mountains, ancient cities, castles and abbeys, this tour reaches into the heart of Italy and considers early Italians who were so important for establishing and maintaining the might of Rome.

Day One | London - Rome - Venafrò

We arrive in Rome and travel to the ancient site of **Venafrò** on the River Volturno, famous for its olive groves. Created as a Samnite sanctuary, Venafrò was refounded as an Augustan colony at the end of the civil wars to guard the road into the mountains. Here, in the centre of the town, we explore the remains of its amphitheatre, which once held 15,000 spectators but was later reused as stables and storage for agricultural equipment.

Day Two | Venafrò - Castelpetroso

The day starts with a visit to the **Santa Chiara National Archaeological Museum**, which houses finds from Venafrum, as well as other important sites, including the abbey of San Vincenzo. Here alongside imperial statues, we see the so-called Venus of Venafrum. We proceed to the **Pandone Castle**, originally built in the 10th century on the remains of earlier fortifications and redecorated in the Renaissance. We proceed along the River Volturno, where, at the headwaters of the river, we visit **San Vincenzo al Volturno**. Here we explore the excavations, partly conducted by your Guide

Lecturer, which have revealed the great 9th century Carolingian Abbey and its painted crypt. This was a major centre of culture in the Medieval period - a light in the so-called Dark Ages.

Day Three | Isernia & Saepinum

This morning we explore **Isernia**, which was a strategic Samnite city that dominated the roads across Italy. Renamed Aesernia after its seizure by Rome, the city proved its worth in the war against Hannibal. Our first visit is to the **National Museum of the Palaeolithic**, which displays the amazing Palaeolithic finds from the area; we continue to the excavations under the **Cathedral** and the **Civic Museum of the Memory and History**. We drive onwards to **Saepinum** where a market town was established to control the movement of flocks from the grasslands of Apulia north to Rome, as is attested in an inscription found on the site.

Day Four | Pietrabbondate & Schiavi di Abruzzo

We drive to **Agnone** famed for its bronze casting tradition and the location of a Papal bell foundry





Visit the theatre and sanctuary at Pietrabbondante, the Samnite religious and political centre in the mountains of Molise

Explore the ancient site of Saepinum with an impressive theatre, which was developed to pasture flocks sent to Rome, something still done to this day

Admire the massive abbey at San Vincenzo al Volturno, established by Charlemagne

Examine the stunning UNESCO-listed Carolingian Oratory of San Pellegrino with its priceless frescoes

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



and has been making bells for generations. The Oscan table, found here in the 19th century, is the most important inscription in the region and gives us priceless information about Oscan, the language spoken by Samnites. We move onto **Pietrabbondante** where we explore the excavated remains of the ritual sanctuary of the Pentri tribe. Used for major religious events, the huge temple and theatre were the seat of discussions regarding peace and war. It was destroyed by Cornelius Sulla in the Social War. In the afternoon we drive to **Schiavi di Abruzzo** where we see another mountain sanctuary which boasts two well preserved and reconstructed temples.

Day Five | Castelpetroso - Silvi Marina

Today we venture into the Abruzzi mountains to **Iuvanum**, a market town established for the ancient shepherds of the uplands, which includes a sizeable forum designed as an ancient market for the buying and selling of livestock, as well as temples and a small theatre. We proceed across the Sangro River to the **Rocca Scalegna**, where we visit the Angevin castle, which was built during its conflict with the Aragonese and which is dramatically set, clinging to an overhanging rock. Afterwards, we head to **Chieti** to visit the **National Museum Villa Frigerj** whose highlights include the extraordinary

Capestrano Warrior, and an inscription found in Penna Sant'Andrea which is written in Paleosabellic, an ancient Italian language.

Day Six | Silvi Marina - L'Aquila

The days starts in the wide valley of **Sulmona** where we visit the sanctuary of **Hercules Curino**, one of the most important ancient shrines of Abruzzo, dedicated to a deity venerated by travellers and sailors. The sanctuary is laid out on a number of terraces, the oldest of which is on the highest level; on the middle level there is a shrine which preserves a polychromatic mosaic and frescoes. We proceed to the UNESCO-listed Oratory of San Pellegrino in **Bominaco**, a Benedictine Carolingian chapel that preserves priceless frescoes, as well as the Romanesque church of **Santa Maria Assunta**. After lunch we visit **Fossa**, where a unique Samnite tumulus cemetery is criss-crossed with rows of standing stones.

Day Seven | L'Aquila - Aminternum - London

On our last day, we pay a quick visit to **L'Aquila**. Here, we visit the famous fountain of the 99 spouts, gifted to the city by Emperor Frederick II. Then on to **Aminternum**, a substantial Roman city whose remains include a theatre and amphitheatre. After lunch we proceed to Rome for our flight home.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Venafrò, Castelpetroso, Silvi Marina, L'Aquila

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
30th Apr - 6th May	£3,380	£3,180 £245
15th - 21st Oct	£3,380	£3,180 £245

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

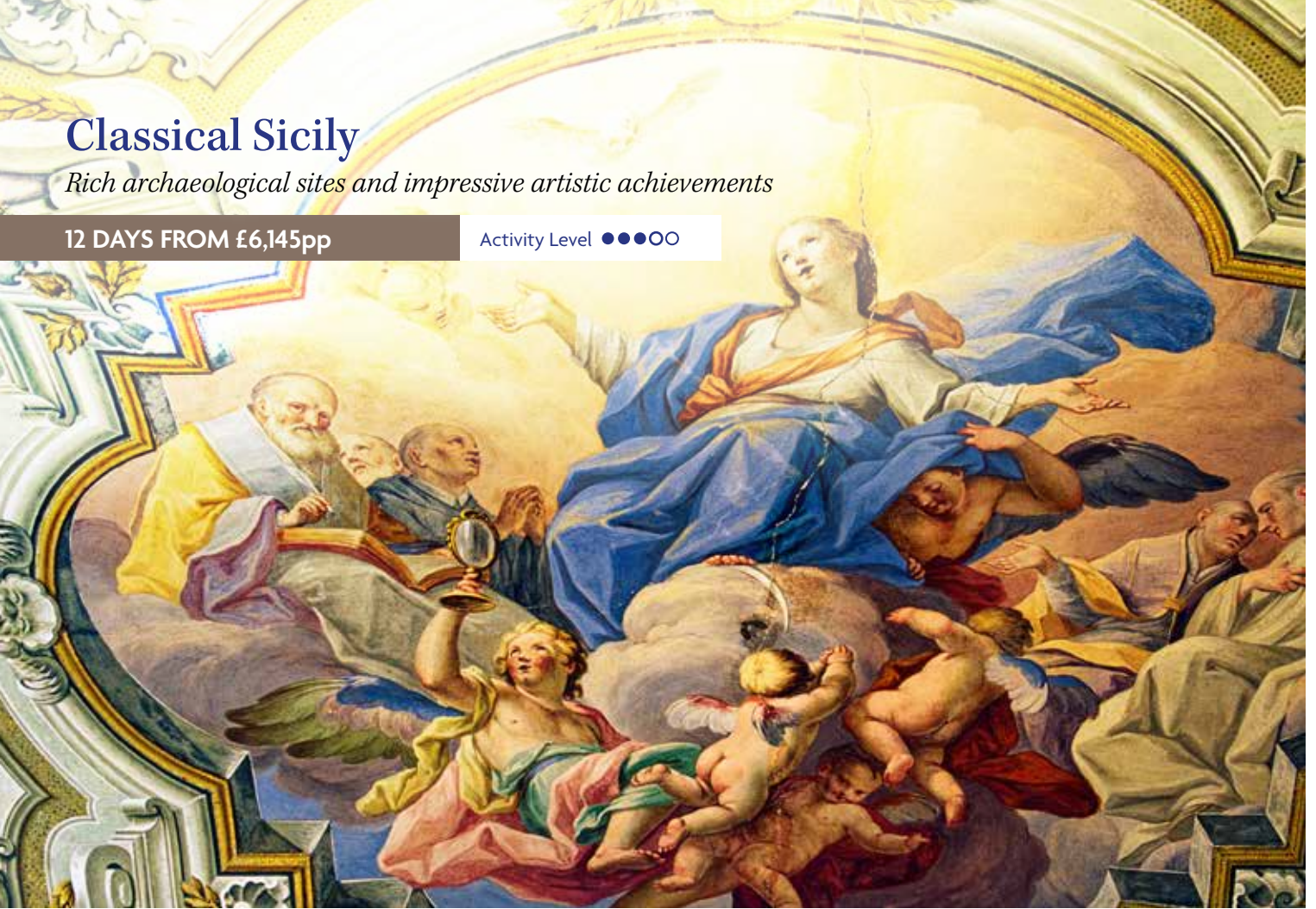
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Classical Sicily

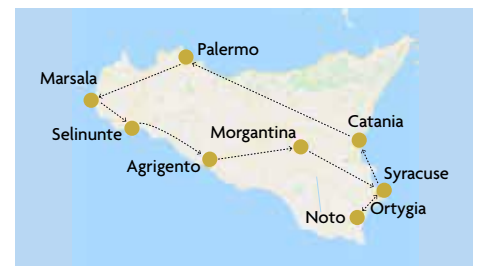
Rich archaeological sites and impressive artistic achievements

12 DAYS FROM £6,145pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Some of the richest archaeological sites and the most impressive artistic achievements of European culture are to be found in Sicily, the largest island in a sea which was itself thought to lie at the centre of the ancient world, the Mediterranean. Controlling the trade routes between east and west and the pivot of power between the 'superpowers' of antiquity, Sicily was fought over and repeatedly won throughout the history of Western civilisation. As part of Magna Graecia, the city of Syracuse was second only to Athens and Carthaginians wrestled with Rome for control here during the first Punic War. This tour presents an extraordinary panorama of changing identities – Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab and Norman.



Day One | London - Catania

We depart from London and arrive in Catania before transferring to Palermo.

Day Two | Segesta & Monreale

After breakfast, we drive out to the rolling hills, where we find the ancient Greek city of **Segesta**, home to an elegant but unfinished 5th century BC Doric temple and the remains of an impressive hilltop theatre. This afternoon we make our way to **Monreale**, the former hunting ground of the Norman kings of Sicily. Here, we discover an opulent Norman-Byzantine cathedral and abbey, founded by King William II in 1174. The site recently achieved UNESCO World Heritage status thanks to its stunning construction and mosaic work – a brilliant testament to the former opulence of Norman rule.

Day Three | Palermo

Today is ours to explore the wonders of Palermo. We start at the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses one of the most significant collections of Punic and Ancient Greek art in all of Italy. Here, we find famous metopes from the Selinus temples, as well as a fascinating array of artefacts discovered underwater. Later, we visit the beautifully decorated church of **La Martorana** and

the neighbouring **Chiesa di San Cataldo**. After lunch, we visit **Palermo Cathedral**, a 12th century construction that replaced a Moorish mosque and which houses the tombs of some of the Norman Kings. This evening we enjoy a special private visit to the **Cappella Palatina**, an extravagant chapel, glittering with mosaics and gold leaf.

Day Four | Cefalù & Himara

Today we visit the charming little port of **Cefalù**. It derives its name from the Greek cephaloedion, the term used to describe the head-shaped rock which dominates the town below. In 1131 Roger II founded a cathedral here, ostensibly as a thanksgiving for refuge on Cefalù's safe beach in a storm. Inside, reused Roman columns and capitals support gothic arches and the presbytery and apse are decorated with stunning mosaics. In the afternoon we visit the archaeological park at **Himera**, site of the legendary battle between the Greeks and Carthaginians in 480 BCE. Excavations which took place in recent years have revealed an ancient necropolis with more than 12,000 almost untouched burials, an incredibly rare find in the ancient Greek world.

Day Five | Palermo – Motya - Marsala

This morning we drive to **Marsala**, Carthaginian Lilybaeum, and visit the museum with its remains

of a Carthaginian warship sank in the first Punic war, along with fascinating Punic funerary stelae. After lunch, we cross by boat to the island of Motya, a stronghold of the Phoenicians, sacked in 397 BC by the Syracusan tyrant Dionysius the Elder. While on **Motya** we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, taking time to admire its world-renowned statue of the charioteer, a striking sculpture from the early 5th century BC.

Day Six | Selinus

We start the day at the quarries of the **Cave di Cusa**, used by Selinus for their titanic temples. Their heavy work was abandoned in 409 BC when Carthaginians mercilessly sacked their city, a common refrain in the violent history of Sicily. We can still see the remnants of columns on site, sadly destined to remain both unfinished and in situ. We then travel on to **Selinus** itself to see the temples of the eastern sanctuary, including the incredible Temple G, one of the largest temples of the Greek world. We finish the day at the **Acropolis of Selinus**, dramatically positioned on plains overlooking the Mediterranean sea. Here we not only see remains of ancient temples, but of Punic housing inhabited by Carthaginians who took over the site after the sacking.

“The tour was everything that I signed up for, and accomplished all of your stated objectives in the available time. The focus on Sicily up to and including the Roman Empire was thorough but also included a surprising (and welcome) amount of what followed.”



- Admire truly exceptional mosaics at the Villa Romana, Piazza Armerina
- Discover the unique landscape around Marsala
- Discover the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
- Enjoy a special access evening visit to view the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina

Day Seven | Agrigento

We spend a whole day exploring the magnificent remains of **Agrigento** today, the site of the ancient Greek city of Akragas. We take in the **Valley of the Temples**, a World Heritage Site of seven Doric sanctuaries, including the remarkably well-preserved Temple of Concord, with its elegant walls and columns. We also view the remains of the **Temple of Olympian Zeus**, another gigantic, Sicilian temple, with an unusual layout characterised by enormous telemons.

Day Eight | Piazza Armerina – Morgantina - Ortygia

Our journey takes us through central Sicily, stopping at the magnificent **Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina**. This late antique villa is noted for its superb collection of mosaics – the largest in the world – which can now be viewed from a newly installed network of raised walkways. Here we find the famous depiction of the “Bikini Girls”, as well as lively images of hunting and ancient games. We proceed to **Morgantina**, a city founded by the native Sikels under their leader Ducetius. The last of the Sicilian towns to succumb to Roman rule, the city was later captured by slaves in the First Servile War in the Roman period. Morgantina has been the focus of intensive excavations in recent decades, and research here is still ongoing. We find an exciting collection of remains, including a bouleuterion – an ancient Greek political chamber – a theatre, kilns and houses complete with mosaics.

Day Nine | Syracuse

Today is all about **Syracuse**, which Cicero described as “the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of them all”. We discover traces of Syracuse’s

glorious past in the exceptional **Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum**, where we will explore a staggering array of vases and statues, along with a unique treasury containing a collection of jewels and coins from the area. Later, we make our way to the **Neapolis Archaeological Park**, home to the Great Theatre where Aeschylus’ tragedies were once performed in the playwright’s presence. In the afternoon we walk around **Ortygia**, the oldest part of the ancient city, and the site of the remarkable 5th century BC Temple of Athena, which has been converted into the Cathedral of Our Lady’s Nativity.

Day Ten | Ortygia & Noto

Enjoy some free time exploring the wonderful island of **Ortygia** this morning. Later, we proceed to **Noto**, a baroque fantasy of a city that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the city with its elaborate balconies and dramatically placed churches. This afternoon we visit the late Roman villa at **Tellaro**, which contains fine mosaics depicting scenes such as the ransom of Hector’s body, and a hunting scene reminiscent of those seen in Piazza Armerina.

Day Eleven | Ortygia – Catania - Taormina

This morning we drive to **Catania** and the Piazza del Duomo, Catania’s principal square and a UNESCO World heritage site. The Duomo itself is one of Catania’s grandest sights. The facade dates from the Baroque rebuilding of the town, although some of the earlier church did survive the earthquake of 1693. We will also visit the Roman theatre and Odeon. After lunch we drive to Taormina to visit the superbly situated Roman theatre.

Day Twelve | Catania - London

We return to Catania for our flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 14th May departure.



Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years’ worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 14th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, Ortygia & Taormina

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
14th - 25th May	£6,545	£875
14th - 25th Oct	£6,445 £6,145	£875

Save £300pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/ascy

Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio

8 DAYS FROM £3,810pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



On this tour, we explore the historical wonders of Umbria and Lazio, in what is geographically and historically the heart of Italy. Based in one hotel, in the beautiful city of Viterbo, we explore famous sites, as well as those that are lesser-known and considered off the beaten track. In this epicentre of Italy, we will explore the different peoples who lived here and how they were transformed first by Etruscans and later by Romans who dominated them culturally. We will be exploring Latin and Faliscan sites, such as Sutri and Falerii Novii, which first came under the influence of Etruscans and were later transformed by Rome. Likewise, we will be exploring Etruscan sites at Vulci and Volsinii, today's Orvieto, which metamorphosed in the period of Roman dominance. At many of the sites, we will also be exploring the evolution of the cities after the Roman period, when ancient monuments were used to build medieval abbeys and churches. By mapping the historical changes which occurred in these precious archaeological sites, we are exploring the heart of what it was to be Roman or Etruscan. In asking these questions, our visits will take us to indescribably beautiful hilltop cities, such as Orvieto and Narni, with their medieval cores and Renaissance treasures.

Day One | London - Rome - Viterbo

We fly to Rome Fiumicino and travel to the lovely city of **Viterbo**, once Etruscan and transformed in the medieval period when it became the resident of popes. Time permitting, we will have an orientation walk around the city when we arrive.

Day Two | Viterbo

Today we spend the day in Viterbo, the city with Etruscan origins which became home of the popes in the 13th century when they were fleeing the hostility of the Roman populace. We start at the **National Etruscan Museum**, which is housed in the Rocca Alborno, where we see precious remains of Etruscan housing and a well-preserved cart. We proceed to the medieval **Palace of the Popes**, including the atmospheric audience hall, which held the longest conclave in history, and the beautiful loggia of the benedictions. We end the day with a visit to the 12th century **Cathedral of Saint Laurence**, whose Romanesque character is retained in its cosmatesque floors and austere nave.

Day Three | Vulci

We set off this morning to visit the famous Etruscan city of **Vulci**, once a known leading member of the Etruscan league. We start with the **archaeological park**, which contains a wonderful Mithraeum, as well as a domus with a stunning cryptoporticus, and a good forum area. We continue to the atmospheric Etruscan tombs, which date from the 7th century onwards and include the famous Francois tomb. In the afternoon, we consider the so-called bridge of the devil, an intact 20-metre-tall Roman bridge, which leads us to the Abbey Castle, built on the site of Vulci, reusing its materials. Once a Cistercian abbey which offered accommodation to pilgrims including Knights Templar, it is today a **museum** which houses important remains from Vulci, which highlight the prosperity of the ancient city.

Day Four | Falerii Novi & Sutri

This morning we explore the site of **Falerii Novi**, so named because Rome forced the original inhabitants of this Faliscan city to move to



the current site as it was more accessible and controllable. Here we see the gloriously well-preserved city walls, including the wonderful Jove Gate, which is one of the earliest arches in the regions. Here we see the remains of a theatre, houses and a temple, as well as an 11th century Benedictine abbey church, built on the site, reusing ancient materials. After lunch, we proceed to the superb archaeological site of **Sutri**, where we can see an amphitheatre cut out of the tuff rock, as well as a cavernous mithraeum which was Christianised in the 4th century AD and restructured in the 13th century into the Church of Santa Maria del Parto. On the site of Sutri, we also visit the 13th century Church of Santa Maria del Tempio, which once belonged to the Knights Templar, and which preserves frescoes from different periods.

Day Five | Narni & Orte

Today we visit two picturesque towns to explore underground excavations which offer precious glimpses into the cities' past. We start with the

Image: Viterbo



Explore the well-preserved site of Vulci, with its Etruscan tombs, Roman monuments and medieval abbey

Examine Sutri with its amphitheatre, unique mithraeum and medieval Templar church, built amidst the ruins of the ancient city

Consider the important Etruscan remains in the beautiful city of Orvieto with its precious medieval cathedral

Visit the important National Etruscan Archaeological Museum and the Palace of Popes in the amazing city of Viterbo



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



pretty Umbrian hill-side town of Narni, first settled by the ancient Umbri. Here we start with a visit to the **Church of Saint Francis**, built shortly after his death in commemoration of the time he spent in Narni; the Romanesque church is noted for its rich cycle of 14th century frescoes. We proceed to explore a series of buildings only recently discovered under the ground, including a 12th church replete with frescoes, a Roman domus and parts of the Roman aqueduct. After lunch, we travel to the small town of **Orte in Lazio** to see further subterranean excavations that allow us to understand the water management systems of the ancient city from the 5th century to its Roman conquest.

Day Six | Lucus Feroniae & Ferento

The tour takes us this morning to **Lucus Feroniae**, a city which developed around a lucus, or sacred grove, dedicated to the goddess Feronia who was worshipped, above all, by freedmen. Although it was an ancient religious sanctuary important to Faliscans and Sabines, as well, perhaps, to Etruscans, the site that we visit today was developed in the Roman period, bearing all the hallmarks of a Roman city. Here we visit a forum area, an amphitheatre and an insulae of houses. After visiting the **antiquarium**, which has interesting remains of a funerary monument depicting gladiators, we walk a very short distance to the **Villa of the Volusii**, an incredibly opulent late republican elite dwelling constructed for an elite Roman family as a getaway

from the city. Several rooms of the villa have been excavated, some of which have intact mosaics. After lunch, we make our way to the archaeological site of **Ferento**, which flourished in the early imperial period and was the home of both the Emperor Otho and the wife of Vespasian, Domitilla Flavia Maior. Here we will see the remains of a fine theatre, as well as a bath complex and forum area.

Day Seven | Orvieto

On our last full day, we will explore the world-renowned city of **Orvieto**, ancient Volsinii, whose Etruscan roots are evident in its wonderful museum, as well as its important sites. We start with a visit to one of the few surviving Etruscan temples and continue to the **Museo Claudio Faina**, which houses important artefacts from the Necropolis of Crocifisso del Tufo, as well as characteristic Etruscan sarcophagi and important Greek red and black figure vessels, which were so prized by Etruscans. After an independent lunch, we have the choice of either visiting the extraordinary cathedral of Orvieto, made famous by the Signorelli frescoes in the San Brizio chapel, or visiting the adjacent National Archaeological Museum. We end the day with a visit to the spectacular **Necropolis of Crocifisso del Tufo**, which hosts Etruscan tombs that mainly date from the 6th-5th centuries BC and are arranged in orthogonal streets. Inscriptions above the lintels of some of the burials give the names of the deceased, a detail which brings these ancient Etruscans closer to us.

Day Eight | Viterbo - Rome - London

Today we make our way back to the Fiumicino Airport in Rome, where we catch our flights to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Viterbo

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
19th - 26th May	£4,010 £3,810	£500

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

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Latium Countryside

Retreats of the Roman rich

8 DAYS FROM £3,840pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The countryside south of Rome, stretching from the rugged high Apennines to the Mediterranean coast, is idyllically beautiful and provides a bucolic contrast to the city of Rome. The picturesque Sabine Hills made the ideal retreat for the great and good of Imperial Rome who came to escape the oppressive summer heat of the Eternal City. Two emperors had villas in this area – Hadrian and Tiberius. Hadrian built a villa complex here in the beautiful setting of Tivoli and his opulent and extravagant creation is one of the 'blockbuster' sites on this tour. Tiberius favoured Sperlonga, and the remains of his summer retreat with its huge garden grotto sit close to the sea. This area is fundamental to our understanding of Roman culture and includes surviving stretches of the Via Appia, oracular and healing sanctuaries, palatial villas and towns.

Day One | London - Rome - Gaeta

We fly to Rome and transfer to our hotel near Gaeta.

Day Two | Terracina & Sperlonga

We begin in **Terracina**, an important Roman town on the Via Appia main roadway to the rich southern lands of Campania. This still runs through the centre of the modern town, and the forum survives under the Piazza del Municipio. The ancient remains of the hilltop sanctuary of Jupiter Anxur overlooks the walls and town, and there are wonderful coastal views from here. We continue to the remains of the amazing seashore villa built for Emperor Tiberius in the beautiful seaside town of **Sperlonga**. Its most remarkable feature is an outdoor dining room located at the mouth of a cave filled with gigantic sculptures of mythological scenes.

Day Three | Ninfa & Norba

We visit the famous gardens at **Ninfa**, which overlie a former medieval town. The ruins were landscaped

into botanical gardens in the 1920s. They are now recognised as some of Europe's finest gardens and this magical place is a joy to explore with ruins romantically draped with rambling roses and wisteria. In the afternoon we follow the road which climbs from the Pontine plain to the Latin town and Roman colony at **Norba** which sits perched on the edge of a cliff in the Lepini Mountains. The views over the Pontine Marshes are magnificent.

Day Four | Gaeta - Monte Cassino - Frascati

This morning we visit the remains of the Roman town of **Casinum**. The site is situated on the slope of a substantial hill, at the top of which now sits the famous monastery of **Monte Cassino**, in ancient times an acropolis with a temple to Apollo. The Roman town seems to have been in decline when St. Benedict of Nursia chose the acropolis for his new monastery, which we will visit later this morning. This beautiful abbey is an outstanding example of restoration work following its almost total destruction by bombardment in 1944.



Day Five | Tivoli

We visit **Hadrian's Villa**, which sprawls across the rolling countryside at the foot of the hills below the town of Tivoli. Beginning around AD 117, Hadrian took a small family villa owned by his wife and added on a whole series of grand pavilions, many of them modelled after places he had seen on his travels around the empire. The complex ended up larger than most Roman cities. We visit the town this afternoon and pay a visit to the great 16th century **Villa D'Este**. It was built by Cardinal Ippolito D'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia and a major figure in the church politics of the era. Here we will have some free time to explore at our own pace.

Day Six | Tusculum & Palestrina

We drive into the Alban Hills to **Tusculum**, a significant Roman city destroyed in the 12th century after conflict between the Holy Roman Empire and the Pope. The stones of the walls were seized as spoils of war by Rome. After its destruction, the land became woodland and pasture lands.



Enjoy the indescribably beautiful gardens of Ninfa in full bloom in late May

Discover a hidden gem in the spectacularly situated site of Alba Fucens

Explore the sprawling and extravagant villas at Tivoli and Sperlonga

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Diana Blumberg

An archaeological scientist, Diana specialises in the analysis of archaeological materials.



Tusculum was Cicero's local town, and his suburban villa could be found nearby. We continue to **Palestrina**, ancient Praeneste, once dominated by a magnificent Sanctuary of Fortuna Primigenia, the first example of 'dynastic' architecture in Roman Italy. It is most famous for a huge mosaic depicting scenes of life beside and on the Nile in the 17th century, removed from the site and now housed in the nearby **Palestrina Museum**.

Day Seven | Alba Fucens

We ascend the mountains to **Alba Fucens** where we will spend the day. Its importance for the Romans lay in the fact that it lies on Via Valeria (which links Rome with the Adriatic) thus controlling a strategic part of the route. The large site stretches over a hill with three spurs. This spectacularly situated city is often mentioned as a highlight by guests on this tour.

Day Eight | Rome - London

Our tour ends today, and we make our way back to Rome airport for our return flight to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Gaeta & Frascati

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
26th May - 2nd Jun	£4,040 £3,840	£380

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/alat

Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice

Last bastions of the Byzantine Empire in northern Italy

8 DAYS FROM £3,860pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The last capital of the western Roman Empire, Ravenna was reconquered by Justinian and became the seat of an Exarchate, which also included Venice, whose connection to the east made it powerful. The result was an unparalleled collection of Byzantine art, with its unique domed architecture and shimmering mosaics.

Day One | London - Bologna - Ravenna

Today we fly to Bologna and make our way to Ravenna, where we will have an orientation walk, time permitting.

Day Two | Ravenna

Today we start our exploration of **Ravenna** with a series of incredible monuments, including the **Arian Baptistery**, constructed by the Ostrogoth Theodoric and the **Neonian Baptistery**, the 5th century baptistery converted from a Roman bath. We continue to the **Ravenna Cathedral**, and to the **Archbishop's Palace** with its museum and private chapel of Saint Andrew. In the afternoon we visit the 4th century **Church of San Giovanni Evangelista** first founded by Galla Placidia in the 4th century and now containing mosaics depicting the 4th crusade which was so disastrous for Constantinople and the Byzantine empire.

Day Three | Ravenna

We start the day with a visit to the **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare Nuovo**, Theodoric's palatine chapel which was altered in the Byzantine period. A short walk away, we continue to the **Basilica di San Francesco**, the parish church of Dante who is buried there. In the afternoon we explore the late **antique house**, the **Domus dei Tappeti di Pietra**, replete with mosaics. We end the day at the **National Museum**, with its important collection of archaeological material from Ravenna and its environs. This evening we plan to have our exclusive private visit to the **Basilica di San Vitale**, with its uniquely important Byzantine mosaics, as well as the late antique **Mausoleum of Galla Placidia**.

Day Four | Ravenna

We drive a little outside the city to visit the





Enjoy two exclusive private evening visits to the Byzantine Basilicas of San Vitale and San Marco

An exclusive private visit to the Biblioteca Marciana, famed for its collection of Byzantine manuscripts

Explore the unique Basilicas of Santa Maria Assunta in Torcello and Santa Maria e Donato in Murano

extraordinary **Mausoleum of Theodoric**, the Ostrogothic King who ruled from Ravenna after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the manner of a Roman emperor. After the Byzantine conquest of the city, Theodoric's bones were removed from his tomb, leaving his wonderful porphyritic sarcophagus. This will be followed by an exploration of the archaeological site of **Classe**, Ravenna's ancient port, which was hugely important for being the base of Rome's fleet. In the afternoon, we continue to the **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare in Classe** with its stunning apse depicting the Transfiguration.

Day Five | Ravenna - Venice

Today we travel by coach to the lagoon city, **Venice**, which was immersed in Byzantine culture long after the Exarchate of Ravenna collapsed because of the special trading rights it was given by Constantinople, making it the gateway of the east. Venice also gave refuge to emigres escaping Constantinople after its fall in 1453. In the afternoon, we explore hidden gems in the extraordinary **Piazza San Marco**, dubbed the drawing room of Europe by Napoleon and dominated by the very Eastern looking Basilica di San Marco, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture which underscores the city's close ties to Constantinople. We will end our day at the **Icon Museum**.

Day Six | Venice

Today we explore the beginnings of Venice in the Northern Lagoon, starting with island of **Torcello**, where the earliest settlers from the *terra firma* found their homes after escaping Hunnic raids in the 5th century. Here we see the **Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta** with its stunning Byzantine mosaics, notably the Last Judgement on the counter-façade. After lunch, we pay a short visit to **Burano**, the

island famed for its lace and colourful houses, from whence some might also choose to venture to the adjacent island of Mazzorbo. We end the day with a visit to **Murano**, famed for its glass making and also for its Byzantine **Basilica di Santa Maria e Donato**.

Day Seven | Venice

Today we visit the Greek Orthodox **Chiesa di San Giorgio dei Greci** erected by emigres from Constantinople. We continue to with an exclusive, private visit to the **Biblioteca Marciana**, established in the 15th century in order to house the Classical manuscripts collected by Cardinal Bessarion after



YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



the fall of Constantinople. After lunch, we have a private tour of the **Secret Itineraries of the Palace** followed by a guided tour of the **Doge Palace**. In the evening we have an exclusive private visit to the stupendous **Basilica of San Marco** whose mosaics and architecture were inspired by Byzantium.

Day Eight | Venice - London

This morning we make our way to Venice airport by water taxi, bidding farewell to the lagoon and its Byzantine heritage.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Ravenna & Venice

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
29th Oct - 5th Nov	£4,710	£3,860 £660

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/arvv

The Island of Sardinia

Neolithic, Nuragic and Punic mysteries of this Mediterranean island

9 DAYS FROM £5,045pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Far beyond my expectations.
Exhilarating. Informative. Fun.”

Sardinia offers one of the richest and most fascinating standing archaeological repertoires in Europe. Known to the Greeks as Sandaliotis (“Sandal”, due to its shape), or Ichnoussa (“Stepping stone”), the island has seen Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs and Catalonians come and go. Before them, the mysterious Nuraghi people left an astonishing plethora of wonderful archaeology.

Day One | London - Alghero

Today we fly from London to the wonderful Catalan city of Alghero, colonised in antiquity by Phoenicians who grew wealthy from trade with Etruscans. In the modern period, Alghero was ruled by the Genoese before being taken over by the Aragonese. After settling down in the hotel, if there is time, we will have an orientation walk around the city before dinner.

Day Two | Monte d'Accoddi & Palmavera

This morning we make our way to one of the oldest and most interesting sites in our tour, the pyramid complex at **Monte d'Accoddi**, which was built over two millennia by people who predated the Nuragic culture. Discovered in the 1950s, the first structure, built in the 5th millennium by the Ozieri culture, appears to either have been an altar or the platform for a pyramid, while the second, built in the Copper Age in the 3rd millennium, resembles a Mesopotamian ziggurat. After lunch, we explore **Palmavera**, the first of our Nuragic sites built by a culture which thrived in the Bronze and Iron Ages. Here at **Palmavera**, we see several intertwined nuraghi, truncated towers with vaulted interiors.

Day Three | Alghero - Su Gologone

We leave Alghero this morning and head east towards Oliena, stopping during the morning at **Santu Antine**, a complex of nuraghi built from

the 19th to 15th centuries BC. Constructed from sizeable blocks of basalt, the central tower is three storeys high and uses sophisticated, dry mortar corbelling. We proceed off the beaten track to **Romanzesu-Poddi Arvu**, another Bronze Age Nuragic site which is notable for its hundred-odd huts and public structures and includes a mysterious labyrinthine edifice and temples. For our last site of the day, we explore the little-known **National Archaeological Museum Giorgio Asprone** in Nuoro, where we look at artefacts dating from the Paleolithic to Roman periods, including artefacts from the village of Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros, which we visit tomorrow.

Day Four | Su Gologone

Today we venture off the beaten track in 4x4s to visit breathtaking sites which shed insights into the extraordinary Sardinian Bronze Age. We start with the monumental **Giants' graves of S'Ena e Thomes**, a funerary site comprising a dolmen and a funeral hall made of enormous slabs of such scale that it was believed to be superhuman by later Sardinians. Proceeding to **Su Tempiesu**, we examine a late Bronze Age/Iron Age shrine to a sacred spring constructed with impeccable ashlar masonry and whose structure has an extraordinary double sloped roof. For our final site, we venture to Middle Bronze settlement of **Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros** where we see well preserved stone huts and workshops,



as well as a circular sanctuary. After an adventurous day, we return to our picturesque hotel.

Day Five | Su Gologone - Oristano

This morning we travel west to the 4th millennium necropolis at **Sas Concas** where we see a cluster of twenty *Domus de janas*, or “fairies’ houses” - tombs carved out of the rock to resemble their houses, affording us glimpses into everyday life in pre-Nuragic Sardinia. We proceed to the Bronze Age Nuragic complex of **Tamuli**, an important archaeological site which comprises a nuraghe, as well as a group of huts and a necropolis which has six mysterious betyls, sacred stones which were seen to be imbue with life. We end the day at



Visit the highest Bronze Age structure in the Mediterranean at the Nuragic site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini

Travel in 4x4s to visit off the beaten track sites such as the megalithic chamber tomb at S'Ena e Thomes and the Nuragic complex of Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros

Examine the island's Phoenician past at Tharros and Sulcis, including mysterious tophets, children's cemeteries

another tantalizing religious site, the sacred well at **Santa Cristina**, which is very well preserved with staggeringly precise ashlar masonry walls leading to a subterranean chamber with a corbelled roof which contained water, seemingly used for religious rites.

Day Six | Oristano – Baia di Nora

Traversing the enchanting Sardinian landscape, we make our way south to **Tharros**, first inhabited in the late Bronze Age and later colonised by Phoenicians in the 8th century when they had an important presence in Sardinia and Corsica, jostling for trade with Etruscans and later Phocaeen Greeks. At Tharros, we explore the Tophet and consider whether Phoenicians these necropoleis only included children's burials because children were seen differently, or whether children were sacrificed. This discussion will continue with our visit to the **Civic Archaeological Museum "Giovanni Marongiu" of Cabras**, where we see artefacts from Tharros. We also visit the highest Bronze Age structure in the Mediterranean at the Nuragic site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini.

Day Seven | Nora

Waking up in delightful Nora, we spend the morning exploring the archaeological site of **Nora** where we see well preserved remains of buildings we would typically see in a town from the Roman period, including a bath complex, a theatre and *macellum*. The site also preserves the remains of a Phoenician site, including a Tophet, demonstrating the city's Semitic roots. In the afternoon, we have free time in Nora to unwind on the beach or relax in the hotel.

Day Eight | Sulcis & Sant'Antioco

Our final full day is dedicated to Phoenician sites near Nora, starting with the ancient necropolis at **Monte Sirai**, first inhabited in the 8th century and enlarged in the 6th century, where we see another Tophet. In the afternoon, we visit the Phoenician/Roman site of Sulky or Sulcis on the beautiful island of **Sant'Antioco**, founded in the 8th century, where we explore the remains of housing and a republican Roman temple with an attractive *opus signinum* floor, as well as a series of rock-cut tombs, some of which are painted. We close the day with a visit to the **Ferruccio Barreca Archaeological Museum** which sheds light on this important site, including its delicate jewellery and pottery. On our last night, we will have a celebratory dinner at our lovely hotel.

Day Nine | Cagliari - London

On our final day we will visit the **National Archaeological Museum** at Cagliari to further explore the Phoenicians and their skilful goldsmithing; here we also see the Nora Stone, an 8th century inscription which may be referring to a Phoenician victory against Sardinians. We then continue to the airport for our flight to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Farès K Moussa

Specialising in religious art and artistic practice, Farès has both written and researched on Romans and Phoenicians in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sardinia, as well as on the subject of prehistoric rock art. Join Farès on our 15th April departure.



Dr Tertia Barnett

An archaeologist specialising in rock art, Tertia runs a research project exploring Scotland's Neolithic rock carvings and is also an Honorary Fellow at Edinburgh University. Join Tertia on our 23rd September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Travel & Accommodation

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Alghero, Su Gologone, Oristano & Baia di Nora

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
15th - 23rd Apr	£5,295	£635
23rd Sep - 1st Oct	£5,295	£5,045 £635

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/asdn

Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

Romans to the Renaissance

8 DAYS FROM £3,260pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Excellent combination of sites to visit, covering many periods. Well planned itinerary.”

From Roman Province to Doge Republic, the Veneto has a long and illustrious history. We take a closer look at the intriguing area around Lake Garda and explore a truly unique mix of archaeology, art and architecture. From a prehistoric cave site adjacent to a 15th century ‘Roman’ villa, to a medieval monastery perched on the steps of an ancient Roman theatre, there is a great deal to unpick here. Visiting in the quieter months of spring and early autumn, we enjoy the undulating landscapes of vineyards and olive groves which surround the southern shores of Lake Garda and explore the pretty piazzas, medieval market places and tangled streets of Verona, Vicenza, Mantua and Padua. We’re sure this tour will hold your imagination and, to cap it all, we will be in the region of the Valpolicella wine villas – noted for their products and histories.



Day One | London - Verona - Sirmione

We arrive in Verona and transfer to our hotel in Sirmione, a picturesque medieval town perched on the tip of a narrow peninsula at the edge of Lake Garda.

Day Two | Desenzano

In the morning, we travel to the **Desenzano Roman Villa**, a once large and sumptuous property which enjoys stunning views of the lake. Here we discover a rich group of coloured figurative mosaic floors

depicting various scenes of cupids, maenads and satyrs; wild beasts and images of the four seasons. We return to Sirmione by ferry and, after lunch, we take the small train up the hill to the **Villa Catullus**, the largest and most complete Roman villa in northern Italy. The villa was constructed with long porticoes and terraces to maximise the views over the lake and at its centre was an extensive garden.

Day Three | Verona

Today is devoted to **Verona**, a city immortalised by Shakespeare and blessed with an abundance of Roman and medieval remains reflecting the evolution of this fortified town over its 2,000-year history. We shall explore the core of the Roman town, its city gate, Porta Borsari, the Arco dei Gavi, the Roman theatre, and the magnificent amphitheatre, the third-largest in the Roman world, and we will admire many of its medieval structures. We will also pay a visit to the **Archaeological Museum** housed in a deconsecrated monastery which was literally built on top of the Roman theatre.



Discover the extraordinary cave site of Fumane, one of the major prehistoric archaeological sites in Europe

Enjoy the picture-perfect setting and cobalt blue waters of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake

Explore the beautiful cities of Verona and Vicenza, Padua and Mantua and their plethora of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Day Four | Mantua

We spend our day today in **Mantua**, a gem of Italian art and architecture often overlooked by unenlightened visitors to the region. Once home to many literary figures of the late 1st century BCE Augustan age, it is also full of Renaissance wonders and contains the **Palazzo Ducale**, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. For 400 years this was the home of the Gonzaga family, the dukes of Mantua who ruled until 1707. We will explore this labyrinth which includes a castle, basilica, courtyards, sumptuous galleries and gardens.

Day Five | Fumane & Villa della Torre

We take a step further back into the past this morning when we visit the cave site of **Fumane**. The cave contains traces of Neanderthal man and evidence of habitation by modern Homo sapiens, including sharpened flints, bones and decorations made from sea shells. The finds provide a crucial link in the history of human life on Earth as well as a first glimpse of the creative instinct that inspired Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo in a later age. Afterwards we visit nearby **Villa della Torre**, a beautiful villa by architect Giulio Romano, where we enjoy a wine-tasting and lunch before returning to Sirmione via San Giorgio di Valpolicella.

Day Six | Vicenza

We spend our day in **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and almost archetypal ideal of the Renaissance and Baroque era. Vicenza was a Roman settlement, which came under the sway of the Scaligeri family from Verona and was passed between Napoleon's empire, Austria and Venice several times in its history. This jewel of a place is full of galleries, palaces and churches, and is noted for the works of the great architect Andrea Palladio. We will visit his amazing villa at **La Rotunda**. We

will also visit **Teatro Olimpico**, one of only three Renaissance theatres remaining in existence.

Day Seven | Padua

Our final visit of the tour is to **Padua**, which according to tradition going back at least to Virgil's *Aeneid*, was founded in 1183 BCE by the Trojan prince, Antenor. This university town was home to some of the greatest philosophers, scientists, and artists in Western culture: Dante, Galileo, Giotto, Donatello and Copernicus, and the city is one of Europe's great cultural and artistic destinations. Our visits will include the **Scrovegni chapel**, with its priceless frescoes by Giotto, the **Civic museum**, located in the cloister of the former Eremitani monastery, the Palazzo del Bo and the Basilica of St. Anthony and baptistry.

Day Eight | Sirmione - Verona - London

We return to the airport in Verona for our flight back to the UK.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa. Join Eireann on our 28th April & 13th October departures.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Continental Thermae and Spa, Sirmione

Culinary inclusions

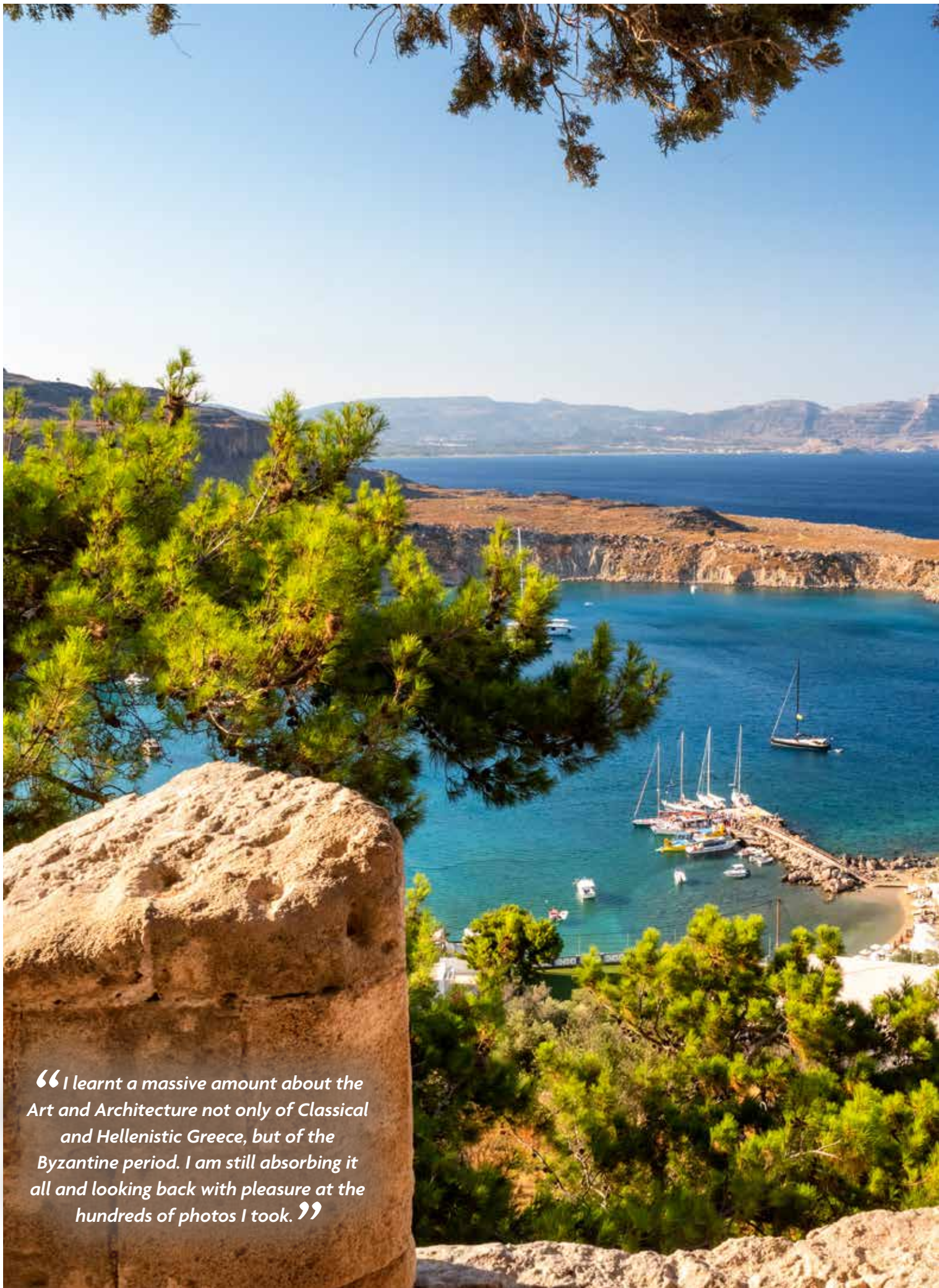
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
28th Apr - 5th May	£3,510 £3,260	£445
13th - 20th Oct	£3,510	£445

Save £250pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/alga



“I learnt a massive amount about the Art and Architecture not only of Classical and Hellenistic Greece, but of the Byzantine period. I am still absorbing it all and looking back with pleasure at the hundreds of photos I took.”



Greece

Home to sun-bleached ruins and renowned for being the setting for legendary myths known the world over, Greece is perhaps the ultimate destination for the archaeological traveller.

While it may be a familiar destination to many, we offer unique and innovative itineraries that are often imitated but never matched. Choose one of the tours among the following pages and you will learn that this country is, to some extent, a product of its environment and geology. Throughout its vast and rich history, its vertiginous mountain ranges and mysterious landscapes were imbued with the divine, from the Vale of Tempe, associated with Apollo and the Muses, to Dodona and Delphi, dedicated to Zeus and Apollo respectively, just as Meteora became home to hermit monks who made their home in these isolated mountains to feel closer to God.

This country is also home to several famously beautiful island groups, including the Dodecanese and the Cyclades, whose importance lies far beyond their stunning sun-kissed seascapes. Located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia Minor, as well as Africa and the Near East, it was through the Aegean islands that prosperity and cultural development was brought to Greece, starting with the Bronze Age Cycladic culture, as well as the staggering Minoan culture in Crete, which can justly be called the first significant culture in Europe.

The Hellenic rebirth in the Archaic period, instigated through its contact with Egypt and the Phoenicians, gave rise to a Greece which can justly be called the cradle of Europe, because so much of what defined Rome, and from thence Europe, was first developed here. Surveying the magnificent Classical sites found in Athens, Olympia and Corinth becomes a kind of pilgrimage in which the pages of Herodotus and Thucydides come to life, and we arrive at an understanding of where we have come from.



Ascend the Acropolis to the Parthenon, the universal symbol of the classical world and the quintessential classical ruin

Wander the city of Akrotiri, the 'Pompeii of the Aegean,' and admire the fascinating frescoes on display in the museum

Explore Aptera, the mythological setting for the battle between the Sirens and the Muses

Sail by private charter to Delos and spend the day exploring one of the most important sites in Greece

Marvel at the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe, the tomb of Philip II, and its extraordinary museum

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Athens

A short break to this ancient capital, unimpeded by the usual crowds

4 DAYS FROM £1,870pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○





Enjoy an informed, in-depth visit to this wonderful ancient capital. In winter the city belongs to the locals, the queues for the Parthenon melt away and there is space to absorb the beauty of its museum treasures. Wrap up warm and explore the city where democracy, architecture, classical art and literature germinated and flourished.



Ascend the Acropolis to the Parthenon, the universal symbol of the classical world and the quintessential classical ruin

Explore two fabulous world-class museums, housing between them some of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world

Soak up the atmosphere of ancient Athens, exploring the quieter corners and monuments which have survived here for 2,500 years

“A full and very well managed few days. A great learning experience with a friendly and like minded group.”

Day One | London - Athens

We fly from London to Athens and settle in to our hotel.

Day Two | Athens

Our first full day will be dedicated to the **Acropolis** and its museum. We will walk through ancient Athens and then climb to the incomparable Acropolis, which still dominates the city with a complex of religious sanctuaries, most famous of which is the Parthenon – ‘Chamber of the Maiden’ built in the 5th century to house a colossal statue of Athena, patron goddess of the city. The views from here are stunning. After lunch in the Plaka, we visit the fabulous **Acropolis Museum**, which is consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world.

Day Three | Athens

We continue our exploration of Athens, visiting its ancient economic centre, the **Agora**, where a wide range of goods were shipped in from the nearby port of Piraeus and members of the elected democracy assembled to discuss affairs of state. Next, we visit **Kerameikos**, named in ancient times after the hero Keramos, son of Dionysus and Ariadne, where an extensive cemetery was excavated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. After lunch we visit the **National Museum of**

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



Athens. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older museum is still home to one of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world.

Day Four | Athens - London

In the morning, we travel to **Piraeus** which once consisted of three separate harbours - Kantharos, Zea, and Munichia. All three harbours are still used today but since the sea level has risen two metres since antiquity many of the ancient installations of Piraeus are now underwater. Excavations still continue, however, and notable finds have included several bronze statues, perhaps the most famous being of Apollo now in the **Piraeus Archaeological Museum**. Later today we board our return flight home to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Herodian Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
6th - 9th Nov	£1,920 £1,870	£155 £0

Save £50pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/asat

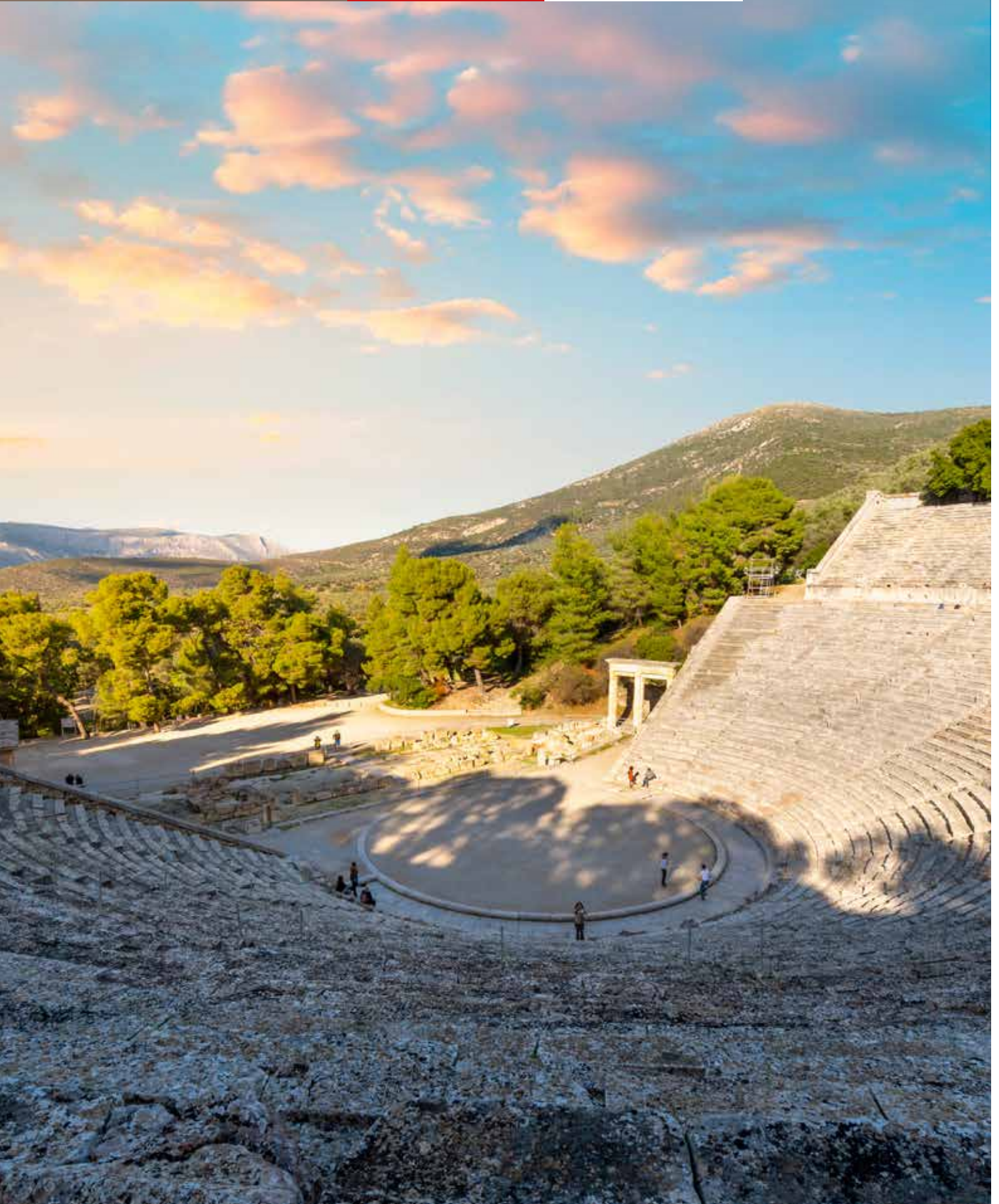
The Ancient Argolid

An archaeological treasure house

7 DAYS FROM £3,100pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○





Enjoy a relaxed exploration of the lives and landscapes of Greeks, gods and heroes, in the place where myth and archaeology meet. Join us and discover the Argolid in the eastern Peloponnese. Our fascinating tour ends in Athens at the National Museum, where we see artefacts that once furnished and graced the sites we visit across the previous days, and which belonged to the victors who once walked those hills of the Argolid.



Explore the land of Homer's heroes and the great bronze citadels from which they came

Visit the lesser known, quieter sites of the Argolid as well as the big-ticket names

Enjoy a prolonged stay in Nafplion, one of the prettiest harbour towns in Greece

Day One | London - Athens

We fly to Athens and drive to our hotel in Nafplion.

Day Two | Nafplion & Asine

Our day begins at the **Archaeological Museum** in Nafplion, where we see artefacts from regional excavations that include extraordinary Mesolithic finds and objects from Bronze Age settlements, as well as later Classical and Hellenistic items. We drive to **Tiryns**, whose cyclopean walls made it one of the most notable fortresses of Mycenaean Greece, reputedly the birthplace of Heracles. We continue to the ruins at **Asine**, mentioned by Homer as part of the kingdom of Diomedes, King of Argos. We also visit the 16th century **Palmidi Fort**, perched on a crag 200ft above the Argolic Gulf.

Day Three | Prossymna & Mycenae

Today we drive to the ancient Mycenaean citadel and palace at Prossymna and walk along the original road to the citadel at **Mycenae**. This is the centre of the mighty Helladic Bronze Age civilisation of Greece, according to legend the capital of King Agamemnon. Visit the museum, the famous shaft and Tholos tombs, including the treasury of Atreus.

Day Four | Lena & Argos Museum

We explore **Lerna**, which in antiquity was a region of water springs and one of the entrances to the underworld. We round off the morning with a visit

to the **Argos Museum** with collections from the region. This afternoon will be spent at leisure.

Day Five | Midea & Nemea

Our morning starts at **Midea**, considered one of the three most important Bronze Age fortresses in the region alongside Mycenae and Tiryns. We continue to **Dendera**, which appears to have been associated with the site, and we visit the cemetery and Tholos tomb here. We explore the **Argive Heraion**, an evocative site where we easily imagine the processions described by ancient authors traversing the vast tracts of surrounding countryside. We drive to **Nemea**, where Heracles slew the Nemean lion.

Day Six | Epidaurus - Athens

We start our journey north, stopping to see the extraordinary Mycenaean road bridge at **Ligortino**. We also visit **Epidaurus**, home to the sanctuary of Asklepios – its core is formed by the finest theatre in all of Greece. We complete our visits at Troezen, the birthplace of Theseus, before proceeding to the Island of Poros for lunch. After lunch we take the fast ferry to Pireaus and transfer to our hotel.

Day Seven | Athens - London

We visit the **National Archaeological Museum** in Athens to see its fine collections before transferring to the airport for our flights back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Nafplion & Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
23rd - 29th Oct	£3,300	£3,100 £285 £0

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The Peloponnese

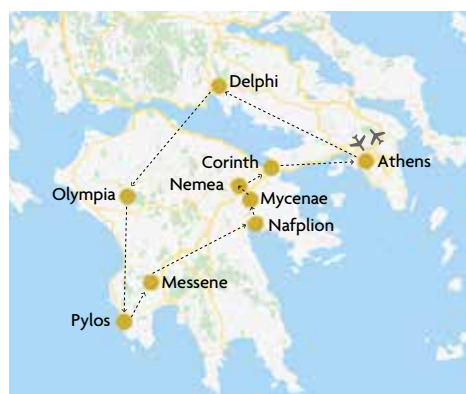
Homer and beyond

12 DAYS FROM £4,795pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Embark on a modern-day odyssey to the sites of ancient Greece. Beginning in Athens, journey into the Peloponnesian hills, joining our expert Guide Lecturer as we trace the story of Greece from the Bronze Age to Classical glory. This will be a memorable trip for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules.



Day One | London - Athens

Today we fly from London to Athens and drive to our hotel upon arrival.

Day Two | Athens

We spend an entire day on foot in ancient **Athens**. According to legend the city was founded by King Theseus, best known for his Minotaur slaying heroics in Crete. We climb up to the **Acropolis** to visit the **Parthenon**, **Theatre of Dionysus** and **Temple of Athena**. The most important structures visible today derive from the Golden Age of Pericles. The afternoon is spent at the **Acropolis Museum**, which was built to house every artefact found at the Acropolis.

Day Three | Athens - Delphi

We continue our exploration of Athens with a walk through the sites of the **Agora**, the political and commercial heart of ancient Athens, where Socrates stood trial and where free-born male Athenian citizens could come to cast their vote. We view finds from the area in the **Museum of the Ancient Agora**, housed in the reconstructed Stoa of Attalos. After lunch, we enjoy our first drive through the Peloponnesian hills to our hotel at Delphi.

Day Four | Delphi - Olympia

Spend a day at the **Panhellenic Sanctuary at Delphi**. The oracle was given by a priestess called the Pythia, who sat on a tripod over a chasm in the inner sanctum and, inhaling the vapours that came from it, subsequently uttered prophecies in a trance. We leave in the early afternoon, crossing the Rion-Antirion bridge, and we travel to the Peloponnesian peninsula at Olympia.



Explore the well-preserved Mycenaean Palace of Nestor

Visit the famous Acropolis of Athens with its unique masterpieces of ancient architecture

Gaze upon the National Archaeological Museum of Athens' galleries, which house the most important collection of ancient Greek art

Wander around the renowned citadel of Mycenae and see the Lion Gate, the grave circles and the Treasure of Atrius

Day Five | Olympia

This morning we explore **Olympia**, home of the first and greatest Panhellenic Games and the most important religious centre in the 8th century BC. Here we find the ruins of the ancient stadium, and temples such as the **Pelopion**, once the alleged tomb of Pelops, the mythical chariot-racing king who gave this region its name. The major festivals here provided opportunities for the meeting of representatives from the Greek states.

Day Six | Olympia - Pylos

Today starts with a visit to the **Archaeological Museum of Chora**, which houses finds from Pylos. We head on to the **Palace of Nestor**, mentioned in Homer's writings as home of the oldest and wisest among the Greeks fighting at Troy. The palace here is the best preserved Mycenaean palatial structure excavated and includes reception areas, baths, store rooms and workshops. Enjoy a free afternoon in Pylos with an optional boat trip in the bay (not included).

Day Seven | Pylos - Messene - Nafplion

We spend the morning in **Messene**, one of the most beautiful ancient cities in Greece. Pausanias visited the city between 155 and 160 AD and described it in his 'Guide to Greece'. Excavations in the city have continued for over a century, revealing a well-preserved stadium, odeon and many other buildings. We view a great array of finds from the area in the **Archaeological Museum of ancient Messene**. After lunch, we make our way towards Nafplion.

Day Eight | Nafplion & Epidaurus

This morning we journey to the lovely town of **Nafplion**, where we visit the **Archaeological Museum**. Before lunch we continue with a visit to the ancient site of **Epidaurus**, a celebrated centre of healing in the ancient world. Perched

on the slopes of a hill, the town has both some of the finest examples of 14th and 15th century architecture in Greece, and some of the finest views. The afternoon is free to spend at your own leisure in Nafplion.

Day Nine | Nafplion - Mycenae

We explore the great Bronze Age hilltop site of **Mycenae**, another major hub of Greek civilisation, and, according to Greek tradition, capital of legendary King Agamemnon. Excavations support Homer's claim of a city 'well built and rich in gold'. We wander into the city with its Cyclopean walls through the famous **Lion Gate** and we view the archaeological remains of the acropolis, including the palace and the grave circles, where the so-called mask of Agamemnon was found.

Day Ten | Nemea - Tiryns

This morning, we visit the site of **Nemea** where, according to legend, Heracles fought the Nemean Lion. We see the **Temple of Zeus**. After lunch we will continue to the archaeological site of **Tiryns**, a Mycenaean hillfort said to have been the mythical birthplace of Heracles. We will see the citadel with its Cyclopean walls as well as the palace remains.

Day Eleven | Corinth - Athens

We drive to **Corinth**, which owed its prosperity to the isthmus that joins the Peloponnese to the mainland. One of the great cities of classical Greece, it was founded by Corinthos, a descendent of the god Helios, according to Hellenic myth. Upon arrival in Athens, we will view the **National Archaeological Museum** in Athens with its fantastic collections.

Day Twelve | Athens - London

Our Peloponnesian odyssey comes to an end. We bid farewell to the city of Athens and catch our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught archaeology and art history at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Athens. Join Rita on our 6th May departure.



Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Prisos Survey. Join Christina on our 22nd September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Delphi, Olympia, Pylos, Nafplion & Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
6th - 17th May	£5,045	£4,795 £750
22nd Sep - 3rd Oct	£5,045	£4,795 £750

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Crete & Santorini

Rise and fall of the Minoan civilisation

8 DAYS FROM £3,895pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The Minoans are known for their incredible labyrinthine palaces - the greatest of which is at Knossos, where Theseus defeated the Minotaur. Our journey across these two beautiful islands will showcase the architectural and artistic skills of this Bronze Age civilisation, whose writing, ambition and organisation profoundly influenced ancient Greece's development.

Day One | London - Santorini

We depart from London and fly out to Santorini, where we transfer to our hotel and stay for the next two nights.

Day Two | Fira & Akrotiri

Our first full day begins at the **Prehistoric Museum in Fira**, home to dazzling wall paintings from the Minoan buildings at Akrotiri, as well as a large number of artefacts found in various island excavations. Don't miss jugs depicting elegant birds, dating from the middle Cycladic period of 1800 to 2000 BC, and the statue of the golden goat, discovered in Akrotiri in 1999. This afternoon we continue to **Akrotiri** itself. Destroyed by a catastrophic volcanic eruption in around 1500 BC and buried in ash, the city is reminiscent of Pompeii, and it has retained some impressively well-preserved houses. The drainage systems and complex buildings indicate a once prosperous society with many successful trade links. We stop to admire the delightful 'Fresco of the Monkeys' as well as the 'House of the Ladies', with its striking central light well.

Day Three | Thera - Heraklion

After breakfast we journey up winding roads to the ancient city of **Thera**, located on a ridge of Mesa Vouno mountain, some 360 metres above sea level. The site has been under excavation since 1904, and findings from the city have contributed immensely to our understanding of Minoan culture and history.

We imagine the people whose lives were centred around Thera's 800-metre long main street, who attended performances in the city's enormous theatre and who worshipped Hermes and Heracles within the walls of the sacred grotto. This afternoon we visit **Panagia Episkopi**, a Byzantine cathedral containing many beautiful frescoes, before a ferry takes us to our next destination of historic Heraklion. We arrive in Crete's largest city in time for dinner.

Day Four | Palace of Knossos & Vathypetro

The fourth day of our holiday begins with a trip to the world-renowned **Palace of Knossos**, a majestic complex erected in Greece's Bronze Age, and the largest Bronze Age site in the country. The intricate, multi-storeyed layout of the palace has led to its connection with numerous myths and legends, including that of the Minotaur and the labyrinth. We take in the royal quarters, with their decorated Throne Room, as well as noting the axe stands within the House of the High Priest. We continue on to the Minoan country house and outbuildings of **Vathypetro**, the surviving remnants of a settlement that stretched across three hills. Here we observe an elaborate shrine as well as a wonderfully preserved wine press – one of the oldest in the world. Following this we return to Heraklion to spend time at the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite jewellery and brightly-coloured wall paintings. Within this peerless collection of artefacts from the Minoan



age is the iconic bull's head 'rhyton', or ceremonial drinking vessel, which was brought here from the Palace of Knossos.

Day Five | Palace of Phaistos - Gortyn

We enjoy a morning at the columns and courtyards of Phaistos to visit **Ayia Triada**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa that has yielded more examples of Linear A tablets than any other site of its kind. After this we travel to the magnificent **Palace of Phaistos**. Famous finds here include thousands of documents, some inscribed with the earliest known occurrence of the still undeciphered writing of the Minoans – a script also known as 'Linear A'. We resume our adventures at the important Greco-Roman site of **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley, a gem of the archaeological world since its discovery in 1884. Thought to have once been populated by over 300,000 people, the site is



Tick the mighty Palace of Knossos off your archaeological wish-list

Explore the city of Akrotiri – the “Pompeii of the Aegean” – and admire the fascinating frescoes on display in the museum

Take a boat trip to the island of Spinalonga, a leper colony that was in use right up until the 60s, where we will explore the abandoned buildings and its history

Visit the vast Archaeological Museum in Heraklion and view its fascinating collections

best known for its collection of 5th century stone blocks, inscribed with the law codes of classical Greece – the oldest and most complete example of coded ancient Greek laws ever found.

Day Six | Palace of Malia - Gournia

Our day starts with a trip to the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains, significant not only for its size, but also its strategic port and grand façades. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. The remains of Gournia cluster around cobbled streets on the side of a hill and are crowned by the now-ruined palace. Traces of some 50 houses are in evidence here, as well as a court and cemetery. This afternoon we have the option of a boat trip to the haunting and evocative island of **Spinalonga**, the location of a former leper colony that was still in use right up until 1962. It is believed that the island was cut off from the mainland by occupying Venetians in the 16th century in order to strengthen their defences.

Day Seven | Mochlos

This morning, if the weather permits, we have the option to journey by fishing boat across the turquoise Gulf of Mirabello to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, on which an important Minoan town once stood – a hub of trade and industry. A number of pit graves and tombs have been unearthed here, and the excavations, begun in 1908, continue to this day. This afternoon is free for us to enjoy our

spectacular surroundings at our leisure. Stroll along the splendid coastline, doze in the sunshine or plunge into the warm and welcoming waters near our hotel – the choice is yours.

Day Eight | Sissi - Heraklion - London

This may well be our last morning in Crete, but the discoveries aren't over yet. Before we make our journey to the airport, we drive to stunning **Sissi** to visit the excavations on Kephali Hill, where evidence of Early Minoan mortuary activity has been found near Crete's latest Minoan palace to be discovered. Alas, it is now time to say goodbye to the Minoan world and to our fabulous group as we catch our return flight back to London.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley



A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 20th May departure.

Dr Rita Roussos



A native Athenian, Rita taught archaeology and art history at the American University of Athens. Join Rita on our 2nd September departure.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Santorini, Heraklion & Elounda

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
20th - 27th May	£4,395 £4,095	£660
2nd - 9th Sep	£4,195 £3,895	£660

Save £300pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/acre

Crete - Introducing the Minoans

An expert-led tour that traverses Crete from East to West

8 DAYS FROM £3,795pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Inhabited since the Middle Palaeolithic, Crete became a dominant power in the Mediterranean in the 3rd millennium BCE when the people we refer to as Minoans constructed palaces on a scale not known in Europe at the time. There is a particular charm and elegance to the Minoan civilisation demonstrated through lively and free artistic impression and an obvious delight in realistic decoration with sea creatures, leaping dolphins and the bright colours of the Mediterranean World. Alongside the wonderful Minoan sites, much of the charm of the Crete we see today also stems from the influence of more than four centuries of Venetian rule which saw a flourishing in the island's architecture and arts. This tour which traverses Crete from East to West has it all: stunning archaeology, beautiful coastal villages and towns and dramatic landscapes accompanied by the island's wonderful cuisine.

Day One | London - Chania

Today we fly from London to Chania and transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Chania

Today is devoted to **Chania** starting with the **Archaeological Museum** where we see a plethora of remains dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods. Highlights include Minoan ceramics and terracotta figures of bird faced women, as well as a 3rd century mosaic dating from the Roman period. In the afternoon, we will have a walking tour of its pretty **Venetian quarter**, including the narrow alleys of the Kastelli region and the wider streets of the Jewish district which dates to the 16th century when Jews, exiled from Spain and Southern Italy, made their home here.

Day Three | Chania

This morning we visit the fascinating **Maritime Museum** on the western end of the Old Venetian Harbour. It contains exhibits from Greek naval

history from Bronze Age to the Venetian and Ottoman period to the Battle of Crete. Its star exhibit is a life size replica of a Minoan ship, the 'Minoan'. Later we explore some more of Chania including the **Kastelli hill** where recent excavations have uncovered more of the city's 5,000 year past. We end our day with a visit to the **Agia Triada Monastery** to admire its Venetian and Cretan Renaissance style.

Day Four | Chania - Aptera - Heraklion

Leaving Chania, we visit **Aptera**, whose stunning and strategic positioning ensured it was powerful from the Minoan to the Hellenistic periods. Here we see remains of a 12th century monastery dedicated to St. John Theologos, as well as remains of a Classical temple and an impressive Roman cistern. We continue to **Heraklion**, stopping en route to explore the excellent new **Museum of Eleutherna in Rethymnon** which displays finds from Eleutherna, including an archaic statue, the Lady of Eleutherna, reminiscent of the statue of Demeter



known as the Lady of Auxerre in the Louvre, and grave goods from the Bronze Age.

Day Five | Knossos & Archanes

This morning, we visit the world famous site of **Knossos**, which boasted a population of 100,000 at its height in the 18th century BC and which was settled from as early as the 7th millennium. The palace, controversially reconstructed by Arthur Evans, was the civic and religious centre of the settlement, as well as the residence of the King. The intricate, multi-storeyed layout of the palace has led to its connection with numerous myths and legends, including that of the Minotaur and the labyrinth. We take in the royal quarters, with their decorated Throne Room, as well as noting the axe stands within the House of the High Priest. Later today we visit two important Museums, the **Archaeological Museum of Archanes** which displays collections of Minoan pottery and stone vessels found during excavations at Fourni



Discover the lesser-known archaeological remains of Ayia Triada and Mochlos as well as the famous Minoan Palaces

Explore Aptera, the mythological setting for the battle between the Sirens and the Muses

Delight in the lovely harbour town of Chania with its charming Venetian architecture

Necropolis, Anemospilia, and Archanes and the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite jewellery and brightly coloured wall paintings. Within this peerless collection of artefacts from the Minoan age is the iconic bull's head 'rhyton', or ceremonial drinking vessel, brought here from Knossos Palace.

Day Six | Ayia Triadha & Gortyn

We start our day at the site of **Ayia Triada**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa that has yielded more examples of Linear A tablets than any other site of its kind. We proceed to **Phaistos**, inhabited from the 5th millennium BCE, it is the site of two palaces from different periods which were abandoned by the Mycenaean period. Mentioned by Homer, Phaistos is described in artefacts with Linear A inscriptions found on the site. We resume our adventures at the important Greco-Roman site of **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley, a gem of the archaeological world since its discovery in 1884. It is justly famous for being the locus of the oldest and most complete Classical law code, inscribed on stones reused in the Trajanic period and how on display on site – though parts are in the Louvre. Our time here includes a visit to the new **Archaeological Museum of Messara** which opened in May 2023. The museum is home to a permanent

exhibition entitled 'Among the Mountains: the human presence in Messara from prehistoric to Christian times' and features artefacts from the Roman site of Gortyn and the Minoan Palace of Phaistos.

Day Seven | Gournia & Mochlos

Today we visit the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains, significant not only for its size, but also its strategic port and grand facades. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. The remains of Gournia cluster around cobbled streets on the side of a hill and are crowned by the now-ruined palace. Traces of some 50 houses are in evidence here, as well as a court and cemetery. After lunch we go by boat to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, which may have been connected to the island in the Minoan period. Here we see remains dating from the Minoan era up to the Hellenistic period and beyond. Notable are the hoards of metal found on the islands, as well as a Minoan necropolis.

Day Eight | Heraklion - London

We transfer to Heraklion airport for our flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Chania & Heraklion

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
8th - 15th Apr	£4,045	£3,795 £565

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Discover the Dodecanese

Following in the footsteps of Herakles

9 DAYS FROM £4,340pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



See another side of the lovely islands of Rhodes and Kos and rediscover their ancient origins. Long beloved by British travellers, there is more to appreciate here than their lovely beaches and sheltered bays. Hugging the coastline in the south-eastern corner of the Aegean, these islands were in the midst of a crucial sea lane in antiquity and served as a bridge between east and west during their long and eventful history. From Hellenistic sanctuaries, Roman villas and Crusader fortresses to Byzantine churches and stylish Italian architecture, characteristics of both worlds can be found here. And venturing inland, the landscape swiftly changes from urban dwellings to juniper and thyme-clad hills where broom, myrtle and laurel grow in profusion.

Day One | London - Rhodes

We fly to Rhodes and transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Rhodes

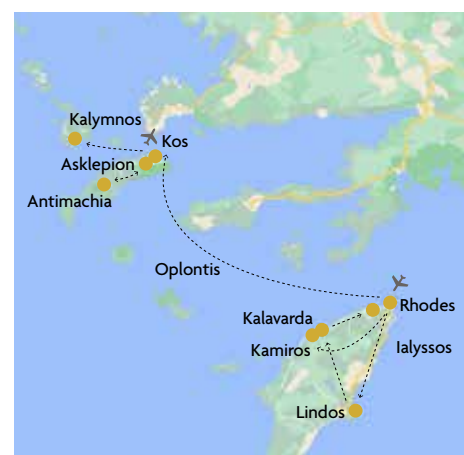
Today we explore **Rhodes**, occupied by the Knights of the Order of St. John for over two centuries and one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. We walk through its beautiful medieval centre down the Avenue of the Knights to the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in the former hospital of the Knights. This fantastic Gothic building contains some remarkable finds from the island including an exquisite marble statue of Aphrodite and extraordinary Hellenistic pebble mosaics. In the afternoon we visit the **Acropolis** and its precipitous terraces on the slopes of Agis Stefanos Hill.

Day Three | Lindos & Kalavarda

This morning we visit the small village of **Lindos** which was founded by the Dorians in the 10th century BCE. The dramatic natural landscape here is enhanced by the picturesque quality of the more modern town with the **Acropolis** rising dominantly behind it. The stunning views from the top are worth the 250 steps it takes to reach it and here we see Temple of Athena lodged within the ruins of a medieval castle. In the afternoon we travel on to **Kalavarda**, a well-preserved Hellenistic and Roman city with superb views of the ocean.

Day Four | Kamiros & Ialysos

Today we drive along the northwest coast of the island to ancient **Kamiros**, built amphitheatrically overlooking the sea. Together with Lindos and Ialysos, it was one of the three most powerful



cities in Rhodes which reached their peak in the 6th – 7th centuries BCE. Kamiros was the smallest of the three and relied more heavily on its agriculture in the production of wine, olive oil and the cultivation of fig trees. In the afternoon we explore **Ialysos** which lies at the highest point of the Filerimos hill, overlooking Rhodes.

Day Five | Rhodes - Kos

We take the early morning ferry to the island of Kos famed throughout the ancient world for its sanctuary dedicated to the healing god Asclepius. Arriving mid-morning, we head to the **Archaeological Museum**. Housed in one of the last



Enjoy a day spent on the lovely island of Kalymnos, where we discover the Castle of Chrysocheria

Admire the fabulous collection of statuary at Rhodes Archaeological Museum

Soak up the stunning views at Lindos and Kalavarda

Discover the Asklepieion, one of the pre-eminent healing centres in the ancient world

major public buildings constructed during Italian occupation, the collections here include artefacts found in the Sanctuary of Kos. Later we explore the substantial ruins of Nerazia Castle, a 14th century construction built by the Order of St. John. The fortress is situated at the entrance of Kos harbour and faces Halikarnassos Castle just opposite on the Turkish coast with which it collaborated to control this strategic body of water. In the ancient world this strait was a great maritime crossroad for ships from Egypt, Rome, Syria and Persia.

Day Six | Asklepiion & Antimachia

We travel along the cypress-lined road to the **Asklepieion**, a healing sanctuary dedicated to the god Asclepius, built in the 4th century BC. Formed along tree terraces, the sanctuary is situated on the slopes of Mount Dikeos and is set among natural springs and pine woods. Overlooking the narrow straits to Bodrum we find wonderful views here across the sea and coast. We continue to the **Castle of Antimachia**, the target of Turkish assault in the Middle Ages - with only one entrance and exit, doubly fortified, it was able to withstand many attacks. Finally, we stop at the ruins of the Early Christian basilica **Agios Stephanos**.

Day Seven | Kalymnos

We enjoy a day trip to the beautiful island of Kalymnos, described as 'rich in honey' by Homer. We explore the Castle of Chrysocheria, built in the 15th century by the Knights Hospitaller and also discover some of the beautiful white Byzantine churches which dot the hills. In the afternoon we visit **Kalymnos Archaeological Museum** where we discover a fine collection of marble statues found in 2001 off the coast, along with the splendid bronze figure of the 'Lady of Kalymnos' pulled from the seabed by a Kalymnian fisherman in 1995.

Day Eight | Kos

We spend our last day in **Kos**. There are many Graeco-Roman ruins scattered through the town to enjoy, including streets and houses, the agora and the **Pandemos Aphrodite Sanctuary**. In the afternoon we will see the Western Excavation area, which includes a Roman Odeon, Casa Romana, and the Baptistry of St. John Prodromos.

Day Nine | Kos - London

Our tour ends and we travel back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Rhodes & Kos

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
3rd - 11th Oct	£4,640 £4,340	£620

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/adod

The Cyclades

Explore sacred islands and sprawling ruins

11 DAYS FROM £5,945pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Of all the Greek islands scattered over the Aegean Sea, the Cyclades have the most evocative mythology. Travelling by land and crossing by ferry, discover atmospheric archaeological sites on these fascinating islands from beautiful Delos, the legendary birthplace of Apollo, to unassuming Tinos, well off the tourist radar.



Day One | London - Santorini

We fly from London to Santorini and transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Thera & Akrotiri

We visit ancient **Thera**, the classical city built after the catastrophic eruption that ended the Bronze Age prosperity of the island. Public buildings, markets, theatre, baths, temples, private residences, and one complete road network with sewage system constitutes the city's picture. After lunch, we visit the **Prehistoric Museum**, where finds from the area are on display, including some vibrant Bronze Age frescoes found at Akrotiri. We end the day with a visit to **Akrotiri**, the once well-connected Minoan port town with trading links throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

Day Three | Santorini - Ios

We take the morning ferry to the hilly island of **Ios**. In antiquity, the island prospered because it lay at the junction of key trading routes that linked the Cyclades with mainland Greece, Crete and Asia Minor. Occupied since the early Cycladic period, there is archaeology here from all the major periods of this region's history – Minoan, Mycenaean, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine. We start our exploration at the small **Archaeological Museum**, which displays artefacts found during excavations on the island over the last 30 years. After lunch we will check in to our hotel for some free time to relax.

Day Four | Ios

Today we explore this rugged, hilly island, starting with a visit to **Skarkos**. Situated in Kambos, one of the most fertile areas of the island, the middle



Sail by private charter to Delos and spend the day exploring one of the most important sites in Greece

Visit the spectacular prehistoric settlement of Skarkos and 'Homer's' tomb on the delightful island of Ios

Admire the sleeping giants of Naxos, the Flerio Kourous, scattered throughout this beautiful Aegean landscape

Early Bronze Age settlement is one of the oldest and best-preserved Cycladic prehistoric sites in Greece. After lunch, we continue to the remains of the **Paleokastro** built by the Venetians in the 15th century. Now very ruinous, this was once a substantial fort and there are spectacular views over the seas to neighbouring islands. We end the day at **Homer's tomb**, allegedly one of three grave sites on the northern edge of the island.

Day Five | Ios - Naxos

Taking to the sea once more we cross to **Naxos**, the largest island in the archipelago, where we arrive in time for lunch. In the afternoon, we drive to the **Flerio** area, where ancient marbles quarries were situated. Here we see the two oversized but incomplete stone figures of young men (Kourai) dating to the early 6th century BC. Probably damaged during their creation, these marble statues, each weighing between 7 and 8 tonnes, were abandoned on the mountainside.

Day Six | Naxos

Spending the day on Naxos, we drive to the south of the island and the fertile valley of Livadi to visit the **Sanctuary of Apollo and Demeter** at Sangri to see the remains of the all-marble temple constructed in the late 6th century. After lunch, we continue to the ruins of the **Sanctuary of Iria**, dedicated to the god Dionysus. Its importance is attested not only by splendid architectural finds but also the numerous votive offerings found here. A limited sample of the movable finds can be seen in the small on-site museum.

Day Seven | Delos

Today we take our private boat to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Delos**. Now 'an isle of ghosts, uninhabited since antiquity' (John Freely), it was once one of the most sacred places of ancient Greece and one of the most robust trade centres.

Its claim as the birthplace of Apollo gave Delos a strong religious identity that lasted for hundreds of years. Excavations began in 1872 and are still in progress, having unearthed the Sanctuary and a good part of the Hellenistic town, and the findings are in the on-site museum. We explore the temples, houses and agorae of this sacred island.

Day Eight | Naxos - Tinos

We visit the **Archaeological Museum** in Naxos. Situated in the central square leading to the Kastro, it is housed in a 17th century Venetian house, spread over several storeys. Its collection of early Cycladic marble figurines is second only to that of Athens' National Museum. In the afternoon we catch our ferry to **Tinos**. This unsophisticated, mountainous island is famous for its marble and distinctive architecture – Tinian dovescotes, a legacy of the Venetians, are scattered across the landscape.

Day Nine | Tinos

Today we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, which includes finds from the **Sanctuary of Poseidon**. Afterwards, we visit the sanctuary itself, situated opposite the beach of Kionia. Tinos was the only island in the Cyclades that dedicated an entire temple to Poseidon. Worshippers came here to cleanse and purify before travelling to the sacred island of Delos. We end the day at the **Pyrgos Museum**, which is dedicated to the local history of marble and explains the quarrying and sculpting techniques used on the island since antiquity.

Day Ten | Tinos - Athens

We take the ferry to Rafina and from there we travel to **Sounion**, where we visit the beautiful Temple of Poseidon. Later we transfer to Athens for our final night in Greece.

Day Eleven | Athens - London

We transfer to Athens airport for our return flight.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



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- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Santorini, Ios, Naxos, Tinos & Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
22nd May - 1st Jun	£5,945	£890

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aicy

Macedonia

The glories of northern Greece

8 DAYS FROM £3,830pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



This tour of Northern Greece is full of fantastic archaeological sites, marked over the centuries by a cornucopia of peoples and cultures from the Macedonians, Thracians and Slavs to the Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Ottomans. We follow in the footsteps of conquerors and travel through landscapes dotted with canyons, lakes, waterfalls and rivers in an area thick with history. We discover famous sanctuaries and monuments to victory, palaces, painted tombs and exquisite pebble mosaics which survive at the Macedonian cities of Verghina and Pella. From the beautiful lakeside town of Kastoria, a town largely undiscovered by tourists, to Thessaloniki, a city whose historical importance and legacy can be said to rival that of Constantinople.

Day One | London – Thessaloniki – Kastoria

We fly from London to Thessaloniki and transfer to Kastoria, a beautiful lakeside town situated on a rocky isthmus on the shores of Lake Orestiada.

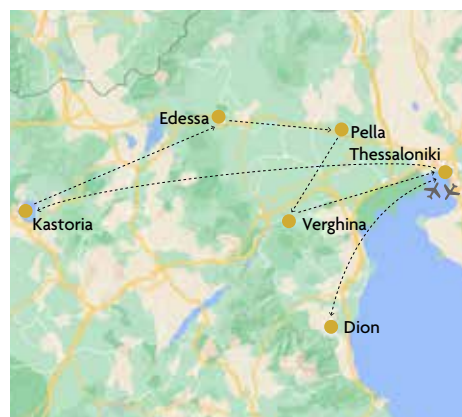
Day Two | Kastoria

Aside from its picturesque charms, extraordinarily Kastoria boasts more than 70 Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches dating from the 9th to the 16th centuries scattered around the town. Many are sadly in poor state of repair but distinguished by the frescoes which decorate them. The quality

of the artwork is astonishing, and we will visit a small selection at **Agios Stephanos**, **Taxiarchis Oikonomou** and **Archangel Michael**, each concealing something unique behind their intricate brickwork. Later we explore **Dispilio**, the site of a large neolithic settlement that once stood on stilts in the lake.

Day Three | Kastoria - Edessa

Before we leave the region, we will visit **Aigos Orestiko Archaeological Museum** which displays important finds from excavations in the region.



Afterwards we continue to **Edessa**, a city defined by the water which flows into it from the Pindus Mountains to the west. The waterfalls of Edessa are a striking natural wonder noted from the Roman Empire to the travel writing of Edward Lear. We admire their thundering beauty before we follow



Admire the remarkable frescos which decorate the Byzantine churches of Kastoria

Discover the waterfalls at Edessa, a city defined by water

Enjoy the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe – the tomb of Philip II – and its extraordinary museum

Explore ancient Pella, the capital of Macedonia and famous birthplace of Alexander the Great

the road over the Ottoman bridge that carried the Via Egnatia across the river and explore the remnants of the ancient city. Later we continue to **Mezia** and visit the Nymphaeum where Aristotle instructed the pupils of the Macedonian elite, Alexander the Great among them, in political discourse and philosophy.

Day Four | Edessa – Aigai - Thessaloniki

Today is dedicated to **Verghina** (ancient Aigai), the capital of the Macedonian kingdom before its move to Pella in the 4th century BCE. We see the remarkable painted tombs, displayed in the excellent site **Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai** under the recreated mound which originally covered the burials. We will also visit the newly opened **Palace of Aigai** once one of the largest buildings in Classical Greece as well as the new **Polycentric Museum of Aigai**. After our site visit, we continue to Thessaloniki for our first night in this fascinating city.

Day Five | Pella – Thessaloniki

Our first visit today is to **Pella**, where we explore Macedonia's administrative capital and the birthplace of both Philip II and Alexander the Great. We see the monumental agora, and houses and the exceptional mosaics made from carefully selected natural pebbles, now on display in the museum. These extraordinary mosaics were made mostly of carefully selected natural pebbles with occasional use of artificial tesserae, terracotta and of strips of lead; the eyes were inlaid with precious stones that have not survived. In the afternoon, we return to Thessaloniki visit the **Archaeological Museum** with extraordinary finds from the city and its region, including the stunning Derveni bronze crater.

Day Six | Dion

We travel south following the curve of the coastline to **Dion** at the foot of Mount Olympus, the religious capital of Macedonia. An evocative site with a magical setting, surrounded by trees in which nightingales sing and crisscrossed with a labyrinth of springs and streams. It is here that both Philip II and Alexander used to celebrate their victories at by holding Olympic Games and magnificent receptions and where Alexander conducted sacrifices before his campaign into Asia in 334 BCE. We will also visit the small Archaeological Museum nearby.

Day Seven | Thessaloniki

Today is devoted to **Thessaloniki**, founded by King Cassander as a new capital city. We explore the city on foot taking in the Agora and Roman forum before heading to the Late Roman palace complex of Galerius to view the Rotunda and the Triumphal Arch of the emperor. We will take a short walk along the promenade to see the White Tower, before stopping for lunch nearby. In the afternoon we will pay a visit to two of the city's oldest churches, **Aghios Dimitrios** and **Aghia Sophia**, before we head to the Byzantine, UNESCO World Heritage listed, **Walls of Thessaloniki**, or **Kastra** as they are known to those that live in the city. Over half of these fortifications which once protected the city, are still standing today. Afterwards, a visit to the adjacent and equally superb **Byzantine Museum** which completes our survey of the archaeology of the region.

Day Eight | Thessaloniki - London

We transfer to the airport for our return flight back to the UK.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley



A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 12th May departure.

Oliver Gilkes



One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 11th September departure.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Airotel Galaxy Kavala, Samothrace Aeolus Hotel & Ramada Plaza Alexandroupoli

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
12th - 19th May	£4,030	£3,830 £600
11th - 18th Sep	£4,030	£600

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Wild Thrace

Discover ancient kingdoms across this region

9 DAYS FROM £3,830pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Very good. Very well organised with an excellent guide.”

East of Thessaloniki are the mountains and plains of Thrace. Its ancient kingdoms were alternately at war and allied with Persians, Greeks and Macedonians. Discover the strategic cities that grew up in the wake of passing conquerors Phillipi, Mesembria with its Romano-Thracian chariot burials, and catch a glimpse of the city of Amphipolis. Thrace's landmark archaeological sites and Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman monuments add to its rich cultural heritage. This wild land is notable for the peaceful coexistence of Christian and Muslim traditions.

Day One | London - Thessaloniki – Kavala

This morning, we arrive in Thessaloniki and drive to **Kavala** visiting, en route, the great Athenian colony of **Amphipolis**, site of a battle between Athens and Sparta during the Peloponnesian war where we explore remains of a necropolis, a gymnasium as well as houses dating from the Roman period.

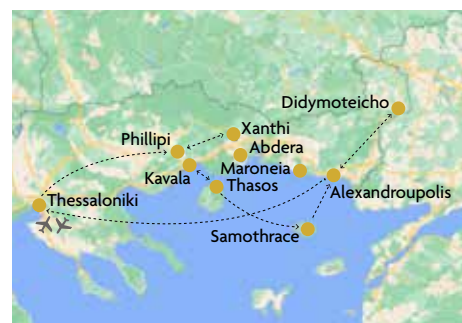
Day Two | Kavala – Philippi

Today we explore the **Archaeological Museum in Kavala** which houses remains from Amphipolis and other ancient sites found nearby. We proceed to an important UNESCO listed site on the Via Egnatia, the Macedonian and Roman colony of **Philippi**, named after Philip II, who conquered it and famed for the decisive battle between Octavian, Antony and the Conspirators who killed Caesar.

Here we explore the forum, heroon and well-preserved theatre, as well as impressive Byzantine monuments. At the end of the day, we return to Kavala where we see the **Byzantine Castle**.

Day Three | Thasos

This morning as we make our way to Keramoti port and continue by ferry to the Island of **Thasos**, the most northerly of all Greek islands surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea. This was originally a Parian colony, enriched by its gold and silver mines. Marble was the island's other commodity, and some of its beaches are composed of marble sand. We spend a day on the island exploring the excavated remains of the classical city which once lay under modern day Limenas. We will also visit **Limenas Museum** before returning to the mainland.



Day Four | Abdera, Xanthi & Komotini

We spend the day exploring the site of ancient **Abdera** which had strong links with Phoenicians and produced a number of important scholars including the Sophist Protagoras and historian Hecataeus. The city which became prosperous in the Classical period through its trade with Thrace, has left important remains, including several houses from the Roman period and later Byzantine churches. We continue to **Xanthi**, a major trading town in Byzantine and Ottoman eras well known in Greece for its distinctive period architecture. We



Discover the traces of Roman, Medieval and Ottoman history which remain across the region

Take a short trip across the Thracian sea to the lovely unspoiled islands of Thasos and Samothrace

Explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, built to honour fertility deities around 1000 BCE

end the day with a visit to **Komotini** whose history was closely tied to the Via Engatia down to the late antique period when Theodosius fortified the road here.

Day Five | Kavala – Samothrace

An early start this morning as we make our way to Alexandroupoli in time for the morning ferry to the lovely island of Samothrace. We arrive mid-morning and drive up to the **Chora** set high up on Mount Saos and visit its citadel built by the Galluzi family in the 14th century when Venice controlled large parts of the Aegean. There are lovely views over the town, where flowers spill from window boxes and trees form canopies over restaurants and cafes. After lunch we check into our hotel with some free time to relax after our early start or alternatively, you may wish to join an optional walk in Fonias Gorge.

Day Six | Samothrace – Alexandroupoli

We spend the morning exploring the famous classical '**Sanctuary of the Gods**'. This was one of the most important religious complexes in Greece, set up in honour of the 'Great Gods' before the arrival of the Greek colonists. Rivaling that of Eleusis, it was known as the 'Delos of the North'. We will also visit the small site museum which presents exhibits from the Sanctuary as well as various archaeological sites of the island. After lunch we will return to the Chora for some free time before we catch the ferry back to the mainland and transfer to our hotel in Alexandroupoli.

Day Seven | Mesembria & Maroneia

We explore the ruins at Mesembria, beautifully situated on the coast near the mouth of the stream Shabla Dere, now identified as the ancient

Greek polis of **Zoni**. Excavations on the site have been continuously conducted for over 50 years and have brought to light the fortification wall, private houses inside the fortified area, the city's layout with its street network, public buildings, a sanctuary of Demeter and a temple of Apollo. In the afternoon we return to Alexandroupoli to visit the **Archaeological Museum**. Opening in 2022, the museum contains more than 1,000 ancient objects excavated from the archaeological sites around Alexandroupoli, Evros and the wider region of Thrace.

Day Eight | Didymoteicho & Evros Delta

This morning, we travel north to **Didymoteicho** whose idiosyncratic name might derive from its two sets of walls built in the 6th century under Justinian. Built on a rocky outcrop, the town once controlled the estuary of two rivers from its commanding position and we shall explore some of the fortifications and remains of Byzantine houses as well as the small church of St Catherine. In the afternoon we take a boat trip on the **Evros**, a river associated with a number of Greek myths and named by Euripides as 'argiroritis', the carrier of silver. Its estuary in the Thracian Gulf forms the Evros Delta, a region of coastal lakes, lagoons, dunes, swamps, and reed beds, one of Europe's most important natural habitats rich in wildlife.

Day Nine | Alexandroupoli - Thessaloniki – London

Our tour comes to an end, and we return to Thessaloniki to take our flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley



A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 29th April departure.

Andrew Farrington



After a career of teaching Classics, Ancient Greek, and Roman history, Andrew is now Assistant Professor in Ancient Greek History in the Department of History and Ethnology at the Democritus University of Thrace. Join Andrew on our 2nd September departure.

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Included travel

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Accommodation

- Accommodation in Kavala, Samothrace & Alexandroupolis

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
29th Apr - 7th May	£4,030	£485
2nd - 10th Sep	£4,030 £3,830	£485

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Rest of Europe

In an area which roughly stretches from the Atlantic in the west, the Urals in the East, the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Scandinavia and the Arctic Sea, it is not surprising that Europe offers some of the most varied archaeology in the world.

The earliest evidence of human habitation in Europe dates back to the Palaeolithic period, when early Homo sapiens ventured into the continent from Africa. The world-famous cave sites in France and Spain showcase astonishing art created at a time when Europe lay in the grip of the Ice Age and creatures now long extinct roamed the countryside. And the advent of agriculture and the domestication of animals, brought about the construction of megalithic monuments, like Carnac in France and the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni in Malta, both testaments to complex belief systems.

The Middle Ages and Medieval period saw the spread of Christianity and the rise of Muslim dynasties the construction of forts, castles, cathedrals, and huge cities resulting in the Age of Exploration and the expansion of European empires around the globe. The continent is home to a plethora of iconic architecture – magnificent Gothic Cathedrals like Notre Dame and Cologne, world famous palaces like the Alhambra or Versailles, imposing civic buildings like the Reichstag in Berlin or the Louvre in Paris. All of these diverse sites have valuable stories to tell and offer a captivating window into the human experience.



Take an in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds, Chauvet and Cosquer, in the company of an expert

Admire the richly illustrated gladiatorial mosaic at the Villa Nennig, one of the most important Roman artefacts north of the Alps

View the famous Viking longships at Roskilde, the best-preserved collection in Scandinavia

Adventure off road into the Transylvanian Mountains to the UNESCO sites of Sarmizegetusa Regia and Costesti

Explore the most remarkable open-air ensemble of Palaeolithic art on the Iberian Peninsula

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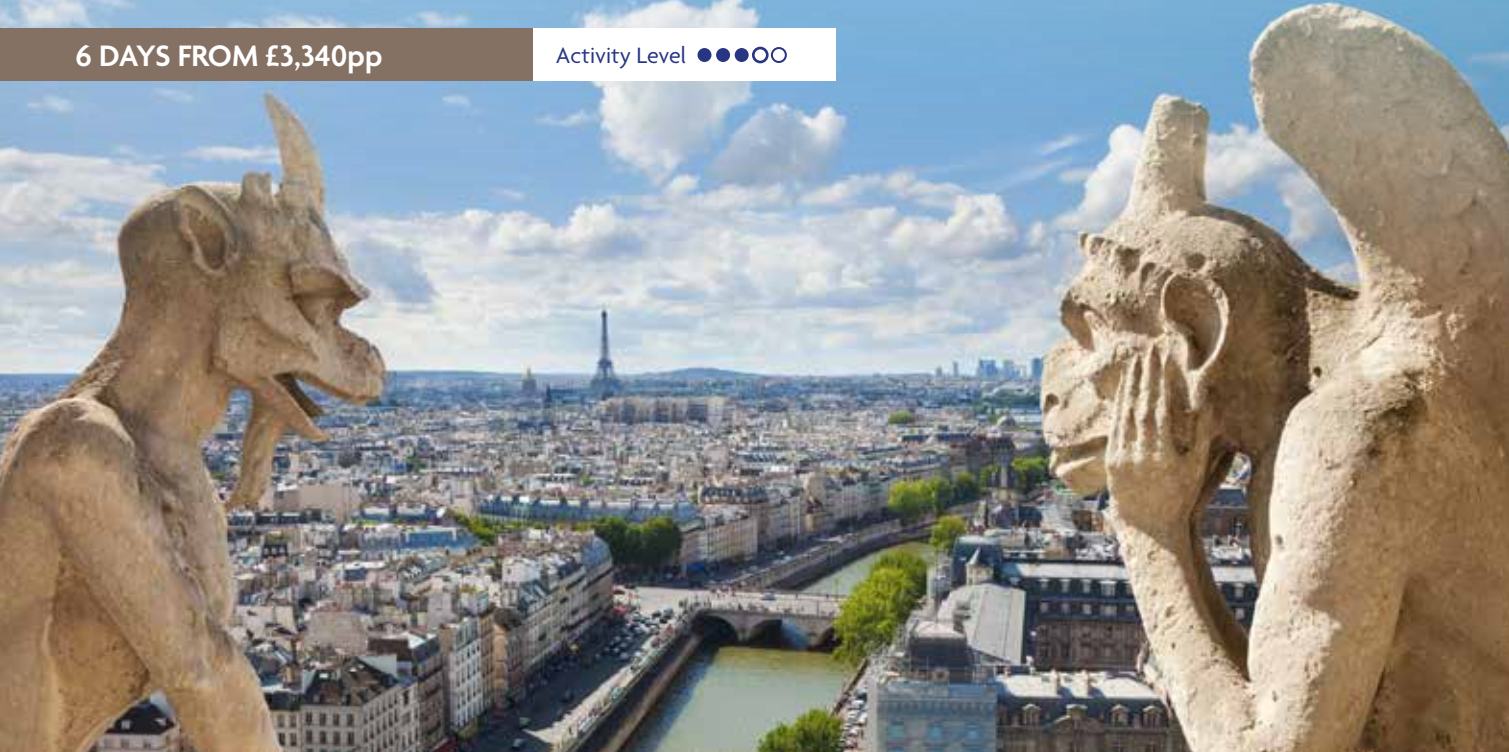
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Hidden Paris

Peek beyond the famous landmarks and explore the secret archaeology

6 DAYS FROM £3,340pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The tree-lined boulevards, elegant architecture and cobbled riverbanks along the silvery Seine have made Paris one of the most recognisable and romantic cities in Europe. First-time visitors are understandably impressed by its historic monuments, but peek beyond the famous landmarks and you will see another side of Paris to which only the most curious are privy.



Explore the *Conciergerie*, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as tribunal and prison

Admire the architectural masterpiece of *Sainte Chapelle*, one of the greatest examples of Gothic art

Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean *Catacombes de Paris*

Day One | London - Paris

We depart from London aboard the Eurostar, and glide into the Gare du Nord. After checking in to our hotel, we gather for an exploration of the historic **Marais** district, where a 12th century fortress remains tucked away among its streets.

Day Two | Sainte Chapelle & Musée de Louvre

This morning we visit the **Île de la Cité**. This area of Paris is home to many famous sites, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie** before ending the day at the **Musée de Louvre**.

Day Three | Egouts & Saint-Germain-en-Laye

We make an unusual visit to the **Egouts**, a complex network of tunnels which mirror the city streets. The sewers have long been an unusual attraction for visitors and guided tours were conducted by boat or wagon as early as the 19th century. Later, we head to the leafy suburbs of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, and the **National Archaeological Museum**.

Day Four | Sacré Coeur & Musée de Montmartre

We head to **Montmartre** in the 18th arrondissement. This hilltop right bank neighbourhood with its narrow alleys and cobbled lanes retains some of the famous village atmosphere that appealed so much to the artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Here we visit the snow-white confection of **Sacré Coeur** and the nearby unsung gem, the **Church of St. Pierre**. There is a Roman temple to Mars tucked away within its holy grounds and we admire the spolia repurposed within the church. We end the day at the **Musée de Montmartre**.

Day Five | Arènes de Lutèce & Catacombes de Paris

We explore the city's Romano-Gallic origins with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD, it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernisation and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand new museography.

Day Six | Paris - London

We leave Paris behind and return to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return train travel from London & all local transport including the Paris Metro

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Paris

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
13th - 18th May	£3,540	£3,340 £625

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/ahpa

Chauvet & Cosquer

An in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds

4 DAYS FROM £2,520pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Palaeolithic cave paintings and engravings are mankind's first recognisable artistic expression, but they mean more even than that. They show creatures which were extant during the Ice Age, shed light on hunter-gatherer culture thousands of years old and many archaeologists believe that the art is a highly sophisticated way of expressing complex beliefs about the supernatural world. The story of mankind is a constantly changing jigsaw puzzle in which many pieces are missing or even change shape as improvements in scientific dating methods and new discoveries redefine them yet again. Join us for an in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds in the company of an expert on rock art and fabulous exponent of popular and accessible archaeology.



An in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds in the company of an expert

Visit to Grotte Chauvet II to explore this unique facility

See the state-of-the-art facsimile of La Grotte Cosquer

Day One | London - Marseille - Avignon

We fly to Marseille and transfer to our hotel. There will be an evening lecture before dinner.

Day Two | Chauvet

Lessons learned at Lascaux, where the cave suffered irreparable damage before its closure in 1963, the Chauvet cave has never been opened to the public since its discovery in 1994. Restrictions imposed by the French Ministry of Culture bar all but scientists and other researchers from the fragile environment of the cave itself. However, recognising that an international audience was clamouring to view the cave, a \$62.5 million facsimile, called the **Grotte Chauvet II** was created and we will explore this unique facility. The simulated cavern is not only a stunning real-life recreation of the cave but also a celebration of its discovery when three weekend cavers tunnelled their way through a narrow passage, and descended into a world frozen in time - its main entrance blocked off by a massive rock slide perhaps 21,000 years ago. In the afternoon we will drive to Aven D'Ornac where we visit the **Cite de la Prehistoire**. The exhibitions here take us on a journey from the Middle Paleolithic to the first

Iron Age covering a period of 350,000 years from Neanderthal to Homo Sapiens.

Day Three | Cosquer

We spend our morning at **Cosquer Mediterranee**, to see the state-of-the-art facsimile of La Grotte Cosquer. Six years in the making, this new museum opened its doors in June 2022, and it is evident that the technical skill used to create the facsimile at Lascaux and Chauvet has shown dividends here. The entire scale of the 2,300m² cave system has been faithfully replicated with meticulous attention to detail. As you are conveyed through the tunnels, skilful lighting reveals more than 500 images which unfold just as you travel deeper into the facsimile. In the afternoon we will explore the Museum of Mediterranean Archaeology, second in France only to the Louvre, which occupies part of the imposing old monastery, the Centre de la Vieille Charité. The Mediterranean Basin and Near East department offers a very rich ceramic and lapidary collection, some of which are unique.

Day Four | Avignon - Marseille - London

We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rob Dinnis

An expert on the Palaeolithic and archaeology of the last Ice Age, Rob has published many papers on how people lived.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Avignon area

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
8th - 11th Apr	£2,520	£205

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/acha

Roman Provence

Amongst diverse landscapes discover some of Europe's finest Roman remains

7 DAYS FROM £3,345pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Provincial Romana was founded in France at the end of the 2nd Century BCE, as the Romans grew their Empire across Europe and an extensive building programme of grand amphitheatres, baths and aqueducts emerged with it, built in the days of high empire to impress and subdue the native Gallic tribes. The idyllic landscapes of Provence are therefore home to some of Europe's finest Roman remains.

Day One | London - St. Remy

We catch the Eurostar/TGV to Avignon via Paris and continue onwards to St. Remy.

Day Two | Nîmes

We spend the day in and around **Nîmes**, a flourishing modern city. Our first visit is to **Porte d'Auguste**, an ancient Roman gate constructed during the reign of Emperor Augustus. We then discover **Maison Carrée**, one of the best-preserved Roman temples in the world and dedicated to Gaius and Lucius Caesar, the grandsons and heirs of Emperor Augustus. In the afternoon, we explore the **Arènes de Nîmes**, a Roman amphitheatre, built around 70 AD and used for gladiatorial contests and other public events. Later, we explore the **Musée de la Romanité**, a contemporary museum offering an immersive experience, with over 5,000 artefacts, including mosaics, statues and everyday objects from the Roman era. Afterwards, we continue to the incredible **Diane Temple**, which features a vaulted ceiling, large arches and intricate stone carvings. We then enjoy a tour of **Magne**, a charming village known for its picturesque landscapes, historical architecture and vibrant local culture.

Day Three | Glanum & Pont du Gard

Before leaving St. Remy this morning we enjoy its vibrant market. We then take a short drive to the **Glanum Archaeological Site**. Once an ancient city founded by the Celts around the 6th century BCE, it was later developed by the Greeks and Romans and features ruins that portray the architectural and cultural influences of these civilisations. In the afternoon, we drive to **Pont du Gard**, an ancient Roman aqueduct bridge. Built in the 1st century AD, it is a remarkable feat of engineering and a testament to the ingenuity of Roman architecture. The Pont du Gard is a UNESCO World Heritage site and remains one of the best-preserved examples of Roman aqueducts. We visit the **Pont du Gard Museum**, for a comprehensive insight into the history and construction of the Pont du Gard. The museum features a variety of exhibits that detail the engineering marvels of Roman aqueducts, the daily life of the Romans who built them and the historical significance of the bridge.

Day Four | Orange

Today, we head to the historic town of Orange and visit the **Arch of Orange**, a UNESCO World Heritage site which was built during the reign of Augustus, around 20-25 AD, to celebrate the victories of the

Roman army. We explore the **Roman Theatre of Orange**, constructed in the early 1st century AD and originally able to accommodate up to 10,000 spectators. It is recognised for its exceptional acoustics and impressive stage wall, which is one of the few remaining examples of a fully intact Roman theatre wall. Our morning ends with a visit to the **History Museum of Orange**, located near the Roman Theatre, which offers a comprehensive look into the town's rich past. This afternoon, we journey to **Vaison-la-Romaine**, a charming town, renowned for its ancient Roman ruins, including a well-preserved theatre, luxurious villas, and intricate mosaics. We discover nearby sites such as **Puymin**, an archaeological site located within the ancient Roman city, which offers a glimpse into the daily life of a Roman town. We enjoy a leisurely walk down to the **Roman Bridge** and wander the Old Town. Known as the Pont Flavian, the bridge is an example of vigorous ancient Roman engineering and is unique due to it being one of the few surviving Roman bridges with its original decorative arches intact.

Day Five | Arles

Today is spent in **Arles**, where we visit the **Archaeological Museum**. The city boasts numerous



Discover the charming town of St. Remy, a haven for artists, writers and musicians and our base for this tour

Explore the World Heritage sites at Orange, Arles and the Pont du Gard in the company of a Roman expert

Visit the Oppidum at Entremont and learn about the extraordinary cult of the severed head

Roman and Romanesque monuments, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including a well-preserved amphitheatre, the Arles Amphitheatre – a testament to its ancient past and is still used today for various events. The Archaeological Museum is a recognised institution dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of ancient artefacts from the region. Its impressive collection includes mosaics, sculptures, sarcophagi and everyday objects that provide insight into the lives of the ancient inhabitants of Arles. A highlight is the Arles Rhône 3, a remarkably well-preserved Roman barge, discovered in the Rhône River. We drive back to St. Remy via the **Barbegal Aqueduct**, an outstanding structure considered one of the most impressive examples of Roman engineering and ingenuity. Used to supply water to the city of Arles, it is unique in its incorporation of a complex watermill system, which is believed to have been used for milling grain.

Day Six | Aix en Provence

This morning, we discover **Aix-en-Provence**, a city famous for its thermal springs and charming Old Town, filled with narrow streets, fountains, and beautifully preserved buildings. We visit **Oppidum**

D'entremont, an ancient Celtic settlement established in the 2nd century BC, which served as the capital of the Salyes, a Celtic tribe. The site is home to some impressive fortifications, including a large defensive wall and gate. Excavations have revealed numerous artefacts, such as pottery, tools and coins, which provide insight into the daily life and culture of the inhabitants. The Oppidum D'entremont is also notable for its carved stone statues and reliefs, which depict warriors, deities and animals, showcasing the artistic skills of the Celts. Aix-en-Provence is home to several renowned art museums, including the **Musée Granet**, which we make our afternoon visit. The museum houses work by Cézanne, Rembrandt, Rubens, Ingres and Picasso and its collection spans several centuries, from the Renaissance to the 20th century. It also hosts temporary exhibitions, providing a culturally dynamic experience, with various artistic styles and historical periods.

Day Seven | St. Remy – Avignon - London

This morning, we transfer to Avignon and take the train to Paris and then back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Prof. Tony King

Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Winchester, Tony has excavated both in Britain and abroad. He is also a specialist in Roman archaeology and an expert in animal bone analysis.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Hotel Gounod, St. Remy or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
20th - 26th Oct	£3,595	£3,345

Save £250pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aprv

Brittany - Carnac & Beyond

Encounter the world's largest assemblage of megalithic sites

7 DAYS FROM £3,730pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Brittany offers a prehistoric landscape filled with some of the world's best megalithic monuments, from standing stones to chambered tombs. A whole day is rightly dedicated to Carnac, where stone rows stud the heather-clad countryside, and we explore passage graves with depictions of weaponry that mark the resting places of a selected few of the wider Neolithic population.



Day One | London - Carnac

We travel by Eurostar and TGV to Carnac.

Day Two | Locmariaquer - Table des Marchands

A morning in and around the fishing village of **Locmariaquer** awaits us. Monuments in the area include the **Mané-Lud Carnac** mound, a large and prominent passage tomb with a central burial at the entrance to the village, the passage-tomb of **Mané Rutuel** and the fallen stone known as the **Grand Menhir Brisé**. When intact, the latter stone

was over 20 metres high and weighed an incredible 280 tonnes. We end the day at the **Table des Marchands**, a passage grave with an exceptionally high burial chamber, capped with a huge, partly decorated stone.

Day Three | Gavrinis - Carnac

We travel by boat to the island of **Gavrinis** in the Gulf of Morbihan, where we visit a large and important passage grave that was constructed around 3500. The stones of the passage and capstone of the tomb are decorated with symbolic



Come face-to-face with a selection of fascinating passage graves, chambered tombs and polished axes

Devote an entire day to the stunning monuments of historic Carnac

Take a ferry to the island of Gavrinis to visit its famous and elaborately decorated passage tomb

and abstract designs in a virtuoso display of prehistoric art. In the distance, we see the stone circle of **Er-Lannic** on its islet before we return to Lamor Baden. One circle marches into the sea and the second has long since vanished beneath the waves. We continue to **Carnac Prehistory Museum**, the richest in the world for Megalithic culture and founded by the Scottish antiquary James Milns, who was the first (and last) to excavate extensively at Carnac. This museum contains a wonderful array of artefacts, including Alpine jade axes, some of the best-preserved jewellery and exquisitely knapped arrowheads.

Day Four | Plouharnel - Erdeven - Quiberon

We visit various sites between Plouharnel and Erdeven, including **Mané-Kerioned**, a group of three dolmens, the impressive dolmen at Crucuno that is partly incorporated into a farmhouse, and also the passage graves of **Mané-Groh** and **Rondossecc**. Later on, we visit the Quiberon Peninsula, where we visit the **Port Blanc Dolmens**, a set of 2 passage tombs where the bodies of around 50 people were preserved by the sandy environment. Lastly, we stop at the **Kerbougnec Alignment**, on the eastern side of the peninsula. Here the stones can be seen at low tide stretching out into the sea.

Day Five | Carnac - Geant du Manio

Today is spent exploring the megalithic sites of

Carnac. The fantastic rows of stones, over 3,000 of them, run for over three kilometres across the Breton countryside. They are accompanied by tombs in the form of tumuli and dolmens (eroded stone-built tombs with capstones). There are four groups of alignments, three of which may once have formed a single conglomeration. We visit the rows at **Le Menec** and view the alignments of **Kermario**. After lunch, we explore the passage grave at **Kercado** and visit the menhir known as **Le Géant du Manio**. Along a forest trail, we find this giant in a clearing, standing over six metres high.

Day Six | Le Rocher - Petit Mont Cairn

We delve into the **Le Rocher** passage tomb and then we explore the **Arzon peninsula**, on the south side of the Gulf of Morbihan, where we visit the **Petit Mont Cairn**. This extraordinary cairn has been much reconstructed, but is still a very impressive construction of about 4600 BC, with several phases of burial chambers. It was commandeered in 1943 to have a bunker – part of the Atlantic Wall – built into it. Ironically, the damage created revealed the very first dolmen chamber.

Day Seven | Carnac - London

Our tour comes to an end today as we make our return journey by train back to London..

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Nick Thorpe

A lecturer in Archaeology, Nick has published books and articles on prehistoric Wessex, Britain and Europe, on burial practices, and on the origins of agriculture and the archaeological fringe.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return train travel from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Hôtel Les Salines de Thalazur Carnac or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
1st - 7th Sep	£3,930 £3,730	£555

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/abri

Romans & Gauls

From Alesia to Lugdunum

8 DAYS FROM £4,470PP

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Marvellous itinerary, excellent guiding and good company.”

Join us in Burgundy, the gorgeous French region served by the conjoining Rhône and Saône. This is a region where two great French passions collide - wine and food. Aside from its gastronomic pedigree, however, amidst its mustard field-dotted rolling green hills, we find cobbled Medieval streets, glorious Gallo-Roman and Celtic antiquity, and some of the most important Western churches and monasteries of the Middle Ages. This territory was right in the heart of Gaul, and it was here at Alesia that Julius Caesar finally conquered his Gallic opponents. A statue of Vercingetorix, the Celts' supreme commander, symbolises the extinction of the Celts' independence and marks the place where France was born, or at least conceived.

Day One | London - Lyon - Dijon

We fly to Lyon and transfer to our hotel in Dijon.

Day Two | Châtillon-sur-Seine & Alésia

This morning we visit the **Musée du Pays Châtillonnais** in the pretty town of Châtillon-sur-Seine. Its collections cover the entire history of the region and include the astonishing **Vix krater**, a 6th century BC Greek bronze vessel discovered at the burial mound nearby. We continue to Alésia, the battle site of Caesar's final Gallic victory, and its museum. We also view the **Vercingetorix statue** and then on to the **Muséopark Museum** and reconstructions.

Day Three | Autun & Bibracte

We travel to **Autun** in the Saône Valley in the hill country of the Morvans, an unsung but lovely part of France. The mottled greys and pinks of local granite often featured in the work of artist Pierre Bonnard. Autun was one of the wealthiest towns in Roman Gaul and we will visit the **impressive** theatre, town walls and gates, together with fascinating remains of a large Romano-Celtic temple. We continue to Bibracte in the **afternoon**. One of the largest and most important hillforts of Gaul and site of Caesar's defeat at the hands of the Helvetii tribe the climax of his first campaign



in Gaul.

Day Four | Dijon & Nuits-St-George

We begin the day at **Dijon Museum**, housed in the former abbey of Sainte Bénigne. Here we see the display of wooden Gallo-Roman statues found at Sources-de-la-Seine, a sanctuary associated with healing cult. The many wooden, bronze and stone ex-votos they placed there represent the parts of the human or animal body affected by disease. Leaving the city, we travel through the Burgundy



Discover the hidden gems of Autun and Vienne including the best-preserved Roman temple in France

View the wonderful collections of the Musée Gallo Roman in Lyon

Gain new understanding of one of Rome's formidable adversaries, the Gauls

vineyards, to **Nuits-St-Georges**. Here, we visit the Roman town and temple site and the museum.

Day Five | Dijon - Lyon

We travel south to Lyon today stopping on the way at the charming riverside town of **Chalon-sur-Saône**. Once a busy Roman port, we visit the **Musée Denon** with its finds recovered from the River Saône. Next we visit the small town of **Cluny**, where, in the 10th century, monastic reform developed and took wing, extending throughout Europe. We visit the impressive remains of the **Abbey**, mother house of the Cluniac Order. We continue to Lyon where we will stay for the remainder of our tour.

Day Six | Lyon

Today is dedicated to **Lyon**. In antiquity its position at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône placed it on an important axis linking the Mediterranean to the future interior provinces. Here we discover the capital of the Three Gauls (Gallia Celtica, Belgica, and Aquitania) in the **Gallo-Roman Museum**, and the adjacent theatre and odeon. Early Christian churches and cathedral baptistery give us an insight into the importance of Lugdunum in late Roman times. The afternoon is spent exploring the aqueducts of the city, unique in the western Roman Empire for their complexity and engineering.

Day Seven | Vienne & St. Romain-en-Gal

We spend the morning in Vienne, visiting the near complete **Temple of Augustus and Livia**, the theatre and other remains of this wealthy Roman town on the banks of the river Rhône. In the afternoon, we cross the river to St. Romain-en-Gal, a suburb that has seen extensive excavation, and now has a rich display of houses and mosaics on display in situ and in the new **Gallo-Roman museum**.

Day Eight | Lyon - London

We transfer to the airport for our return flight back to London.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Prof. Tony King

Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Winchester, Tony has excavated both in Britain and abroad. He is also a specialist in Roman archaeology and an expert in animal bone analysis.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Dijon & Lyon

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
10th - 17th Jun	£4,770	£4,470 £590

Save £300pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/arrs

Cave Art of the Dordogne

Discover the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe

7 DAYS FROM £3,730pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



The beauty of the Dordogne is undisputed – lush walnut groves and mellow limestone, dramatic chateaux and sinuous rivers blend harmoniously in one of France's best-loved regions. For Andante guests, however, its greatest beauty lies in the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe. Our Guide Lecturers tell the story of the art, its discovery and what is known of the people who created it – the first true 'old masters', caught in the extreme cold of the last Ice Age.



Day One | London - Paris - Poitiers

We take the Eurostar to Poitiers via Paris. Upon arrival, we drive to the village of Angles-sur-l'Anglin where we will see **Roc-aux-Sorciers**.

Day Two | Poitiers - Les Eyzies

This morning we head to Les Eyzies making some important stops along the way. Our first is to the excellent **Museum of Prehistory** at Lussac-les-Chateau dedicated to the local prehistory. We continue to **Roc-de-Sers** and **La Chaire à Calvin**, a rock shelter decorated with monumental parietal sculptures.

Day Three | Cap Blanc & Font de Gaume

We begin at the rock shelter of **Cap Blanc**, a rare example of Ice Age sculpted bas-reliefs and the best still in situ which are open to the public. After lunch we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Font de Gaume**, the **Musée de la Préhistoire** and finally the **Musée de l'Abri de Cro-Magnon**.

Day Four | Le Thot & Lascaux IV centre and Lascaux II cave

This morning we visit the **Lascaux IV centre** and then its on to the park of **Le Thot**. We have an independent lunch in Montignac, before dedicating the afternoon to the **Lascaux II cave**. Lascaux is the most famous and spectacular of all



Discover images from the world-famous painted cave of Lascaux at the Interpretation Centre, Lascaux IV

Enjoy an extended itinerary taking in verdant landscapes and limestone plateaux of the Dordogne

Gain insights from experts in rock art and the archaeology of the last Ice Age

View the extraordinary UNESCO-listed cave system at Grotte de Rouffignac



decorated caves, with hundreds of paintings and 1,500 engravings, best known for its awe-inspiring depictions of aurochs, horses and deer.

Day Five | Grotte de Rouffignac & Abri du Poisson

We travel by electric train into the cave system of **Rouffignac**. Known as the Cave of the Hundred Mammoths, about one-third of all mammoth depictions known are found in this cave. Our next stop will be to the fascinating site of **Laugerie Haute** before ending our day at the small rock shelter known as **Abri du Poisson**.

Day Six | Cognac & Pech Merle

Our first visit is to **Cognac**, two caves are found here which contain the claw-marks of cave bears and fascinating stalactite and stalagmite formations. We continue to **Pech Merle**, with painted black outlines of aurochs, mammoth, spotted-horses, geometric shapes and handprints.

Day Seven | Les Eyzies - Paris - London

We travel back to Paris by train and then by Eurostar to London St Pancras.

Cave visits may vary according to seasonal opening hours.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers. Join Paul on our 6th May departure.



Dr Rob Dinnis

An expert on the Palaeolithic and archaeology of the last Ice Age, Rob has published on human dispersals, Palaeolithic material culture and Ice Age environments in which people lived. Join Rob on our 9th September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return train travel from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Poitiers - Les Eyzies

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
6th - 12th May	£3,930	£285
9th - 15th Sep	£3,930 £3,730	£285 £0

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/adgn

Roman Germany

Exploring the Rhine Frontier

10 DAYS FROM £5,545pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“An excellent tour visiting interesting sites with expert guidance.”

In AD 9, the largest army of the Roman Empire suffered unprecedented defeat at the Teutoburg Forest. This episode brought about a change in Roman strategies in Germany. Rome by and large abandoned further expansion in Germany and, instead, constructed the *limes Germanicus*, a defence system of bank, ditch, wall and forts which developed over time. This involved a massive concentration of the army in this area and, with that, the acculturation of the native populations as troops interacted with locals. For this reason, there is a plethora of Roman archaeological sites, both domestic and military, along the *limes*. In this beautiful part of Europe often overlooked by tourists, we will explore extraordinary museums, stunning houses, along with the *limes* itself.

Day One | London - Düsseldorf - Cologne

We fly to Düsseldorf from London and transfer to our hotel in Cologne. Time permitting, there will be an evening walk where we might admire the skyline dominated by Cologne's famous cathedral.

Day Two | Xanten

Heading north, we arrive at **Xanten** where the Roman town of **Colonia Ulpia Traiana** has been reconstructed. The city was constructed by the army in order to service the legion and the auxiliary troops stationed here; the latest incarnation was built ex novo in the Trajanic period – after the previous city was destroyed in the revolt of the Batavi. The result was one of the largest *colonia* in the Roman empire and included all the amenities associated with a Roman city, including baths and an amphitheatre. The **archaeological park** at Xanten today is a recreation of this *colonia* on the site of the archaeological site; though somewhat controversial, it offers us the chance to experience Roman buildings as they must have been.

Day Three | Cologne

Today, we explore the impressive remains of **Cologne**, the erstwhile *Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium*. Despite the Romano-Germanic Museum will be closed for some time, we will be able to visit a new display of it in the Belgian House. We continue on to the impressive burial chamber at **Koln-weiden**, and the remains beneath

the churches of Gross St. Martin and St. Severin. After lunch we visit the hidden gems dating from the Roman in Cologne, including the renowned Ubier monument.

Day Four | Cologne – Boppard - Braubach

Today we visit the extensive **Ahrweiler villa** which was built in the 1st century AD at the height of the empire and transformed in the crisis ridden late antique period into a smelting plant. The imposing remains, which have survived thanks to a 5th century AD landslide preserving the villa, are testament to the wealth of the German elites in the early imperial period, as well as the struggle they faced from the 3rd century onwards. We explore the ruins as well as the excellent museum which preserves artefacts from the site. Then on to **Boppard**, a UNESCO listed town lying in the picturesque Rhine Gorge, with a Medieval core. From here we travel by boat on a beautiful part of the Rhine to our next hotel in Braubach.

Day Five | Zugmantel, Saarlautern & Feldberg

We reach the *limes* – the 500km boundary fortified with great banks and ditches overlooked by 900 watchtowers and patrolled from 60 forts. We start with an exploration of the remains of a fort in **Zugmantel** built in the Flavian period as part of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian *Limes* and today located in an atmospheric edge of a wood. Next to the fort, which has been reconstructed, is a vicus, a settlement which grew next to the fort, a spill over



from the fort which may have included locals who lived near the army to provide support for it. We proceed to the UNESCO listed site **Saarlautern**, where we explore a spectacularly reconstructed cohort fort, as well as an excellent museum. We end the day at the *limes* in **Feldberg** which preserves remain of a bath house, granary and praetorium.

Day Six | Braubach - Mainz - Trier

A drive along the Rhine, takes us to **Mainz**, ancient *Mogontiacum*, the founded at the end of the 1st century BC by Drusus as a military fortress and capital of *Germania Superior*. We start the day at the world class **Museum für Antike Schifffahrt** established in order to display the remains of 6 remarkably well-preserved ships found in the Rhine in 1981, two which have been reconstructed. Four of the ships, are a type known as the *navis lusoria*, a nimble, shallow draft ship used for transport troops previously only known from written sources. In the museum, we see other artefacts from the *classis Germanica*, the Rhine fleet. After lunch, we visit the **Temple of Isis** in Mainz, which shows how cosmopolitan the province was in the Roman period. Afterwards, we have free time where you might visit the Gutenberg Museum before we head to Trier.



Explore the remains of the fort and reconstructed watchtower at the UNESCO site of Saarburg

Admire the richly illustrated gladiatorial mosaic at the Villa Nennig, one of the most important Roman artefacts north of the Alps

Visit the Museum für Antike Schifffahrt in Mainz for an unparalleled exploration in the ancient art of seafaring

Explore the impressive Roman remains the UNESCO listed Trier, including the Porta Nigra

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specializes in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military.



Day Seven | Trier

Today is the first of our days in Imperial **Trier**, the erstwhile Augusta Treverorum which became prosperous in the 4th century when it was made capital of the Prefecture of Gaul. The city is a UNESCO listed site for its spectacular Roman remains, the most significant in Germany. Trier also has wonderful Gothic remains, some of which we will explore in the **Museum am Dom**, which is UNESCO listed for its wonderful collection of early art and illuminated manuscripts. We proceed to the **Rheinisches Landesmuseum**, which contains one of the best collections of ancient artefacts in Germany, including the Trassem gold hoard from 1600 BC. In the afternoon, we view **Constantine's Basilica**, built by the emperor Constantine as part of a palace complex and which remains the largest extant ancient hall.

Day Eight | Porta Nigra & Villa Borg

This morning we spend the morning in Trier, visiting the famous **Porta Nigra** whose remarkable preservation is due to its transformation into two superimposed churches, as well as the **Kaiserthermen Baths** whose impressive remains were built in the 4th century. We proceed to the funerary monument of **Igel**, decorated with remarkable detail of wool merchant's lives before driving to the **Villa Nennig** where see the remarkably well-preserved gladiatorial mosaic – the most important north of the Alps – which belonged to the atrium of a Roman villa built in the end of the 2nd century. We end the day with a visit

to the and the impressive reconstruction of the **Villa Borg**, a villa rustica whose pars dominica and pars rustica both survive.

Day Nine | Trier - Aachen

We drive to **Aachen**, where Charlemagne was crowned in 800 and his preferred residence. A city redolent of Germanic identity, it is where the Holy Roman Emperors were crowned from the 9th to the 16th centuries. In a tour which started with the imperial period, continued to the late antique period, it is fitting that it ends with the Holy Roman empire. In the morning we take a walking tour of the city and visit the **Treasury**, richly endowed by Holy Roman emperors, including Charlemagne himself. It includes the Aachen Gospels and a diptych of Christ from the Carolingian period, as well as the Lothar cross from the time of Otto III. We end the day at the incredible UNESCO listed **Cathedral of Aachen**, built at the order of Charlemagne to resemble the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna and to challenge the Basilica of San Giovanni in Lateran in splendour. Richly decorated with marbles taken from Rome and Ravenna, this cathedral, one of the oldest in Europe is a fitting way to (almost) end the tour.

Day Ten | Aachen - Dusseldorf - London

Before transferring to the airport for our flight home and time permitting, we pay our final visit is to the 14th century **Gothic Rathaus** or town hall whose coronation hall contains 19th century frescoes of Charlemagne.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Cologne, Braubach, Trier, Aachen

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
8th - 17th Jun	£5,745	£765
28th Sep - 7th Oct	£5,845	£765

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Berlin - Beyond the Wall

The highs and lows of a city divided and reunited

5 DAYS FROM £2,520pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



Enjoy the rich flavour of the region's past and present, from its royal Prussian palaces to its place in Nazi fantasies, and explore its role as a hub of both socialist cultures and radical counter cultures. Berlin has been the nexus for so many pivotal moments in European history and its stories are simply fascinating. Join our expert Guide Lecturer on visits to the city's most significant and historic sites and museums.



Explore the city with a long-term resident and experienced archaeologist

Pay a visit to Sanssouci, Frederick the Great's Rococo summer palace

See Berlin's iconic sites, including as the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie

World-class museums await discovery, which are home to amazing artefacts from the ancient world

Day One | London - Berlin

We fly to Berlin from London. In the evening we take a stroll through the heart of Berlin to explore the Prussian city shaped in large part by Frederick the Great. We take in the **Opera House, Humboldt University** – founded by Frederick William III in the 19th century – and the **Memorial at Bebelplatz**.

Day Two | Berlin

We spend the morning at **Museum Island**, the cultural heart of imperial Berlin where we explore innumerable treasures such as the famous bust of Nefertiti at the **Neues Museum** followed by a visit to **PERGAMON, Masterpieces of the Ancient Metropolis and 360° Panorama** (the Pergamon Museum is currently closed for refurbishment). After lunch we visit the **Jewish Quarter** where we see memorials such as the Stumbling Stones and Deserted Room and consider Otto Weidt who employed blind and deaf Jews to make brooms and brushes, thereby saving them from deportation. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore at leisure.

Day Three | Berlin - Cecilienhof

We spend the day in Potsdam and visit **Sanssouci**, Frederick the Great's Rococo private residence that was built in the mid 18th century. We proceed to

Cecilienhof, a very different royal palace built by the Hohenzollern during World War I, ironically in the form of an English Tudor manor house.

Day Four | Berlin - Wittenberg

We journey to Wittenberg today to visit a number of World Heritage Sites associated with Luther. These include the **Lutherhaus**, originally part of the University of Wittenberg, it became Martin Luther's residence and is where he wrote his 95 theses. We also visit the Castle Church, or rather **All Saints' Church**, where he allegedly nailed his 95 theses to the door and where he is buried. In this town steeped in the reformation, we visit the houses of other figures important to the movement, such as Melanchthon and the painter, Cranach.

Day Five | Berlin - London

This morning we explore Berlin's famous sites, including the **Reichstag**. We also visit **Brandenburg Gate**, modelled on the Propylaeum of the Athenian Acropolis and one of the most iconic sites in Berlin. We complete the morning with a visit to **'Checkpoint Charlie'**, the infamous crossing point between East and West so redolent of the city's Cold War period. Our tour will end this afternoon and we transfer to the airport, where we catch our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Nick Jackson

Nick is an archaeologist with wide-ranging excavation experience. He has lived and worked in Berlin for over 20 years and has an in-depth knowledge of his home city.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Berlin

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
4th - 8th Dec	£2,670	£2,520 £235 £0

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Vienna

Exploring Habsburg Wonders in Winter

6 DAYS FROM £3,745pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



From its ancient origins as a castrum and canaba in the Roman period, Vienna grew to dizzying heights after becoming the capital of the Holy Roman Empire in the 15th century, developing into one of the most important imperial centres of Europe. This tour will guide you through this masterpiece of Baroque architecture and apart from the sumptuous palaces, we explore the city's many world class museums, doing all of this in the festive season, a lovely time to visit this city of music.



Explore the many artistic masterpieces in the *Kunsthistorisches Museum*

Gaze at Klimt's *Kiss* and his other works of art in the stupendous *Schloss Belvedere Palace*

Examine the treasures excavated in *Ephesus*, including the *Parthian Monument*

View the fabulous collection of paintings and drawings in the *Albertina Museum*

Day One | London - Vienna

We fly to Vienna and settle into our hotel, after which we make our way to the Hoher markt, afterwards onto the **Roman museum** and then the **Rathaus Platz** to gaze at the grandeur of the neo gothic architecture of the city hall and to enter into the Christmas spirit by walking through the Christmas market.

Day Two | Vienna

Today we embark on a journey taking in two iconic museums, the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** and the **Naturhistorisches Museum**, both constructed the end of the 19th century. We end the day with a visit of the Christmas markets in Maria-Theresien-Platz.

Day Three | Vienna

This morning we venture to **St. Stephen's Cathedral** and then continue to the **Albertina Museum**. After lunch we visit the **Staatsoper**, the impressive opera house built by Franz and then continue to the **Secession Building**. We end the day in Karlsplatz for the wonderful Christmas market there and for the **Karlskirche**.

Day Four | Vienna

We begin with a visit to the **Imperial Crypt**, before continuing to the **Michaelerplatz**, where we see the remains of a canaba or civilian settlement attached to Vindobona, as well as a Christmas market. We continue to the **Hofburg Palace**, the winter residence of the Habsburg dynasty then to the **National Library**. We visit the **Augustinerkirche** and then end the day with a visit to the **Ephesus Museum** housed in the Neuen Burg Building of the Hofburg.

Day Five | Vienna

This morning we venture outside Vienna to visit the wonderful **Stift Melk**, the wonderfully set Benedictine Abbey. After lunch, we venture to the **Schönbrunn Summer Palace**, and it is here in the gardens that we explore the delightful **Christmas Market**.

Day Six | Vienna - London

We have saved one of Vienna's most spectacular buildings for our last morning, the **Schloss Belvedere**, which was built by the military commander par excellence, Eugene of Savoy, in the beginning of the 18th century. Afterwards we make our way to the airport for our return journey back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tom Abbott

An art and architecture historian whose expertise is wide ranging, from the Baroque and Rococo, to modern and contemporary.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Vienna

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
3rd - 8th Dec	£3,945	£3,745 £760

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Romans, Visigoths & Viziers

Pay a memorable visit to the legendary Alhambra Palace

8 DAYS FROM £5,145pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Southern Spain, rich in precious metals, wine and olive oil, has attracted the attention of many would-be conquerors over the centuries. From North Africa came the Carthaginians, then came the Romans and then followed the Visigoths, who were vanquished by the Moors. From prehistory to the Renaissance, this tour progresses through the myriad ages of the region.

Day One | London - Seville

Today we fly from London to Seville and transfer to our hotel on arrival.

Day Two | Seville

Our day begins at the **Palacio le Lebrija**, housing an Archaeological Museum famous for its Roman mosaics. Next we visit the **Metropole Parasol**, the iconic wooden structure locals refer to as Las Setas, and explore the archaeological remains found underneath it. After lunch, we explore the **Cathedral of St. Mary of the See**, the largest Gothic church in the world, and the **Real Alcázar**, the oldest European royal palace still in use today.

Day Three | Seville

This morning we travel to Ecija. This important Roman town (Astigi) was once very well preserved but was largely destroyed in 1998 to urban development practices. Luckily the local museum has a large collection of the artefacts, including many mosaics and an impressive statue found in 2002 during excavations of the main square. After lunch we travel to Carmona to explore the ruins of the ancient city, the fortress, as well as the necropolis, famed for its extensive rock-cut tombs. The most important finds on display among the collections in the **Carmona Museum** are the Tartessian and Roman remains, which we will also see.



Day Four | Seville - Córdoba

This morning we travel to **Carmona** to explore the ruins of the ancient city, the fortress, as well



Follow the route of the Roman Via Augusta, an ancient road built to link Spain with Italy

Tour the ruined Moorish palace of Medina Azahara, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Explore vibrant Seville, Moorish Córdoba and historic Granada – cities that offer unique insight into life in this Spanish region

Indulge in the traditional flavours of the country at each stop and see how the cuisine changes as we travel around

as the necropolis, famed for its extensive rock-cut tombs. The most important finds on display among the collections in the **Carmona Museum** are the Tartessian and Roman remains, which we also see. In the afternoon, we drive to **Córdoba**, where we visit the **archaeological museum**, whose collection of artefacts spans the breadth of early Andalusian history and includes the Lion of Nueva Carteya.

Day Five | Córdoba

After breakfast, we venture out of the city to explore the ruined Moorish palace of **Medina Azahara**. Upon our return to Córdoba, we explore a city colonised by Muslims in the 8th century. We explore the **Mezquita**, a peerless mosque that transformed into an elaborate gilt cathedral in the 16th century. Lastly, we explore the atmospheric **Jewish Quarter**.

Day Six | Córdoba - Granada

Visit the archaeological park of **Torreparedones**, an important Ibero-Roman site where we see a market and forum. Later, we visit the **Baena Archaeological Museum** to view the artefacts recovered from the

site and the larger region dating from Prehistory to the Middle Ages.

Day Seven | Granada

Today is spent in **Granada**, exploring first the city and then the **Granada Archaeological Museum**, set in a 16th century palace. The highlight, however, is the **Alhambra**, with its enchanting blend of Arabic and Renaissance architecture. Described by Muslim poets as a pearl set in emeralds, there are fewer places more famous than this.

Day Eight | Granada - Málaga - London

We drive to Málaga and catch our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Seville, Córdoba & Granada

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
6th - 13th Oct	£5,445	£5,145 £870

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Rock Art of Portugal & Spain

Cave art without the caves

7 DAYS FROM £3,520pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



As an immense open-air gallery, the Côa Valley is blessed with more than a thousand rock art depictions, identified in more than 80 different sites, with a predominance of Palaeolithic engravings, executed around 30,000 years ago. This is a rare opportunity to visit rock art away from the beaten tourist trail, across the Spanish/Portuguese border region, in unspoiled countryside. Set within the peaceful valley of the Côa River, surrounded by rolling hills and vineyards, the engravings were only discovered 20 years ago when they were about to be drowned as part of a huge dam project. An international outcry saved the rock art for prosperity. It is not only the largest outdoor collection of Palaeolithic images, but also, the only known place where rock art from the Upper Palaeolithic (c2400 BCE) through to historical times is found together. There is an interesting comparison with the Spanish site at Siega Verde just across the border.

Day One | London - Porto

We fly from London to Porto and make our way to our hotel.

Day Two | Porto - Foz Côa

We make the most of our time in the lovely town of **Porto** this morning with a guided walk through the key parts of the city, which have helped to make the town into the UNESCO heritage site it is today. We might visit the cathedral, or the Casa do Infante. After an early lunch, we board a train on a scenic journey along the green and pleasant Douro river valley towards Foz Côa and Pocinho. From

here we will transfer to our hotel in preparation of our first rock art sites tomorrow morning.

Day Three | Canada do Inferno & Fariseu

We begin appropriately, at **Canada do Inferno**, where the first petroglyphs were discovered in 1991. The chronology of rock art here encompasses all phases of Palaeolithic art and the tradition of engraving continued during the Neolithic period. This afternoon we visit **Fariseu**, a site so unique that for a long time its authenticity remained the subject of hot debate and later in the early evening, we will take a trip up to **Penascosa**. By visiting in



the evening with artificial light, we are able to see details in the artwork that cannot easily be picked out during daylight.

Day Four | Ribeira de Piscos - Foz Côa Museum - Penascosa

We return to the Côa Valley again today, this time venturing further to the **Ribeira de Piscos**. Some of the best known of all the region's images are to be found here including the 'Man of Piscos', a rare human figure etched into the rocks. After lunch we visit the **Foz Côa Museum**, housed in a beautiful contemporary building with plenty of space and



Explore the most remarkable open-air ensemble of Palaeolithic art on the Iberian Peninsula

Stay two nights in Porto, enjoying its old-world charm and UNESCO heritage status

Enjoy a lovely rail trip along the valley of the Foz Coa on the MiraDuoro train

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



light to view the displays. The museum tells the story not only of the art itself, but also its discovery and the fight to preserve the heritage of the region. Afterwards, we return to the Penascosa site to view it in daylight.

Day Five | Siega Verde & Castelo Rodrigo

We take another lovely drive through rolling countryside to **Siega Verde** where we will explore many of the rock art sites, some of which date back twenty millennia. The site boasts a menagerie of prehistoric wildlife, from goat to bison and reindeer to woolly rhinoceros. Before returning to our hotel we stop at **Castelo Rodrigo**, a fortified medieval town with a well-preserved Gothic castle. We will have some time to explore its winding streets at leisure before we head back to Foz Côa.

Day Six | Foz Côa - Porto

Before our return to Porto this afternoon, we make one final visit to the **Foz Côa Museum**, where we can explore at our own pace. After lunch we will make our way back to the station and board our train for our second trip along the river valley back to Porto.

Day Seven | Porto - London

We transfer to the airport and travel back to London today.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Porto & Foz Côa

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
19th - 25th May	£3,720	£3,520 £340 £0

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Highlights of the Viking Homelands

Denmark, Norway & Sweden

11 DAYS FROM £7,420pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The Vikings were the greatest seafarers, raiders, and traders of the Early Middle Ages. Far from being a race of unwashed barbarians, they presided over a trading network which extended from Greenland to Baghdad. They fought with swords forged from Afghan steel, imported silk from China, reached the coast of North America and sent mercenaries to Constantinople. Following in the Viking's footsteps, we make our own epic voyage across Denmark into Norway and culminating in Sweden.

Day One | London – Copenhagen - Odense

We fly to Copenhagen and transfer to our hotel in Odense.

Day Two | Jelling

This morning we drive to **Jelling**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most extraordinary archaeological sites in Denmark. We will see Gorm's Stone and Harald's Stone, both decorated and inscribed with runes and with two substantial burial mounds with a church between them. The north mound was found to contain a wooden burial chamber when excavated and may have been the grave of King Gorm the Old. The Kongernes Jelling Visitor Centre provides a splendid view of the whole monument complex from its roof terrace.

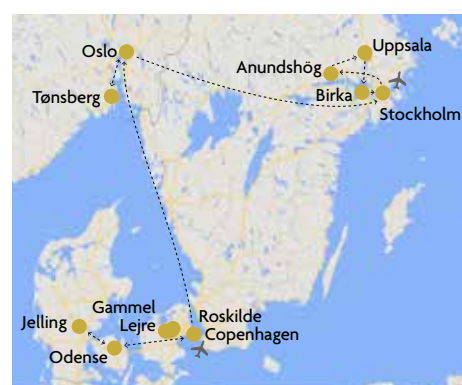
Day Three | Odense - Copenhagen

We travel west to visit the famous **Ladby ship burial** which has been preserved in situ beneath a reconstructed mound. Nothing of the timber has survived, but like Sutton Hoo, the clenching rivets

remained in place, with an impression in the earth of the planking. The burial had been plundered but the skeletons of eleven horses, three or four dogs and many other grave goods escaped the robbers. It is thought to have been a rowing boat for 32 oarsmen, and dates to about 850-950 AD. We conclude our visit with the **Ladby Museum** before we cross the Great Belt Bridge to Zealand and our site visit at **Trelleborg**. Here we see the ring fortress, one of a number of extraordinary, well-planned circular forts built at the time of King Harald Bluetooth in the 10th century. We end the day in Copenhagen.

Day Four | Gammel Lejre & Roskilde

This morning we visit **Gammel Lejre**, the site of a prosperous manor owned by the Danish crown in the Middle Ages. Its association with important literary material, including Beowulf, shows us that this was a particularly important Iron-age and Viking-period royal centre. We continue to **Roskilde** where the **Viking Ship Museum** displays



one of the best-preserved groups of Viking period ships from the Scandinavian world. There will be an opportunity to sail in a replica Viking ship. We also visit the **cathedral**, burial place of Danish royalty.

Day Five | Copenhagen - Oslo

On our last morning in Denmark, we visit the excellent **National Museum in Copenhagen** with prehistoric and Viking artefacts including the Gundestrup caldron, the Trundholm chariot, an amazing series of Bronze Age coffined burials and a magnificent Bronze Age lur (a long natural blowing horn). In the afternoon we take the overnight ferry to Norway.



Visit Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm, Scandinavia's fascinating capital cities

Sail through the Kattegat and the Skagerrak straits connecting the Baltic & North Seas

View the famous Viking longships at Roskilde, the best-preserved collection in Scandinavia

Enjoy the UNESCO listed archaeological site of Birka, just a boat ride away from vibrant Stockholm

Day Six | Tønsberg

We arrive in Oslo and after breakfast, we disembark and drive south to **Tønsberg**, once an important trading centre. We will visit the **Slottsfjellsmuseet**, a small museum dedicated to the history of the area and includes the Klastad ship, which when excavated was found to be carrying a cargo of sharpening stones from Telemark, a Norwegian export for more than a thousand years. We continue to the **Borre Burial Mounds** and the **Midgard Viking Centre** before returning to Oslo.

Day Seven | Oslo

This morning we visit the **Medieval Archaeological Park** in Gamle Oslo. Recent excavations in this area have yielded a lot of new information about key architectural and societal developments between 1050 and 1537 AD. After lunch we return to the centre of Oslo to explore the **History Museum** which houses amid its Viking and early medieval wing, several magnificent Stave Church portals decorated with fantastical dragons and beasts. The rest of the day is yours to spend at leisure.

Day Eight | Oslo - Stockholm

Leaving Norway this morning, we take the high-speed train east to Stockholm. This afternoon, we take a walk around **Gamle Stan**, the Old Town which occupies the island of Stadsholmen. It is not a Viking Age town, since it dates from the 13th century, but it retains its medieval street pattern with numerous narrow alleyways.

Day Nine | Anundshög & Uppsala

Venturing out of the capital city we head to **Anundshög**, the largest royal burial mound in Sweden. Next, we move to **Gamla Uppsala** to view three huge royal burial mounds that legend attributes to kings Aun, Egil and Adlis. The beautiful Gamla Uppsala kyrka (church) stands over the site of a great temple, where it is believed that sacrifices to the Norse gods Thor, Frey, and Odin took place. Legend and history intertwine as we visit tinghög (parliament hill) and the **Gamla Uppsala Historical Centre**, which displays the artifacts from the excavated mounds.

Day Ten | Birka

We take a boat to the island of Björkö (meaning 'Birch Island') to explore the UNESCO-listed Viking town of **Birka**. Founded in the year 750, it benefited from its strategic location and became an important Viking trading centre until 975, when Gotland and Sigtuna took over the Russia-Byzantine trade. A silver ring from a Viking-era grave in Birka is the first with Arabic inscription from that era to be found in Scandinavia's centre. 700 people lived at Birka when it was at its largest, and 3,000 graves have been found.

Day Eleven | Stockholm - London

Flight time permitting, we will visit the amazingly complex Vasa warship before we head to the airport for our flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Brian Ayers

An expert in medieval urban archaeology, Brian is Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia. He is interested in the origins and the development of towns on both sides of the North Sea during the early medieval period.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Copenhagen, Oslo & Stockholm

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
5th - 15th Sep	£7,820 £7,420	£895

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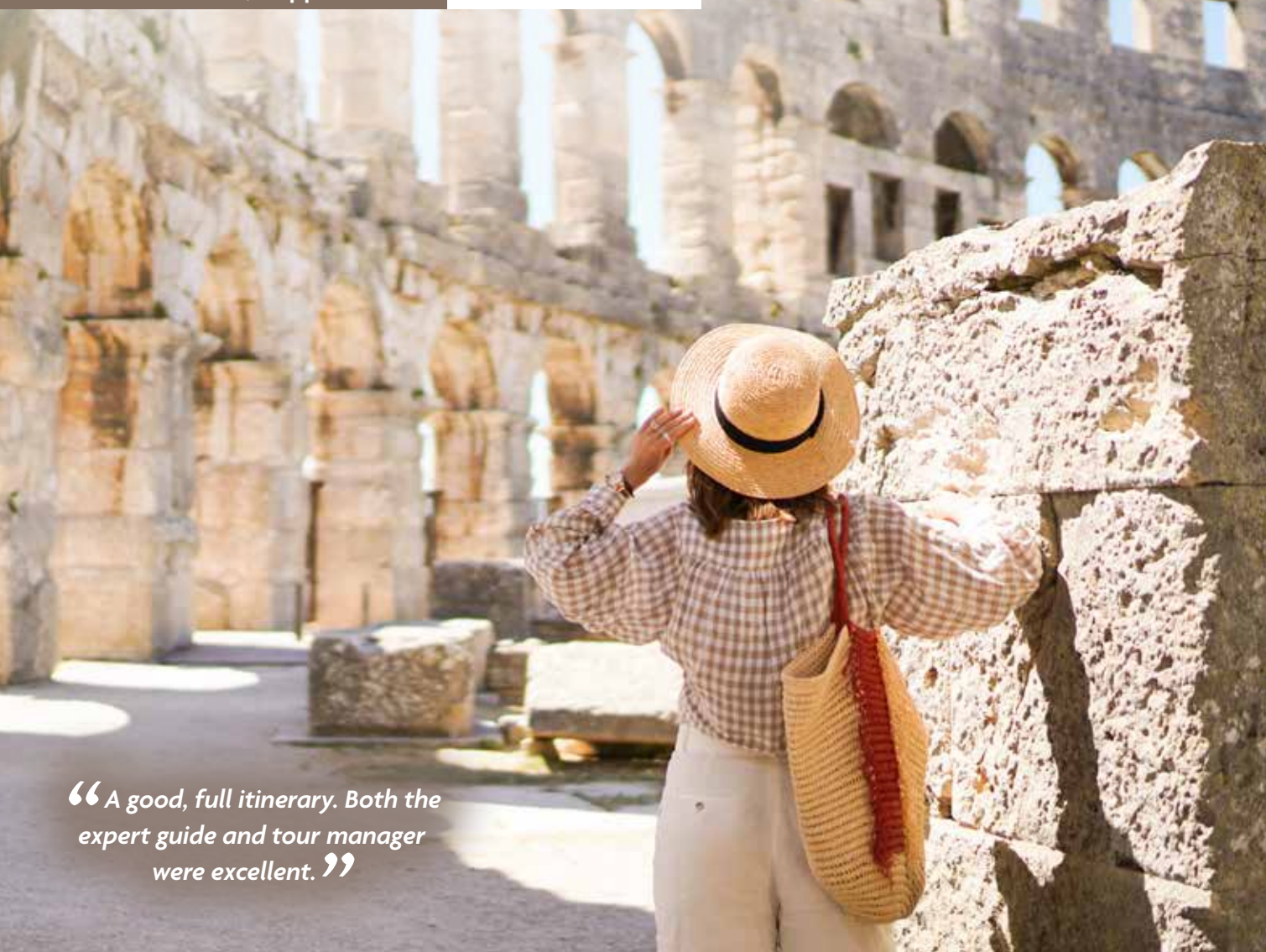
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The Archaeology of Roman Istria

Exploring idyllic Croatia

5 DAYS FROM £2,795pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“A good, full itinerary. Both the expert guide and tour manager were excellent.”

The idyllic peninsula of Istria, with its staggeringly beautiful coastline, has a rich history linking it to the Veneti and is now famed for its wonderful ancient ruins as well as its beautiful Venetian cities. This tour brings different layers of history to life, for a memorable journey through Istria's captivating past.

Day One | London - Pula

We depart from London and arrive at Pula airport late evening. Upon arrival, we make our way to our hotel.

Day Two | Pula & Vizula

This morning we explore the wonderful remains of **Pula**, which offer precious testimony to the Roman presence and influence in Istria. Most prominent among these is the stunning **amphitheatre**, which preserves the underground service rooms, as well as the four outer towers, which contained water for the spectators sprinkled on the spectators during performances. We can also see evidence of the structures necessary for the awnings used to shade the spectators. We proceed to the **Roman forum** where we see the **Temple of Augustus**, one of the best-preserved Roman temples outside of the Italian peninsula. Dating from the same period is the Arch of the Sergii, which was both a city gate as well as a

commemoration of the victory at Actium. Nearby is the Gate of Hercules, recognisable from the high relief sculpture of the hero's bearded head, together with his club. Nearby is the well-preserved Roman theatre, built into the hillside on which the castle now sits.

We take a short drive to the charming fishing village of Medulin for lunch after which we head to **Vizula Archaeological Park**. The peninsula which constitutes the archaeological park is beautiful in natural terms but has a wealth of remains. Evidence shows habitation here from the Neolithic period onwards. One of the most striking sites is an Imperial villa, whose large size and rich decorations underlines the prosperity of some of the city's inhabitants. We round off the day at **Nesactium** whose Roman remains were built upon the original Histrian town destroyed by the Romans in 177 B.C. It was an important station on the Via Flavia from Tergeste to Dalmatia.



Day Three | Monkodonja - Poreč - Trieste

This morning we drive to the Bronze Age hill fort at **Monkodonja**. It was discovered in 1953 and has given much evidence of the lives led there. It was inhabited and not merely a defensive refuge, with the Acropolis itself having residential buildings and streets. A good deal of pottery has been unearthed and shows a thriving local culture of craftsmen as well as trade across the Mediterranean even as far as the Levant. We continue to lovely town of **Poreč**, situated on the western side of the Istrian



View the Roman ruins in the elegant city of Trieste, including a stunning theatre and the remains of a forum

Visit Pula with its staggering collection of Roman ruins, including its impressive amphitheatre and stunning Temple of Augustus

Examine the Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč, a stunning early Byzantine church with a magnificent array of shimmering mosaics

Explore the beautifully located archaeological park of Vizula, which contains the remains of an opulent Roman luxury villa

peninsula. Inhabited since prehistoric times, it was a Roman castrum in the second century B.C. making use of the natural harbour and became a municipium during the time of Augustus. We start at **Marafor Square**, site of the Roman forum. There are remains still visible of some of the Roman temples, as well as paving from the forum itself. We note the **Romanesque House**, erected in the 13th century, as well as the **Kanonika**, which still has its original stone portal. Here we see the pediment of the Temple of Neptune, once the largest in Istria. We make our way to beautiful **Euphrasian Basilica** in a complex that includes baptistery and bell tower. This UNESCO listed building is a particularly good example of Byzantine architecture, built in the 6th century on top of an older, 4th century basilica, as well as a Roman domus. Inside, the eye is caught by the staggering mosaics in this complex; the oratory retains a mosaic floor that belonged to the domus.

Day Four | Trieste

Today is dedicated to exploring **Trieste**, the capital of Friuli, which is on the border with Slovenia, and which was shaped by centuries of Habsburg rule when it was one of Europe's most important ports

and the bridge between central and southern Europe. Walking along the city's elegant avenues, we explore the archaeological remains of the city which was a military camp. We start with the **Paleochristian Basilica** first discovered in the 19th century and which is notable for its 4th and 6th century mosaics which are reminiscent of those found in the Euphrasian Basilica, including those which record the names of donors who paid for the floor. We continue to the **Cattedrale di San Giusto**, built between the 9th and 11th centuries on top of an early Christian church and a Roman temple and notable for its Venetian apsidal mosaics. Just outside the cathedral, we explore the remains of the **Roman forum**. The afternoon is spent exploring more Roman remains, including the Arco di Riccardo which monumentalised the entrance to the Cardo, and the well-preserved Roman theatre.

Day Five | Trieste - Pula - London

Before we make our journey to Pula Airport, we drive to the pretty town of **Vodnjan** for a guided walk of its architecture which shows its Venetian heritage. After lunch, we continue to the airport where we catch our return flights to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Pula & Trieste

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
27th -31st Aug	£2,945	£2,795 £435

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NEW
FOR 2025

Frontier Lands of Romania

From the Dacians to Dracula

10 DAYS FROM £4,745pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Romania offers a fascinating and under-explored historical narrative which is uncovered by its photogenic and diverse remains. Colonised in the Greek period and famously conquered in the Roman era under Trajan when it became the province of Dacia, Romania has retained a sense of its Classical identity. However, it is also a land of mysteries and legends played out in a backdrop of amazing Gothic castles and medieval cities. This is a unique tour covering Greek colonies, notably the ancient city of Tomis, on the Black Sea, the Roman ruins – including the victory monument at Adamclisi celebrating the Dacian Wars - as well as the world famous Bran Castle, home of Vlad Dracul. Piecing it all together is one of Andante's most popular Guide Lecturers, Dr Doru Bogdan who provides in depth knowledge of his native country.

Day One | London – Bucharest - Constanta

We fly to Bucharest from London and on arrival transfer to the city of Constanta.

Day Two | Constanta

We explore Constanta, the ancient city of Tomis, situated on the western coast of the Black Sea and famed for being the place the poet Ovid was exiled and from whence he wrote his famous *Tristia*. Here we see remains of a vast late antique complex which has retained colourful mosaics as well as

the National History and Archaeology Museum.

The museum houses finds from all over Dobrogea, including the Neolithic statuettes known as the thinkers from the Hamagia culture, the Glykon Sphinx from the 2nd century AD, as well as the famous 'Sculpture Treasury'. In the afternoon we visit **Mangalia**, a former Greek colony known as Callatis founded from Heraclea Pontica, where we see impressive archaic fortifications.

Day Three | Histria

Today we explore **Histria**, first founded in the 7th century BC by Milesians and the largest excavation site in Romania. We spend all day here exploring the many layers of history of the sites, from the archaic periods to the late antique era. The highlights include the city walls, a bath complex and several Christian basilicas. There is also a site museum which displays artefacts from the city which demonstrate its importance in trade.

Day Four | Constanta - Adamclisi - Bucharest

We drive to Bucharest, via **Adamclisi** to see the Tropaeum Traiani, the triumphal monument erected by Trajan in 109 in celebration of his victory over the Dacians. After exploring the site of the monument, we visit the **Adamclisi Museum** in Bucharest which displays the vivid metopes which decorated the monument. Echoing Trajan's column in Rome, the metopes depict scenes from the battle including Dacian bodies being thrown off a cliff and the suicide of Decebalus, the Dacian king. After lunch we transfer to Brasov.



Adventure off road into the Transylvanian Mountains to the UNESCO sites of Sarmizegetusa Regia and Costesti

Investigate the ruins at Histria, ancient Milesian trading colony on the shores of the Black Sea

Discover the 15th century Gothic magnificence of Corvin Castle at Hunedoara

Day Five | Brasov – Bran - Hunedoara

We start our day in the Saxon Medieval town of **Brasov** where we will visit the **Brasov County Museum of History** before making the scenic drive to **Bran Castle**, on the borders of Wallachia. Now owned by the Hapsburgs, this 14th century castle was once a major frontier post between Wallachia and Transylvania. In the early part of the 20th century, it was home to Marie of Edinburgh, the last Queen of Romania whose furniture forms the basis of the museum housed in the castle. Popularly associated to Dracula, sadly there is no real evidence linking the castle to the well-known Vlad Dracul. Later, we drive to Hunedoara where we will be staying for the next two nights.

Day Six | Sarmizegetusa - Costesti - Orastie

On this is adventurous day, we take off-road vehicles from Orastie into the Transylvanian mountains to **Sarmizegetusa Regia** capital of the Dacian kingdom and home of Decebalus, the last king of Dacia who was defeated by Trajan in the Dacian Wars. Here we see a fortress made with imposing stone blocks, as well as a sacred zone which has a number of shrines, including a circular one which bears some resemblance to Stonehenge. After a picnic lunch we visit nearby **Costesti**, dating from the 1st century BC and one of the oldest Dacian forts in the area. On our return to Orastie we visit the **Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art** and afterwards transfer back to Hunedoara.

Day Seven | Hunedoara - Corvin - Sarmisegetuza - Sibiu

Our morning is spent at the striking 15th century

gothic **Corvin Castle** at Hunedoara, one of the largest castles in Europe. Before lunch we pay a brief visit to **Densus Church**, the oldest orthodox stone church in Romania. In the afternoon we visit **Sarmizegetusa Ulpia Traiana**, the capital of the Roman province located 40 kilometres away from the Dacian Sarmizegetusa and settled by veterans of the Dacian war just after its conclusion. Here we see elements typical to any Roman city, such as baths, an amphitheatre and a forum, as well as a number of temples, including one to Mithras.

Day Eight | Sibiu - Bucharest

Today we explore **Sibiu**, founded by Saxon settlers and explore the old town and visit **Bruckenthal Palace**, home to one of Romania's oldest museums. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Bucharest.

Day Nine | Bucharest

Today we spend all day in the capital **Bucharest**, exploring the country's past. We start with the **National Museum of Romanian History** which houses artefacts dating throughout the history of the country. Perhaps the most important finds are the wonderfully crafted Dacian gold work, including the Golden Helmet of Coțofenești and bracelets which were used as currency as well as display. We proceed to the Old Town where a number of 15th century churches remain in use. Later we transfer to the northern part of Bucharest to visit the Village Museum of Romanian Ethnography.

Day Ten | Bucharest - London

We transfer to the airport in Bucharest for our afternoon flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Constanta, Brasov, Hunedoara, Sibiu & Bucharest

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbk Share	SS
13th - 22nd Sep	£4,745	£495

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/armn

Bulgaria

Thracian Treasures & Mountain Monasteries

12 DAYS FROM £4,195pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The forests, mountain ranges and vast plains of Bulgaria remain in places as spectacularly beautiful as when the Thracians inhabited them thousands of years ago. Following a golden age for archaeological discoveries, Bulgaria is now one of the culturally richest countries in Europe, featuring Neolithic settlements, Thracian tombs, and exuberantly painted Medieval churches. The quality and selection of sites here are outstanding: small but internationally significant sites such as the Neolithic house at Stara Zagora where the walls of wattle and daub, kitchen hearth and broken shelves still lie now as they lay a staggering 8,000 years ago. Our tour will introduce the complicated history and cultures of the mosaic of peoples who have occupied the fertile plains bordering the River Danube.

Day One | London - Sofia

We depart from London and arrive in Sofia where we transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Sofia

Today we explore **Sofia**, once Thracian settlement, once Roman city favoured by Constantine who called it 'My Rome', once an important administrative centre for the Ottoman Empire and thus one of the oldest cities in Europe. We visit the **Serdica Archaeological Complex** to see the remains of the Roman city discovered during the construction of the metro station in 2010-12 and the **National Archaeological Museum** housed in a former Ottoman Mosque which contains finds from these excavations. This afternoon we admire the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**, a mint coloured meringue of architectural delight, the frescoes which decorate **St. George Rotunda** a 4th century and the **Byzantine church of St. Sofia**, which gave the city its name.

Day Three | Rila Monastery

We head into the beautiful pine clad foothills of the Rila mountains which shaped by glaciers and dotted with lakes, form the backbone of Bulgaria's largest national park. Here we visit the eponymous

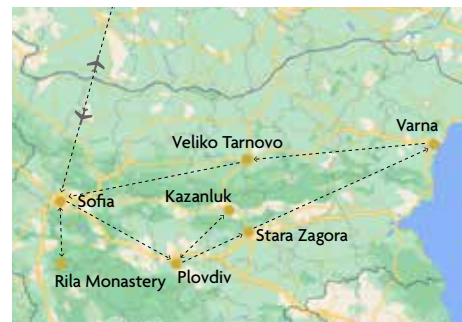
Rila Monastery (World Heritage Site) – an iconic (in the literal sense!) masterpiece and one of Bulgaria's most famous and most beautiful sites. Its vibrant frescoes which cover much of the monastic ensemble rival even most the lavish holy shrines around the world. The colours are almost audible in their intensity.

Day Four | Sofia - Plovdiv

This morning we start at the **National Museum of History** which houses one of Europe's richest collections of ancient gold and other important archaeological materials as well as medieval ecclesiastical art. Next we visit the UNESCO listed **Boyana Church** with its remarkable 13th century frescoes. The depiction of the Last Supper is particularly charming for the artist's use of medieval Bulgarian dress. After lunch we drive south east to Plovdiv.

Day Five | Plovdiv

Situated in the lowlands of Thrace on the River Maritza (the River Hebros in antiquity), Plovdiv was once on a crucial inland route from Western Europe to Asia Minor. We enjoy a full day visiting the archaeological sites in this city, founded by Philip of Macedon. Intense Roman activity here means that



little is left of the early city but a great deal of the Roman one, including the forum, stadium, fortress and amphitheatre. We also see the late Roman **Trakart mosaics** and explore the **Archaeological Museum**.

Day Six | Plovdiv – Kazanluk

We drive north to the 'Valley of the Thracian Kings' stopping en route at the sleepy village of **Hisarya**, famed for its hot water mineral spring. Here we visit the small **History Museum** which contains excavated objects found locally, including artefacts made by the Bessi, a Thracian tribe of the 1st millennium BC. We continue to the 'Valley of the Thracian Kings' where we explore three of the 1500 burial mounds in this area including the beautiful replica of the **Kazanluk Tomb** (the original is closed to preserve its precious frescoes).

Day Seven | Plovdiv - Stara Zagora

The Thracian tomb of **Aleksandrovo** with its fine mosaics, is first on our list to visit today. Discovered relatively recently in 2000, this tomb is one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever made in Bulgaria. The frescoes in



Discover spectacularly varied history and landscapes, introduced by an archaeologist who has excavated all over this country

Visit no fewer than six fantastic UNESCO World Heritage Sites

From the Neolithic houses of Stara Zagora and Roman Plovdiv to the exuberantly painted churches in the Rila Mountains – we explore it all

Spend a full day in Plovdiv, named European Capital of Culture in 2019

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Katya Melamed

Dr Katya Melamed is a Bulgarian archaeologist who enjoys an enviable reputation for her longstanding research and excavation work throughout the country.



the tomb are unique and relatively well preserved. The richest decoration covers the walls of the burial chamber and depicts horsemen, foot-soldiers, one of them stark naked, wild boars, deer and hunting dogs. Later we continue to **Stara Zagora**, to see the extraordinary Neolithic houses from the 6th millennium BCE.

Day Eight | Stara Zagora - Varna

There are very few prehistoric sites in Europe as important as **Karanovo** situated on the edge of the modern village of that name. This huge settlement mound represents successive phases of occupation from the 6th to the 2nd millennium BCE and the transition from the Stone to the Bronze Age. We start our day at this fabulous site before driving east to **Nessebar** (World Heritage Site), ancient Messambria, founded by the Thracians and later a thriving Greek trading colony. The island is connected to the mainland by a narrow land-bridge, and we visit the old town to view churches, walls and some lovely 19th century timber houses. Afterwards we continue north to Varna.

Day Nine | Varna

We spend the day in Odessos, modern day Varna founded during the second quarter of the 6th century BCE. This was the time of the Great Greek Colonisation when most of the Bulgarian towns along the Black Sea coast were established. We spend the morning at the superb **Archaeological Museum in Varna**, one of the oldest in Bulgaria. Its collections provide a good representation of the archaeology of North-eastern Bulgaria, and it houses all of the famous intricately worked gold from the Varna Copper Age necropolis. After lunch we have time to explore this coastal city including its **Roman bath complex**.

Day Ten | Varna – Veliko Tarnovo

This morning we visit the impressive **Madara Horseman** rock relief, another World Heritage site carved on a high sandstone cliff which rises above the village of Madara. The relief has been hewn over an area of 40 square metres, 23 metres above the ground. Dating from the 8th century AD, a larger than life horseman is shown riding triumphant with a vanquished lion under his horse's forefeet. We continue to the second UNESCO listed site of the day – the **Sveshtari Thracian Tomb**. The tomb architecture and decoration make it a rare example of Hellenistic burial practices and here multi-coloured reliefs depict surreal half human, half plant-like figures.

Day Eleven | Veliko Tarnovo

We start our day in **Veliko Tarnovo**, capital of the medieval Bulgarian Tsars, dramatically situated on a gorge over the river. The scenery and the story of this town are rather different from all the other sites we visit because the glory of Tarnovgrad comes entirely from the Middle Ages. We explore the **Tsarevets fortress**, a Medieval stronghold which houses the royal and patriarchal palaces. We also discover the Bulgarian Orthodox Church of Saints Peter and Paul. Later, we travel to the ancient site of **Nicopolis ad Istrum** once a thriving Roman colony.

Day Twelve | Veliko Tarnovo – Sofia - London

On the final day of our tour, we head to **Arbanasi** where we visit the Folk House and the **Nativity Church**, which is covered in stunning frescoes and feature a pantheon of saints. After lunch we return to Sofia in time for our late evening flight to the UK.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Sofia, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Varna & Veliko Tarnovo

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 11 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
22nd Apr - 3rd May	£4,445	£4,195 £490
23rd Sep - 4th Oct	£4,445	£490

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NEW
FOR 2025

Albania

Land of the Eagles

9 DAYS FROM £3,445pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Geographically, and for 50 years culturally isolated during the post-war Stalinist regime, Albania is unlike any other country in Europe. Homeric landscapes, for the most part undisturbed by modern life, hold ruinous Classical cities which once vied in splendour with their neighbours in Greece and Italy. Greek coastal colonisation provided new stimulus to the native population, and recent excavations of their Illyrian hilltop cities, such as Byllis, have revealed the successful absorption of Hellenistic architectural ideas in their planned layout.

Albania holds an array of splendours set in a dramatic scenery of mountains, deep blue seas and wide plains but perhaps the most important element of this tour is Oliver Gilkes, who started working here just after the fall of the old regime. During his 30 years excavating in this fascinating country, he has witnessed at first-hand how Albania has struggled to assert its new-found freedom. His observations add interest and depth to our study of this land in ancient times. Having trained many Albanian students on the dig at Butrint, he is a well-known and well-loved figure here and the best guide to the archaeology of this country.

Day One | London - Tirana

We fly from London to Tirana and transfer to our hotel.

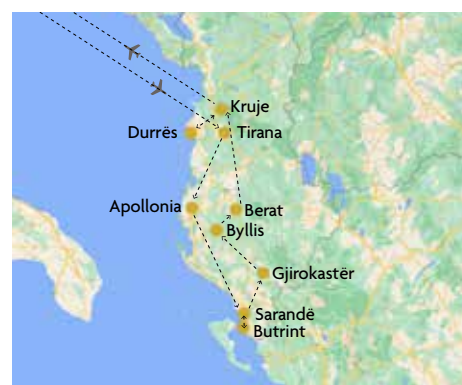
Day Two | Tirana

We spend the morning in in Albania's lively capital, Tirana and explore the city centre, a microcosm of Albania's modern history. We visit the **Ethen Bay Mosque** and the **National Historical Museum** which contains a large section on prehistory, including Neolithic painted pottery, weapons and jewellery from Bronze and Iron Age and Illyrian tombs, some of the best finds of sculpture, mosaics, pottery and figurines from Illyrian and classical sites. In the afternoon we head to the outskirts of the city where we explore **Bunkart 1**, an enormous bunker intended as a nuclear shelter for

Enver Hoxha and his inner circle. Now a converted into a museum and art centre, exhibits explore aspects of life under communist rule.

Day Three | Tirana - Apollonia - Saranda

Today we drive to **Apollonia Archaeological Park**, site of the colony founded by the Corinthians in 588BC, and one of the most important Greek cities on the Adriatic, the ruins of which cover an enormous area. Today the excavated remains are surrounded by olive and oak trees with grassy banks hinting at what may still lie buried underneath, while the evocative Byzantine monastery is now a museum. This afternoon, we drive along the 'Mountains of Thunder' down the beautiful Ionian coast, stopping for lunch in **Vlorë**. We arrive in Saranda early this evening.



Day Four | Butrint

Our entire day will be spent at **Butrint**, which achieved UNESCO World Heritage status in 1992 and remains Albania's best known site. It is one of the most striking in the Mediterranean and our guide lecturer Oliver Gilkes has directed excavations here for many years. The city lies in suggestive woodlands and contains remarkable monuments of all periods. After a picnic lunch at **Butrint Castle**, we visit the museum, before walking down to catch the ferry across the Vivari Channel. Here we will explore the Venetian Triangular Fortress.

Day Five | Saranda - Gjirokastra

Today we leave the Ionian and cross the mountains to arrive in Gjirokastra. This amazing Ottoman city



Uncover a story of the discovery of 2,000 years of untouched archaeological heritage

Spend a full day at the World Heritage Site of Butrint

Enjoy fantastic scenery, mountains, valleys and the dramatic Albanian Riviera

Join Oliver Gilkes, a well-known and well-loved figure, having trained many Albanian students and the best guide to the archaeology of this country

is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and we shall have the chance to visit the **Gjirokastra Museum**, the **medieval Fortress** and the National Museum of Arms. This afternoon we enjoy a special visit to the late Ottoman mansion, **Zekate House**. Built in 1812, Zekate is widely considered to be one of the grandest examples of its kind, providing us with amazing an insight into the upper echelons of Ottoman life.

Day Six | Gjirokastra - Byllis - Berat

We head northwards and long the valley of the mighty river Vjosa round to the ruins of **Byllis**. According to legend, the city was founded by warriors led by Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles returning from the Trojan wars. Archaeologists have yet to find evidence of Homeric heroes but have uncovered a Hellenistic era stadium, theatre. We head northwards and long the valley of the mighty river Vjosa round to the ruins of Byllis. According to legend, the city was founded by warriors led by Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles returning from the Trojan wars. Archaeologists have yet to find evidence of Homeric heroes but have uncovered a Hellenistic era stadium, theatre and fortifications as well as numerous later Roman churches. After lunch, we will visit the excavated **Byllis Cathedral**, before continuing onwards to Berat and enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Day Seven | Berat - Kruja

Today we shift from classical to medieval times and focus on the attractive town of **Berat**, which is brimming with traditional architecture. The lower city along the riversides was the preserve of the Muslim inhabitants, while by agreement the Christians held the citadel. Here we will explore Byzantine churches, Ottoman mosques, and the **Onufri Museum**, home to a spectacular collection of 16th century religious artwork.

Day Eight | Durres

We visit **Durres**, Albania's chief port and the starting point of the Via Egnatia. This was ancient **Dyrrachium** a great imperial port on the Adriatic. Here we visit the 2nd century amphitheatre, the largest in the Balkans, as well as sections of the mighty walls. After lunch we continue to **Kruja**, the mountain fortress of the Kastrioti family, and home of the National hero George Kastrioti Skanderbeg. We visit the **Skanderbeg Museum** and wander through the **Ottoman bazaar**. An eclectic last day to truly represent the many ages and influences of Albania.

Day Nine | Kruja - London

This morning, we transfer from Kruja to the airport for our return flight to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



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- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Tirana, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Berat & Kruje

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
19th - 27th Apr	£3,645	£455
1st - 9th Sep	£3,445	£455

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aala

Prehistoric Malta & Gozo

Malta's first inhabitants

7 DAYS FROM £3,990pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

“Another excellent tour which delivered what it promised.”

The island of Malta might be small but it certainly packs a big punch in historical terms. In the struggle for dominion of the Mediterranean it has played a key role in centuries of sparring between the east and west. Enduring occupation from the Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, Hospitallers, French, and British, it has a colourful and complex heritage. Our focus, however, is on its earliest and most extraordinary occupation when some 5,000 years ago this tiny archipelago was home to an astonishing culture, that created elaborate stone temples and rock-cut tombs. A thousand years before the Great Pyramid at Giza was erected, people on the tiny island of Malta were moving stones that weighed up to 50 tonnes to make huge temples. Among the oldest ritual structures in the world, the number of them is astounding and in their complexity must have required considerable planning and organisation. Join us as we explore some of the island's most extraordinary archaeology of a sophistication, character and quantity unparalleled elsewhere.

Day One | London - Valletta

We fly to Malta from London and transfer to our hotel in Valletta for our first dinner together as a group.

Day Two | Mġarr & Mdina

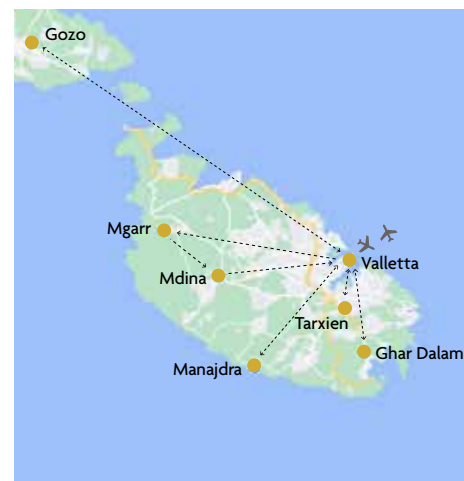
Beginning in the town of Mġarr, we visit the two conjoined temples of **Ta' Haġrat** and **Mġarr** built during the 4th millennium BC. We continue to the village site of **Skorba**, which has made a significant contribution to our understanding of early Maltese prehistory providing a stratigraphy from c5000 to 1500BC. We spend the afternoon in **Mdina** – The Silent City – which served as the island capital from antiquity through to the Medieval period and end the day seeing some of the renowned ‘**cart ruts**’ in the hillside at Buskett – features that occur on both Malta and Gozo and are comprised of parallel grooves which have been worn into the bedrock, sometimes for long distances.

Day Three | Valletta

A day spent exploring **Valletta** on foot. Founded by the Knights Hospitallers following the Great Siege of 1565, this UNESCO World Heritage Site occupies a commanding position over two harbours. We begin with the exceptional array of artefacts from Malta's unique prehistoric periods in the **Archaeological Museum**, from man's first arrival on the island up to the end of the Bronze Age. We also visit **St. John's Co-Cathedral** and the **Grand Master's Palace** with façades of some of the many Auberges of the Knights.

Day Four | Haġar-Qim, Mnajdra & Tarxien

Today we visit the magnificent temple sites at **Haġar-Qim** and **Mnajdra**, megalithic structures which sit clustered close together at the top of a promontory with superb views over the sea. The internal arrangement of Haġar Qim is highly complex involving what are probably many building



and reconstruction phases and the lower temple at Mnajdra is astronomically aligned. Their use of as religious or ceremonial places have been determined through the on-site discoveries of animal bones, sacrificial flint, knives and rope holes, possibly used to hold sacrificial animals. In the afternoon, access permitting, we explore the **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and funerary complex, a vast subterranean complex, outstandingly presented. It seems that the monument was in use for most of the 4th millennium BC. Nearby, we will visit **Tarxien** megalithic site, one of the most elaborate of all the Megalithic temples on the island which has undergone extensive excavation and restoration.



Discover the extraordinary prehistoric culture, whose stone monuments predate the pyramids by over 1,000 years

Explore the cave and associated museum at Ghar Dalam Cave, the lowest layers of which are over 500,000 years old

Enjoy the timeless atmosphere of Valletta, Malta's charming UNESCO World Heritage capital city

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Jeremy Bennett

A British archaeologist, Jeremy was awarded his PhD at Magdalene College, Cambridge. His research focuses on the development of agrarian landscapes of Malta and Gozo.



Day Five | Ghar Dalam & Xemxija Heritage Trail

This morning we visit **Ghar Dalam**, the oldest of Malta's monuments. This water worn tunnel is approximately 15.5m above sea level and 45m deep, and is accessible for about 80m on foot. Here, large quantities of Pleistocene faunal remains (including dwarf hippos and elephants) were found, together with evidence for earliest known human activity on the island. In the afternoon we will explore **Xemxija** where we will walk along the heritage trail and seek out some of the rock-cut tombs dotted around the hillside. Here we will also see the Romano-Punic apiaries built into a natural cave recess. The honeycombs would have hung in vertical panels in their small chambers within easy reach of the bee keepers.

Day Six | Gozo

We take the short crossing by ferry to **Gozo**, associated by locals with Homer as the island home of Calypso, Odysseus' temptress and captor. The pace of life is slower here and the landscape greener. We spend all day on the island where we see **Ggantija**, a prehistoric megalithic complex of exceptional grandeur; the **Xaghra Stone Circle**, a significant funerary complex; and the ruins **Santa Verna**, a megalithic site left to the ravages of time.

We will also visit the town of Victoria and the **Archaeology Museum**, which provides a small but important window onto the earliest cultures of Gozo up to the arrival of the Knights of St. John.

Day Seven | Valletta - London

We transfer to the airport for our flight home.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Valletta

Culinary inclusions

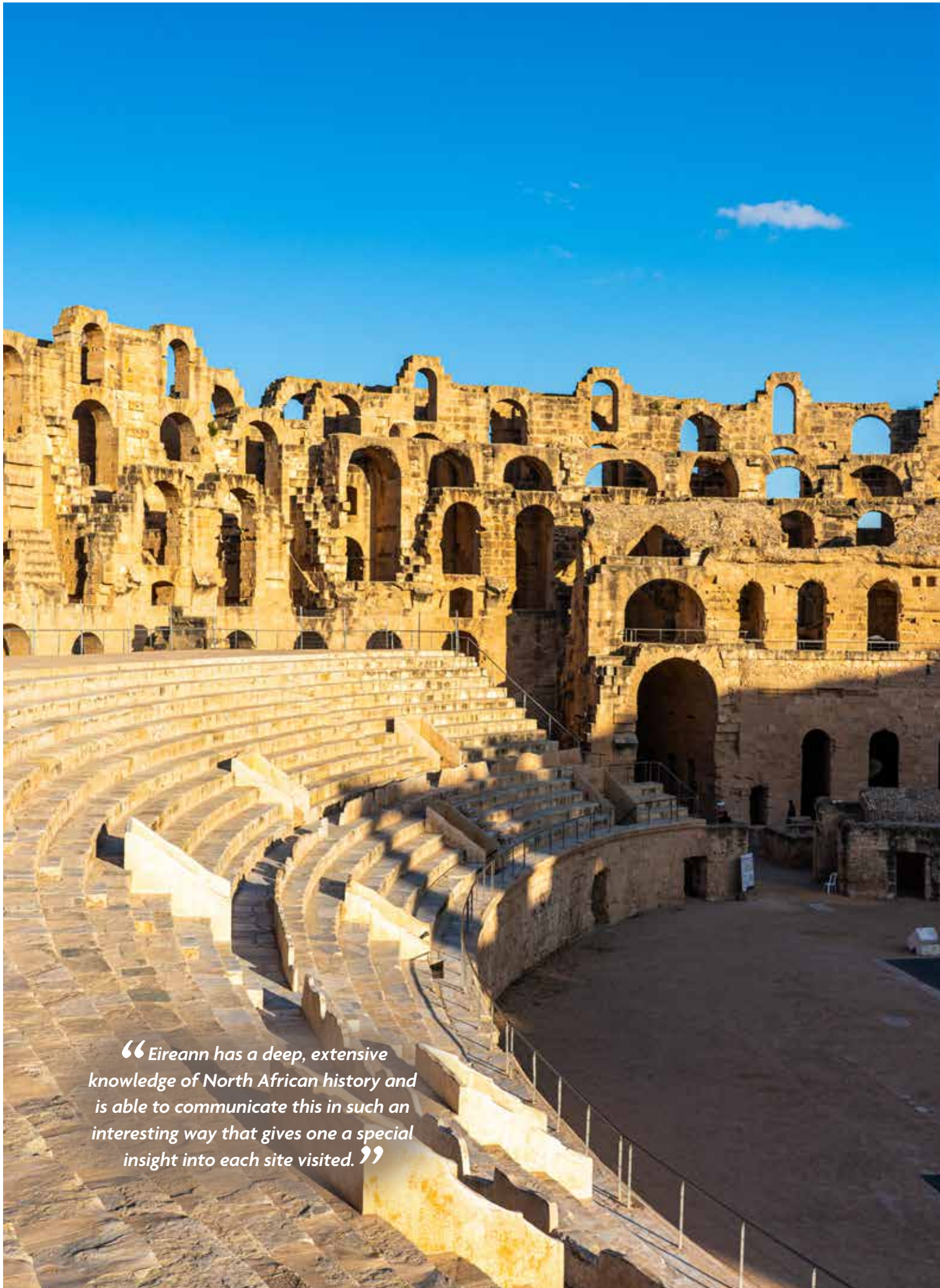
- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
7th - 13th Apr	£4,240	£770
6th - 12th Oct	£4,240	£3,990 £770

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“Eireann has a deep, extensive knowledge of North African history and is able to communicate this in such an interesting way that gives one a special insight into each site visited.”



Africa & Egypt

The sites in North Africa are vital for shedding light on other ancient peoples, notably the Phoenicians/Carthaginians, as well as the Numidians and Romans. Visiting Punic sites in Africa not only sheds light on the complexity of Carthaginian urban infrastructures but poses questions about the city's enmity with Rome and what would have happened had the Punic wars not be won by Rome. The wonder of North African archaeological sites is their fabulous state of preservation; cities such as Timgad, Dougga and Volubilis can scarce be found in Europe, whose sites have been encroached upon over succeeding millennia. At the same time, North African sites - abounding with olive oil presses, magnificent mosaics, temples and baths - pay homage to the region's prosperity in the Roman period, when it was the bread basket of the empire. Plus, Morocco and Andalucia separated only by a narrow body of water, is a fascinating tour where Africa and Europe meet.

Our expanding portfolio includes a fabulous variety of tours that explore Africa, from Algeria to Egypt and Tunisia.

Egypt is also likely to be an incredibly popular destination for archaeological travellers in 2025, what with the highly anticipated opening of the new Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza on the horizon. The incredible age and audacious size of the Egyptian sites, which were seen as ancient to those living in Classical Antiquity, astonish us still today. The seemingly impossible Great Pyramids of Giza, as well as the breath-taking temple complex at Karnak, underscore the prosperity and vitality of Egyptian culture over an enormous period. Perhaps more than anything, it is the longevity of Egyptian history that strains belief.



Enjoy the sensation of time travel in one of the world's most complete medieval cities – Fez

Gaze upon some of the world's most impressive mosaics at the Bardo, Sousse and El Djem museums

Traverse the vivid white landscape of the chotts, its salt structures shaped by the desert wind

Visit the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza, which has been decades in the making. Within its twelve exhibition halls are more than 100,000 artefacts and include – for the first time – the entire collection of King Tutankhamun's treasures, including the young pharaoh's golden mask, jewellery and other burial items

Explore new tomb discoveries at Saqqara, including the Tomb of Mehru and the Tomb of Maia

Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile

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The Romans in Algeria

From Algiers to Timgad

11 DAYS FROM £5,545pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



“I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and learnt a lot about the Roman influence on Punic and native culture over six centuries.”

Algeria is still one of the least-visited countries in the world, but access to its ruinous Classical cities is now easier than it has been for some years. The sites are a palimpsest of Numidian, Roman and Byzantine remains, and include probably the best-preserved colonia anywhere in the Empire – Timgad.

Day One | London - Algiers

Fly from London to Algiers and transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Algiers

This morning we will visit two of the city centre museums: the **Bardo Museum**, housed in a neo-Moorish Villa with collections which focus on prehistory and the **Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts**. After lunch we will explore the **Kasbah**, built on the ruins of old Icosium, a Phoenician commercial outpost later overtaken by the Romans. Little remains of its ancient past but having survived bombardment and civil war, the Casbah of Algiers remains the largest old walled city or 'citadel' in North Africa and was put on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites in 1992.

Day Three | Cherchell & Tipasa

We spend the whole of today along Mediterranean west of Algiers. Driving west we reach **Cherchell**, Phoenician Iol and Roman Caesarea, which was once the capital of the Numidian client King Juba II and his wife Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra. Our afternoon is spent at the Roman city of **Tipasa**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking the sea, with impressive remains both of the high Roman Empire, and of the early Christian period. We also stop at the huge cylindrical tomb, variously called the 'Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania' or the 'Tomb of the Christian Woman'.

Day Four | Algiers - Annaba

Today we fly to Annaba arriving in time for a late lunch and an afternoon visit to **Hippo Regius**. The great North African churchman later known as St. Augustine ended his days here in AD430, and we visit the remains of this once splendid city a mile to the south of modern Annaba. It was once a port, situated on an inlet which has since silted over, leaving the ruins isolated and complete, and now dominated by the basilica of St. Augustine which was built on a nearby hill during the 19th century. We visit the basilica as well as the site.

Day Five | Annaba - Constantine

We depart early this morning to visit the theatre and museum at **Guelma**. The Numidian Jugurtha won an important battle against the Romans here. We continue south to **Khemissa**, this relatively little-known or visited site was certainly a significant Numidian settlement from at least the second century AD. This huge ancient city is set in glorious surroundings, and among the ruins we find an old forum built on an artificial terrace on the north slope of the hill with shops and adjoining temples, as well as a Basilica dating probably to the second century AD. We then head west to Constantine, making one final stop to see the tomb of **Massinissa** and the site at **El Khroub**.

Day Six | Tiddis & Constantine

Our morning is spent at the beautifully situated ruined city of **Tiddis**, an authentic Berber site modified by Roman civilization. Spectacularly located, the sandstone constructions at Tiddis



have a distinctive ochre-red colour from the deep red of the earth in the surrounding area which is washed down from the hill-top and carried by the wind. The site has been occupied a least since the Neolithic period and several circular 'bazina' burial monuments from the pre-Roman Numidian period are visible at the site. We return to **Constantine** for lunch and later explore this extraordinary city, dramatically situated on a plateau by a deep ravine. Here we'll see its museum, kasbah, suspension bridge and the **Palace of Ahmed Bey**, one of the finest Ottoman-era buildings in the country.

Day Seven | Constantine - Djémila - Setif

We journey west to the site of **Djémila** situated on a narrow triangular plateau, 900m above sea level and described as 'one of the most perfect expressions of the meeting of Roman power and African beauty'. The town here is thought to have been founded by either Emperor Nerva or Trajan between AD 96 – 117 initially as a military garrison. Despite the challenging topography of the undulating landscape, its builders tried to conform, largely unsuccessfully, to Roman grid planning standards. It is partly owing to the consequent interesting layout and linear urban expansion and its good state of preservation that the site was

Image: City of Constantine



Wander the perfectly preserved streets at the UNESCO-listed sites of Roman Djémila and Timgad

In Sétif, gaze upon one of the most exquisite mosaics in all the Roman world – the fantastic 'Triumph of Dionysus'

Explore the Roman 'City of Bridges' – Constantine – and visit the evocative ruins of Hippo Regius

granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1982. In the afternoon we drive to Setif and end the day at the **Setif Archaeological Museum**, home to some unusual artefacts, but also some exceptional Roman mosaics including the 'Triumph of Dionysus'.

Day Eight | Setif - Batna

This morning we drive south to Batna stopping en route to visit the **Medracen Royal Tomb**. This large cylindrical mausoleum dates to the 3rd-2nd centuries BCE and is believed to be the tomb of a Numidian King. We continue to Batna and arrive in time for lunch. In the afternoon we explore **Lambaesis**. This was the main military base of the Third Legion Augusta. The Legion may have numbered up to 25,000 men, recruited initially from Gaul, but later also from other Roman provinces and North Africa. The site is now rather forlorn, but parts of it, such as the amphitheatre and the four-sided arch in the military camp, are still quite substantial and worthy of some exploration.

Day Nine | Batna - Timgad - Biskra

We spend the morning at **Timgad**, the Roman city founded in AD 100 by Emperor Trajan, principally as a colony for veterans of the Legio III Augusta. This huge site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982 and is famed for its formal orthogonal grid layout of the original town plan, measuring some 355m on each side, and for the good preservation of some of its monuments. Still visible is a rare example of a Roman Library and no less than eight bath complexes scatter the site.

After lunch we continue south, driving through the spectacular scenery of the Aurès Mountains to the **Biskra** province which lies on the northern edge of the Sahara. We will stop on the way in the area of the gorges of Tighanimine and the breathtaking canyon of Rhouffi and we will visit the **Balconies of Ghoufi** where the cliffs cascade in naturally formed balconies and were used centuries ago to carve out cave dwellings from the sandstone.

Day Ten | Biskara - Algiers

We enjoy a relaxing morning visiting a traditional date Palmerie. For centuries, inhabitants of the Ziban have carefully planted and pollinated their precious date palms in the area – the local adage being 'give to the date palm and she will return the favour'. There are more than 100 cultivars of dates produced from four million trees in Biskra, ensuring agriculture remains the lifeblood of the region's economy. After lunch at the Palmerie, we transfer to Biskra airport for our flight to Algiers.

Day Eleven | Algiers - London

We transfer to Algiers airport for our return flight to London.

Please note that due to the unpredictable nature of local arrangements, some elements of our itinerary may be subject to change. In these circumstances, we will ensure that the integrity of our archaeological programme is not compromised but a certain degree of flexibility is required when travelling in this challenging but stunningly beautiful country.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better!



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Lamaz Arts Hotel, Sheraton Annaba Hotel, Protea Hotel by Marriott Constantine, Novotel Setif, Hotel Messouadi -
- Batna & Hotel Nail Zakaria - Biskra or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 11 lunch & 11 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
23rd Nov - 3rd Dec	£5,845	£5,545 £700

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NEW
FOR 2025

Morocco: Tangier to Marrakesh

Imperial cities and Lords of the Atlas

10 DAYS FROM £4,145pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Morocco is known as the 'Maghreb el-Aqsa' the land of the further west, encircled by three great seas and tucked in at the corner of Africa. This tour programme focuses on the legacy of the medieval dynasties of Morocco and its Imperial Cities on a journey which extends from the northern tip of the country at Tangier to the borders of the desert at Marrakesh in the south.

Day 1 London - Tangier

We fly from London to Tangier and transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 Lixus & Tangier

We start our explorations with **Lixus**, originally a Phoenician settlement and later Roman control. The site occupies a commanding position with spectacular views over the Loukos Estuary. A small portion of this large site has been excavated but we will see temple remains, a Paleochristian church, as well as bath complexes. Returning to Tangier for lunch, we will spend our afternoon exploring this ancient trading city once one of the world's most popular literary hang outs.

Day 3 Tangier - Chefchaouen - Fez

Today we make the long journey south to Fez, stopping en route at **Chefchaouen**, the outrageously picturesque blue tinted city. Settled in the 15th century by refugees fleeing the Reconquista, the town was both safe haven and strategic outpost in the Rif Mountains. After lunch we continue to Fez arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 4 Fez

Today is devoted to **Fez**, the most ancient of the Imperial cities on the north-south caravan route and one of the best preserved medieval settlements in North Africa. We will make sense of this magnificent muddle of mosques, minarets, palaces and squares with, at its heart, the warren of winding lanes which make up the old medina. Entry rules here are We visit the odiferous tannery and admire the stunning architecture if its Mosques (from the exterior – Morocco is traditionally strict and prohibits non-Muslims to enter) including the **Bou Inania Madrasa**, founded in the 14th century and is considered the epitome of Marinid architecture; the 9th century **Andalucian Mosque**, built by refugees from Andalucía, fleeing the repression of the Umayyads and **Qarawiyyin University** built in the 9th century and a smorgasbord of Moroccan architectural styles, including elements from the Almoravid and Almohad periods.

Day 5 Volubilis

We spend our day at the most famous archaeological site in Morocco, **Volubilis**. The ancient city developed from the 3rd century BC, largely because it is in a fertile area, but really came to its own in the 1st century AD when it became capital of the kingdom of Mauretania. Many of the city's most photogenic ruins, including temples, a basilica and a magnificent triumphal arch of Caracalla, date to this period when the city grew wealthy from the olive oil trade. This opulence can be seen in the scale of the elite residences which are decorated by exquisite mosaics, many of which are still in situ.

Day 6 Fez - Meknès - Rabat

Leaving Fez, we travel west to Rabat stopping en route at **Meknès**. Founded in the medieval period by the Almoravids and once capital of Morocco in the 17th century, the city also boasts a UNESCO listed Medina. We will see the Bab al-Mansour gate constructed in the 17th century using zellij tilework and Roman columns and walking along its winding



Explore the remarkable Roman site of Volubilis, ancient capital of Mauretania Tingitania

Enjoy the sensation of time travel in one of the world's most complete medieval cities – Fez

Discover Marrakesh and its famous Jamaa el Fena Square with its storytellers, jugglers, musicians and snake charmers

streets past a symphony of colours, street vendors and madrassas, we admire the façade of the 12th Great Mosque.

Day 7 Rabat

We enjoy a day in Rabat starting with a visit to the **Museum of History and Civilisation**, which contains the most extensive collection of archaeological artefacts found in the country. The museum holds prehistoric and pre-Islamic collections, including objects uncovered by archaeologists working on the Roman sites of Volubilis, Banasa and Thamusida. We will also see the **Hassan Tower**, a minaret of an incomplete mosque by the third Almohad Caliph in 1195, whose ambitions to build the largest minaret and mosque in the world were thwarted by his death. The tour continues to the UNESCO listed Medina and Kasbah of Rabat, which is smaller than the medina in Fez.

Day 8 Rabat - Marrakesh

Today we make the journey south to Marrakesh arriving in time for lunch. The architecture of this vibrant city founded in the medieval period by the Berber Almoravids is decidedly Andalusian

in character. In the afternoon we explore the **Kutubiyya Minaret**, which is decorated in typical Almohad style and akin to the Giralda of Seville and the Hassan Tower of Rabat.

Day 9 Marrakesh

This morning we visit the 16th century **Saadian Tombs**, which includes a medieval necropolis and the **Dar Si Said Museum**, an elegant 19th century Hispano-Islamic residence which today includes a museum of artisanal art works. After lunch, we explore the 16th century **Baddi Palace**, a sumptuous residence designed to showcase the power of the Saadian Sultans and **Ben Yousef Madrasa**. The day ends with a visit to the famous **Yves Saint Laurent Museum** in the **Jardin Majorelle**, which includes a botanical garden and the **Islamic Art Museum** of Marrakech.

Day 10 Marrakesh - London

We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at Wanderlust magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Tangier, Fez, Rabat and Marrakesh

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunch & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
12th - 21st Dec	£4,395	£4,145 £490

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Morocco & Andalucía

Where Africa and Europe meet

18 DAYS FROM £7,045pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Separated by only a narrow body of water, Morocco and Andalucía have exchanged peoples and cultural ideas for millennia. On this tour of a lifetime, you will explore the nexus between Africa and Europe, starting in the Roman period and continuing to the expulsion of Muslims and Jews in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella.

Day One | London - Marrakech

Today we fly to vibrant Marrakech, settle into our hotel, and time permitting have a brief walk around the **Kutubiyya Minaret** and **Jeema el fna Square**.

Day Two | Marrakech

We start our exploration of Marrakech with the 16th century **Saadian Tombs** and **Baddi Palace**. Later on we visit the **Bahia Palace**, an elaborately decorated 19th Century palace which was amongst the first to use stained glass decoratively.

Day Three | Marrakech - Rabat

This morning we visit the **Mayorelle Garden** and the **Museum of Berber Art**. Later on we travel to Rabat and on arrival visit the **Hassan Tower**.

Day Four | Rabat - Meknes

Founded by the Almohad dynasty in the 12th century, our exploration of Rabat this morning includes the **Museum of History and Civilisation** and the UNESCO listed Kasbah of Rabat. On arrival in **Meknes** we will visit the **Moulay Ismail Mausoleum** and see the **Bab el Mansour**.

Day Five | Volubilis

We spend most of the day in the most famous archaeological site in Morocco, **Volubilis**. The ancient city developed from the 3rd century BC, but really came to its own in the 1st century AD when it became capital of the kingdom of Mauretania.

Day Six | Fez

In Fez we start at the UNESCO listed **Medina**, whose twisting streets are dotted with historic monuments and mosques. These include the **Bou Inania Madrasa**, the **Andalusian Mosque** and the **Qarawiyyin University**. We will also visit the 12th century **tannery** which is still in use.

Day Seven | Meknes - Tangiers

Today we visit the little visited archaeological site of **Banasa**, known in antiquity as Colonia Iulia Valentia. Leaving behind the city, this is a very quiet site. We then move north towards Tangiers.

Day Eight | Lixus

We venture to the scenic town of **Lixus** whose material remains suggest it may have originally been a Carthaginian site. Afterwards we transfer to Tangiers and visit the **Kasbah Museum**.



Day Nine | Tetouan

We start the day at **Tetouan** where we will admire the Andalusian flavour of this city in the UNESCO-listed **Medina**.

Day Ten | Tangiers - Cádiz

This morning we cross the strait of Gibraltar on a ferry and make our way to Cadiz. We spend the afternoon at the archaeological site of **Baelo Claudia, Bolonia**.

Day Eleven | Cádiz - Seville

Cadiz has been settled since at least the 2nd millennium, and we are going to explore the panopoly of this city's history. We begin with the



Explore the extensive ruins of Volubilis, one of the most important archaeological sites in North Africa

Visit Fez with its UNESCO-listed Medina, its historic buildings and its fine medieval museum

Examine the site of Gadir, which includes remains from both the Phoenician and Roman periods

View the extraordinary sites of Granada, the last bastion of Muslim culture in Andalucía

Cadiz Museum and continue to the archaeological site of **Gadir**. After lunch, we explore the **Roman Theatre**, and **Cathedral** then travel on to Seville.

Day Twelve | Seville

This morning we explore the city's famously rich history. We start with the **Metropole Parasol** and its **Antiquarium** then proceed to the **Palacio de Lebrija**, which contains an important collection of Roman mosaics. After lunch we visit the wonderful **Seville Cathedral** then end the day at the **Real Alcazar**.

Day Thirteen | Seville - Ronda

Today we explore the most important and impressive archaeological site in Spain, **Italica**, the birthplace of Trajan, Hadrian and Theodosius. After lunch, we continue to Ronda to explore the city's melange of architecture, including the **Puerta de Almocabar**, the **Iglesia del Espiritu Santo** and the **Iglesia de Santa Maria la Mayor**.

Day Fourteen | Ronda - Málaga

Ronda awaits this morning. We visit the **Mondragon Palace Museum**, then continue to **La Casa del Rey Moro**, a 14th century residence, and then the **Arabic Baths**. After lunch we travel to Antequera, and visit the **City Museum**.

Day Fifteen | Málaga

We explore Málaga, first founded by Phoenicians and described by Ibn Battuta as one of the most beautiful cities in Al-Andalus. Our visits include the **Malaga Museum**, the **Roman Theatre**, the **Church of Santiago Apostol**, and the famous **Alcazaba**.

Day Sixteen | Málaga - Córdoba - Granada

We spend the day in extraordinary Córdoba, which exemplifies perhaps more than any other city the blend of cultures found in Andalucía. We start with the **Medina Azahara** then continue to the **Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos**, ending our exploration with the stunning **Cordoba Mosque-Cathedral**. Afterwards we travel to Granada where we stay for the last two nights of the tour.

Day Seventeen | Granada

Granada, Muslim until its defeat in 1485, was the last bastion of Moorish history and culture in Andalucía. Our visits here include the **Cathedral** built in the century of the old Muslim Medina and **El Banuelo**, the site of Arabic baths dating from the 11th century. A visit to the extraordinary **Alhambra** is a fitting end to this day.

Day Eighteen | Granada - Málaga - London

After the tour of a lifetime exploring the wonders of Morocco and Spain, we make our way to Málaga airport for our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Eireann Marshall in Morocco

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann is bilingual and has led many tours for Andante.



Dr Doru Bogdan in Andalucía

A specialist in Roman archaeology, Doru has supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



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Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Marrakech, Rabat, Meknes, Tangiers, Cadiz, Seville, Ronda & Málaga

Culinary inclusions

- 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 15 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
11th - 28th Nov	£7,445	£7,045 £1,200

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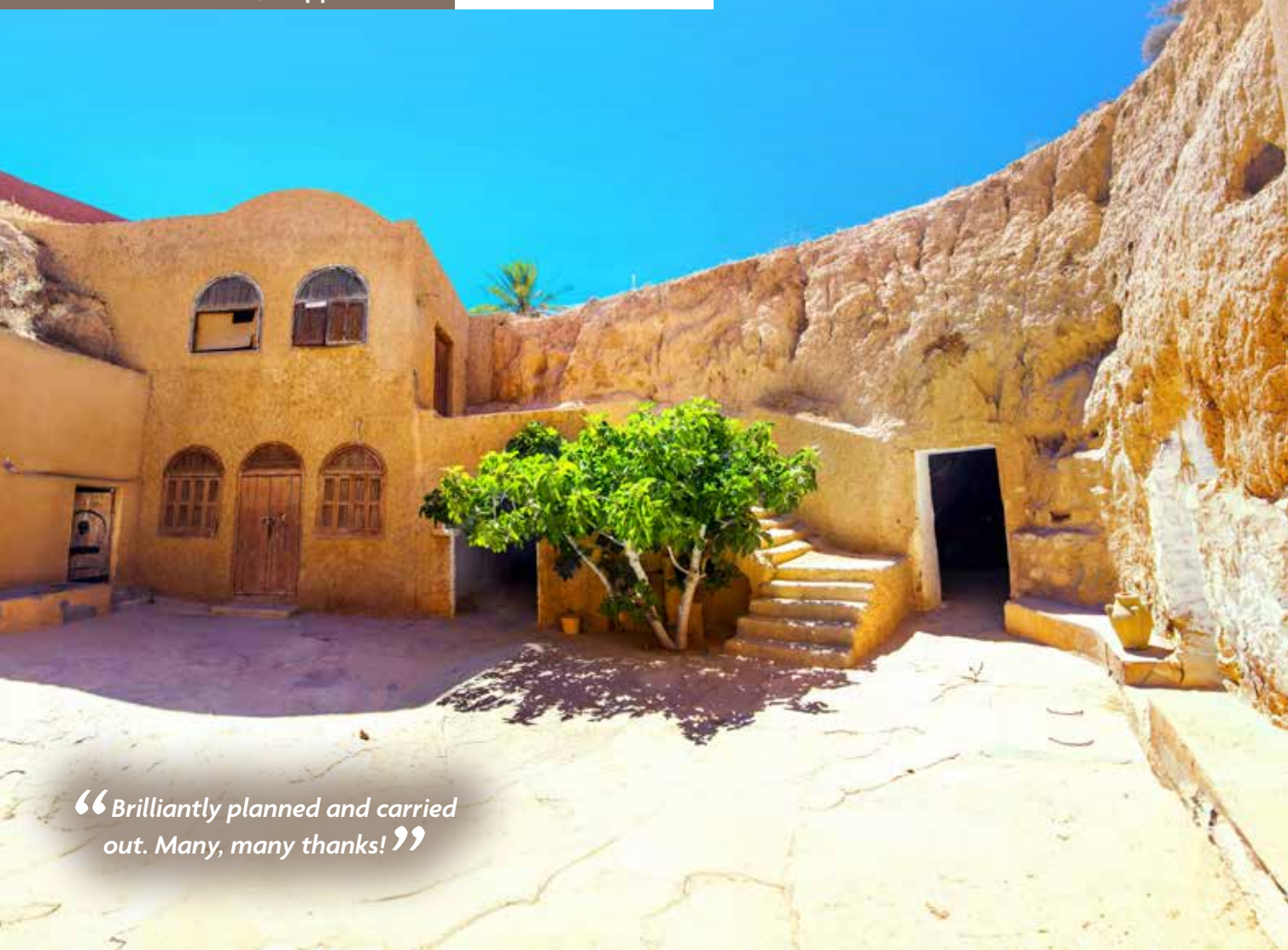
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Tunisia - North & South

Carthage to the edge of the Sahara

15 DAYS FROM £4,645pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Brilliantly planned and carried out. Many, many thanks!”

Tunisia has some of the best preserved Roman cities in the world and many retain the romance of ruins in the countryside unspoiled by mass tourism. Starting with Carthage, we travel south through ruined towns of the high Roman Empire before continuing to the landscapes of the salt chotts, palm oases and dunes of the south.

Day One | London - Tunis

We fly to Tunis and check in to our hotel.

Day Two | Carthage

Today we explore what remains of that once great Phoenician city, Carthage. We start at the **Byrsa Hill** site, where Dido is said to have first founded her city, and we continue to the site of the Tophet, where the cremated remains of thousands of children were found. Later we visit the **Cothon**, the Punic harbour and the impressive **Antonine Baths**, ending our day at the amphitheatre.

Day Three | Oudna & Thuburbo Majus

Travelling south, we stop en route to examine a section of the longest aqueducts built in the Roman Empire. A short drive takes us **Oudna**, where we explore the remains of its substantial public buildings, before continuing to **Thuburbo Majus**, originally a Numidian settlement in the midst of rich farming country.

Day Four | Tunis - Dougga - Teboursouk

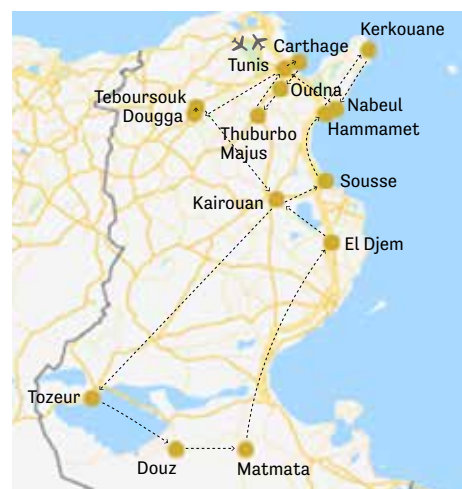
We journey to **Dougga** via **Testour**, a small town characterised by its unique blend of Spanish and local influences. Later, we visit the magnificent site of Dougga, perched high on the hill above olive groves. One of the oldest towns in Tunisia, Dougga began life as a Numidian walled citadel and was built over by the Romans.

Day Five | Teboursouk - Musti - Kairouan

This morning we visit the ancient site of **Musti**. Once a town of some importance, the site has been neglected and is still largely unexcavated. We continue north to **Bulla Regia** to explore its superbly preserved, subterranean Roman houses. After our visit here we start the long journey south to Kairouan.

Day Six | Kairouan

We spend the day in **Kairouan**, the fourth holiest city of Islam. We visit the Aghlabid pools, reservoirs



built on the outskirts of the city in the 9th century, the **Barber Mosque** and also the Great Mosque – one of the major monuments of Islam and an architectural masterpiece. In the afternoon we explore the **Medina** with its network of winding streets, shops and courtyard houses.



Explore Tunisia's historical sites from Carthage and Rome to fortified Berber villages

Traverse the vivid white landscape of the chotts, its salt structures shaped by the desert wind

View the mosques and medinas of Kairouan's rich architectural and historical heritage

Discover a treasure trove of Roman mosaics remarkable for the intricate beauty of their design

Day Seven | Kairouan - Tozeur

We depart early this morning for our long drive south to Tozeur. We will stop en route to see the extraordinary wall at **Bir Oum Ali**. Reaching **Tozeur** around lunchtime, we will take a walk through the old town in the afternoon.

Day Eight | Tozeur

A day to relax or explore. Walk among the date palms, visit the rock formation of Ong Jemal where *Star Wars* was filmed or choose to visit the oases of Chebika and Tamerza (pre-bookable, payable locally).

Day Nine | Tozeur - Douz

Today we cross the vast salt flats known as the chotts. A layer of superficial water can occasionally be seen during winter, but for most of the year the area is desiccated by the sun, leaving a residual film of salt. After lunch we visit **Tamezret**, a traditional village of the indigenous Amazigh people.

Day Ten | Douz & Matmata

During our last day on the fringes of the Sahara, we explore some of the unusual architecture of the region. We visit one of the troglodyte houses, which are scattered in and around **Matmata**, and we will also see a ksar, a form of fortified village, which is common in southern Tunisia.

Day Eleven | Douz - El Djem - Kairouan

Its an early departure this morning for our long return journey to the north. We will break our journey with a visit to **El Djem**, where we explore the massive amphitheatre – the sixth largest in the world. Afterwards we visit the museum, which

houses some of the most impressive mosaics in Tunisia, and outside in the museum gardens, the foundations of some large Roman townhouses – some with mosaics still in situ.

Day Twelve | Kairouan - Sousse - Hammamet

A rather more leisurely start awaits us this morning, with time to relax before we visit Sousse and its museum, housed in part of the Kasbah. The displays here include an exceptionally fine series of mosaics. Many are arranged on the floors and walls of the patio, and in a group of rooms beyond the garden. We continue to the coast and our hotel near Hammamet.

Day Thirteen | Kerkouane & Nabeul

Today we travel along the beautiful coastline of the Cap Bon peninsula to **Kerkouane**, considered to be the best preserved Punic town in Africa. After lunch we continue to Nabeul to see its small museum before visiting the site of ancient Neapolis, a city founded by Greek immigrants in the 5th century BC.

Day Fourteen | Tunis

This morning we visit the world-famous **Bardo Museum**, which ranks alongside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo as one of the two great museums in North Africa. In the afternoon we will take a walk through the narrow streets of the 9th century medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, before returning to our hotel in Hammamet for some free time.

Day Fifteen | Hammamet - Tunis - London

Our tour comes to an end and we return to the airport for our flight to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Dar Said, Hotel Thugga, La Kasbah Hotel, Hotel Dar Horchani, a hotel in Douz & Hotel Sindbad or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunch & 14 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
10th - 24th Nov	£4,895	£4,645 £595

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Carthage & Roman Tunisia

Stand before the mighty ancient amphitheatre of El Djem

10 DAYS FROM £3,445pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



A land where dramatic events shaped ancient history – the superpowers of Carthage and Rome clashed in three Punic Wars, which determined the course of Western history. Lasting over 100 years, this conflict resulted in the destruction of Carthage and assured Roman ascendancy. Superb sites and changing landscapes, from rolling hills and olive groves to sparkling sea, makes this an excellent tour.

Day One | London - Tunis

Today we fly from London Heathrow to Tunis and check in to our hotel.

Day Two | Carthage

Today is devoted to **Carthage**, now a wealthy suburb of Tunis, but scattered with the remains of this once great Phoenician city. We start our day at Byrsa Hill, once the citadel and a central feature of the Punic settlement. There are fantastic views over the modern city from here. Next we continue to the disquieting Salambo Tophet, a cemetery which contained the remains of children who were sacrificed to Tanit, after they were already dead, or, more likely, as live victims. We also visit the Cothon, or harbour, testament to Carthage's famous maritime might; the Roman Antonine Baths, one of the largest in the whole of the Roman empire and the huge cisterns which supplied them.

Day Three | Tunis

This morning we begin with a visit to the famous **Bardo Museum**, situated in an old Beylical palace.

It houses one of the most important collections of mosaics anywhere in the world. Highlights include the Virgil Mosaic and the Odysseus Mosaic, as well as many depicting beast hunts. There is a wonderful collection of Carthaginian artefacts and Paleo Christian baptisteries. In the afternoon we study a section of the Carthage **aqueduct at Jebel Oust**, before exploring nearby **Oudna**, a city established by Emperor Augustus for retired soldiers of the Third Legion.

Day Four | Tunis - Dougga

We drive west to **Dougga**, one of the best preserved and most famous ancient sites in North Africa. Here, we visit the theatre and famous Capitolium. We also explore bath complexes, houses and sanctuaries, all in the kind of peace no longer found at European sites. Dougga is one of the Roman world's best sites and a visit here is always a memorable one.

Day Five | Bulla Regia

We start at the ancient site of **Musti**, once a town



of some importance but still largely unexcavated before continuing north to **Bulla Regia**. The city was made the Numidian capital by Massinissa and here we will explore a bath complex, as well as a series of houses, replete with mosaics, which have underground rooms, offering their elite owners protection from the African heat. These houses include the impressive House of the Hunt and the House of Amphitrite. From here, we continue north to Hammamet.

Day Six | Dougga - Kairouan

We journey south to the delightful and little visited



Visit the incredible El Djem amphitheatre, Africa's largest and best preserved

Gaze upon some of the world's most impressive mosaics at the Bardo, Sousse and El Djem museums

Tour a selection of little-known sites, including Mustis and Ain Tounga as well as the Bulla Regia

Explore the UNESCO-listed sites of Dougga and Kairouan, and the beautifully preserved site of Kerkouane

site of **Thurbo Majus**. Originally Punic (though it has a characteristic *Th* sound associated with Numidian cities), the city was later re-founded as a Roman veteran colony in the Augustan period. Here we will explore the forum, dominated by the Capitolium, before moving on to the Winter Baths and Summer Baths. In between the two, there is the well-preserved Palaestra of Petronius, which belonged to the Summer Baths, and a memorable latrine. We walk up to view some temples with a Punic flavour: the Temple of Baalit and Temple of Caelestis, both Romanised names of Punic goddesses. Later this afternoon, we travel to Kairouan, Tunisia's most important religious city, founded by the Umayyads in the 7th century AD.

Day Seven | El Djem

Today we make our way southeast to El Djem. Originally a Numidian city called Thysdrus, El Djem was particularly wealthy in the 2nd century AD and into the late antique period when it was an olive oil production centre. On the back of this wealth, the city built several amphitheatres, the most important of which was built in the 3rd century AD and is one of the largest in the empire. We will explore this huge structure – visible for miles – and continue to the **museum of El Djem**, which has a wonderful collection of mosaics, as well as in situ houses, which provide glimpses of the city's wealth. This afternoon we return to Kairouan to visit the **Great Mosque**, which has a plethora of reused Roman pillars and lintels and explore the city's medina.

Day Eight | Kairouan - Hammamet

We travel to **Sousse** to visit its museum, located in the city's 12th century kasbah and which has the second largest collection of mosaics in the world, after the Bardo. The earliest artefacts in the museum date from the city's Punic period, when it was called Hadrumetus. The most splendid, however, date from the prosperous Roman period, when the citizens of Hadrumetum, made rich from trade, could afford the best mosaics in the Roman empire. Here we will see mosaics which testify to this maritime background, the most famous of which is the large mosaic of Neptune on his chariot. From here we continue north to Hammamet.

Day Nine | Kerkouane

Today we drive along the Cap Bon Peninsula, the point of Tunisia that is closest to Sicily. Our morning will be spent at **Kerkouane**, a UNESCO-listed site overlooking the sea. It was inhabited from the 7th to 3rd century BC and it was abandoned after the first Punic War, making it the only purely Punic site in Africa. The highlights of this site are the houses that typically contain bathtubs waterproofed with a pinkish mortar. We visit the site museum, which has interesting remains from the nearby necropolis. We have a picnic on site here before travelling to **Nabeul** – today famed for its ceramics but in antiquity a trading port founded by Cyrene. On arrival, we visit the museum to view its mosaics and to read about the production of garum in the area.

Day Ten | Hammamet - Tunis - London

We transfer to Tunis airport for our flight home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann is bilingual and has led many tours for Andante. Join Eireann on our 17th April departure.



Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 9th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Dar Said, La Kasbah Hotel, Hotel Sindbad & Hotel Thugga or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunch & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
17th - 26th Apr	£3,645	£455
9th - 18th Oct	£3,645	£3,445

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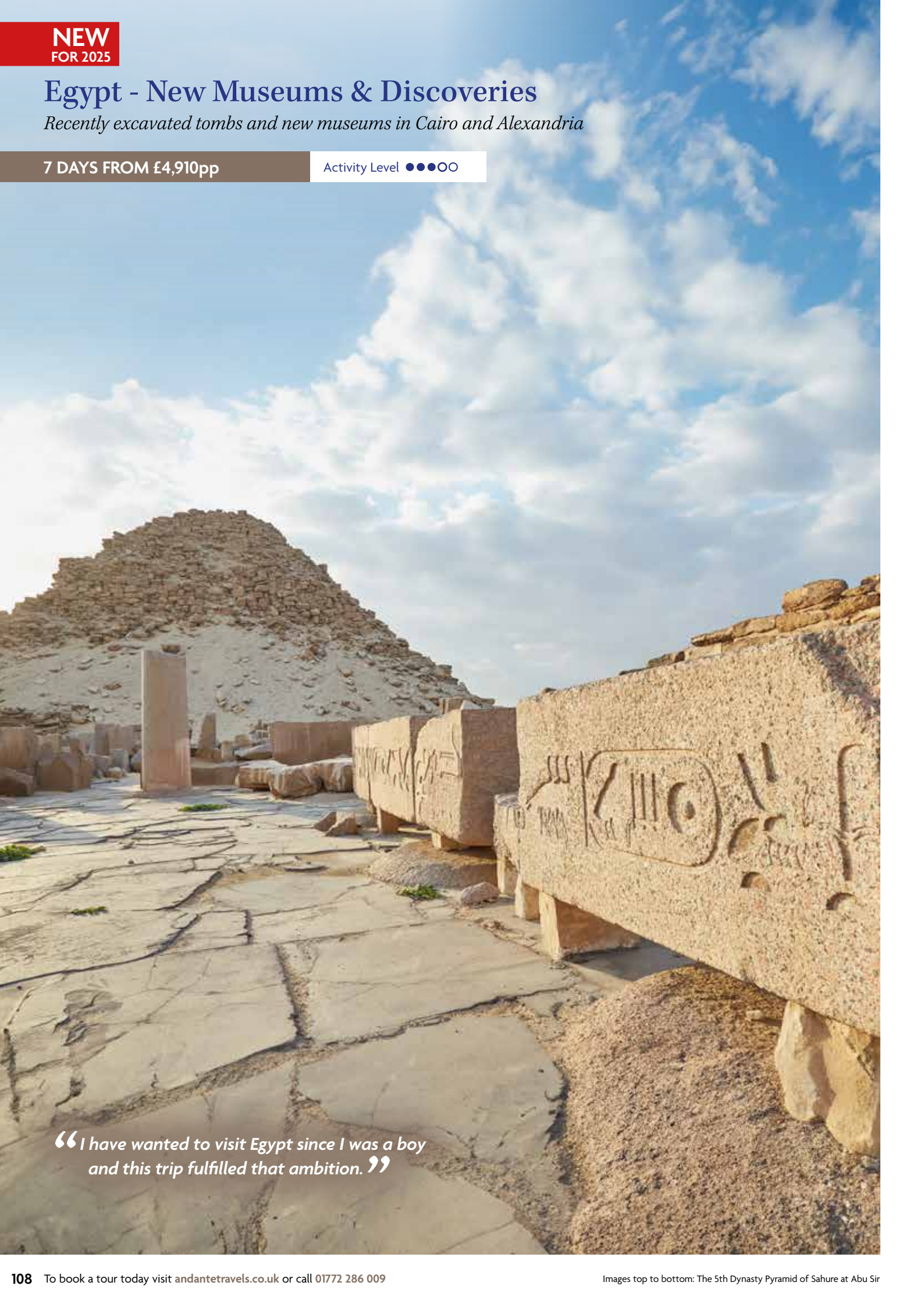
NEW
FOR 2025

Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries

Recently excavated tombs and new museums in Cairo and Alexandria

7 DAYS FROM £4,910pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“I have wanted to visit Egypt since I was a boy and this trip fulfilled that ambition.”



Visit the long-awaited and much anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza

In expert company explore the Imhotep Museum at Saqqara and Greco Roman Museum in Alexandria both recently opened

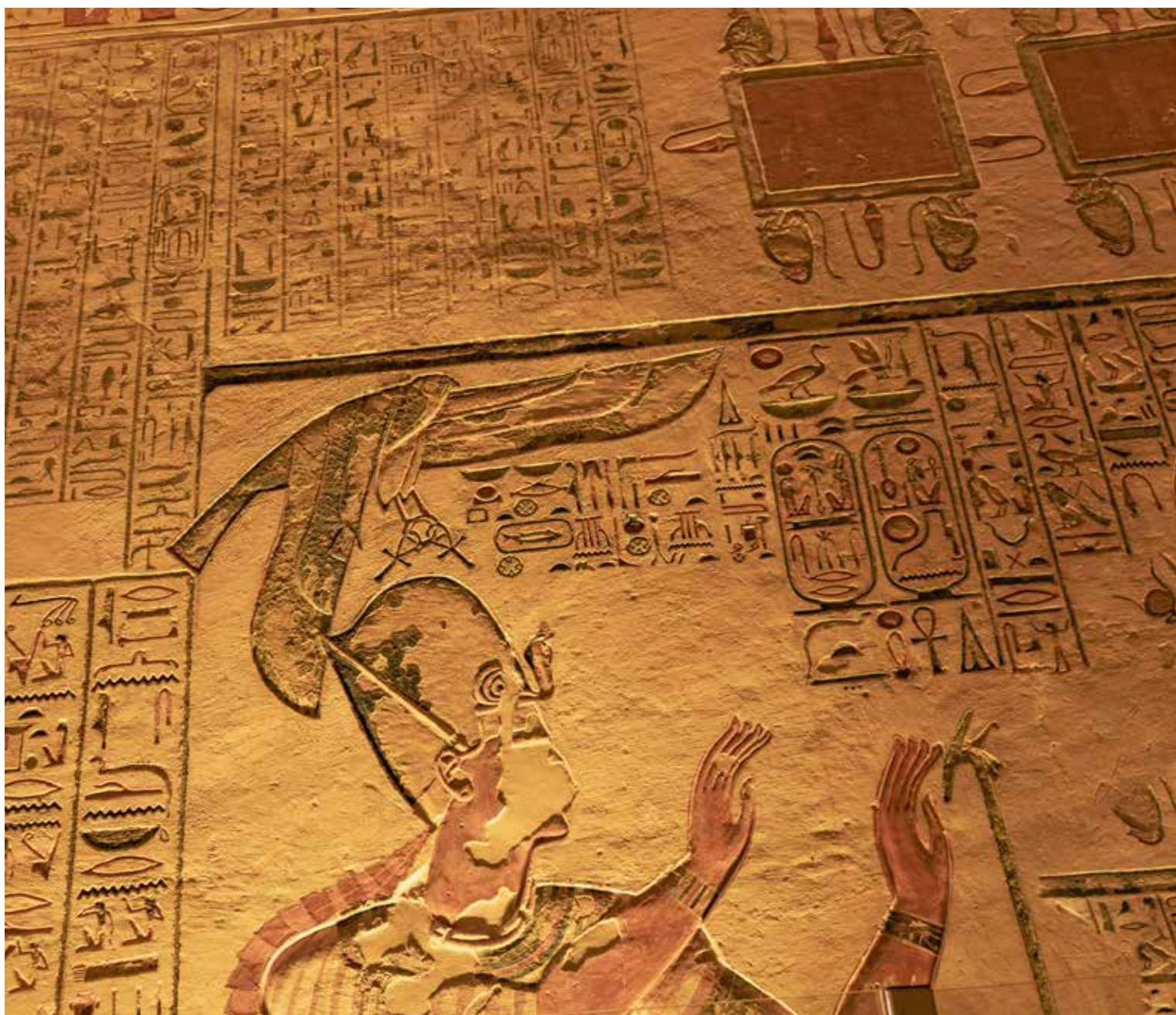
New tomb discoveries in Saqqara including the Tomb of Mehu and the Tomb of Maia

Spend two days in Alexandria; the capital of the Ptolemies, one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic and Roman world

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Lucia Gahlin

Specialising in ancient Egyptian archaeology, Lucia worked at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and is an Honorary Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Lucia has been leading tours to Egypt for over 20 years.



Archaeology in Egypt is seeing another Golden Age, this time led by local Egyptians themselves. With new technology and work undertaken in the last 10 years, countless projects are coming to fruition revealing often surprising detail about the ancient Egyptians and how they lived from engineering ingenuity to insights into their beliefs. It is clear that Ancient Egypt is not done giving up her secrets. Alongside these remarkable discoveries, the redesign and modernisation of existing museums, together with the creation of regional museums, means that many precious artefacts which have been languishing in a basement, some as far back as the Victorian age, are now on display.

This tour focuses on these new discoveries from the recently excavated tombs in Saqqara to the newly renovated Greco Romano Museum in Alexandria and the long-awaited, much anticipated brand-new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza. Returning to these sites in the engaging company of our experienced excavators and Egyptologists is a treat not to be missed.





Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. Here we will see the **Tombs of Maya and Horemheb** and the recently opened Old Kingdom **Tomb of Mehu**, subject of the excellent 2020 documentary 'The Secrets of Saqqara'. In the afternoon we shall explore the **Imhotep Museum** which has re-opened after 2 years of renovation. Our day at Saqqara completes with the **Tomb of**

Maia who was wet-nurse to Tutankhamun and the **Tomb of Nemtyemes** both re-opened to the public in the last decade.

Day Three | Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. After lunch we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day Four | Alexandria

Our focus this morning is the fabulous **Graeco-Roman Museum** which re-opened its doors to the public in 2023 after 18 years of renovation work. Dedicated to the Greek and Roman eras of Egypt, exhibiting artefacts from Alexander the Great's occupation, the subsequent Ptolemaic Dynasty, and the period of Roman rule to province up to the Muslim conquest. Among the thousands of artefacts on display are several discovered during underwater excavations in the sunken cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus as well as in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**. Here we will see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies and the excellent Manuscripts Museum. There is so much more to see here than most people realise.

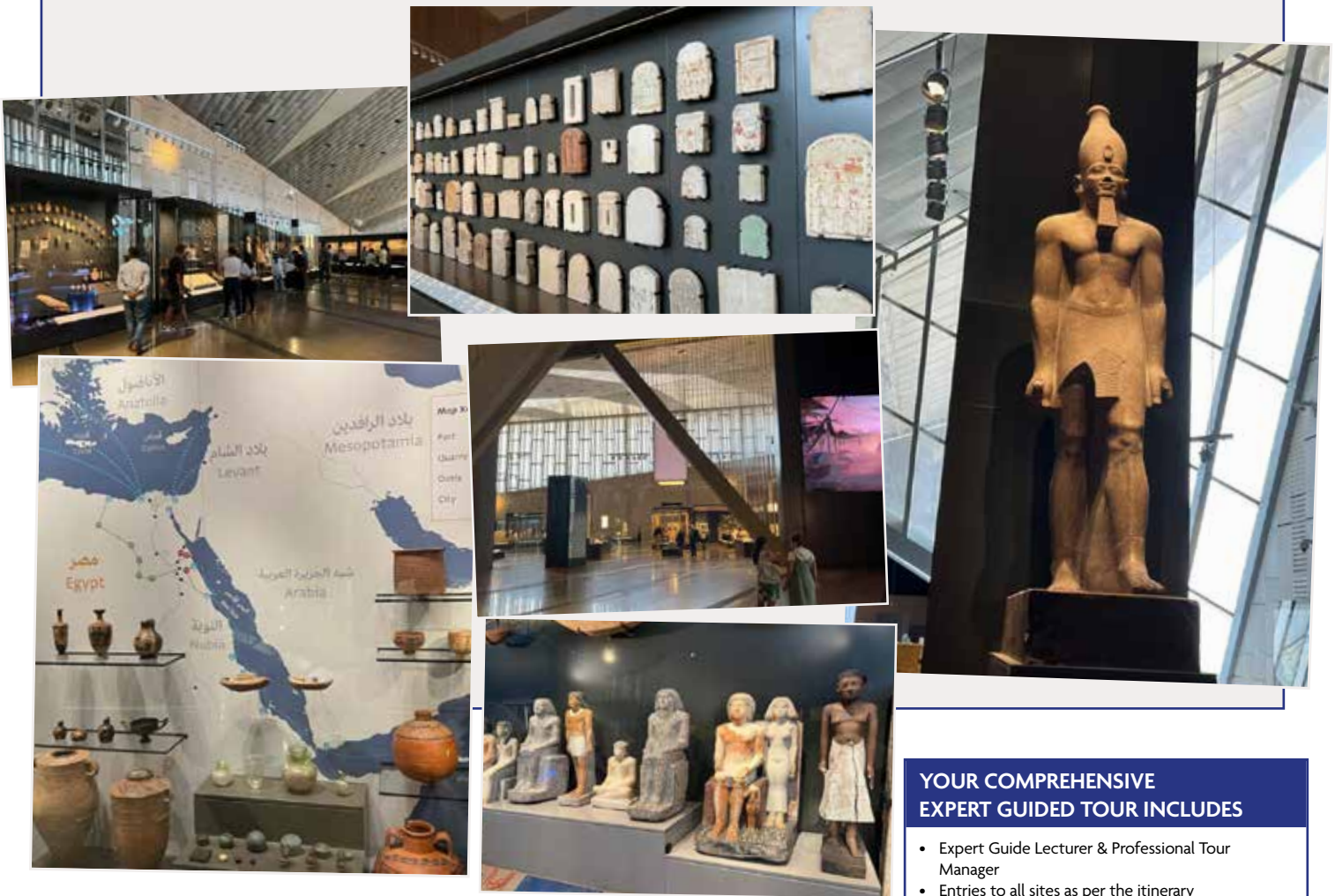
Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo

In January 2002, a ceremonial foundation stone was laid at the site of a new museum, one that would change the face of antiquity and offer its visitors the chance to witness the world's greatest treasures right next to the only remaining wonder of the ancient world – the Pyramids of Giza. 20 years later, the massive 120-acre Grand Egyptian Museum, announced a partial opening to some of its galleries.

The building's design was chosen through an international architectural competition, which was won by the Irish firm Heneghan Peng Architects. One of the most striking features of the Grand Egyptian Museum is its translucent stone facade, which allows natural light to filter into the interior spaces. The design also includes a grand staircase that leads visitors from the entrance to the main exhibition halls, offering panoramic views of the Pyramids along the way.

The 'GEM' is the largest museum in the world and is dedicated to a single civilisation showcasing Egypt's rich cultural heritage, from the pre-historic era to the Greco-Roman period. Within its twelve exhibition halls are more than 100,000 artefacts and include – for the first time – all of the artefacts from Tutankhamen's tomb previously kept in storage.

On display are pharaonic statues, huge sarcophagi, a variety of impressive Egyptian art, including wall paintings and sculptures and thousands and thousands of artefacts from canopic jars to scarabs, board games, amulets and jewellery. To enhance the visitor experience, the Museum also uses cutting-edge technology, such as augmented and virtual reality, to bring ancient Egypt to life.



Day Five | Alexandria - Abu Sir - Cairo

We leave the city centre and drive to **Abu Sir**, ancient **Taposiris** where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra's tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered. After lunch we return south to Cairo.

Day Six | Giza

A full day devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids within view. A huge undertaking which started over 20 years ago, the Museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands on thousands of artefacts. At 45m long, the cedarwood Solar Boat of King Khufu once

housed in a cramped exhibition hall at Giza now fits easily within the vast space of the GEM and two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt's most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun alone. For the first time, almost all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest Museum in the world.

Day Seven | Cairo - London

We return to Cairo airport for our flight home to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Cairo & Alexandria

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunch & 5 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
25th - 31st Mar	£4,910	£4,560 £730

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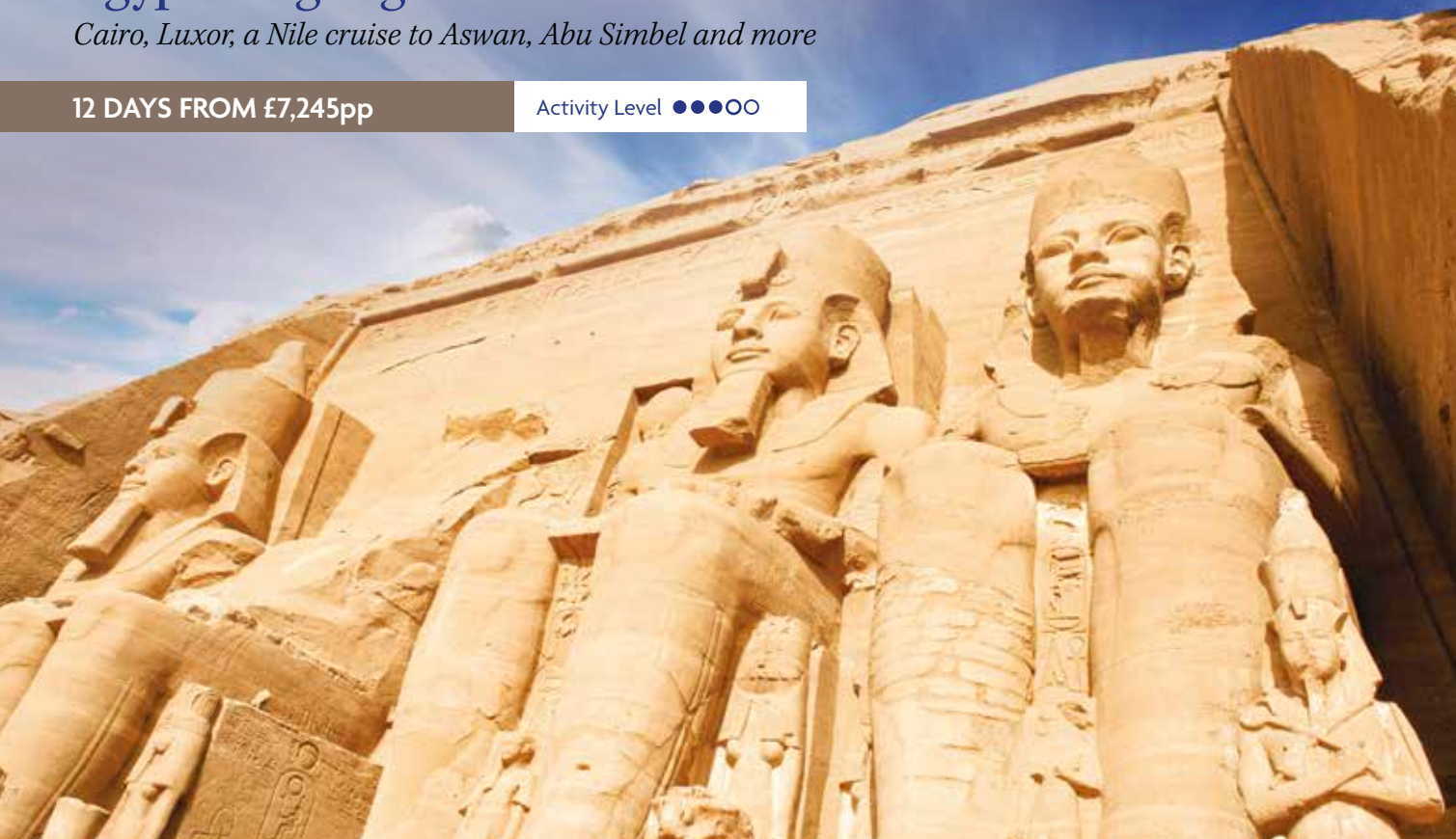
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Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries

Cairo, Luxor, a Nile cruise to Aswan, Abu Simbel and more

12 DAYS FROM £7,245pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The archaeology of ancient Egypt is one of the most instantly recognisable of all the great civilisations. This is a narrative of power, vision and ambition. The monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones – through the expertise of our Guide Lecturers, we get to ‘meet’ the real ancient Egyptians.

Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt’s extraordinary capital – a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as ‘the Mother of the World’.

Day Two | Cairo

We devote our day to **Saqqara**, the vast necropolis to the ancient Egyptian capital of **Memphis**. We discover the extraordinary **Step Pyramid of Djoser**, the smooth-sided **Pyramid of Unas** and the **Mastaba of Mereruka**. Later we explore the fabulous Serepeum, catacombs for the sacred Apis bulls and the recently reopened Imhotep Museum.

Day Three | Cairo

This morning we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the Giza Plateau to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: **the Great Pyramid**. It towers some 147 metres above the plateau and its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx**. Our afternoon is devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids in view. This monumental project began over 20 years ago and features 750,000 sqm of floor space, 12 exhibition halls, and thousands and thousands of artifacts. Notably, two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt’s most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun. For the first time, nearly all of the 5,000 objects

discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest Museum in the world. However, currently, some of the treasures from Tutankhamun have not yet been moved over to the new museum, so we will be visiting them at the **Egyptian Museum** later in the tour.

Day Four | Cairo – Luxor

We start with a visit to the pyramid complex at **Dahshur** where we discover the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid, two well preserved early constructions built during the reign of King Sneferu. Afternoon site visits include **Memphis**, founded over 5000 years ago and **The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation** whose exceptional collection includes the royal mummies. Our last visit is to the **Egyptian Museum** in Tahrir Square to see a few of the important artefacts remaining here (including, for now, Tutankhamen’s gold sarcophagus). This evening we fly from Cairo to Luxor.

Day Five | Luxor

Our first visit of the day is to the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri, a stunning collection of shrines that have been heavily restored to reflect their former glory. In the afternoon, we visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III standing at a towering 18-metres high, erected to guard the entrance of the pharaoh’s memorial temple. Afterwards, we visit the Qurna tombs of **Ramose**, **Userhet** and **Khaemhet** and **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tomb in the Valley of the Kings.



Day Six | Luxor

The **Valley of the Kings** awaits us today. This was the final resting place of royals and nobility for almost 500 years, with excavations dating the site back as far as the 16th century BC. Its most notable occupant is, of course, King Tutankhamun, so famously discovered by Howard Carter in 1922, and since returned to his original burial place where he now lies undisturbed. After lunch, we visit the **Valley of the Queens**.

Day Seven | Luxor

This morning we lose ourselves in the captivating complex of **Karnak**. Here we encounter the cult temple of Amun-Ra, chief of the deities of the New Kingdom. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after



“ I thoroughly enjoyed the tour. It was a wonderful introduction to ancient Egypt. The tour manager and guide were impressive and the accommodation excellent.”



Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile

Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel

See the grand gallery and the royal burial chamber of the Great Pyramid of Khufu

Explore the enigmatic Valleys of the Kings and Queens, and pay a visit to the exceptionally well-preserved tomb of Nefertari

generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. After checking into our cruise boat and having lunch on board we make our way to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Rameses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias'. Afterwards we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Eight | Luxor - Edfu

Before we set sail this afternoon we visit the fantastic **Luxor Museum** - a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and home to celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tutmosis III, and **Luxor Temple** with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

Day Nine | Edfu - Kom Ombo

We make our way to the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, it's decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII

destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile water. This afternoon, we explore the **Temple of Sobek and Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's Crocodile Museum.

Day Ten | Philae - Aswan

Today we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border and visit the impressive **Temple of Isis** in Philae. The flooding of Lake Nasser caused the whole complex to be moved from its original location. After a stop at **Aswan (High) Dam**, we visit the ancient Quarries at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments and site of the spectacular '**Unfinished Obelisk**'.

Day Eleven | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

It's an early morning start as we disembark the MS Tulip and transfer to Aswan Airport and fly to **Abu Simbel**. Here, we make the most of our last day exploring what is considered to be Egypt's most impressive temple site, home to temples of **Rameses II and Nefertari**. After lunch, we fly to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

Day Twelve | Cairo - London

Today we catch our return flight back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Lucia Gahlin

Specialising in ancient Egyptian archaeology, Lucia worked at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and is an Honorary Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Lucia has been leading tours to Egypt for over 20 years.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Sofitel El-Gezirah, Pavillon Winter Luxor Hotel, 4 nights aboard MS Tulip & Le Meridien Cairo Airport or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
9th - 20th Dec	£7,645	£7,245 £1,140

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Egypt Encompassed

From Pharaohs to Caesars

19 DAYS FROM £13,225pp

Activity Level ●●●●○



Howard Carter's description of his first sight into Tutankhamun's tomb is also a fitting description of Andante's exploration of the archaeology of this amazing country. Egypt is indeed a land of 'wonderful things', a country where adjectives are insufficient to describe the monuments and experiences which are not to be found anywhere else in the world. While certain images of Egypt have become familiar, there is no substitute for witnessing at first hand the glittering treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb, the quiet intrigue of the hypostyle hall at Karnack, the beautiful setting of the Temple of Isis at Philae or standing over-awed at the feet of the colossal statues of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel. This epic tour encompasses all of these iconic sites and so much more. Starting with the Old Kingdom and the 'Age of the Pyramids' and ending with the Ptolemaic Dynasty and the Romans, we take a journey of a lifetime as we explore Upper and Lower Egypt travelling through the millennia.

Day One | London - Cairo

We depart from London and arrive in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. We will discover the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the smooth-





Journey to the Middle Nile and discover the city of the heretic pharaoh Akhenaten at Tell el-Amarna

Admire the exquisite artistry of the special tombs, Seti I, Sennefer and Rekhmire

Enjoy privileged access at Taposiris, conjectured to be the site of Cleopatra's burial

Spend a whole day at Saqqara where we discover sites seldom viewed by the casual visitor

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Lucia Gahlin

Specialising in ancient Egyptian archaeology, Lucia worked at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and is an Honorary Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Lucia has been leading tours to Egypt for over 20 years.



sided **Pyramid of Unas** as well as the Imhotep Museum (due to reopen late 2023 after extensive renovation). After lunch we return to focus on the lesser-visited parts of this huge site and visit two important tombs, the **mastaba of Mereruka**, a large and complex tomb of the Vizier to King Teti, and the superb **mastaba tomb of Ti** as well as the **Serapeum**, burial place of the sacred Apis bulls in the northern part of the Saqqara complex.

Day Three | Giza

This morning we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the Giza Plateau to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: **the Great Pyramid**. It towers some 147 metres above the plateau and its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx**. Our afternoon is devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids in view. This monumental project began over 20 years ago and features 750,000 sqm of floor space, 12 exhibition halls, and thousands and thousands of artifacts. Notably, two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt's most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun. For the first time, nearly all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest Museum in the world. However, currently, some of the treasures from Tutankhamun have not yet been moved over to the new museum, so we will be visiting them at the Egyptian Museum later in the tour.

Day Four | Cairo - Beni Hassan - Minya

We set off early for Beni Hassan this morning,

winding our way out of the traffic heavy roads of Cairo and onto the fast highway to Minya. The journey will take us around 4 hours as we travel through the desert tracking the Nile. Our goal is the site of **Beni Hassan**, just south of Minya. These rock cut tombs high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile take a little effort to reach but the view from the top is breath-taking and the tombs are fabulous. These Middle Kingdom tombs are painted, rather than decorated in carved reliefs and covered in scenes of daily life in extraordinary detail. These include scenes of agriculture, crafts, fishing, fowling and hunting. We overnight in Minya, now a small city mostly overlooked by tourists but once a powerful regional capital within Egypt.

Day Five | Tell el-Amarna

Today we visit **Tell el-Amarna**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. It is also one of those which is usually ignored or given scant attention by tour operators because there are no monumental structures here. Amarna is, however, the most significant surviving city site from ancient Egypt; the majority having been built over by later settlements. It was also a new Capital city, constructed by Amenhotep IV beginning in the 5th year of his reign. The original name of the city was Akhenaten, the 'Horizon of the Aten', a title corresponding to the actions of the so-called 'heretic Pharaoh' Akhenaten as he later became to be known. The city itself was abandoned after the Pharaoh's death, only 20 years or so after its creation. Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, Nefertiti's Palace, and the Temple of Aten.

Day Six | Minya - Tuna el-Gebel - Abydos

Our day starts at the rich and varied archaeological site of **Tuna el-Gebel** which functioned as the necropolis for the ancient town of Khemnu/Hermopolis at the edge of the western desert. It marks the boundary of Akhenaten's city some 11kms from the centre of Tell el-Amarna and is home to one of Akhenaten and Nefertiti's 'boundary stelae' carved into the limestone cliff. We also visit vast catacombs for ibis and baboons, associated with the god Thoth, and impressive tombs, including that of a High Priest of Thoth c300 BC – Petosiris, whose reliefs combine Greek and Egyptian artistic styles. In the afternoon, we continue our drive south to Abydos.

Day Seven | Abydos – Dendera - Luxor

This morning we visit **Abydos**, one of the most sacred sites in Egypt, identified as the burial place of Osiris. The main focus of our visit is the important cult **temple of Seti I** with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. The temple is also the home of the only King List still to remain in situ. After a picnic lunch we continue to **Dendera** once the capital of the Sixth Upper Egyptian nome. Like Saqqara it was the site of burials of sacred animals, particularly cows associated with the cult of the local goddess Hathor. The roof of the temple includes a number of chapels, symbolic mortuary chapels for Osiris. One of these contained the famous Dendera Zodiac, which is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, but it is replicated here in situ by a circular plaster cast depicting the hours of the day and night as well as the journey of the sun, moon, and stars across the sky.

Continued...



Day Eight | West Bank

This morning we cross the river by motorboat and then travel by coach, to visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon** on the West Bank at Thebes. These two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III stand at a towering 18-metres high and were erected to guard the entrance to the pharaoh's vast and opulent memorial temple. Alas, only traces of that once-great temple remain. Next, we visit the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to the public and we enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated **tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. In the afternoon we visit **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community. This was no ordinary community however, but the settlement of the craftsmen responsible for constructing the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and as such employees of the state.

Day Nine | West Bank

This morning we return to the west bank and the **Valley of the Queens** where we visit its most famous tomb, that belonging to the Chief Royal Wife of Ramesses II, Queen Nefertari. The tomb has vividly painted reliefs with inscriptions describing the queen's beauty, sweetness and charm and the decoration is exquisite. We continue to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias.' Later we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings

and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Ten | West Bank & Luxor

We start today at the Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut at **Deir el-Bahri**, a stunning shrine cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! It is famous for its scenes showing a trading expedition to the land of Punt where the Egyptians traded with the local people for exotic products, including incense trees. Next we visit **Howard Carter's House** – the property used by the archaeologist during his search for the tomb of Tutankhamun and eventual discovery and to round off the day we will visit to the excellent **Luxor Museum**, where we see a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tuthmosis III, an extraordinary figure carved out of greywacke and an alabaster figure of Amenhotep III protected by the great crocodile god Sobek.

Day Eleven | Karnak & Luxor

We spend the morning at **Karnak**, exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Ramesses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. In the afternoon, we visit **Luxor Temple**, linked to the Karnak complex by an avenue of sphinxes, processions would travel along this 1.5km route on a regular basis. There were barque shrines where the boats, which carried the image of the god, could be placed and where ceremonies

could be conducted. At the end of the day, we embark on our Nile cruise and the first of our 4 nights on board.

Day Twelve | West Bank - Edfu

Before we set sail today, we make one last visit to the west bank and the **Tombs of the Nobles**. Here we see two of the most splendid non-royal tombs dating to the New Kingdom period, the vibrantly painted burial chamber of **Sennefer** and the intricately decorated funerary chapel of **Rekhmire**. After lunch on board, we start our journey to Aswan, slipping anchor and sailing up the Nile towards Edfu.

Day Thirteen | Edfu - Kom Ombo - Aswan

Today we discover the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. One of the country's most magnificently preserved shrines, the construction of which is thought to have spanned an incredible 180 years, from the 3rd to the 2nd century BC. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, its pylon - or gateway - is the highest among all of Egypt's surviving temples and is decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile waters. This afternoon we explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's **Crocodile Museum**. The partially restored remains of Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stand dramatically above the Nile and its situation overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque. It is peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout; the eastern half dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor, and their son Khonsu and the western to the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasenetnofret, and their son Panebtawy.

Day Fourteen | Aswan

Arriving in Aswan, we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border to visit the atmospheric



ruins of the Ptolemaic **Temple of Isis** in Philae, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines – which were originally dedicated to the goddess Isis. To nineteenth century travellers Philae was ‘the pearl of the Nile’ set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin. It was pictured by David Roberts, Frances Frith and a generation of other artists and photographers. These individuals would recognise most of the site we see today but might be surprised to learn that it is no longer on its original island. After a stop at the High Dam, we continue to the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular ‘**Unfinished Obelisk**, some 42 metres long and weighing approximately 1,197 tons. After lunch on board our ship, we will visit **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan.

Day Fifteen | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

Today we fly from Aswan to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan at the edge of the desert. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser’s rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal pair. In an effort to prevent the temples’ destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe. After our site visit, we fly to Cairo.

Day Sixteen | Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilization throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum’s

exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. Later we visit the **Egyptian Museum** in Tahrir Square to see a few of the important artefacts remaining here (including, for now, Tutankhamen’s gold sarcophagus). This afternoon we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day Seventeen | Alexandria

We spend the day in Alexandria exploring the major monuments of the ancient city. We visit the **Catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa** an underground labyrinth of decorated tombs from the Roman period, we also visit **Pompeys Pillar**, the site of the **Serapeum**, the temple dedicated to the god Serapis and his consort Isis and one of the most important temples of the Hellenistic world. We explore part of the civic centre of Roman Alexandria at **Kom al Dikka**, with its major monuments including an Odeon type building and a fine house, the **Villa of the Birds**. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, the modern Library, here we will see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies.

Day Eighteen | Alexandria - Cairo

Our focus this morning is the fabulous **Graeco-Roman Museum** which re-opened its doors to the public in 2023 after 18 years of renovation work. Dedicated to the Greek and Roman eras of Egypt, exhibiting artefacts from Alexander the Great’s occupation, the subsequent Ptolemaic Dynasty, and the period of Roman rule to province up to the Muslim conquest. Among the thousands of artefacts on display are several discovered during underwater excavations in the sunken cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus as well as in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria. Before returning to Cairo, we visit **Abu Sir**, ancient

Taposiris, where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra’s tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered. We arrive in Cairo this evening.

Day Nineteen | Cairo - London

At the end of our epic journey, we return to Cairo airport for our onward flight home.

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With a range of tours that can take you to Turkey and Jordan, and from sites that include the rock-cut city of Petra, the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East are truly astounding places to explore from an archaeological perspective.

Anatolia and the Levant were central to the development of permanent settlements and to the agricultural revolution. The domestication of crops in the beginning of the Holocene, which saw a transformation in the natural environment with the introduction of irrigation and deforestation, was later accompanied by the domestication of animals and, later, by the development of pottery. This fundamental change in the lifestyles of humans is hotly debated as scholars contest a variety of questions, including whether permanent settlements gave rise to the development of farming or whether the advent of farming gave rise to static habitations. For these questions, Göbekli Tepe in Turkey is instrumental. The site, which dates to the 10th millennium, houses several monumental circular buildings which appear to have a religious aspect to them, and which may have serviced peoples coming from a wide area. What is interesting is that dwellings and evidence of cultivation haven't yet been found, which may give clues to the development of permanent settlements. Turkey is also home to Çatal Hüyük, dating from the 8th to the 6th millennium BC, which provides invaluable evidence for the development of this agricultural revolution a few millennia after Göbekli Tepe.

Both Anatolia and the Levant also prospered in Classical Antiquity, as is clear from the proliferation of such outstanding archaeological sites as the Anatolian sites of Ephesus, Pergamon and Aphrodisias with their stunning collection of monuments. What is, perhaps, not emphasised enough is how multicultural this part of the world is, as is particularly evident with the Nabateans who produced the stunning rock cut buildings, such as the Monastery and Treasury in Petra. The Levant also houses a number of impressive castles, notably Kerak, erected in the medieval period and instrumental in understanding the crusades and concomitant Christian attempts to regain the Holy Land.



Gaze upon the mighty walls of Troy as everyone from Achilles to Alexander the Great has desired to do

Explore the vast and rambling Topkapi Palace, a palace like none you will have ever seen

Discover one of the oldest settlements in the world at Çatal Hüyük

Admire the almost lunar-like desert scenery of Wadi Rum

Visit Jerash, the best-preserved (and Jordan's largest) Roman town in the east, a site that is home to the Oval Plaza and the Corinthian columns of the Temple of Artemis

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Classical Turkey: The Aegean Coast

Powerful city states of ancient history

11 DAYS FROM £4,795pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The ruined cities of the famously beautiful Aegean coast of Turkey were once some of the most powerful in the ancient world. From, if Homer is to be believed, the site of the legendary conflict between Greeks and Trojans, Troy, to the World Heritage Site of Hierapolis. The remains of these splendid cities are set in a breath-taking landscape of rugged limestone peaks, plunging valleys, olive groves, pine forests and flower-dotted meadows, with the glittering blue waters of the Aegean Sea as a constant backdrop. We travel widely along the littoral of the Aegean and occasionally towards the interior in search of these evocative sites. Our journey ranges through time, too, reaching back to the early Bronze Age kingdoms, the time of the Hittite Empire and the Homeric period.

Day One | London - Istanbul

We fly to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel in the historic district of Sultanahmet.

Day Two | Istanbul

Istanbul is kaleidoscopic and every street yields a different refraction. We explore some of its major sites today including the magnificent **Hagia Sophia**, **Yerbatan Sarayı** a cavernous and palatial Byzantine underground water cistern, the **Hippodrome** with its Egyptian obelisk and the **Blue Mosque** with its richly decorated interior.

Day Three | Istanbul - Assos

We make the long journey around the sea of Marmara to Çannakale where we take the ferry across the Dardanelles and continue to **Troy**. This is a place to quicken the senses and it is tantalising to imagine the Greek army ranged across the landscape while Paris paced the walls of the city and Hector duelled with Achilles. Its first excavator, Heinrich Schliemann dug between 1871 and 1879 cutting through nine later levels to get to the second, which he thought was 'Homeric' Troy. Following later excavations, we now know that the sixth level (1750-1300 BC) is most likely Homer's city.

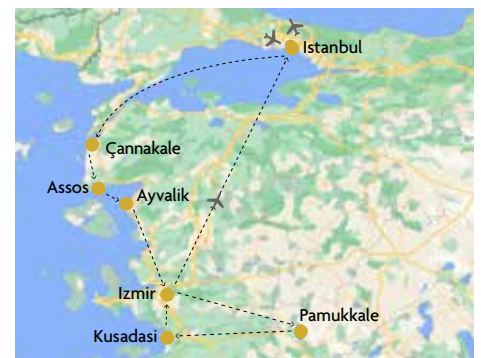
Day Four | Assos - Ayvalik

This morning, we drive from sea level up to the site of **Assos**, one of the most beautifully

situated sites in Turkey, perched on a prominent hilltop overlooking the Aegean and Sappho's island of Lesbos. The site has a fine set of city walls, magnificent theatre and the famous **Doric Temple of Athena** situated on the east side of the acropolis. This afternoon we continue our journey around the coast to Ayvalik, stopping on the way to visit a hidden gem, the small archaeological site of **Antandros**. This Greco-Roman city is located on the slopes of Mount Ida and was established in the 7th century BCE. Excavations here have been ongoing for some time and there have been some exciting new discoveries. Later we arrive in Ayvalik.

Day Five | Ayvalik - Izmir

We spend the day at the Hellenistic city of **Pergamon**, one of the greatest ancient cities in Turkey, whose extensive remains range across a dramatic rocky outcrop reached by cable car. Our explorations include the Acropolis and the extraordinary precipitous theatre, more landscape architecture than public building. After lunch we visit **Pergamon Museum** and the **Aesclepium**. This was the shrine of the healing God Asclepius whose cult became one of the most popular in the ancient world. Pilgrims would visit the shrine, take part in rituals and then be visited by the god in their sleep to be healed. Equally revived, we continue to Izmir.



Day Six | Izmir - Pamukkale

Our first visit of the day is to the **Agora of Smyrna**, located in the Mezarlıkbaşı neighbourhood of Izmir. Built during the reign of Alexander the Great, it served as a commercial, judicial, and political centre of the ancient city. Recent excavations here have promoted a tentative World Heritage listing as part of the historic port of Izmir. We continue inland to **Sardis**, a city that has always functioned as a centre of Power. We see its massive gymnasium and bathhouse, and the finely preserved **Temple of Artemis**. We continue to **Pamukkale**, the limestone 'cotton castle' of calcite pools with warm thermal springs. Located in the River Menderes Valley, the Roman ruins here remain remarkably well-preserved.

Day Seven | Hierapolis & Laodicea

Today we explore ancient **Hierapolis**, which benefited hugely from the nearby thermal springs, with its extensive tombs and the oracular Temple of Apollo. Adjacent to the temple lies the Plutonium, a shrine of the lord of the underworld. It conceals a vent which does still release noxious fumes. This would have been used to induce trance



Gaze upon the mighty walls of Troy as everyone from Achilles to Alexander the Great has desired to do

Explore remarkably well-preserved classical cities such as Pergamon, Miletus and Aphrodisias, and discover a range of evocative lesser-known ruins

Discover the Hagia Sophia, one of the most remarkable ancient structures in the world

like states and is the source of the oracular powers of the temple. The limescale formations with cascading pools and hot springs make this site very picturesque. In the afternoon we visit **Laodicea**, a site largely unknown until 2003 when excavations revealed its history dates to 5,500 BCE, with the city's peak occurring between the first and third centuries AD. With a population estimated at around 80,000 at that time, Laodicea was far larger than Hierapolis.

Day Eight | Pamukkale - Kusadasi

We travel east up the long valley of the Menderes River, through magnificent scenery to **Aphrodisias**. The river appears in Homer's Iliad and was noted in antiquity for the winding course it struck through the hills. We get our own word Meander, for a winding river, from this ancient original. Aphrodisias was capital of the Roman province of Caria and the mountains surrounding this idyllic site produce very fine white Carian marble. The city became famous for its sculptors and traces of their work can be seen everywhere.

Day Nine | Priene, Didyma & Miletus

We spend the morning at **Priene**, which is set on a peaceful wooded hillside beneath a towering limestone peak. The Temple of Athena stands as a substantial ruin. The city was never large and was forced to shift its location due to the silting of its harbour by the Menderes River. From here we follow in the footsteps of the Greeks to **Didyma**. Originally a Carian city it became an Ionian Greek

settlement with a huge temple that housed a shrine and oracle of Apollo, famed for its religious festival, the Didymea. A number of significant personalities participated in the festivals including Alexander the Great and in AD 129 Emperor Hadrian. We end the day at Miletus, well built with its regular street grid on a peninsula. This was the home of Hippodamus of **Miletus**, among others, who is credited as inventing regular city organisation, the origin of town planning no less!

Day Ten | Ephesus & Selçuk

Our tour culminates at **Ephesus**, one of western Turkey's highlights. This was one of the richest cities in Asia Minor and continued to thrive through the Roman period. Ephesus was famed for its gigantic temple and sanctuary of Diana/Artemis, built in around 550 BC it was reckoned one of the wonders of the ancient world and a major example of Ionic architecture. A single column now marks its sad remains. Images of the famous cult statue were extensively copied in the ancient world, the goddess draped with sacrificial remains. The city is full of fine architecture, including the restored but harmonious library of Celsius. After exploring the city, we visit the museum that houses treasures from the site. We end the day at the fortifications and **Basilica of St. John at Selçuk**.

Day Eleven | Kusadasi - Izmir - London

We drive to Izmir, where the tour ends, for our flight home via Istanbul.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Isabella Sjöström

An archaeologist who has excavated in the UK, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Libya, Isabella works as a pottery specialist with the Sudan Archaeological Research Society.



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Byzantium & Ottoman Istanbul

A glittering Jewel on the Bosphorus

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Activity Level ●●●○○



Founded as Byzantium, famed as Constantinople, the city we know today as Istanbul straddles two continents and has played a pivotal role in world history. It is one of the most delightful and complex cities in the world. We explore the major monuments of the city centre but also take a boat ride on the Bosphorus, which affords views back over the unmistakable skyline of the city broken by hundreds of slender soaring minarets. The bustle, good-natured hustle, scents and sounds of this city are unforgettable.

We are based in Sultanahmet, the site of old Constantinople. This historic and compact area is largely pedestrianised and is home to four of the city's major historic monuments: the Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar. Guide Lecturer Terry Richardson, author of *The Rough Guide to the City*, provides invaluable 'insider' knowledge of a city he knows and loves so well and travelling out of season, we enjoy this wonderful city when the summer crowds have departed.

Day One | London - Istanbul

We fly to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel in the historic district of Sultanahmet.

Day Two | Hagia Sophia & Spice Bazaar

This morning we start with the great basilica of **Hagia Sophia**. Built by Justinian in the early 6th century, converted into a Mosque in the 15th

century, secularised as a Museum in the 20th and repurposed as a Mosque in the 21st, this architectural marvel is not just a place of worship but a long enduring symbol of the city. We continue to the **Yerebatan Sarayı**, a cavernous Byzantine underground water cistern which once supplied the imperial palaces until they fell into



ruin, and it was forgotten. Now, we can walk on wooden walkways above the water and admire its remarkable engineering. After lunch we explore the **Sulemaniye mosque complex** built by the architect Sinan for the Sultan in the 16th century. The mosque and its courtyard are at the centre of a complex which comprised a madrasa, alms-houses,



Explore the vast and rambling Topkapi Palace, a palace like none you will ever have seen

Enjoy an afternoon on the waters of the Bosphorus to put the city in its geographical context

Soak up stunning panoramic views from the viewing platform of the Galata Tower

Discover the history behind the unforgettable skyline of graceful minarets and monuments

infirmaries, caravanserais, a medical school, baths, a hospital, and shops. We end the day with a visit to the **Spice Bazaar**, located at the southern end of the Galata Bridge and next to the New Mosque, Yeni Cami.

Day Three | Taksim Square & Galata

Today we begin at **Taksim Square** in the 'European Quarter' of the city. From here we walk down Istiklal Caddesi, formerly known as the Grand Rue de Pera during the Ottoman period when it attracted an intellectual crowd and became the place to stroll for French Levantines. We visit the superb **Pera Museum** which houses a private collection of historical artefacts and paintings from the Ottoman period and then continue after lunch to Galata. Here we see the 61-metre-high **Galata Tower**, which once formed part of the fortifications of the walls protecting the Genoese colony. A lift does most of the work, but there's still a couple of staircases climbs to reach the viewing platform, which allows a stunning 360-degree panorama of the city. We will also visit the **Galata Mevlevi Museum**, the beautifully preserved semahane or dance hall, where adherents of the faith once performed a ritual, rotational dance (hence the name we in the West use for the Mevlevi, Whirling Dervishes), forms the centre piece of the museum. We conclude the day with a stroll across the architecturally undistinguished but ever fascinating **Galata Bridge**, lined with hopeful anglers and cheap and cheerful restaurant-bars, which links Europeanised Pera/Galata with the old city centred on Sultanahmet.

Day Four | Walls of Theodosius & Palace of Porphyrogenitus

Our first visit today is to the Walls of Theodosius constructed to protect the new imperial capital by Constantine, expanded and reinforced by Theodosius in the 5th century. These walls protected the city for over a 1000 years and once

formed a virtually impregnable barrier. Here we visit the Ottoman Turkish fortification of **Yedikule** and the **Golden Gate** and the **Church of Zoodochus Pige**. In the afternoon we continue to the **Panorama 1453 Museum**. Painted right around the drum and shallow dome is a vivid scene showing Sultan Mehmet II's troops besieging the walls of Constantinople. It may be popular history, but it does help to bring the momentous events of the spring of 1453 into vivid focus. Our last visit of the day is to the Byzantine **Palace of Porphyrogenitus**. Not much remains of this once magnificent building but it gives some idea of what the emperor's residence might have looked like in late Byzantine times.

Day Five | Hagia Eirene & Bosphorus

This morning we visit the **Hagia Eirene** originally built in the 4th century and reconstructed in the 8th after a catastrophic fire. Used as an arsenal until the 19th century, it is one of the few churches in Istanbul that have not been converted into a mosque and is now a museum and a concert hall. We continue to the excellent **Istanbul Archaeological Museum** built by the Sultans to house their collections from across the Ottoman Empire. This afternoon we take a **private boat trip** on the Bosphorus from Eminonou Pier up the majestic waterway that separates Europe from Asia and links the Black Sea ports to the Mediterranean.

Day Six | Topkapi Palace & Blue Mosque

Today we explore the famous **Topkapi Palace**, the rambling palace complex of the Ottoman sultans until they moved in the 19th century to a French-style building on the Bosphorus water front. Now a Museum, Topkapi is a veritable treasure house of architecture and applied arts, a palace like none you will ever have seen. After lunch we will stroll in what was the central spina of the Hippodrome. Its soaring seating accommodated tens of thousands of spectators, or, on occasions, angry citizens taking

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Terry Richardson

Terry Richardson has a university background in ancient history and classical civilisation. Terry is the author of numerous renowned guide books on the country, including Rough Guide Istanbul, Pocket Rough Guide Istanbul and Rough Guide Turkey.



noisy part in political meetings. Whilst in this part of the city, we will also visit the **Blue Mosque** with its high dome and semi-domes, multiple minarets and beautiful interior richly blue with the finest tiles from imperial tile-makers of the time. Our site visits conclude at the **Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus**, Roman soldiers who were martyred under Emperor Maximian around 300.

Day Seven | Istanbul - London

We return to Istanbul airport for our flight home to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Eresin Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunch & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
3rd - 9th Nov	£4,045	£3,845 £690

Save £200pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aboi

Turkey: From Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe

A journey through Cappadocia and south east Turkey

14 DAYS FROM £8,145pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Join us on a kaleidoscopic journey through the heartlands of Turkey from Çatal Hüyük, arguably the earliest city in the world, to Göbekli Tepe, a remarkable early Neolithic complex in upper Mesopotamia. We discover the otherworldly geology of Cappadocia, a bizarrely beautiful landscape matched by its unique archaeology, underground cities, vividly frescoed churches, and the elaborate ritual sites of the ancient kingdoms in Southeast Turkey. We travel through The Fertile Crescent, arcing around the flat lands of Mesopotamia, which saw the birth of agriculture and the first domestication of cattle, goats, sheep and pigs, and we see the spectacular Roman mosaics in Gaziantep, rescued from the flood waters of a dam on the nearby Euphrates. Our journey includes an astonishing array of world-class sites, four of them UNESCO-listed, as we chart the civilisations which rose and fell here over the millennia.

Day One | London - Istanbul - Konya

We fly to Konya Airport via Istanbul from London and transfer to our hotel.

Day Two | Çatal Hüyük & Binbir Kilise

We begin with one of the oldest settlements anywhere in the world: **Çatal Hüyük**, which comprises two tells rising 20m up from the plain. One of the largest and most distinctive sites of the Neolithic period, dating 7500-6500 BC, it is exceptional in its layout of closely packed houses with roof access into the buildings. In the afternoon we explore the remote early Byzantine site of **Binbir Kilise**, complete with Syriac style churches, monasteries and houses.

Day Three | Konya

Before we leave Konya, we visit the **Mevlana Museum**, former tekke (dervish hall) and mausoleum of the famous Sufi mystic Rumi, the **Karatay Madrasa**, an excellent example of Selçuk Turkish architecture, and the **Alaeddin Mosque** with its typically Selçuk 'forest' of columns and very early ebony prayer platform. After lunch we make the long journey to Göreme.

Day Four | Göreme & Sarı Han Caravansary

Engaging with the regional culture this morning we visit a local co-operative which produces Anatolian rugs, a tradition which has integrated different motifs and practices introduced by the Armenians and Caucasian and Kurdish tribes. Afterwards we

head out to the **Sarıhan Caravansary**, one of the many which once serviced the Selçuk trade route from Konya to Kayseri. After lunch we continue to our main visit of the day at **Göreme Open Air Museum**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a fairytale landscape of eroded volcanic tuffs, full of rock-cut churches of the mid-Byzantine period, which bear witness to the faith, fervour and tenacity of devout Christian communities, beset both by Arab raiders and the persecutions of the Iconoclastic movement.

Day Five | Ilhara Valley & Aşıklı Hüyük

We start our explorations of **Cappadocia** with a visit to the **Ilhara Valley**, a beautiful, verdant gorge occupied by a fast-flowing river. The gorge is believed to have contained more than four thousand dwellings and a hundred churches cut into the rocks, used for worship by early Christian communities. We will explore some of these churches this morning before moving on to visit **Aşıklı Hüyük**, an impressive settlement mound comprised of layers dated between 9000 and 7400 BC, and which developed in part owing to its proximity to an important obsidian source.

Day Six | Göreme - Derinkuyu - Adana

Today we head south, stopping en route at the extraordinary underground city of **Derinkuyu**. This is one of the largest and most accessible of many such Byzantine settlements. Little is known of their true function, however, with such a geology at their



disposal, it may almost have been as easy to dig down as build up. We continue our journey south across the Anatolian plateau before crossing the formidable Taurus range and dropping down to the fertile Cilician Plain to overnight at Adana.

Day Seven | Adana - Karatepe - Gaziantep

This morning we visit **Adana Archaeology Museum**, which houses a fine collection of Hittite artefacts. We continue east and rise into wooded mountains to visit the 8th century BC fortress palace of **Karatepe**, now located in an archaeological park. A bilingual text inscribed on the gate here reveals the name of the neo-Hittite ruler who built the fortress: "I am indeed Azatiwatas, The Blessed of the Sun, the servant of the Storm-God, whom Awarikus exalted, king of Adanawa...". The twin gateways of the fortress palace are lined with relief-carved figurative slabs.

Day Eight | Gaziantep

Our main focus this morning is the **Zeugma Mosaic Museum**, which contains the very fine Roman mosaics from Zeugma, a city which stood on a crossing of the Euphrates river, and which has now been largely flooded by the construction of the Birecik Dam. We also visit the town of **Halfeti**, itself partially submerged as a result of the same project. Here we can see houses and minarets emerging from the water, and further up the river the monumental bulk of the largely Medieval fortress **Rumkale**.



Discover one of the oldest settlements in the world at Çatal Hüyük

View the extraordinary volcanic landscapes, underground cities and rock-cut churches in Cappadocia

Visit the excavations at Göbekli Tepe, with megaliths predating Stonehenge by an impressive 7,500 years

Walk up to the World Heritage Site of Nemrut Dag, where huge statues of syncretised Greek-Persian gods and the kings of Commagene gaze imposingly from the summit of a remote peak



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Terry Richardson

Terry Richardson has a university background in ancient history and classical civilisation. Terry is the author of numerous renowned guide books on the country, including Rough Guide Istanbul, Pocket Rough Guide Istanbul and Rough Guide Turkey.



Day Nine | Gaziantep - Adiyaman

We start the day today with a walk around historic **Gaziantep** and explore the **citadel**, largely built by Turkish Mamluks in the 13th – 16th centuries. The citadel itself lies on top of existing Roman walls and a Neolithic tell. The bazaars are full of copper ware, dried pepper flakes and pistachio nuts, and the mosques betray the influence of the Arab lands to the south. Indeed, Gaziantep is reminiscent of Aleppo, some 50 miles away in Syria. In the afternoon we take the long but scenic road north to overnight at Adiyaman, at the foot of 7,000 ft high Mount Nemrut.

Day Ten | Mount Nemrut & Adiyaman

We spend the day with the rulers and monuments of the Commagenian kingdom today – beginning at the **Roman bridge at Cendere**, built by the Legio XVI Flavia Firma in the reign of Septimius Severus around AD 200, and the **Karakuş (Black Bird) Tumulus**, probably built to cover the burials of the mother, sister and niece of Antiochus' son and successor. After lunch we continue to the remote hilltop site of **Mount Nemrut** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), where Antiochus I had a monumental sanctuary constructed to promote his rule, comprising the world's largest tumulus and a collection of huge statues of the gods and of himself.

Day Eleven | Adiyaman - Şanlıurfa

This morning we journey to Şanlıurfa where we visit **Şanlıurfa Museum**, a huge complex completed in 2015 and home to a treasure trove of finds. Its exhibition halls contain a remarkable series of finds from the Neolithic sites around Şanlıurfa, as

well as a life-sized reconstruction of one of the stone circles at Gobekli Tepe, along with Assyrian, Babylonian, Hittite, Neolithic, and Bronze Age artefacts. Adjoining the main museum another large structure houses a superb collection of in-situ late-Roman/early Byzantine mosaics, once part of the palace of the rulers of the kingdom of Osroene.

Day Twelve | Göbekli Tepe & Karahan Tepe

Our morning is dedicated to the excavations at **Göbekli Tepe**, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018. Situated on top of a rounded hill in the anti-Taurus mountains a few miles northeast of Şanlıurfa, this spectacular early Neolithic complex, an extraordinary series of structures centred on carved megaliths up to 5 metres in height, has challenged the conventional view that only settled societies could produce monumental architecture. In the afternoon we continue further east and south to the remote site of **Karahan Tepe**, where a series of circular enclosures and T-shaped monoliths (250 of them) have been uncovered. The 10-hectare site, along with Göbekli Tepe, forms one of the so called Taş Tepeler (Stone Hills) sites in the region.

Day Thirteen | Şanlıurfa

Today we explore more of Şanlıurfa. We view the **Pools of Abraham**, filled with sacred carp. It was here that Muslim teachings tell how Abraham was thrown into the fire by Nimrod, but upon landing in the fire, the flames were turned into water and the logs into fish. Şanlıurfa is Turkey's most Middle Eastern city, and we continue our exploration of this bustling place with a foray into the labyrinthine bazaar, a glass of tea in the

courtyard of an Ottoman caravanserai and ascent of the rocky citadel for splendid views of the old city.

Day Fourteen | Şanlıurfa - Istanbul - London

After breakfast this morning we head to Şanlıurfa airport for our return journey to the UK.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Konya, Göreme, Adana, Gaziantep, Adiyaman, Şanlıurfa

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
28th Apr - 11th May	£8,545	£8,145 / £1,875
13th - 26th Oct	£8,545	£1,875

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/acse

Jordan - Petra & the Desert Fortresses

Spend two days in the evocative rock-cut city of Petra

10 DAYS FROM £4,520pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Nothing can prepare you for Petra - the scale, the colours and the grandeur. Lively, cosmopolitan and rich, with goods from every corner of the world, ancient Petra was an extraordinary city. Its streets were swathed in a fusion of Nabataean and Classical architecture - elaborate tombs, colonnaded roads and temples carved into the rose-red rock.

Day One | London - Amman

We fly to Amman from London and travel to our hotel.

Day Two | Wadi Seer - Dead Sea - Amman

After a leisurely start, we head to the valley of Wadi Seer. Here we find the remains of **Qasr-al-Abd**, a well-preserved Hasmonean and rare Hellenistic period Palace. Hyrcanus of Jerusalem built the palace around 200 BC as part of a much larger estate, that is now covered by the village of Iraq al-Emir. We then spend time both at and in the **Dead Sea**. The lowest place on earth is also the deepest hyper-saline lake in the world, over nine times

saltier than the ocean. This salinity has created a harsh environment so it is unsuitable for any plants of wildlife, hence its name. It is however, a unique experience to be able to 'float' on the Dead Sea, so we make the most of this opportunity. After our time here, we return to Amman.

Day Three | Gadara - Jerash

We explore two Roman Decapolis cities today as our adventure continues. We start off at the ancient city of **Gadara** (known today as Umm Qais), which offers views over the Golan Heights and Sea of Galilee. After lunch we continue to **Jerash** (ancient Gerasa) for the afternoon, which is set in



Image: Petra



Admire the almost lunar-like desert scenery of Wadi Rum

Discover the mighty crusader castle at Kerak, built in the 12th century

Visit Jerash, the best preserved (and Jordan's largest) Roman town in the east, a site that is home to the Oval Plaza and the Corinthian columns of the Temple of Artemis

the pine valleys of the biblical land of Gilead, and is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the east. The architecture is particularly fine, and includes the impressive 2nd century **Hadrian's Arch**, the Corinthian columns of the **Temple of Artemis** and the Oval Plaza - framed by a magnificent colonnade - a unique feature of the Forum.

Day Four | Amman

The morning is spent in Jordan's modern capital Amman. Here we visit the **Archaeological Museum** and the citadel. The museum is home to artefacts from archaeological sites from across the country, including the Dead Sea bronze scroll written in Aramaic characters. The citadel is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world, and we visit the ruins of the **Roman Temple of Hercules** and the **palace of the Omayyad Caliphs**. Before lunch we visit the **Memorial Church at Mount Nebo**. In the afternoon, we make a short drive to the early Byzantine **Church of St. George in Madaba**, where we view the amazing 6th century mosaic map of the Holy Land depicting biblical sites of the Middle East from Egypt to Palestine. Afterwards, we spend a little time in the **Madaba Archaeological Park** before heading back to our hotel.

Day Five | Umm al-Jimal

Today we head into the eastern desert to explore the dramatic basalt city at **Umm al-Jimal**, even the doors are made of huge black slabs and some of them still operate! After lunch we travel on to the desert castles, **Qasr Azraq**, **Amra** and **al-Kharanah**, with far-reaching views over the surrounding landscape. Jordan's desert castles were so called due to their imposing stature, but they served mainly as agriculture and trade centres, and caravan stations.

Day Six | Umm al-Rasas - Kerak

We visit the church and spectacular mosaics at **Umm al-Rasas**. A Roman and Byzantine site, the mosaics of the churches have fine depictions of the principal cities of the region. Before lunch, we have a stop at a viewpoint at Wadi Mujib. On next to the mighty crusader castle of Kerak, one of the largest in the Levantine region. Overlooking

the Dead Sea, it was built in 1132 as the first line of defence for the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem. Its position gave control of important trade routes between Damascus, Egypt and Mecca, and of the region's Bedouin herders.

Days Seven & Eight | Petra

Today is the first of two full days in **Petra**, and with the archaeological park spread across 200 square kilometres, we will easily fill our time spent here as there is much to explore. Located among mountains and rugged desert canyons, this ancient capital of the Nabatean Arabs is carved directly into a mixture of sandstone cliff face, its colours a mixture of red, white and pink hence it is also known as the "Rose City". We walk into the site each day, both for the sense of discovery, and to experience the famous entrance to the ravine site, the Siq. As we wander along the colonnaded streets, we take in some of the ancient city's most significant structures, such as the world-renowned "**Treasury**" (Al-Khazneh), a temple over 40 metres in height with a truly impressive ornate façade. The Nabateans, though essential nomadic, developed a sophisticated water technology, the remains of which we will also see here during our extensive visit. Led by our expert guide, there are optional climbs on both days to Nabatean '**Monastery**' and the '**High Place**'.

Day Nine | Little Petra - Wadi Rum

This morning we will visit the Neolithic site of **Beidha**, where 8th millennium BC houses can still be seen, and the painted tomb at "Little Petra" (Siq al-Bahrid). Thought to have been an important suburb of Petra, the site includes temples, tombs, water channels and cisterns carved out of rock. We drive to **Wadi Rum**, home of the largest Roman copper mine in the empire. Here we take 4x4s through spectacular scenery, made famous by the filming of "Lawrence of Arabia". There are also several rock art sites to be explored here. Afterwards, we head back to Amman for a farewell group dinner.

Day Ten | Amman - London

Our tour ends in Amman and we catch our included return flights back to London.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Nick Jackson

A graduate of the Institute of Archaeology at UCL, Nick is an archaeologist and historian with over 20 years of excavation experience.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Al Qaser Metropole Hotel Amman & The Petra Moon Hotel, or similar

Culinary inclusions

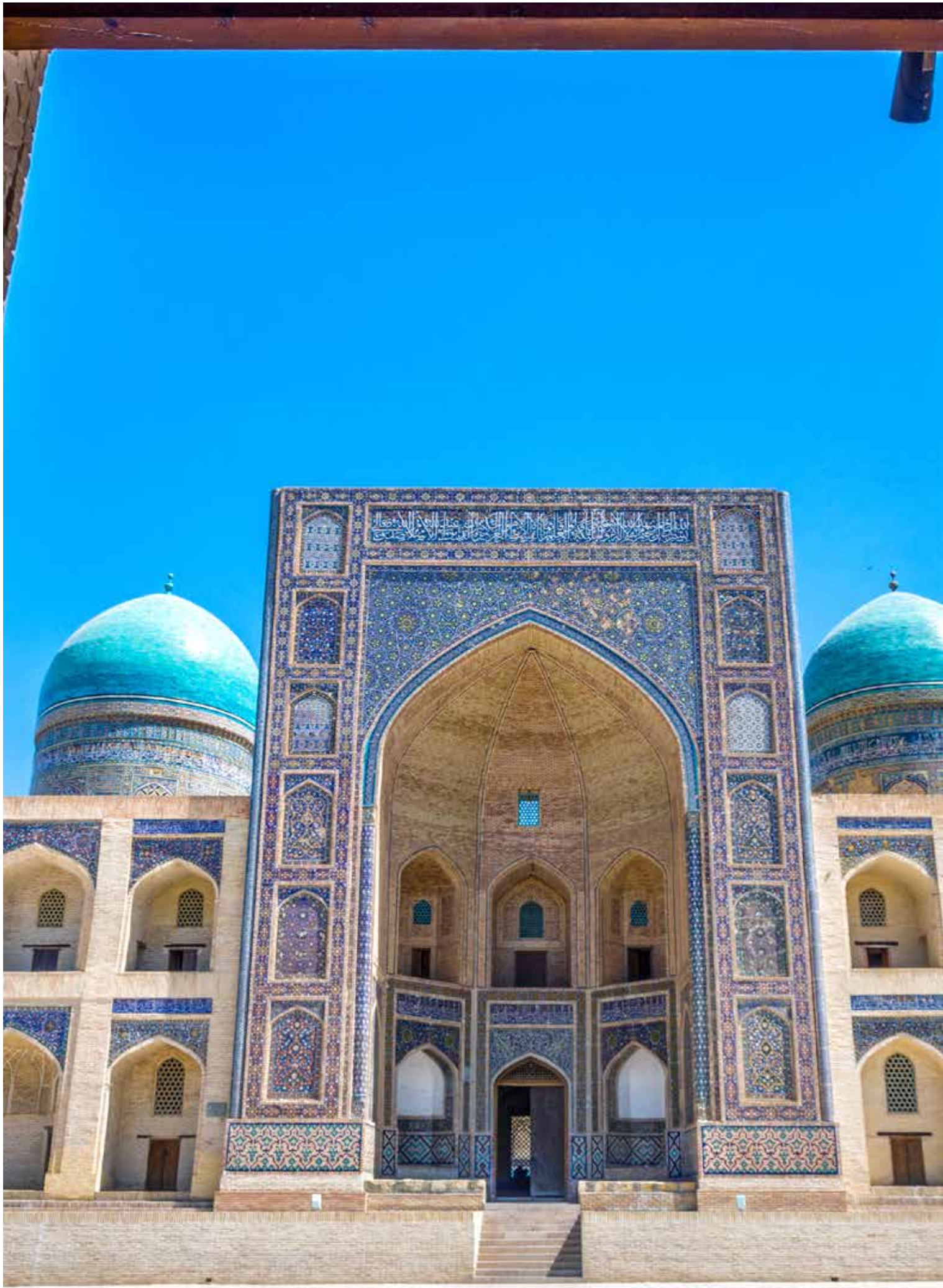
- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunch & 8 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
20th - 29th Oct	£4,770	£4,520 £810
6th - 15th Nov	£4,770	£4,520 £810

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Asia

The range of archaeological heritage across Asia is as vast as the continent itself, from megacities to nomadic camps, from mountain forts to complex monasteries, from tombs and tells, to complex mausoleums and highly decorated madrasas. Much of it is undocumented and understudied and much of it can be found in remote desert, mountain, or lush Steppe landscapes. Exploring these sites brings an element of discovery and adventure, travelling to places far off the beaten track – indeed in some cases where there is no track at all!

We have three exciting programmes which explore the archaeology of this extraordinary region. The first discovers the ancient kingdoms of not one but two little known countries that once supported the trade routes along the Silk Road: Armenia & Georgia. The second circles the legendary cities of Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara, once great cities that supplied the ports that punctuated the trade routes in what is now Uzbekistan. And our third is the most adventurous of them all, as we traverse the length, and a good chunk of the breadth, of Mongolia.

Aside from the fact that the Mongolian Empire was the largest contiguous land empire in history with its capital city at Karakorum in the 13th century, there is also much to discover about the Bronze Age in Mongolia. This was a period when pastoralism, mobility and interaction between regional communities increased dramatically and recent archaeological research in Mongolia is transforming our knowledge of this key region of north-eastern Asia. Mongolia's ancient nomadic societies reveals a great deal about humankind.

The importance of the relationship between settlements and their surrounding areas is a theme we explore elsewhere. At the extraordinary site of Shengavit in Armenia, for example, a settlement that spans the 5th to the 3rd millennium BCE, we discover the extent to which urban centres fed populations who lived in the hinterlands. And archaeological sites across the continent are also important to our understanding of cultural transmissions between East and West. The Silk route, which has fascinated travellers for centuries, facilitated the passage not only of trade but of cultural exchange over vast distances. The city sites in Uzbekistan provide evidence of the trade of slaves, spices, and silk as well as its concomitant exchange of ideas. Alongside the conquest of Alexander the Great, the silk route enabled the introduction of Hellenistic culture to cities in central Asia, particularly in Samarkand. In this way East really can meet West.

Join us to discover the dazzling blue tiled cities in Uzbekistan, the remote and untouched landscapes of the Steppes and the staggering beauty of two countries little known to Western tourists in Armenia and Georgia. These are once in a lifetime adventures, you will never forget.



Learn about the ancient Georgian wine-making tradition, which involves fermenting grapes in earthenware and is now recognised by UNESCO

Enter the magnificent Bibi-Khanym Mosque and admire the many ornate palaces in the mesmerising Silk Road city of Khiva

Get a taste of the avant-garde at the renowned Savitsky Art Museum, home to the world's second-largest collection of Russian art pieces

Visit the historic sights of Ulaanbaatar, including the National Museum of Mongolia, and discover the artefacts of the country's history, from the Neolithic to the present day

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Armenia & Georgia

Explore the site of Nokalakevi with Ian Colvin

15 DAYS FROM £6,310pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



Between Europe and Asia, the Caspian and the Black Sea, and on the ancient Silk Roads and the Scythian invasion routes stand the republics — ancient kingdoms — of Armenia and Georgia. Their location between great civilisations guaranteed them a pivotal role in world history. Yet, their varied landscapes are reason enough to visit.

Day One | London - Yerevan

We fly to Yerevan and transfer to our hotel in the midst of the bustling city. There will be ample time to relax after our flight.

Day Two | Yerevan

This morning we visit the **Mother Cathedral of Echmiadzin** and the striking ruins of **Zvartnots**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon, we pay a visit to the **Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Manuscripts** and its **Matenadaran Museum**, which commemorates the creation of the Armenian alphabet.

Day Three | Yerevan

Today we drive east into the Gegham mountains to visit the World Heritage Site of **Geghard**. This 12th and 13th century monastery is carved out of the living rock. Nearby, perched above the gorge of the Azat, stands the fortress and summer palace of **Garni** with its Graeco-Roman temple. In the afternoon, we explore **Yerevan's History Museum**, a national treasure-house of archaeological artefacts that tell the story of Armenia's long history.

Day Four | Yerevan

We begin at **Shengavit**, a settlement that spans the Chalcolithic to the Bronze Age. We continue to the museum and fortress of **Erebuni**, the ancient

Urartian capital in the Araxes valley in the first half of the 1st millennium BC. This afternoon we have free time to explore Yerevan at our own leisure, or instead choose to pay an optional visit to the moving Genocide Museum and memorial at Tsitsernakaberd.

Day Five | Yerevan - Dilijan

This morning we travel towards Ararat. Beneath the mountain stands the monastery of **Khor Virap**. Here, King Artaxias I founded one of Armenia's ancient capitals, Artashat. Further south we visit **Areni Cave**, a fascinating archaeological site that has preserved organic materials from the 5th millennium BC, including an ancient winery and the world's oldest shoe. We have lunch at the medieval monastery of **Noravank**, an architectural gem in a stunning valley setting. Our day ends with a drive to our hotel in Dilijan, Armenia's 'Little Switzerland'.

Day Six | Dilijan - Tbilisi

Today we visit some of Armenia's finest and best preserved monastic complexes. The 10th-13th century **Haghartsin** is hidden at the head of the wooded valley outside Dilijan, and we then travel to the impressive 12th-13th century **Goshavank** monastery in the scenic village of Gosh, which houses one of the world's finest examples of an Armenian cross-stone.



Day Seven | Tbilisi

This morning we start with a walking tour of **Old Tbilisi**, taking in the **Metekhi Church**, the **Narikala Fortress**, the **Baths district**, the **Great Synagogue**, the **Sioni Cathedral**, and the 6th century **Anchiskhati Basilica**. After lunch, we visit the **Georgian National Museum** with its spectacular gold rooms.

Day Eight | Tbilisi

We travel to **Kakheti**, the most important of Georgia's wine-growing regions. The monastery of **Iqalto**, was founded in the late 6th century, and in the 12th century David IV 'the Rebuilder' founded an Academy here. We continue with a visit to **Tsinandali**, the 19th century summer palace of the princely Chavchavadze family. Over lunch at a local winery, we sample the local wines and learn about the ancient Georgian 'Qvevri' wine-making tradition, which creates its unique taste.



See exquisite metalwork and jewellery from the Bronze Age

Discover the captivating history that created both Tbilisi's and Yerevan's urban centres

Enjoy the country's dramatic landscapes, from its lush sub-tropics to the semi-desert steppes

Learn about the ancient Georgian wine-making tradition, which involves fermenting grapes in earthenware and has now been recognised by UNESCO

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Ian Colvin

Ian is a researcher and historian who specialises in the Roman and Byzantine history of the Caucasus regions.



Day Nine | Tbilisi

Today is our last day in Tbilisi and we start with a visit to the **Open Air Ethnographic House Museum**. This attractive museum preserves type examples of traditional architecture from Georgia's many regions. We continue to the **National Gallery**, which displays the largest Pirosmiani collection in the world by famous Georgian painter Niko Pirosmiani. It also exhibits collections of Georgian work from the 4th century onwards.

Day Ten | Tbilisi - Borjomi

We start our day at **Mtskheta**, Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre. After visiting the 6th century **Jvari Church**, we explore the excavations of **Armazistsikhe**. We finish at **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**. After lunch, we visit **Gori** for the ancient rock-cut city of **Uplistsikhe** and the **Stalin Museum**. The latter preserves the museum erected by Stalin's murderous Caucasian viceroy Beria, making it a relic of the cult of Stalin and the counterpoint to the exhibition on the Soviet Occupation in Tbilisi's National Museum.

Day Eleven | Borjomi

This morning we drive past the fortress of **Khertvisi**, where we have a brief photo stop, to the medieval cave monastery of **Vardzia**. Renowned as a mustering point of Queen Tamar's armies in her wars against the Turks, the monastery is also

famous for its cycle of frescoes, including a famous depiction of Queen Tamar herself. This afternoon we return to Borjomi via **Akhaltsikhe** and the **Rabati fortress**, a centre for Ottoman slaving at late as the 1820s.

Day Twelve | Borjomi - Kutaisi

We drive to Kutaisi this morning, Georgia's second city and historic capital of Imereti. Here, we visit the royal monastery and UNESCO-listed site of **Gelati**. After lunch, we have free time to explore the city.

Day Thirteen | Kutaisi - Batumi

Today we visit our Guide Lecturer's site of **Nokalakevi**. The extensive ruins of a large Byzantine-period fortress stand atop earlier archaeological levels going back through the 1st millennium BC to at least the 3rd millennium. After a tour of the site and the small museum, we have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we drive through the Colchian lowlands towards the Black Sea coast, arriving at Batumi.

Day Fourteen | Batumi

We start with a walking tour of **Batumi**, before visiting the Roman playing-card fort at **Apsarus**, with its small museum. After lunch, we enjoy some free time.

Day Fifteen | Batumi - London

Our tour ends today and we fly back to London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Yerevan, Dilijan, Tbilisi, Borjomi, Kutaisi & Batumi

Culinary inclusions

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunch & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
2nd - 16th Oct	£6,710 £6,310	£810 £0

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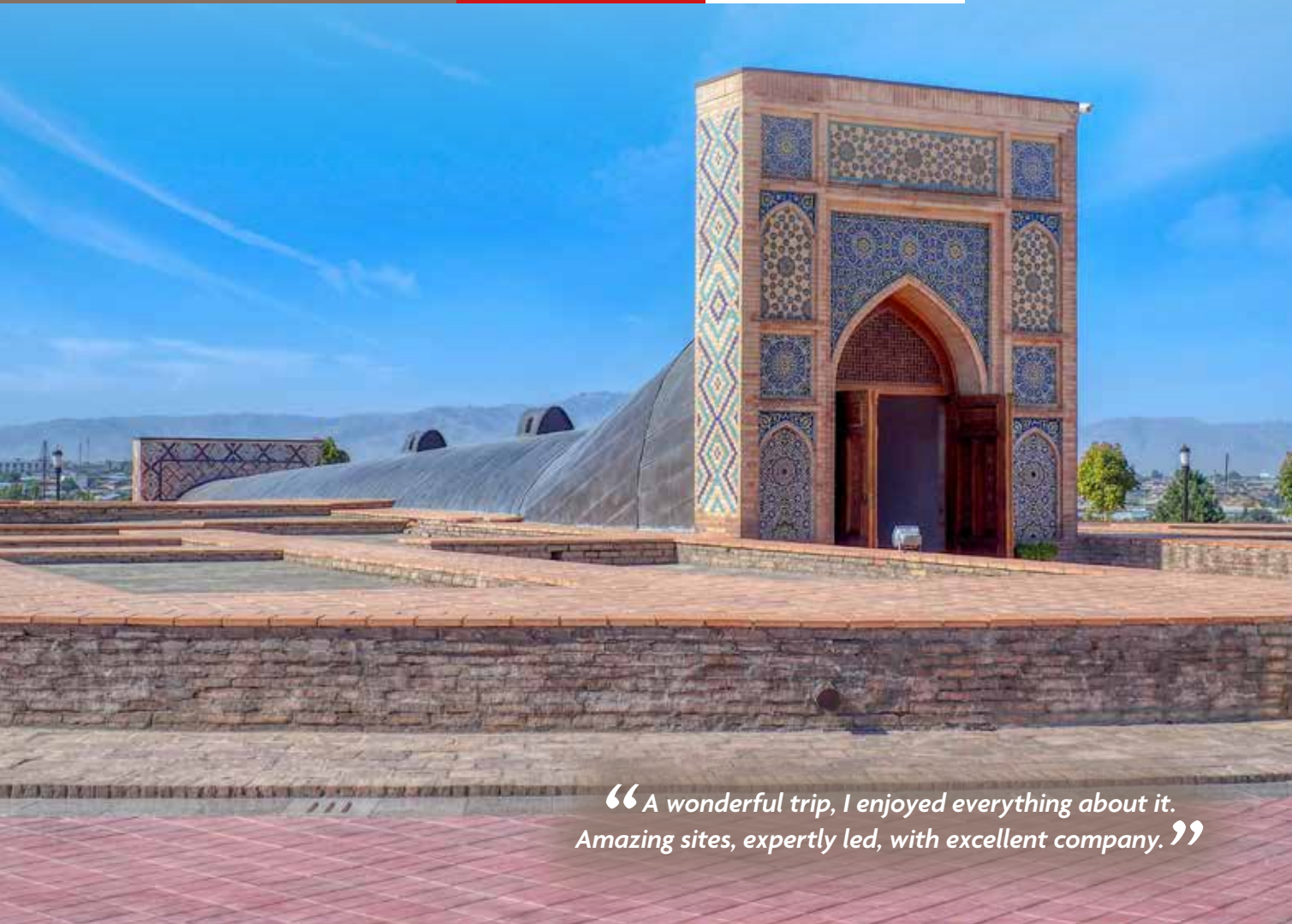
Uzbekistan

Visit the UNESCO-listed sites of Bukhara and Samarkand

15 DAYS FROM £5,520pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



“A wonderful trip, I enjoyed everything about it. Amazing sites, expertly led, with excellent company.”

Follow in the footsteps of history as we explore the sites and cities of the Silk Road, which once ran from China to Europe, with Uzbekistan right as its heart. The steppes, deserts, mountains and blue-tiled cities all tell stories of trade and conquest, and this is a journey across the country that traces the paths of those who've passed by for thousands of years.

Days One & Two | London - Tashkent

We take an overnight flight to Tashkent and travel to our hotel, with some free time to rest before lunch. In the afternoon, we visit the **State Museum of History of Uzbekistan**. Highlights here include the remains of a prehistoric man dating from 1.5 million years BC as well as significant statues and reliefs from the country's Buddhist period. This evening, we enjoy a group dinner together.

Day Three | Tashkent

We spend the day in **Tashkent** and enjoy a walking tour of the **Old Town**, exploring ancient mausoleums and beautiful mosques, including **Tillya Sheikh**. We will also take in remnants of the city's Soviet past.

Day Four | Tashkent - Nukus

Fly to **Nukus**, located in the Karakalpakstan Republic. Upon arrival, we head to **Gyaur Kala**, the "Fortress of Infidels", a settlement established at the time of the First Persian Empire. After lunch,

we continue to the medieval city of **Mizdakhan**, site of Uzbekistan's oldest necropolis, first founded some 2,000 years ago. Still a place of pilgrimage and mysticism, the legends surrounding this settlement include that of the "World Clock", a building that is said to shed just one brick a year. According to legend, when the last brick falls, the end of the world begins.

Day Five | Nukus - Khiva

Our day starts at the world-renowned **Savitsky Art Museum**, which hosts the world's second-largest collection of Russian avant-garde art that hangs alongside that of Socialist Realism. There are also archaeological and ethnographic objects on display. Next we travel south along the Amu River to the remote ruined tepe of **Chilpik Dakhma**, a Zoroastrian "Tower of Silence" used in funerary "sky burial" rituals until the Arab invasion of the 7th century AD. Our final destination for the day is **Khiva**, an important Silk Road city famous for its role as a slave trading post.



Day Six | Khiva

We begin with an excursion to the mighty fortresses of **Ayaz Kala**. Dramatically situated on a hilltop overlooking the Kyzylkum Desert, and erected to protect local inhabitants against nomadic attacks, these ancient strongholds were largely destroyed at the time of the Arab invasions. We continue to the abandoned city of **Toprak Kala**, a complex built by the slave-owning Khorezm, with an extended line of crumbling walls that is visible for miles around. Built in the 3rd century AD, its remains include the residences of Khorezm governors, workshops which formerly manufactured bows, and a palace with three imposing towers.



Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand and Shakhrysbz

Get a taste of the avant-garde at the renowned Savitsky Art Museum, home to the world's second-largest collection of Russian art pieces

Travel to the ancient trade routes, where caravans of silk, spice and textiles once crossed the landscape

Enter the magnificent Bibi-Khanym Mosque and admire the many ornate palaces in the mesmerising Silk Road city of Khiva

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Katie Campbell

Katie has worked as an archaeologist for the past decade throughout Central Asia and the Middle East, and is now completing a doctorate at the University of Oxford looking at the impact of the Mongol Conquests on the cities of Central Asia and the Caucasus.



Day Seven | Khiva

Today we step into a world of "Arabian Nights", spending a whole day exploring **Khiva** on foot to enjoy its narrow alleys, graceful minarets and thriving markets. Although it was virtually destroyed by Genghis Khan, much of what was subsequently rebuilt is impressive. The first of Uzbekistan's sites to achieve World Heritage status, the city still boasts its original defensive walls and gates, as well as a wealth of ornate mosques and mausoleums.

Day Eight | Khiva - Bukhara

We take a long drive through the **Karakum Desert**, with a brief stop en route at the widest expanse of the **Amu Darya** (River Oxus) to see how its waters have been diverted by the Soviets, causing the Aral Sea to dramatically recede. We arrive at **Bukhara** mid-afternoon, allowing time to visit the beautifully located **Samani** and **Chashma Ayub mausoleums**, and the **Bolo Khauz Mosque**.

Day Nine | Bukhara

Wander brilliant **Bukhara**, long a great oasis of Central Asia. Formerly part of the Persian Empire, the city was seized by the Samanids in AD 903 and went on to become a significant centre for intellectualism in the Islamic world. As part of our tour, we visit the **Po-i-Kalyan** religious complex, an impressive collection of sacred buildings, so transcendent that not even Genghis Khan could not bring himself to destroy it. Tonight we enjoy a **traditional folk show** before having dinner.

Day Ten | Bukhara

We visit the site of one of Bukhara's predecessors today — the ruined city of **Poykent**. After a picnic lunch at the **Poykent Museum**, we return to Bukhara to visit the **Mausoleum of Ismail Samani**, a

fine example of Samanid architecture, and the **Bolo Haus Mosque**, as well as other places of interest.

Day Eleven | Bukhara - Samarkand

Today we follow the Silk Road route to **Samarkand**, on a drive east across the scenic plains of central Uzbekistan. En route, we stop at **Rabat-i Malik**, an 11th century caravanserai with a Persian façade matching those found on palace walls at Persepolis.

Day Twelve | Samarkand

After breakfast, we head out for a day of discoveries in Samarkand. Highlights include the **Ulugh Beg Observatory**, the necropolis at **Shah i Zinda**, Uzbekistan's oldest archaeological site at **Afrasiyab**, and finally the renowned **Registan Square**.

Day Thirteen | Samarkand

Switching to smaller vehicles, we travel to the turquoise-domed city of **Shakhrysbz**, ancient birthplace of Amir Temur (Tamerlane). Here, we find the remains of the 14th century **Ak-Saray Palace** and the **Dorus Saodat**, an outstanding example of Khwarezmian architecture.

Day Fourteen | Samarkand - Tashkent

Our last full day begins in central Samarkand, visiting the restored **Gur-i-Amir Mausoleum** complex where Tamerlane was buried. We then visit the **Bibi-Khanym Mosque**, with its magnificent columns, portals and minarets. After lunch, we return to Tashkent by high-speed train.

Day Fifteen | Tashkent - London

Our tour ends in Tashkent and we catch our return flight back to London.

Please note: the order of the day-by-day itinerary for this tour is subject to change, please visit our website for the latest version.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

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- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Tashkent, Khiva, Bukhara & Samarkand

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunch & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
12th - 26th Sep	£5,820 £5,520	£410 £0

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Mongolia

Archaeological Treasures of Chinggis Khan

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£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



Mongolia was once the largest land empire the world has ever known and we follow its history across the open Steppe to the Gobi desert. This extensive tour offers a true adventure through some of the wildest and most spectacular landscapes on earth.

Days One & Two | London - Ulaanbaatar

After an overnight flight we transfer to our hotel, which is within walking distance of museums and shops. After lunch we walk to the **Chojjin Lama Temple**, an impressive historical site in the heart of the modern city, and **Sukhbaatar Square**.

Day Three | Ulaanbaatar

This morning we explore the **Winter Palace complex**, where Mongolia's last king and eighth living Buddha resided, before discovering the **Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts**. After lunch we drive out of Ulaanbaatar to the **Chinggis Khan Statue complex** and on our return we visit the atmospheric **Tonyukuk monument**, one of the most important archaeological sites of the early Turks in all of Mongolia.

Day Four | Ulaanbaatar - Moron

We fly to Moron and visit its **Archaeology and Ethnography Museum**, which is home to an interesting collection of the traditional dress of Mongolian ethnic groups. After lunch we see the **Hyadagin deer stones**, some of which are an imposing nine-feet tall. We end today's exploration at the **Achmag deer stones** and tonight we enjoy our first night in a traditional ger camp.

Day Five | Moron - Jargalant

We complete our study of the region's **deer stones at Uushigiin**. Of the many deer stone collections in the Hovsgol Province, those found at Uushigiin are a highlight. We explore the monuments here before embarking on a long drive to **Jargalant**.

Day Six | Jargalant - Khorgo-Terkh National Park

This morning we explore the region of Jargalant. We visit the ruins of the **Ariin Huree Monastery**, which include remnants of a staircase that leads to a hilltop shrine. We then travel to our next ger camp on the shores of Terkhin Tsagaan Lake.

Day Seven | Khorgo-Terkh National Park - Kharkhorin

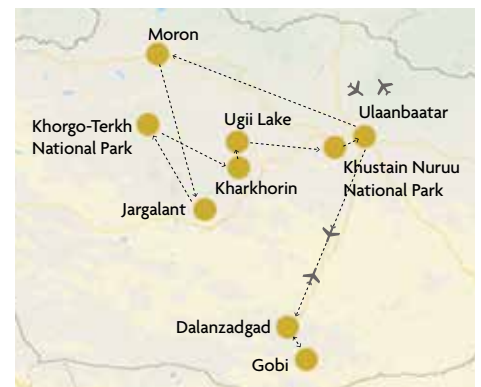
Arkhangai Province is home to hundreds of ancient square burial mounds, deer stones, monuments and petroglyphs. After crossing over Tsagaan Burgasni Davaa Pass, we encounter decorated **deer stones at Shivertin and Tsatssiin**. In the afternoon we visit the **Tsetserleg Museum**, which is housed within the picturesque Zayayn Gegeenii Temple. We also visit the 19th century "Maidar" **Buddha statue**, located high above the town and valley.

Day Eight | Kharkhorin

This morning we visit the site of **Karakorum**, the ancient capital of the Mongol Empire in the 13th century. The **on-site museum** of Mongol and Gokturk artefacts includes those discovered during recent archaeological work that has taken place at the site, now completed. We then explore the expansive complex of **Erdene Zuu**.

Day Nine | Kharkhorin

After a beautiful morning drive, we leave our vehicles and hike to the spectacular **Tovkhon Khiid Monastery**. The monastery has numerous



places of spiritual importance, and its spectacular rocky location provides expansive views of the surrounding steppe and mountains. Free time at our ger camp follows later.

Day Ten | Kharkhorin - Ugi Lake

This morning is spent exploring the ruins of the ancient citadel of **Khar Balgas**. Next, we drive northwest to **Hoton Village** – the site of this journey's first deer stone. After lunch we visit the **museum** built to house the important stelae of early Turkic leaders Kultegin and Bilge Khagan, erected in the 8th century during the Second Turkic Empire.

Day Eleven | Ugi Lake - Khustain Nuruu National Park

We begin the day exploring the expansive ruins of **Har Buh Fortress** and our afternoon is spent in **Hustai National Park**, a reserve built to protect wildlife such as Przewalski horses, red deer, and marmot, and one that is also rich in bird life.



Visit the historic sights of Ulaanbaatar, including the National Museum of Mongolia, and discover the artefacts of the country's history, from the Neolithic to the present day

Explore the ancient capital of the Mongol and the Northern Yuan at Karakorum

Discover an array of Bronze Age Mongolian deer stones

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Prof. Jean-Luc Houle

Jean-Luc Houle is an associate professor of anthropology (archaeology) in the Department of Folk Studies and Anthropology at Western Kentucky University.



Day Twelve | Khustain Nuruu National Park - Ulaanbaatar

In the morning we visit the **Turkic Ongot graves**. On return to Ulaanbaatar we visit the **Hunnu Mall's dinosaur exhibit** and then it's on to the Zaisan Soviet era memorial for a stop here that affords excellent views over the city.

Day Thirteen | Ulaanbaatar

We begin the day with a visit to **Gandan Monastery**, the most important centre of Buddhism in Mongolia. Strolling through the monastery grounds, hear the low tones of the horns used to call the lamas to the temple and observe their daily rituals, including the reading of sutras – the teachings of the Buddha. Our afternoon is at leisure.

Day Fourteen | Ulaanbaatar - Dalanzadgad - Gobi

This morning we fly to Dalanzadgad and then drive to our ger camp. After free time to rest, we make our way to the **Moltsog sand dune**.

Day Fifteen | Gobi

Our first visit of the day is to the ancient **Khavsgait petroglyphs**, located high up on a rocky ridge above the Gobi. After lunch we drive on to the spectacular **Yolyn Am gorge**. We first visit the entrance museum and then walk into the gorge

for spectacular views of rocky cliffs and dramatic canyons.

Day Sixteen | Dalanzadgad - Ulaanbaatar

This morning we fly back to Ulaanbaatar. In the afternoon we walk to the **National Museum of Mongolia** to explore its displays of implements from daily nomadic life. In the evening we come together for our farewell group dinner.

Day Seventeen | Ulaanbaatar - London

Transfer to the airport for our flight back to London.

Naadam Festival 2-night Extension



Encounter one of Mongolia's most traditional expressions of nomadic culture. To find out how much it is to add this extension to your tour and what is included, please contact our Specialist Sales Executives.

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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Bayangol Hotel, Harganat Lodge, Jargal Jiguur Ger Camp, Maikhan Tolgoi Ger Camp, Asa Land Ger Camp, Ugii Ger Camp, Hustai Ger Camp & Dream Gobi Ger Camp or similar. *Please note: at most of the ger camps the bathroom facilities are shared, but separate for male and female.*

Culinary inclusions

- 15 breakfasts, 14 lunch & 14 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
25th Jun - 11th Jul	£7,945	£7,495 £645 £0

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The Americas

The continents that make up the Americas are well worth a visit for any archaeological enthusiast. Here we find incredible sites nestled among truly awe-inspiring and often otherworldly landscapes, from the dramatic ruins of Machu Picchu that sit atop a mountain ridge to the sprawling Atacama Desert with its curious geoglyphs - and not forgetting the maori-studded hills that cover the volcanic Easter Island.

To put this part of our world into context, the Americas are home to a vast array of pre-Columbian sites produced by peoples who were, in many ways, as sophisticated as their European counterparts. Although Incas famously didn't have wheels or an alphabet, they were able to conquer vast tracks of the continent and to produce sites as wondrous as Machu Picchu, and then the central American peoples, principally the Maya, constructed impressive cities such as the vast Chichen Itza, which had a series of fine buildings, including temples and ball courts.

South America, meanwhile, is home to wonderful rock art, notably the Nazca lines and the geoglyphs in Chile. The former was produced in the Nazca desert in the 1,000 years between 500 BC and AD 500 and include simple lines as well as figurative depictions of a variety of animals, including monkeys, lizards and humans. Although less famous than the Nazca lines, 5,000 geoglyphs have been found in the Atacama Desert, including geoglyphs produced between AD 500-1450 in the Cerros Pintados, as well as those found in Yervas Buena and finally the famous Atacama Giant. We are thrilled to offer a selection of expert-led tours that explore an array of sites across the Americas next year, which you'll find over the coming pages.



Enjoy the wonder and fascination of prehistoric rock art in situ precisely where the artist intended it to be

Journey through the Atacama Desert, declared the world's driest by NASA after a series of in-depth studies

Explore Easter Island, the most remote piece of land inhabited on the planet, and visit an array of sites where the curious moai can be seen in situ

Travel in 4x4s and then by motor-launch boat to the remote site of Yaxchilán, famous for its architecture

Explore the ball court, observatory, sacred well and the great pyramid of Kukulcan at the awe-inspiring city of Chichén Itzá

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Brazil – Rock Art & the Pantanal

Unveiling the mysteries of the Serra da Capivara

16 DAYS FROM £12,595pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Visit two remote regions only just opening up to mainstream tourism and enjoy them whilst they remain unsullied by crowds

Enjoy the wonder and fascination of prehistoric rock art in situ precisely where the artist intended it to be

Examine a remarkable assemblage of prehistoric art depicting wild animals, human figures skirmishing, dancing and hunting

Discover the rich flora and fauna of the Pantanal, the world's largest inland wetland area

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



In a remote corner of northeast Brazil, amongst the sandstone cliffs, rocky canyons and deep valleys of the Serra da Capivara, there are hundreds of prehistoric sites. Pedra Furada meaning 'perforated rock' was the first site to be excavated here by Brazilian archaeologist, Niéde Guidon and her findings caused uproar, challenging the Clovis theory that Homo sapiens arrived in the Americas 12,000 years ago. According to UNESCO, in light of these findings, the region represents one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world, and an outstanding testimony to one of the oldest human communities in South America.

Led by Dr Paul Bahn, this is a very special tour indeed, taking us to prehistoric sites seldom seen by foreign travellers. We will meet site archaeologists who will bring us up to date on the latest developments connected with these amazing discoveries and travel into the park by off road vehicle to see as much of the area as possible. We may catch sight of some of the animals depicted so beautifully in the rock art—armadillos, anteaters, ocelots, guans, agoutis, lizards, red deer, wild pigs, as well as a variety of birdlife.

After our brush with prehistory, we will journey from one remote region to another flying south and travelling into the Pantanal, one of the most biologically rich environments on the planet, saturated with wildlife and an absolute gem for photographers and naturalists alike. Here we search for jaguar, giant otter, anteaters, capybara and a hyacinth macaw.

Day One | London - Rio de Janeiro

We fly overnight from London to Rio de Janeiro.

Day Two | Rio de Janeiro

Arriving this morning we check into our hotel, have lunch, and then after some time to rest, we will take a trip to iconic **Sugarloaf Mountain** which towers above Guanabara Bay. Travelling to the top by cable car, there are breathtaking 360 degree views over Rio.

Day Three | Rio de Janeiro

We spend today exploring Rio. We will visit its historic centre where modern skyscrapers mingle with colonial and Belle Epoque-era architecture

and explore two of its museums: the **Museu Histórico** housed in a former arsenal and by contrast the ultra-modern **Museum of Tomorrow**. In the afternoon we take a stroll in the **Jardim Botânico** which along with its stately rows of palms, ornamental ponds and orchid greenhouses, is teeming with over 9,000 different plant species and some of the most endangered flora in Brazil. Rio, sheltering between two mountains can be viewed from both and this evening we view it from Corcovado Mountain, home to the iconic art deco monument of **Christ the Redeemer**.



Day Four | Rio de Janeiro - São Raimundo Nonato

This morning we transfer to the airport to start our journey north. We fly to Recife and then on São Raimundo Nonato, a small airport recently built to improve access to the Serra da Capivara national park. We arrive late afternoon and drive the short distance to the **Museum of American Man** which showcases the work of decades of research alongside precious finds. Tonight, we spend the first of five nights at the Hotel Serra di Capivara, newly constructed at the edge of the park to accommodate visitors to the sites.

Continued...



Day Five | Serra da Capivara

We spend the next five days exploring the extraordinary sites of the **Serra da Capivara**. Over 300 archaeological sites have been found within the park, the majority decorated with paintings, some more than 25,000 years old. Numerous circuits and trails have been created in order to access them and we start our exploration with the site of **Boqueirão Pedra Furada**, a huge geological structure discovered by Niéde Guidon. An extremely important site surprising in the unique chronological range it covers: a stratigraphy of, at least 60,000 years of human occupation, in addition to traces of animals such as sabre-toothed tigers and giant sloths. During the 10 years of initial excavation of the site, several lithic artifacts were found (spearheads, half-moon axes, flaked stone blades, etc.), structured bonfires, crololiths, cave paintings and various marks of human occupation. Our rock art circuit for the day will also include the sites of **Toca do Sítio do Meio** and **Toca da Fumaça**. We end our day with a visit to the **Serra da Capivara Ceramics Project**, created in 1994 to support the local economy with the artisanal production of pottery decorated with rock art paintings found on the sandstone cliffs of the archaeological sites.

Day Six | Serra da Capivara

After breakfast we travel into the park to walk the **Cicuito Serra Branca route**. This is an area where the maniçobeiros lived, extracting latex from the manicoba tree during the rubber boom of the late 19th century. Here we will view the rock art at numerous sites including Toca do Vento, Toca do Mulungu, Toca do Caboclo da Serra Branca, Toca da Extrema, Toca do João Arsená, Toca do Veado, Toca Pingo de Boi and Sítio Andorinhas. Towards the end of the day we will make our way to **Canyon Andorinhas** to take in the panoramic view and if we are very lucky see a murmuration of swallows, for which the canyon is named, as they gather to roost for the night.

Day Seven | Serra da Capivara

Our visits today include Toca da Entrada do Pajaú I and II, small shelters with dozens of paintings portraying the daily activities of prehistoric people. We will also see Toca do Barro, Sítio Desfiladeiro and Toca do Papagaio, the first site to be catalogued by researchers and where two skeletons were found, dating to over 7,000 years old.

Day Eight | Serra da Capivara

On our last full day in the reserve, we will walk up

to Toca da Entrada do Baixão da Vaca, a 100m long shelter where there are hundreds of cave paintings, many of them clearly visible. We will also take in two sites on the Hombu Trail (Hombu means 'come see') – Toca da Ema do Sítio do Brás I and II.

Day Nine | Serra da Capivara - Recife - Brasília

This morning we take the **Serra Vermelha Circuit** and visit **Sítio Três Perna**. After lunch we start our long journey south, returning to São Raimundo Nonato airport where we fly to Brasília International Airport via Recife. Arriving late that day, we overnight near the airport ready for onward travel to the Pantanal the following morning.

Day Ten | Brasília - Cuiabá - Pantanal

We begin the second part of our tour and fly to Cuiabá this morning. Founded by gold prospectors in the 18th century, the city sits on the Cuiabá River, a tributary of the mighty Paraguay and the gateway to the northern Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wetland. From here we will drive along the Transpantaneira deep into the **Pantanal**. The wetlands are comprised of a patchwork of different ecosystems – dense woodland, open savannah and rainforest. Our destination is the Pousada Puival, a 2-3hr drive from Cuiabá and where we will stay



the next 2 nights. From here we will enjoy a mix of safari drives and gentle walks in easy terrain.

Day Eleven | Pantanal

Our day is spent hunting for wildlife, walking from the lodge or adventuring out by vehicle. There is no shortage of wildlife viewing opportunities here from the brightly coloured macaws which dart amongst the tree canopy to the comical capybara who frequent the wetlands. Other wildlife highlights include giant anteaters, giant otters, tapirs and jabiru storks and a vast range of other tropical birds.

Day Twelve | Pantanal

We make a sunrise safari, our best chance of seeing the giant anteater as it searches for food before returning to the lodge for our own breakfast later in the morning. We leave this region today and set off for Porto Jofre where we transfer to our houseboat permanently moored on the Piquiri river bank. We will spend two nights here.

Day Thirteen | Pantanal

The Pantanal is best known for its incredible jaguar viewing. This is best achieved by manoeuvrable boat in the northern part of the wetlands, where

the cats have the habit of hunting along the riverbanks. We will take morning and afternoon boat trips out on the wetland searching for Jaguars and spotting other wildlife.

Day Fourteen | Pantanal - Cuiabá

Our adventures in the wild come to an end and we travel back along the Transpantania to Cuiabá airport. The journey will take us most of the day as we travel back through this incredible wilderness to the tarmacked road which will speed us to Cuiabá airport.

Day Fifteen | Cuiabá - Sao Paulo - London

We take our flight home today connecting in Sao Paulo and flying overnight to London.

Day Sixteen | London

We arrive back in London.

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Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Orla Copacabana Hotel, Rio de Janeiro; Hotel Serra da Capivara; San Marco Hotel, Brasília; Pousada Piuval, Pantanal; Transpantanal Houseboat, Pantanal; Hotel in Cuiabá airport

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
6th - 21st Oct	£13,245 £12,595	£2,250

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Chile & Easter Island

Discover some of the world's most enigmatic rock art

17 DAYS FROM £12,445pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“This was an absolutely wonderful holiday, with a very good balance between time spent on organised visits to archaeological sites and museums and free time.”



Discover extraordinary geoglyphs and petroglyphs among truly unforgettable and often lunar-like landscapes

Explore Easter Island, the most remote piece of land inhabited on the planet, and visit an array of sites where the curious moai can be seen in situ

Visit a selection of fascinating regional museums, which house exhibitions that showcase the likes of wooden carvings and the Chichorro Mummies

Journey through the striking Atacama Desert, declared the world's driest by NASA after a series of in-depth studies

An adventure awaits, travelling across the globe with an international expert to see some of the most enigmatic rock art in the world – situated in vast and often remote landscapes. Venture down the coast of northern Chile into the Atacama Desert before flying back over the Pacific to the iconic site of Easter Island to discover places seldom visited by tourists.

Day One | London - Chile

We take an overnight flight from London to Chile.

Day Two | Chile

Arriving in the morning of day 2 we transfer to the hotel and check in early. After a welcome lunch, we have the rest of the afternoon to simply relax and recover from our flight, or join a **guided walk around Santiago**, Chile's capital city since the colonial era. On foot is the perfect way to take in the culture and local atmosphere as we discover its many parks, winding streets and eclectic buildings, admiring the fusion of colonial, Art Deco, and Neo-Gothic styles. We will also visit the **Museo de Arte Precolombino**, which houses a world-class collection of Latin American antiquities. Begun by Chilean architect and antiques fanatic Sergio Larrañán García-Moreno, it displays many interesting artefacts that have been selected specifically for their aesthetic qualities. Highlights here include Mapuche funeral carvings and an entire room of beautiful prehistoric textiles.

Day Three | Santiago – Calama – San Pedro de Atacama

We catch a morning flight to Calama in the Antofagasta region and gateway to the Atacama. After lunch we drive to the **Yerbas Buenas**, located in Chile's geographical centre. Here we see amongst the impressive rocky outcrops, petroglyphs carved by the Atacameño people in an area important to herders, traders and travellers for millennia. More than 1,000 images are visible here including depictions of alpaca and llama, flamingos, foxes and other predators. We continue to **San Pedro de Atacama**, an oasis village surrounded by spectacular volcanic scenery – and one of Chile's most beloved destinations.

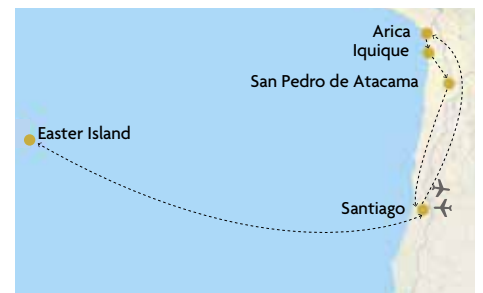
Day Four | San Pedro de Atacama

Our morning is spent among the amazing lunar landscapes of the **Valle de la Luna**, which is a colourful and textured valley that contains unusual wind-carved formations and dry lakes that gleam with salt. The afternoon is free to spend how you

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



wish, either relaxing at the hotel, exploring Pedro de Atacama or joining an optional excursion which can be arranged through our Local Guide. One of the most popular is to the extraordinary Atacama Salt Flat located about 60 kilometers south of San Pedro.

Day Five | San Pedro de Atacama – Iquique

Today we travel to the coastal city of Iquique, almost 300m to the north, on the Panamerican Highway. We will break our journey at the famous **Cerros Pintados** (meaning 'painted hills') to view geoglyphs scattered for miles along the barren hillsides. More than 450 figures have been discovered here, the largest collection of its kind in South America. We arrive in Iquique in the early evening and check into our hotel for the next two nights.

Continued...



Day Six | Iquique

After our long journey, we take time to relax this morning with a boat trip into the Pacific from Iquique harbour and a chance to spot pelicans, sea-lions and endangered Humboldt penguins. After lunch, there is an atmospheric tour of the 'ghost town' of **Humberstone**, a former saltpetre mining town that was abandoned in 1960. The fertiliser sodium nitrate produced here transformed agriculture in North and South America, and Europe, and produced great wealth for Chile and the area has since been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day Seven | Iquique – Arica

This morning our journey takes us through the **Atacama Desert**, the driest desert in the world according to studies by NASA. Parts of this region have never received even one drop of rain. We stop en-route to explore **El Gigante del Atacama**, the world's largest prehistoric depiction of a human. We also visit the geoglyphs at **Ariquilda**, **Tiliviche** and **Chiza**. The sprawling human and llama geoglyphs here are thought to have been created as a guide to caravans descending from the mountains to the coast.

Day Eight | Arica - Santiago

Today we explore the culture and history of the Chinchorro people. In the morning we visit Colon 10, a burial ground of the Chinchorro, found in 2008. Interestingly, the museum was built directly over the burial ground, so some of the excavated skeletons have remained in situ. Afterwards we visit

the **San Miguel Archaeological Museum**, home to the famous **Chinchorro Mummies**, preserved for several millennia by the dry heat of the desert. Modern analysis of the mummies has revealed them to be semi-nomadic people subsisting on the sea. Astonishingly, the oldest body predates the Egyptian mummies by some 3,000 years. Later we cross the stark oasis of the **Azapa Valley** to view the spectacular rock art still visible on the hillsides — a vivid assortment of human figures and animals. Before our evening flight back to Santiago, we will enjoy an "Once Chilena", the equivalent of afternoon tea.

Day Nine | Santiago - Valparaiso

We make our way to Vina del Mar to visit the **Museo de Arqueologico e Historia Francisco Fonck**. The museum has a rich collection of wooden carvings, striking displays of archaeological material from other parts of Chile. After lunch we embark on an informative **walking tour of Valparaiso**, a quirky city famed for its maze-like streets, vibrant colonial architecture, and richly artistic heritage. Not for nothing has this lively place been nicknamed the 'Jewel of the Pacific'.

Day Ten | Santiago - Easter Island

The next part of our adventure begins as we fly across the ocean to enigmatic **Easter Island**, one of the most isolated locations on the planet. Our explorations start with a preliminary walk around Hanga Roa, the island's capital and harbour, as well as its only town. This calm and compact settlement is home to most of the island's 5,000 inhabitants.

Day Eleven | Easter Island

Our first full day on Easter Island begins with a trip to our first moai at **Ahu Tahai**, where these monolithic human figures stand – one with its giant coral eyes replaced. Three ceremonial platforms remain on this site, which were restored by the late American archaeologist, Dr William Mulloy. He and his wife are both buried here. We continue on to the nearby **Museo Antropologico Sebastian Englert** to learn the story behind the moai and their discoverers. Here we see the only female moai to have been discovered, as well as an original moai eye. This afternoon is free for us to enjoy at leisure.

Day Twelve | Rano Raraku & Papa Vaka

After breakfast we journey to the quarry at **Rano Raraku**, where many unfinished moai are still standing in situ. The site was in use until the 18th century, supplying stone for around 97% of the island's moai over a time frame of approximately 500 years. The biggest moai in existence lies here incomplete, and measures a staggering 21.6 metres from end to end. Following this we visit the longest line of standing statues at **Tongariki**, the largest Ahu on the island, where we find the world's heaviest re-erected moai, weighing in at an almost inconceivable 86 tonnes. After a picnic lunch at Rano Raraku, our day concludes with a viewing of the rock carvings at **Papa Vaka**. Here we see marine petroglyphs carved into the basalt, including a remarkable depiction of a squid.



Day Thirteen | Akahanga & Anakena Beach

We continue to explore further moai sites around the south coast today. There is **Ahu Vaihu**, where the moai lie face down with broken necks; **Akahanga**, an unrestored platform near which the island's first king is said to be buried; **Hanga Tetenga**, where tumbled statues rest amidst scattered rocks; **Te Pito te Kura**, the site of a bizarre magnetic stone as well as the largest moai to be transported from Rano Raraku; and, lastly, but by no means least, the detailed carved figures of the royal platform of **Ahu Nau Nau**. After a barbecue lunch, we make our way to **Anakena Beach** with its white coral sands, where we have the afternoon free to relax. You will have an independent dinner this evening.

Day Fourteen | Rano Kau, Vinapu & Puna Pau

This morning we make our way to the restored moai in the harbour of **Hanga Piko**, and to **Ana Kai Tangata** (the name of which translates to 'cannibal cave'), situated directly on the sea-front. We continue to **Rano Kau**, a wide volcano within which lies a crater lake, as well as a fertile landscape nurturing figs and luscious vines. Here we visit the **Orongo ceremonial village**, perched magnificently on the crater's edge, beside a sheer 300-metre cliff. Looking out across the water we see the offshore islet of **Motu Nui**, final destination for competitors in the annual Birdman swimming race, the first prize

of which was to rule Easter Island for a year. We then head out to the ruined platforms of **Vinapu** which feature the finest stonework on the island. After lunch we visit the lava cave at **Te Pahu**, a tunnel formed many thousands of years ago, during the last local lava spill. Our next stop is **Ahu Akivi**, another inland platform whose seven identical statues seem to have been carefully placed to mark both spring and autumn equinoxes. Next, we stop to enjoy **Ahu Huri a Urenga**, an inland platform with an astronomical orientation and a single moai with four hands. Finally we visit the quarry at **Puna Pau**, an extinct volcano and source of the huge red cylindrical stone top-knots seen on the heads of many moai. The rock here is soft, easy to carve and is given its colour by the high iron content. A climb to the sides of the crater rewards us with wonderful views of Hanga Roa.

Day Fifteen | Easter Island - Santiago

After a morning spent at leisure, we transfer to the airport and catch our return flight to Santiago.

Day Sixteen | Santiago - London

Enjoy a free morning before we make our way to the airport for our return journey to the UK.

Day Seventeen | London

We arrive in London.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Magnolia, Hotel Antay, Gavina Sens & Conference Centre, Hotel Poblado Kimal, Holiday Inn Santiago & Hotel O'tai or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
19th Nov - 5th Dec	£13,045 £12,445	£1,075
Save £600pp with our 2025 Special Offer		

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/achi

Mexico - The Maya

An in-depth tour from Mexico City to the Yucatán peninsula

16 DAYS FROM £8,045pp

Activity Level ●●●●●



Of all the Mesoamerican civilisations, the Maya have enjoyed the most enduring hold on the imagination. For years, their jungle-clad ruins remained intriguing, yet shrouded in mystery. An adventurous trip, this tour starts with museums in Mexico City, travels via the uplands of Chiapas, along the river of Usumacinta and on to the Yucatán peninsula.

Day One | London - Mexico City

We fly to Mexico City and transfer to our hotel, where dinner awaits us later.

Day Two | Mexico City

Our day begins with an exploration of the remains of the **Templo Mayor**, once the sacred heart of Tenochtitlan – the Aztec capital. We also combine this with a visit to the excellent museum. In the afternoon, we walk to the **National Palace**, where we can stand before Diego Rivera's magnificent murals.

Day Three | Mexico City

The majority of our day will be spent at the **National Museum of Anthropology**, with collections spanning every era of Mexico's richly-textured past. Lunch will be at the museum, which allows us to get the most out of our visit here. Later in the afternoon, we return to the hotel with free time to relax ahead of our group dinner.

Day Four | Mexico City - San Cristóbal de las Casas

Today we fly south to **Tuxtla Gutiérrez**, on the edge of the Chiapas Highlands. We visit the archaeological site of **Chiapa de Corzo** on arrival and have lunch in the town. This afternoon we drive on to San Cristóbal de las Casas – the great centre of traditional Maya culture.

Day Five | San Cristóbal de las Casas

Our full day of visits begins with **Chamula**, one of the most fiercely independent of all Maya towns. Here, the local community have famously been left to largely run their own affairs. The use of the Church of San Juan is a symbol of this – the Catholic clergy are absent most of the year and, instead, traditional Maya priests or shamans minister to the local population. On most days, the church's interior is filled with chanting priests and their clients. Candles flicker, pine needles coat the floor and, on occasion, a chicken is sacrificed. We return to San Cristóbal for lunch with free time to enter **Santo Domingo Church**, stroll along the cobbled streets of the local market or visit the new museum devoted to Maya textiles. In the evening, we visit the museum at **Casa Na Bolom** and have dinner.

Day Six | Toniná - Palenque

We drive east to **Toniná**, located in the hills above the fertile Ocosingo Valley. On the periphery of the Maya area, it seems to have been one of the longest lasting Maya cities, possessing the very latest Maya 'Long Count' date known, from 15th January 909 AD. Other hieroglyphic evidence points to Toniná having engaged in sporadic warfare with Palenque, some 100 kilometres to the north.



Day Seven | Palenque

A full day among the ruins of **Palenque**, positioned on the lower slopes of a range of jungle-clad hills and with broad views across the floodplain of the Usumacinta River. The city possesses art and architecture of remarkable quality, most famously in the well-preserved 'Palace' complex and the 'Temple of the Inscriptions', where Palenque's greatest king – Pacal – lies buried in a huge sarcophagus. Hieroglyphic texts here have been crucial in piecing together the story of Palenque's rulers – a dynasty that lasted from c. 430 to 800 AD.

Day Eight | Bonampak - Yaxchilán

This morning, we travel in 4x4s first to the famous Maya site of **Bonampak**, known for the remarkable preservation of its vividly painted murals. From Bonampak, we continue to the **Usumacinta River** and journey by motor-launch downriver to the jungle site of **Yaxchilán**, constructed within a horseshoe bend in the river. It is a remote, atmospheric place, with many of the buildings being well-preserved though devoid of some of



View the Aztec Templo Mayor

Encounter enduring Maya traditions among the Chiapas communities

Discover Palenque, considered the most beautiful of all the Maya cities

Travel in 4x4s and then by motor-launch boat to the remote site of Yaxchilán, famous for its architecture

Explore the ball court, observatory, sacred well and the great pyramid of Kukulcan at the awe-inspiring city of Chichén Itzá

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Elizabeth Baquedano

A Mesoamerican specialist, Elizabeth is Senior Honorary Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL.



the famous carved lintels. A number of these were removed by the British explorer Alfred Maudslay in the 1880s and can now be seen on display in the 'Mexican Gallery' of the British Museum in London.

Day Nine | Palenque - Campeche

A drive north brings us to the coastal city of **Campeche**, founded by Spanish settlers in 1540 and with a fine Colonial centre that we explore later.

Day Ten | Campeche - Uxmal

Our day begins at the remote site of **Edzná**, which has a grand plaza, a five-storey main temple complex or acropolis, and it also originally possessed a system of dams and canals that were constructed as early as 150 BC. The next stop is **Sayil**, a ruined late Classic city, whose population peaked at around 12,000 during the city's height around 850 AD. Before travelling on to Uxmal, we end the day at **Kabah** – a small site known for its 'House of the Masks'.

Day Eleven | Uxmal - Mérida

We devote our morning to **Uxmal**, renowned for the elegance of its architecture and the exceptional state of preservation its buildings show. The tallest structure is the **Pyramid of the Magician**, built in five separate stages. Later, we continue to **Mérida**, Yucatán's cultural capital, where free time awaits.

Day Twelve | Mérida - Chichén Itzá

Remaining in **Mérida**, we visit the new **Mundo Maya Museum**, which covers the history of the Yucatán, from the earliest times to the Colonial period. Later, we head to **Izamal** and visit the **Franciscan Monastery**, which is built on top of a Maya pyramid.

Day Thirteen | Chichén Itzá

Today we encounter one of the most visited and impressive of all Maya cities – **Chichén Itzá**. Entering early in the day, we tour the immense Ball Court and Temple Pyramid. After lunch, we visit the lesser-known walled city of **Ek Balam** and can climb the steps of its largest pyramid for views of the jungle.

Day Fourteen | Chichén Itzá - Tulum

Our morning is spent at the ruins of **Cobá**, where over 30 carved stelae have been found. Next, we make our way to the small coastal site of **Tulum**.

Day Fifteen & Sixteen | Tulum - Cancun - London

A leisurely morning at our beach-side hotel awaits and then we transfer to the airport in Cancun for our return flight to London, arriving on Day Sixteen.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hampton Inn & Suites Mexico City, Hotel Casa Mexicana, Hotel Villa Mercedes, Hotel Plaza Campeche, Hotel Hacienda Uxmal, Gamma Mérida El Castellano, Hotel Villas Arqueológicas Chichén Itzá & Hotel Dreams Tulum or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 14 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
17th Nov - 2nd Dec	£8,445	£8,045 £955

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For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/amex

United Kingdom



Some of the best preserved and most visually impressive archaeological sites in Europe are on our own doorstep. From the days of early excavations carried out at Stonehenge and Avebury in the 18th century, to recent extraordinary finds from cities, fields and shoreline, British archaeology provides unique insights into the lives and cultures of its early inhabitants.

The earliest evidence of humans in Britain is at Happisburgh in Norfolk in an area of heavy erosion where the land is being constantly devoured by the sea. This site is particularly significant as it dates to 850,000 years old, pushing back the estimate of human presence in Northern Europe, and it is also the location of the oldest hominin footprints located outside of Africa.

For millennia Britain was a changing collection of tribal areas, with no overall leader as Celtic tribes arrived from mainland Europe. The Romans successfully invaded in 43 AD and as a result Britain is one of the best places in the former Roman empire for the study of the Roman military. At its height, the garrison of the province comprised something like 55,000 troops, roughly one eighth of the entire armed might of the empire. This major presence has left very extensive physical remains and Britain has a tradition of studying the Roman military as long-standing and well-developed as any other.

Following the Romans, two waves of immigrants came to Britain. Firstly, German tribes: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Then, secondly, the Vikings. For a long period, England was split into various kingdoms until it was unified by Æthelstan in 945 AD and subsequently, by force, England and Wales in the 13th century by Edward I. The union with Scotland took much longer and was plagued by hundreds of years of conflicts finally ending in the union in 1707.

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Highlights of Orkney

Discover the world-renowned archaeological sites of Orkney

5 DAYS FROM £2,080pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Our tour includes visits to the four monuments that make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney and these are unquestionably some of the most important in Europe – the 5,000-year-old village of Skara Brae, the giant chambered grave of Maeshowe, the atmospheric Ring of Brodgar stone circle and the Standing Stones of Stenness. We also explore the Brough of Birsay, Gurness Broch and the striking Italian Chapel.



Admire the megalithic Standing Stones of Stenness and discover the enigmatic Ring of Brodgar

Explore the Stone Age mausoleum of Maeshowe, whose internal walls were covered in graffiti by Vikings

Discover how people lived over 5,000 years ago at the extraordinary site of Skara Brae

Day One | Kirkwall

We meet at our hotel in Kirkwall for an introductory lecture and group dinner.

Day Two | Skara Brae & Gurness Broch

We start our explorations on the island at **Skara Brae**, the amazingly well-preserved Neolithic village occupied for over 600 years. Eight stone dwellings survive and their interior fittings give a glimpse of life as it was in Neolithic Orkney. After lunch, we visit the **Brough of Birsay**, a small island that can be reached on foot by causeway at low tide. Birsay has been settled continuously since Neolithic times and was once a centre of Viking power. We end the day at **Gurness Broch**, where we explore the remains of the 8-metre tower.

Day Three | Scapa Flow & Kirkwall

Driving south we cross Scapa Flow, where 52 German warships were scuttled just one week before the Peace Treaty was signed, ending WWI. We continue to the **Italian Chapel**, which was erected by Italian prisoners of war during WWII and constructed from Nissen huts yet highly decorated within. Returning to Kirkwall in the afternoon, we

spend time in town visiting the **Orkney Museum**, **St. Magnus' Cathedral** and also the **Bishop's Palace**.

Day Four | Maeshowe & the Ring of Brodgar

Today we explore Stenness in Orkney's West Mainland, an area home to some of the best-known ancient monuments. We start at **Maeshowe**, the largest and most impressive of Orkney's chambered cairns. After, we visit the historic **Standing Stones of Stenness** and the **Ring of Brodgar**, two stone circles – henge monuments – each occupying an opposing promontory between lochs. If seasonal excavations are underway, we will also visit the **Ness of Brodgar**, where, for over a decade, archaeological excavations have uncovered an astonishing array of Neolithic structures including monumental buildings and hundreds of examples of prehistoric artwork. This will be a virtual tour of the site as excavations have now finished.

Day Five | Kirkwall

Today we depart Kirkwall and make our onward independent journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Peter Yeoman

Until recently, Peter was Head of Cultural Heritage and then Principal Heritage Researcher at Historic Scotland.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Lynnfield Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
14th - 18th Aug	£2,230 £2,080	£390

Save £150pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aork

Orkney & Shetland

From standing stones to chambered cairns

11 DAYS FROM £4,295pp

Activity Level ●●●●○



“We had a wonderful time. The tour ran like clockwork, the food was great, the tour guide was knowledgeable and the sites were amazing!”

The islands beyond the northernmost tip of Scotland glory in some of the most beautiful and rugged landscapes in the world, and the area has been deemed an archaeologists' paradise. During the Neolithic and early Bronze Age, the local people were among the first in Britain to begin building megalithic chamber tombs and later henge monuments. This tour was also recently included in a round-up by The Times of the Best Cultural Holidays.

Day One | Lerwick

We meet at our hotel on Shetland.

Day Two | Mousa Broch & Scatness

We start our exploration of Shetland's archaeology at **Mousa Broch**, situated on the uninhabited island of the same name a couple of miles off the east coast of Shetland's mainland and now an RSPB reserve. Returning to the mainland we drive south to **Scatness**, an Iron Age broch and village occupied for around two millennia. The site, which was discovered when Sumburgh Airport expanded in the 1970s to accommodate increased air traffic, is now a public heritage project. We end the day at **Jarlshof** – a spectacular site on the headland overlooking the West Voe. Here, there is evidence of over 4,000 years of human history – Neolithic houses, a Bronze Age village, an Iron Age broch, a Norse longhouse medieval farmstead and a 16th century house.

Day Three | Unst

Today we take two short ferry crossings to reach Unst, Britain's most northerly inhabited island, where we discover the island's Viking heritage. A large number of Viking longhouses have been

discovered here (at least 60) – the greatest number found anywhere, including Scandinavia. We visit one of the excavated sites at **Underhoull** where there is evidence of outhouses, annexes and drains, which have been added to the longhouse during its development. We continue to **Haroldswick** to see the Skidbladner, replica ship, and reconstructed longhouse. In the afternoon we drive towards Skaw to take in the view of the Muckle Flugga lighthouse perched on the northern tip of Unst. Before catching our return ferry, we visit **Muness Castle**, a late 16th century tower house destroyed by French pirates in 1627 and abandoned in the 18th century.

Day Four | Shetland

Today is our last full day on Shetland and we start with **Stanydale Temple** on the West Mainland. This extraordinary structure gained its name from its similarity to the megalithic temple sites in Malta. From here we drive to the **Scord of Brouster**, one of the earliest Neolithic farm sites in Shetland. Returning to Lerwick, we visit the fantastic, award-winning **Shetland Museum**, which displays over 3,000 artefacts, and we end the day at **Clickhimin Iron Age Broch** and later wheelhouse, situated just outside of Lerwick.



Day Five | St. Ninian's Isle - Scalloway - Orkney

We explore **St. Ninian's Isle** where we see the church – a striking white-shell sand spit links the islands. Excavations here revealed a fabulous hoard of Pictish silver. Continue to **South Voe Croft Museum**, an engaging evocation of rural life in Shetland. The afternoon will be spent visiting Scalloway Museum, and then later this evening we will take a ferry to Orkney.

Day Six | Stenness

Today we explore Stenness in Orkney's West Mainland, home to some of the best-known ancient monuments. We start at **Maeshowe**, the largest and most impressive of Orkney's chambered cairns.



- Marvel at the Neolithic dwellings at Skara Brae
- Visit Maeshowe, one of Europe's finest Neolithic chambered cairns
- Admire the megalithic Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar
- Discover Jarlshof with its remarkably well-preserved wheelhouses

A zenith in European prehistoric architecture and accomplishment, this chambered tomb has been a distinctive presence in the landscape for millennia. After, we visit the **Stones of Stenness** and the **Ring of Brodgar**, two stone circles – henge monuments – each occupying an opposing promontory between lochs. With seasonal excavations underway, we will also visit the Ness of Brodgar where, for over a decade, archaeological excavations have uncovered an astonishing array of Neolithic structures including monumental buildings along with hundreds of examples of prehistoric artwork. This will be a virtual tour of the site as excavations have now finished.

Day Seven | Island of Rousay

We travel to the Island of Rousay to explore **Midhowe** chambered tomb, sealed 4,500 years ago and containing the remains of 25 people. On next to the much later Iron Age defensive structure of **Midhowe Broch**, which stands on the rocky foreshore of Rousay between two inlets and consists of a circular tower with a very thick exterior wall. We end our day at the double chambered tomb of **Taversoe Tuick**.

Day Eight | Kirkwall

Today we explore Orkney's capital, Kirkwall. Highlights include **St. Magnus Cathedral**, **Earl's Palace** and **Bishop's Palace**. In the afternoon, we will pay a visit to **Tankerness Museum**.

Day Nine | Skara Brae & Birsay

We start our explorations on the island at **Skara Brae**, the amazingly well-preserved Neolithic village occupied for over 600 years. Eight stone dwellings survive and their interior fittings give a unique glimpse of life as it was in Neolithic Orkney. After lunch, we visit the **Brough of Birsay**, a small island that can be reached on foot by causeway at low tide. Birsay has been settled continuously since Neolithic times and was once a centre of Viking power. We end the day at **Gurness Broch** where we explore the remains of the 8-metre tower.

Day Ten | Orkney

We visit **Cuween Chambered Cairn**, a fine example of Neolithic architectural design and **Stromness Museum**. Our day ends at the striking little **Italian Chapel**, which was built by prisoners of the war in the 1940s.

Day Eleven | Kirkwall

Our tour ends today and we make our onward independent journeys.

Please note that the order of the itinerary is subject to ferry availability and is therefore likely to change.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Val Turner

Dr Val Turner has been Shetland's Regional Archaeologist since 1986. An expert in Prehistoric and Viking Field Systems, she loves surprising visitors with Shetland's wealth of archaeology and she has been guiding walks and tours in both Orkney and Shetland for over 20 years.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Brae Hotel and Lynnfield Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
19th - 29th Jul	£4,545	£4,295 £600

Save £250pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aoas

Richard III - Hero or Villain?

Discover one of English history's most tragic, bloody and colourful epochs

4 DAYS FROM £1,340pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The dramatic discovery of the skeleton of Richard III beneath a Leicester car park in 2012 was an archaeological find that made news all around the world. It also reignited the great debate about Richard's personal character – was he a hero or a villain?

Visit stunning Warwick castle, home of Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, known to posterity as 'the Kingmaker'

Journey to Fotheringhay church and the remains of the castle where Richard III was born in 1452

Explore the King Richard III Visitor Centre and Bosworth battlefield

Day One | Warwick

We meet in the afternoon for a visit to **Warwick Castle**, home of the powerful Beauchamp earls of Warwick and Richard Neville, 'the Kingmaker'. We will see the interesting additions made to the castle by Richard III, the Bear and Clarence towers, showing the king's interest in artillery. In the evening there will be an introductory lecture on Richard III in our hotel.

Day Two | Stony Stratford & Fotheringhay

We make a morning stop at **Stony Stratford**, where Richard took possession of Edward V in 1483, and then lunch at **Delapré Abbey**, discussing the significance of the battle of Northampton (1460), which took place in the Abbey grounds. In the afternoon we visit **Fotheringhay church**, mausoleum of Richard III's family, the house of

York, and the remains of the castle, where Richard was born in 1452, and the scene of the trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

Day Three | Leicester

We make a morning visit to **Bosworth Battlefield Centre**, the fateful clash that brought the Wars of the Roses to an end with Richard III's death and the accession of the first Tudor king, Henry VII. In the afternoon we travel to Leicester's **King Richard III Visitor Centre**, which tells the story of the discovery of his remains, and the **Cathedral**, where we will see his striking new tomb.

Day Four | Warwick

In the morning we enjoy a **walking tour of Warwick**, taking in more of its fascinating medieval history, followed by a concluding talk on Richard III.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Michael Jones

Author and presenter Dr Michael Jones is a leading military historian with special interests in Richard III.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Warwick Arms Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
30th Sep - 3rd Oct	£1,340	£165

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/arhv

Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast

Exploring the wild, wild west

6 DAYS FROM £2,290pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



Pembrokeshire's long history is colourful and dramatic, possessing a rich legacy of prehistoric and later remains intrinsically linked to its coastline. From Neolithic cromlech to 11th century cathedrals, and from bracken-strewn hills to a sea-faring trip that takes us between its outlying islands, join us as we explore one of the country's most captivating landscapes.



Discover Waun Mawn, the original site of the Stonehenge bluestones

Take a sea safari through some of the richest waters for wildlife off the coast of the British Isles

Walk to the Iron Age hill fort of Foel Drigarn, which boasts wonderful views from the summit

Day One | Haverfordwest

We meet at our hotel for an introductory lecture, which is followed by dinner with our Guide Lecturer and fellow guests.

Day Two | Pentre Ifan & Garn Fawr

In the morning we visit the megalithic tomb of **Pentre Ifan**, the largest and one of the finest dolmens in Wales, dating from around 3500 BCE. Afterwards, it's on to the site of **Garn Fawr**, a coastal hillfort and enclosure system with breathtaking views of the coast and lighthouse at Strumble Head. In the afternoon we visit **Castell Henllys**, an Iron Age promontory fort with extensive defences and a large settlement.

Day Three | Marloes

Today, weather and tide permitting, we take a boat trip through some of the richest water for wildlife off the coast of the British Isles. In the afternoon we visit **Carew Castle** and **Tidal Mill**. From an Iron Age fort to an Elizabethan stronghold, the site's history spans some 2,000 years. Here, we also find the only restored tidal mill in Wales.

Day Four | Solva & St. David's

We take a walk around the harbour of **Solva**, a small town steeped in maritime history and, during the 18th and 19th centuries, one of the busiest trading ports in Pembrokeshire. From Solva, we walk up to the Iron Age fort that stands on the end of the **Gribin**. This afternoon we visit **St. David's Cathedral**, constructed on one of Britain's most ancient Christian sites.

Day Five | Gors Fawr & Carn Menyn

Our day begins with an exploration at **Gors Fawr**, the sole surviving stone circle in the county. From here we walk to **Croesmihangel** and then it's on to the early Iron Age hill fort of **Foel Drigarn**, with a trilogy of burial cairns contained within rings of ramparts and ditches. In the afternoon we explore the quarry at **Carn Meini** and then **Waun Mawn**, where excavations confirm that Stonehenge's bluestones were erected first as a stone circle here before being later dismantled and moved on to Salisbury Plain.

Day Six | Haverfordwest

We say farewell to Pembrokeshire and make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Ken Murphy

Ken Murphy is a field archaeologist with over 45 years' experience. He has worked on numerous field and desk-based projects since 1979 including large-scale excavation of prehistoric and later sites, topographic survey of sites of all periods, and landscape analysis of large parts of southwest Wales.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Mariners, Haverfordwest or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine and tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
21st - 26th May	£2,440	£2,290 £295 £0

Save £150pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/apem



It's all included



ON AN ANDANTE CRUISE

Joined by an expert Guide Lecturer and Professional Tour Manager



Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary



Breakfasts, lunches and dinners on your premium ship



Special extras such as a welcome cocktail and all on-board drinks





Cruise

Imagine relaxing on your ship's sun deck and taking in the rolling hills, iconic landmarks and quiet villages of a picturesque river or enjoying the onboard activities and exploring the various ports of call on an ocean cruise. Whichever you choose, cruising is a wonderful way to soak up the vistas of your chosen destination and gain a different perspective from a host of different waterways. From the Rhône's most important archaeological sites to the Moorish wonders along the Guadalquivir and Guadiana in Spain and the silvery Seine from Paris to Rouen, there are several returning favourites for 2025. Or, our new Antiquity of the Aegean cruise takes you to the heart of ancient Greek mythology and features fascinating palaces, sanctuaries, tombs, and – of course – the Athenian Acropolis. Featuring the Celestial Journey, this larger vessel provides all the best features of a mid-sized ship – a relaxing spa, a swimming pool, a choice of lounges and bars plus sunbathing decks to admire the passing scenery – bliss!

These cruises combine our usual captivating site visits with the comfort of a waterborne 'hotel,' with our wonderful tour staff on board to answer questions and offer company when needed. Just like our land-based tours, all our cruises include everything in the price, from offshore excursions and all meals, with wine at dinner, to site donations and tips to drivers and hospitality staff. All that is left for you to do is satisfy that souvenir craving!

We want you to have a wonderful cruise experience and we have carefully chosen the itineraries, cruise lines and ships for our tours. The size of the cruise ships for our cruises means that they can stop at smaller ports and are well suited to our archaeological and historical cruises. Many sites tend to be in remote locations which are challenging to reach and more easily accessed from our smaller vessels. One of the highlights of sailing on these smaller vessels is the individualised attention and excellent service you can expect. Fewer passengers means that the crew have time to get to know their guests and build a rapport. Dedicated to making your holiday a delightful experience throughout, they can really make a difference to life on board from attending to special requests to fixing your favourite cocktail.



Meander along the Seine from Paris to Rouen, admiring world-famous sights, charming villages and centuries-old orchards along the way

Journey to Hvar, Vis and other jewels of the stunning Dalmatian Coast aboard the smaller MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

Sail along the mighty Guadalquivir River through the heartbeat of Iberian history, Andalucía, where a treasure trove of Moorish gems awaits

Cruise across the sparkling Aegean, the setting for many mythological tales, and visit some of the most important cities of the ancient world

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Cruising the Seine

Paris, Honfleur & the Seine Valley

7 DAYS FROM £3,795pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●●○

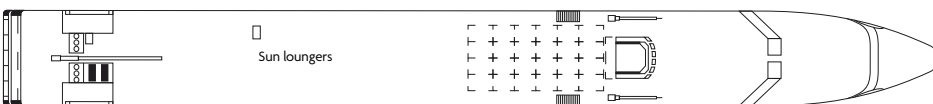
SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE



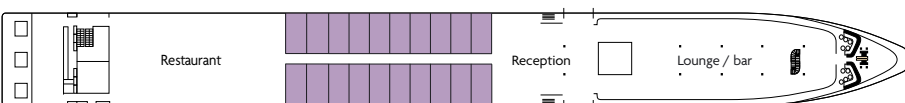
The silvery Seine has been the subject of many famous painters who sought to replicate its constantly changing and flickering light and what better way to get acquainted with its sinuous beauty than with a cruise from Paris to Rouen. This stretch of the Seine meanders through gentle green countryside and chalk valleys passing a delightful mix of market towns, working farms, ancient orchards, pretty villages and sites rich in cultural heritage. Our programme includes visits to hidden gems in France's alluring capital, an excursion to the magnificent Palace of Versailles; an induction to the historical heart of Honfleur and Roman discoveries in Rouen and Lillebonne.



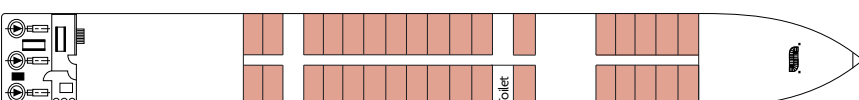
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck



MS Renoir

The MS Renoir is a premium rated ship, comparable to a 4* hotel. Its design adopts the "French chic" spirit, inspired by the friendship between Coco Chanel and Auguste Renoir. The Upper Deck has two main areas; the lounge and bar towards the bow of the ship, and the restaurant towards the stern. Cabins are 16.5 m² in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



Discover the magnificence of Versailles, embellished over centuries by generations of renowned architects, sculptors and landscape designers

Explore the Roman theatre at Lillebonne and the part ancient Juliabona played in the Gallic Wars

Admire the architectural masterpiece of Sainte Chapelle one of the greatest examples of Gothic art

Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean Catacombes de Paris

Day One | London – Paris

We depart from London aboard the Eurostar, and speed across the channel to the Gare du Nord. This afternoon we visit the **Musee Carnavalet** which houses collections dedicated to the history of the city.

Day Two | Paris

We start our day in the vibrant area of **Le Marais**. This part of the city has more pre-revolutionary buildings and streets left intact than any other and is the closest you will get to the feel of medieval Paris. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernization and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand new museography. We end our day with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people.

Day Three | Paris - Poissy

This morning, we visit the Ile de la Cite. This area of Paris is home to more than its fair share of famous sights, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame Cathedral and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie**, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as tribunal and prison. We end the day at the **Musée de Louvre** where we will view the Etruscan, Greek and Roman galleries, one of one of the richest collections in the world. We transfer to our boat moored on the Seine for a comfortable rest on the boat for the next leg of the tour. This evening, we will enjoy a cocktail before dinner on board; the ship will set sail through Paris tonight en route to Poissy.



Day Four | Poissy - Versailles - Honfleur

Arriving in the morning at Poissy, we disembark and join other Croisi passengers as we make our way to **Versailles**. Originally a hunting lodge and rural retreat, Versailles was transformed into the magnificent Baroque Palace we see today by Louis XIV when he made it his seat of power, moving his court and government there in 1682. One of the most celebrated architectural achievements in the world, its creation stimulated a mini renaissance of interior design during the 17th and 18th centuries and was accredited with UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. After a morning of artistic opulence, we return to our boat and settle in to relax on board as we sail onward to Honfleur.

Day Five | Honfleur - Rouen

Our first visit today is **Honfleur**, the prettiest of the Normandy ports, with its tall, slate fronted houses shouldering each other on the yacht filled harbour. For centuries Honfleur was a prosperous trade and fishing port, a strategic asset in the Hundreds Year War and in the 17th century, the port from which French navigators set out to explore the New World and ultimately establish Quebec. Much of its historic heritage is intact and we will take a guided walking tour through the town to explore its medieval and industrial past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: In the afternoon we take a trip out to **Lillebonne**. Occupied by the Romans during the Gallic Wars, the town was called Juliobona in Caesar's honour and evidence suggests it was a large and prosperous town. The large number of potsherds and amphorae excavated here suggests the city conducted vigorous trading with imported wines, oil, and olives coming from the Mediterranean regions. The city boasted a large theatre designed to seat at least 3000 people and we shall explore its remains as well as the small **archaeological museum**.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.



Day Six | Rouen - Paris

Having sailed overnight we arrive in the city of Rouen, capital of the northern French region of Normandy.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we explore Rouen, once an important river port and centre for textiles. The city is steeped in history and today we see a vibrant and compelling mix of modern architecture, crooked medieval half-timbered houses, Gothic churches, celebrated restaurants, antique shops, food markets and patisserie selling multicoloured macarons. This afternoon we set sail once again and settle in to enjoy the scenes unfolding and relax on our return journey to Paris.

Day Seven | Paris - London

We disembark our ship this morning, leave Paris behind, and speed northwards across the channel by Eurostar back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to Versailles and a guided walking tour of Honfleur with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return travel by Eurostar from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Paris & 4 nights aboard the MS Renoir

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Renoir: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

Dates & prices per person

	2nd - 8th April	Twin/Db Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a window	£4,045	£3,795	£845 £0
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	£4,300	£4,050	£845

Save £250pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/apac

Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône

Greeks, Romans and Celts

9 DAYS FROM £5,260pp

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

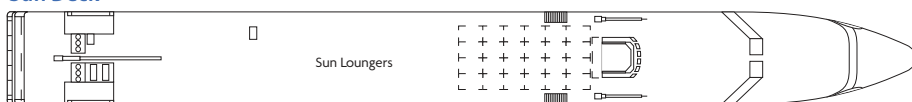
Activity Level ●●●●○

SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE

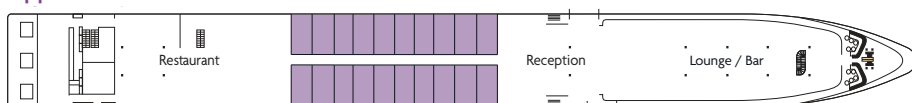


The Rhône was the major conduit of culture in France in Antiquity, transmitting Hellenic culture from Marseille, founded by Greeks in 600 BC, to the cities along the historic river. This cruise examines the role the river played in the ancient world as a channel of trade and culture, and showcases France's most important archaeological and historical sites.

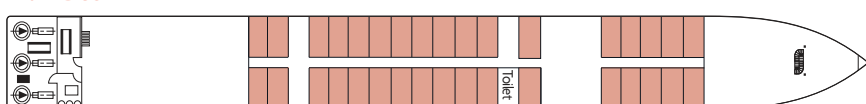
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck



MS Van Gogh

Having been renovated in 2018, the MS Van Gogh has been redesigned to offer bright and beautiful spaces. The two main common areas are located on the upper deck, with the lounge/bar at the front and the restaurant at the back. The ship has 20 cabins on the upper deck which offer French balconies and 34 cabins on the main deck with windows. You can also rest and admire the landscapes on the sun deck. Cabins are 16.5 m² in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



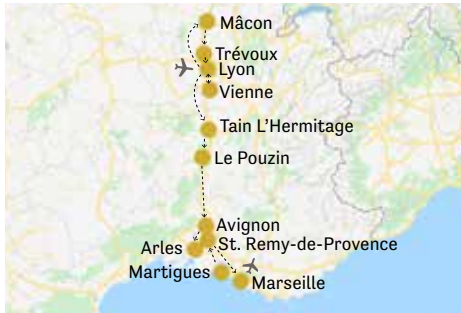
Explore the exceptional amphitheatre and archaeological museum at Arles

Visit the Palais des Papes in Avignon, home to the Popes in the 14th century

View the iconic Pont du Gard, one of the world's most famous aqueducts

Examine the important site of Glanum with its famous Triumphal Arch and mausoleum

Enjoy exclusive Andante excursions during the cruise



Day One | London - Lyon

After landing at Lyon Airport, we transfer to our hotel and time permitting, visit the wonderful Gallo-Roman Museum of **Lyon-Fourviere**, as well as the adjacent Roman theatre built in the 1st century BC.

Day Two | Vienne

This morning we travel to Vienne, the erstwhile capital of the Allobroges made into a colonia by Julius Caesar. We explore its Roman remains, including the well-preserved **Temple of Augustus and Livia**, built in the 1st century AD, and the nearby **Jardin Archaeologique de Cybele**, which bears precious remnants of the ancient city and the **Roman Museum**. Later, we venture to the site of **Saint Romain en Gal** with its excellent museum. Here you will find artefacts and mosaics from one of the largest Gallo - Roman settlements in the Rhone Valley. We return to Lyon to join our ship and sail to Macon in the evening.

Day Three | Mâcon - Trévoux

This morning, we wake in Mâcon, a city famous for its beautiful positioning on the Saône and which produces some of the world's finest wines. From here, we set off for our archaeological explorations. We return to the ship in Trévoux and enjoy another evening of dining and cruising.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit the **Roche de Solutré**, a prehistoric site that was the centre of Solutrean palaeolithic culture. Here, we will also visit the **Prehistoric Museum** world before continuing to the world-famous abbey at Cluny, a Benedictine monastery that was destroyed during the French Revolution, but whose remains testify to its power and wealth.

Day Four | Lyon - Tain L'Hermitage

We wake up in Lyon and spend the morning there before our afternoon sailing to Tain l'Hermitage, famous for its wines as well as for Valrhona, one of the world's most important chocolatiers.



Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we embark on a walking tour of Lyon. Here we explore the **Jardin Archaeologique**, which preserves remains of the ancient Church of Sainte Croix, built on top of ancient remains, as well as the Church Saint Etienne, dating to the 4th century AD.

Day Five | Tain L'Hermitage - Le Pouzin - Avignon

We awake at the stunning little town of **Tain L'Hermitage**, famed for its wines, whose vineyards can be seen on the hills facing the river. After a little time at leisure here, we return to the ship and then sail south to the medieval city of Avignon. During this day of sailing, we can relax on board, and our Guide Lecturer will arrange a lecture for us as to what we can expect over the remaining days of the cruise.

Day Six | Avignon - Arles

This morning we wake up in Avignon, the historic city which became home to the Popes in the 14th century and which continued to be held by them until the French revolution, ensuring that it was adorned by a series of artists working to make the city fit for the papacy. In the afternoon, we sail to Arles, ancient Arelate, which became a very important city in Gallia Narbonensis. In the evening we sail to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We spend the morning exploring the **Palais des Papes**, the largest Gothic palace in Europe and decorated by important artists such as Simone Martini and Matteo Giovanetti. From there we drive to Arles to see the incredible **amphitheatre** and we also explore the important collection of artefacts at the **Museum of Ancient Arles**.

Day Seven | Arles - Martigues

We wake in Arles and disembark. We spend the morning exploring the stunning natural habitat of the **Camargue**, the largest wetland in Western Europe and famed for its wide variety of wetland birds and white horses. We rejoin the MS Camargue in Port St. Louis and enjoy a gala dinner this evening as the ship sails on to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch on board, we head out to explore the ancient remains of Marseille, the city which has remained important since its Greek foundation in the 7th century BC. Here we explore the **Marseille History Museum** as well as the remains of the Greek walls and Roman docks in the **Jardin des Vestiges**.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.



Day Eight | Martigues - Glanum

This morning we disembark and set off for the stunning **Pont du Gard**, perhaps one of the most striking and well-preserved Roman ruins in France. Built in the 1st century AD, it carried water from Uzès to ancient Nemausus, a masterwork of Roman engineering, which remained largely intact because of its use as a customs bridge. In the afternoon, we visit the well-preserved site of **Glanum**, which was never as wealthy as Arelate or Nemausus but which, nonetheless, was able to produce showy remains as the Mausoleum of the Julii and the Triumphal Arch built during the reign of Augustus.

Day Nine | St. Remy-de-Provence - Marseille - London

Time permitting, we have a walk around the charming town of St. Remy-de-Provence before travelling to Marseille to take our return flight back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to the Camargue wetland with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return travel by Eurostar from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 1 night at the Fourviere Hotel or similar, 6 nights aboard the MS Van Gogh & 1 night at a hotel in St. Remy

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Van Gogh: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

Dates & prices per person

11th - 19th September Twin/DbI Share **SS**

Main Deck Outside Cabin with a window ~~£5,560~~ £5,260 £825

Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window ~~£5,680~~ £5,380 £825

Save £300pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/arnc

Cruising Ancient Dalmatia

Journey to the jewels of the Dalmatian Coast

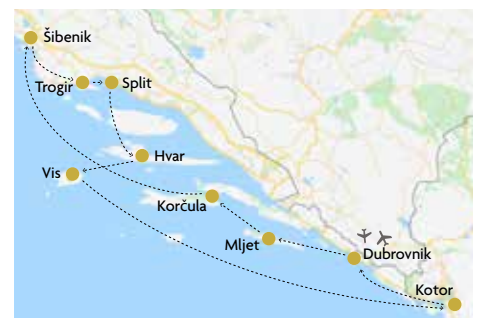
8 DAYS FROM £4,370pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

SMALL SHIP CRUISE



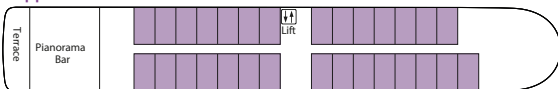
We journey along the limpid Dalmatian coast and explore its historical and cultural jewels. Visit islands and coastal cities that have been shaped since antiquity, including the atmospheric Hvar with its medieval walls and well-preserved urban landscape that owes so much to its Venetian period, and Korčula, founded by Corcyra in the 6th century BC. The charm of the Dalmatia is its multi-layered history and exploring it aboard the MS Belle de L'Adriatique allows us to appreciate this magnificent coast the way it should be.



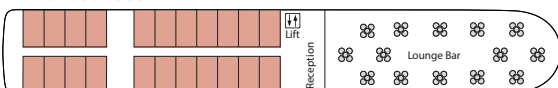
Sun Deck



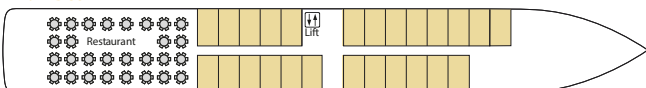
Upper Deck



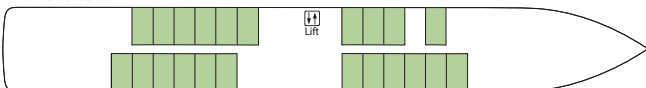
Embarkation Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck



MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

This premium rated ship has five decks and is comparable to a 4* hotel. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the Lounge Bar with dancefloor on the Embarkation Deck, and a smaller piano bar with terrace on the Upper Deck. The Sun Deck has a bar, two jacuzzis and sunloungers. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.

Image: Šibenik & MV La Belle de L'Adriatique exterior



Explore Diocletian's extraordinary palace in Split, including its basements and well preserved Peristyle

Visit the improbably beautiful Dubrovnik with its evocative streets and the scenic 17th century stradun, which dissects the city

Enjoy Korcula, a wonderfully preserved renaissance city forged in the period of Venetian domination

Examine Kotor, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the Adriatic with its Cathedral of St. Tryphon and its ancient walls

Day One | London - Dubrovnik

We fly to Dubrovnik and transfer to the port to embark our ship, the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique. We spend the remainder of our day in the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', ahead of our welcome dinner on board.

Day Two | Dubrovnik

Founded by Greeks in the 6th century and conquered briefly in more modern times by Venice, Dubrovnik was the capital of the mighty Republic of Ragusa. Our ship is moored here all day, allowing us to explore the beauties of the city, one of the most important sites on the Dalmatian coast.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We spend the whole day exploring the city, starting with a visit to the **cathedral** dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady, before continuing to the stunning **Rector's Palace**, a Gothic structure that served as seat of the Rector who oversaw the Ragusan Republic. In the afternoon we continue our exploration of Dubrovnik, starting with the **Walls**, built from the 12th to the 17th centuries to protect the city, and some of the most complex in Europe. We proceed to **Loggia Square**, one of the most picturesque parts of the city.

Day Three | Mljet & Korcula

We continue our cruise to Mljet, the most florid of the Dalmatian Islands. We spend time in the picturesque, verdant Mljet National Park this morning before sailing on to Korcula, where we spend the afternoon.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Mljet, the greenest of the Dalmatian Islands awaits, where we visit the tranquil, beautiful **Mljet National Park**, home to five types of forest, myriad bird species and two deep lakes. Mljet also has a rich cultural heritage, with bright folk costumes and charming traditional handicrafts. We visit the **Roman Villa at Polace**, a spectacular late antique palace with impressive towers and an apsidal hall built perhaps in the 6th century. We proceed to the island of Korcula, reputedly the birthplace of legendary explorer Marco Polo, where we visit the **Cathedral of St. Mark**, a 15th century masterpiece influenced by Venice and complete with works by Tintoretto, as well as the **Korcula Town Museum**, housed in the 15th century Venetian style Gabrielis Palace.

Day Four | Šibenik†

After sailing overnight, we arrive mid-morning at Šibenik, founded by the Croats in the 9th century



Image: Mljet National Park

AD. After lunch on board, we travel with other passengers to the city where our Guide Lecturer will lead us on an exclusive Andante tour separate from the main group. Occupied by the Venetians between the 15th and 18th centuries, the town has a splendid array of medieval buildings including the **Cathedral of St. James**, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our afternoon ends at the Krka Falls.

Day Five | Trogir & Split

After breakfast we visit the medieval city of Trogir and we arrive in Split after lunch for a walking tour.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Our adventures take us to Trogir, a picturesque medieval and Renaissance town, founded by Greek sailors in the 3rd century BC. This town, whose Venetian historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated on a small island, linked to the mainland by bridge. Explore the town's museum, visit a tiny art gallery and marvel at the impressive **St. Lawrence Cathedral**. We acquaint ourselves with **Split**, beginning by tracing the walls and monuments of the immense **Palace of Diocletian**, interwoven with later medieval houses. Emperor Diocletian, one of the few emperors to go into real retirement, cultivated his market garden in an attempt to avoid being sucked back into the power politics of the Roman world. We visit the **Cathedral of St. Domnius**, built to house Diocletian's mausoleum and now, ironically, a church dedicated to one of the many victims of Diocletian's persecutions. We continue to the **Temple of Jupiter**, now the cathedral baptistery, and the **Peristyle**, the city's elegant central square once central to the imperial palace.

Day Six | Hvar & Vis

We arrive in sunny Hvar this morning and later sail on to Vis, once called Lissa and administratively linked to Hvar, or Lesina, under the period of Venetian domination.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We explore the centre of Hvar, another walled gem enclosing eight centuries of stunning architecture. Highlights of our tour include a visit to the **Cathedral of St. Stephen**, built in the 17th century and a mixture of renaissance and gothic architecture so typical of the Dalmatian coast; the Venetian influence extends to the paintings, including works by Santacroce. We continue to the Arsenal, which houses a 17th century public theatre on the first floor and where Roman ruins have only recently been discovered. **Vis**, founded by Dionysius the Elder has an ethereal quality about it, as though

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.



it has avowedly refused to modernise. We visit well-preserved **Roman baths**, whose mosaics have only recently been restored, and continue to the 16th century **Franciscan monastery**, built on the foundations of an imposing Roman theatre which we can see from the outside.

Day Seven | Kotor

Kotor in the last port of call of our Dalmatian adventure before we head back to the capital Dubrovnik.

Exclusive Andante excursion: On our last excursion, we visit the Montenegrin town of Kotor, which has been given UNESCO status for its impressive Venetian walls. Here, basking in the charm of its Venetian architecture, we visit the **Cathedral of St. Tryphon**, consecrated in the 12th century and which preserves Byzantine frescoes, as well as an exquisite medieval ciborium.

Day Eight | Dubrovnik - London

We disembark after breakfast and catch our return flight back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- MV La Belle de L'Adriatique: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers, and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks

*Premium branded drinks at own cost

Dates & prices per person

28th August - 4th September

	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
Lower Deck Outside Cabin with porthole windows	£4,370	£995
Main Deck Outside Cabin with porthole windows	£4,550	£995
Embarkation Deck Outside Cabin with a panoramic window	£4,750	£995
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a panoramic window	£4,950	£995

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/adcc

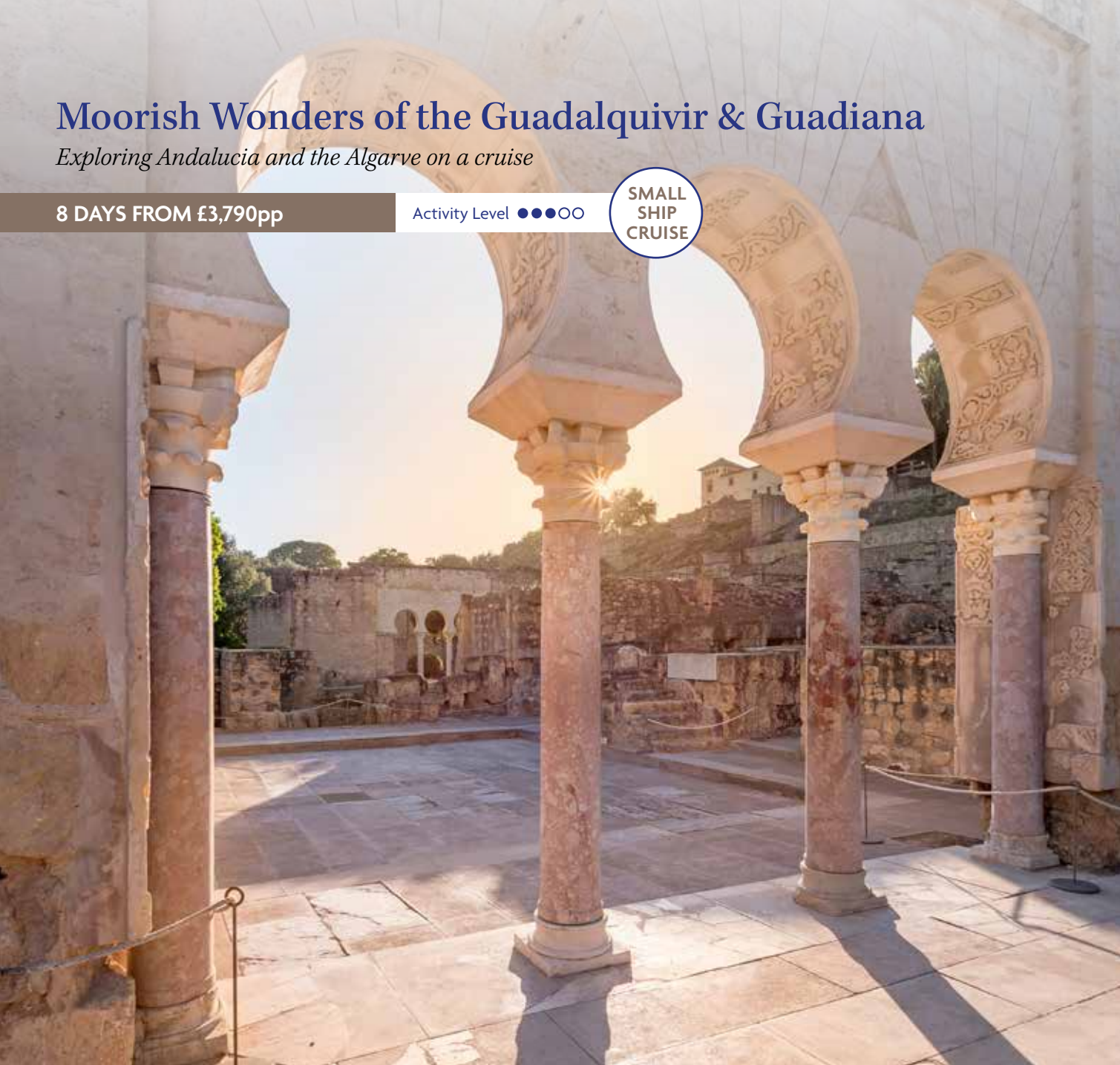
Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana

Exploring Andalucia and the Algarve on a cruise

8 DAYS FROM £3,790pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

SMALL SHIP CRUISE



Called the Baetis in the Roman period, the Guadalquivir is the most important river in Spain, not just because it is the country's only navigable river but because it flows through Andalucia, the heartbeat of Iberian history. The Guadiana, in turn, meets the Guadalquivir at the Gulf of Cadiz, thereby linking the historically rich Andalucia with the Algarve.

Sun Deck



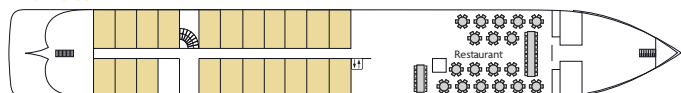
Upper Deck



Middle Deck



Main Deck



MS La Belle de Cadix

The light and bright MS La Belle de Cadix, comparable to a 4* hotel, has four decks. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the lounge and bar on the Middle Deck, the 'Pianorama' Bar is on the Upper Deck and there is a Sun Deck with chairs and deckchairs. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, en-suite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



Admire the Alhambra dubbed by Arabic poets 'the pearl set in emeralds' and unique example of Moorish architecture transformed into a Renaissance palace in the 16th century

Explore Italica, the oldest Roman city outside of Italy, and home to stunningly preserved remains unencumbered by later periods

Examine the historic remains of Cádiz, including its extraordinary Phoenician and Roman remains

Visit unique Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, a colourful blend of Islamic and Renaissance architecture



Day One | London - Seville

We start our tour by flying to Seville and, time permitting, visit the **Metropol Parasol** in the city. Afterwards we join our ship, the MS La Belle de Cadix, in Seville.

Day Two | Seville

We wake up in Seville, the capital of Andalucia, which was once the ancient city of Hispalis and later became enormously wealthy for its crucial role in the Trans-Atlantic trade.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we venture to Cordoba where we begin our exploration with the **Medina Azahara**, the 10th century palace-city built in order to administer the capital. We continue to the city's **Jewish Quarter** where we see vestiges of the multi-cultural medieval city when the city gave rise to lush luminaries as Maimonides and Averroes. We end our visit of Cordoba with the world famous **Mezquita**, or Cathedral Mosque, erected in the 8th century.

Day Three | Seville - Isla Mínima

Today our ship is moored in the vibrant city of Seville before it departs in the afternoon for the Isla Mínima set in the Marshlands of the Guadalquivir. Here we have a tour of an Andalusian hacienda before we sail to Cádiz.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit two of Seville's UNESCO listed sites, starting with the **Real Alcazar**, built in the 14th century, an important example of mudejar architecture, which is blending of Moorish and Europe styles. We continue a short



distance to the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See**, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world built in order to signal the city's increased importance after the reconquista.

Day Four | Cádiz

This morning we are in Cádiz, the important port which lays claim to being one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Located on a spit of land surrounded by sea, Cádiz retains an old quarter which bears the remains of its ancient past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we explore the important city of Cadiz founded by Phoenicians in the 9th century BC. We start with the **archaeological museum**, which contains an important collection of artefacts from the city's vast history, before proceeding to the **Roman theatre**, built in the 1st century BC and once one of the largest theatres in the empire. We end the morning with a visit to the **cathedral** built in the city's heyday when the city was enriched by the Transatlantic trade. After lunch, we visit the archaeological site which contains the remains of the Phoenician settlement of **Gadir**.

Day Five | Alcoutim - Huelva

Today we join the Guadiana which meets the Guadalquivir in Cadiz, and sail to Alcoutim, located in the Algarve, near the border, mid-morning. After a brief stay here, we sail the rest of the afternoon towards Huelva where we arrive in the evening.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we visit the 13th century **Moorish castle at Alcoutim**, whose imposing position on the right bank of the tributary river of San Marcos made it an important site from the Neolithic period onwards. The current castle belongs to the period of the reconquista when the Portuguese crown undertook defensive measures to stamp their authority over lands they gained.

Day Six | Huelva - El Puerto de Santa Maria - Seville

We awake in the Huelva, where we spend the morning before sailing in the afternoon towards El Puerto de Santa Maria in the province of Cadiz. In the evening we re-join the Guadalquivir and sail back to Seville.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Called on' u ba by the Phoenicians who settled here and later renamed Onoba by Greeks, Huelva was an important Phoenician trading post, exchanging precious metals and fish with cities throughout the Mediterranean. This morning we explore this city's important past at the important **Huelva Archaeological Museum**.

After our exclusive Andante excursion in the morning, we enjoy an evening wine tasting in the area of El Puerto de Santa Maria with other cruise passengers.

Day Seven | Granada

Having sailed through the night, we return to Seville and end our tour with one of the most impressive

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



cities in Spain, Granada. In the morning we visit the incomparable **Alhambra**, first built as a fortress in the 9th century and turned into a palace fortress in the 14th century by the Emir of Granada. The Alhambra remains the most important witness to the great flourishing of the Muslim period of Andalucia, testament to the vibrant and cosmopolitan culture which made this part of the world unique.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Granada**, which sheds light on the city itself as well as on Andalusian history.

Day Eight | Seville - London

After disembarking the ship, we end our tour by visiting one of the most important Roman sites in Spain, **Italica**. The ancient city, founded in the 3rd century BC, is one of the best preserved in Spain and includes an amphitheatre, a number of elite houses, as well as a Traianum, a shrine to the important emperor who was born there. In the afternoon, we take our return flight back to London.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- A wine-tasting experience and an excursion to the Alhambra with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MS La Belle de Cadix

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- MS La Belle de Cadix: welcome cocktail and all on board drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers, and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks.

**Premium branded drinks at own cost*

Dates & prices per person

4th - 11th September Twin/DbI Share SS

Main Deck Outside Cabin with a porthole window

~~£4,040~~ £3,790 £690

Middle Deck Outside Cabin with a window

~~£4,280~~ £4,030 £690

Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window

~~£4,480~~ £4,230 £690

Save £250pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aggc

Antiquity of the Aegean Cruise

Discover Minoan and Hellenic Gems

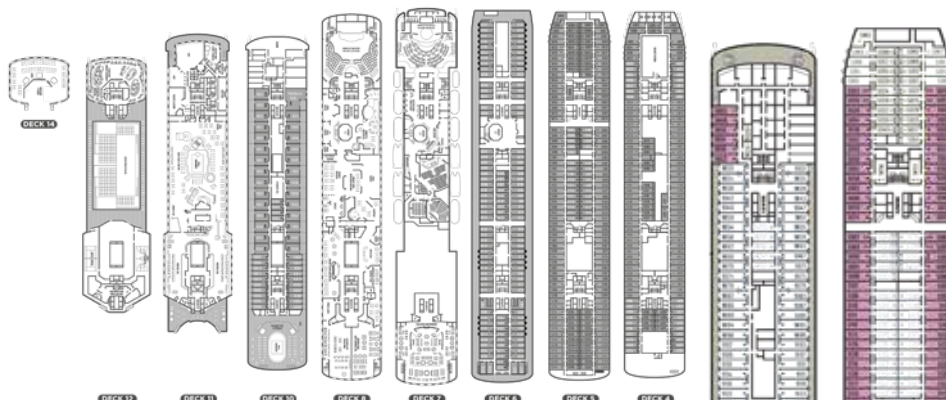
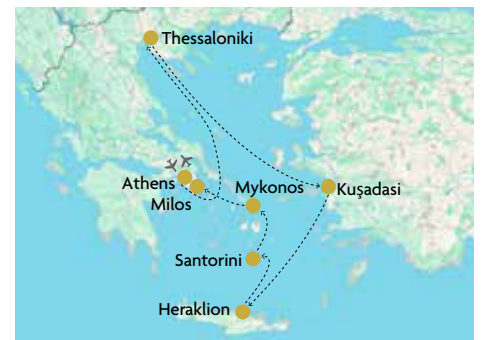
10 DAYS FROM £4,445pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

MID-SIZE
SHIP
CRUISE



The Aegean has been the setting for much mythology and history, from the Bronze Age through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onward to the Byzantine age. The tour begins in Athens, with ports of call at some of the most important cities in the ancient world. This wonderful cruise arcs across the Aegean, taking us on a journey through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean



Key Facilities & Amenities Onboard

- Deck 6 = Walking around deck
- Deck 7 = Ampitheatre Show Lounge, Thalassa Restaurant, Photo Shop & Gallery, Reception and Atrium
- Deck 8 = Restaurants, Bars, Lounges, the Casino, Agora Shops
- Deck 10 = Galazio Pool & Terrace, Bar, Sunbathing Area
- Deck 11 = The Taverna Restaurant, Halara Cove Swimming Pool, Sunbathing Area, Fig & Honey, Health & Wellness Facilities
- Deck 12 = Horizons Lounge & Disco, Sunbathing Area, Sports Activities
- Deck 14 = Sundeck sunbathing Area



Celestyal Journey

Celestyal Journey is a medium sized ship, comparable to a good 3* hotel. Comprising of 14 decks with 630 cabins and suites located across 5 of them, the remaining decks offer a wealth of facilities and amenities. The restaurants included in our cruise package are The Taverna which is buffet style and the Thalassa Restaurant which is a la carte. There are plenty of bars and lounges on board to relax in and reflect on the day, including the Blue Bar and Lounge, the Martini Piano Bar and Lounges and the Ocean Bar and Lounge. The main area for entertainment is in the Ampitheatre Show Lounge. Other facilities include a casino, small shops, a gym, a health & beauty spa, Jacuzzi, sauna and relaxation room. Wi-fi is payable onboard.

Explore the Athenian Acropolis, the sanctuary in the heart of Athens, with the iconic Erechtheum and Parthenon

Gaze at the Royal Tombs in Vergina including that of Philip II, complete with stunning frescos and gold grave goods

Wander through the stunning city of Ephesus, famed for its rich architecture, including the Library of Celsus in Ephesus

Visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, the centre of Europe's oldest civilisation

Examine the staggering remains on Delos, including Sanctuary of Apollo, birthplace of the god and his twin sister, Artemis



Day One | London - Athens

We fly into the Athens, the iconic Greek capital and make our way to our hotel in the city centre. This evening we have our first dinner as a group.

Day Two | Athens

We begin with a walking tour of Athens, followed by a visit to the **Acropolis**, the ancient citadel of Athens, housing the most iconic of buildings, the **Parthenon**. We lunch in the Plaka, a lively area of small streets with cafes and restaurants. After lunch, we visit the beautifully designed Acropolis Museum to see the collection of finds from the Acropolis.

Day Three | Athens

We visit the **Agora**, once the city's market centre and the **Agora Museum**. We continue to the extensive **Kerameikos cemetery**. The site was a major crossroads in antiquity, and you can see remains of the massive **Dipylon Gate** and the **Sacred Gate**, where participants in the Panathenaic Festival gathered before heading through the Ancient Agora and ascending to the Parthenon. After lunch, we make our way to the ancient port of Piraeus, where we embark upon our ship Celestyal Journey. After settling into our cabins, we have our first dinner on board and set sail toward Thessaloniki.

Day Four | Thessaloniki

We join an excursion to visit the Royal Tombs at Aegae, modern Vergina. Here, in the company of our Andante Guide Lecturer, we explore the extraordinary royal tombs, including the tomb of Philip II, the father of Alexander, which includes his shield and breastplate, as well as the god casket which bears his remains and gold diadems.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: After lunch on board our ship, we explore the remains of Thessaloniki, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We visit the Roman forum as well as the agora before seeing the palace complex of Galerius, which includes his triumphal arch and incredible rotunda. After dining on board, we set sail for Ephesus.

Day Five | Kusadasi (Ephesus)

We arrive in Kusadasi and after lunch onboard we join other passengers on the Celestyal excursion to **Ephesus**, famed for its gigantic temple and sanctuary of Diana/Artemis. We visit the remains dating to the Roman period, which include the delightful Magnesium and Temple of Hadrian, as well as the agora and bath complex, complete with an intact latrine. The highlight of the site is the Library of Celsus whose stunning façade is the symbol of the city. In the evening, we board the ship to sail toward Crete.

Day Six | Heraklion

We start the day with a trip to the neighbouring **Knossos** and explore the wondrous Minoan remains excavated and reconstructed by Arthur Evans at the beginning of the 20th century. One of the most famous sites in the world, Evans identified Knossos

as the home of the legendary King Minos based on the labyrinthine layout of the palace, which has since been identified as a city more than a palace. We return to the boat for lunch and then venture back into the city for the afternoon.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This afternoon, we take in the **Archaeological Museum**. Housed here are stunning remains and artefacts from the Minoan age. Many of the frescos from the archaeological sites are here as well as intricately worked jewellery.

Day Seven | Santorini

The ship is moored on the spectacular island of Santorini, famed for its natural beauty, as well as the eruption of the volcano in the 17th century BC which shaped the island, making it horseshoe-shaped, as well as Bronze Age, perhaps causing the decline of Minoan culture. The whole day is spent exploring the remains of the remarkable history and remains of the ancient island. Late evening we sail toward Mykonos.

Exclusive Andante Excursions: Our day begins at the Prehistoric **Museum in Fira**, home to dazzling wall paintings from the Minoan buildings at **Akrotiri**, including the fresco of the Blue Monkeys. After lunch we visit Akrotiri which was preserved in the volcanic debris and its archaeological excavation opens a window into the Minoan world. Artefacts from across the Mediterranean show extensive trade links while richly coloured and carefully executed frescoes point to the wealth and culture of the inhabitants.

Day Eight | Mykonos (Delos)

We arrive in Mykonos in the early morning and see the iconic windmills support its nickname of the Island of the Winds. We spend the whole day exploring Delos, an important island, the birthplace of Leto's twins, the deities Apollo and Artemis. Late evening our ship sets sail for Milos.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: As well as housing the important **sanctuary of Apollo and Artemis**, the island was the base for the Delian League, set up as a defensive alliance of Greek city-states against the threat from the Persian empire. We spend the morning exploring the sanctuary, as well as the **Terrace of the Lions** that overlooks the Sacred Lake. In the afternoon, we visit the **Doric temples** as well as the remains of several houses, including the better-preserved ones of Dionysus and Cleopatra.

Day Nine | Milos

We arrive at the beautiful island of Milos, dramatically shaped by volcanic activity. The island was visited by St. Paul, inadvertently on his voyage to Athens when he was shipwrecked. Christianity took root and remains of this early encounter are visible in the catacombs of Milos, which were the reason for the island's being declared a Holy Island in 2014. We sail back to Athens in the evening.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This morning, we venture to the Bronze Age sites of **Phylakopi**

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Miranda Spitha

Miranda studied archaeology in Italy and is from Crete, so is very knowledgeable about history and contemporary life in Greece. She is an official registered Greek Guide and has accompanied many of our Greek tours.



and **Klima** where we explore the Hellenistic and Roman remains. The morning ends with a visit to the **Paleochristian Catacombs**. After lunch back onboard, we head out in the afternoon to visit the Archaeological Museum which hosts a vast array of remains dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age periods, including Cycladic, Minoan and Mycenaean remains.

Day Ten | Athens - London

We arrive back at Piraeus in Athens. After disembarking our ship, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary¹
- Excursion to Ephesus with Celestyal, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights in an Athens hotel & 7 nights cruise aboard Celestyal Journey

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- Celestyal Journey: drinks served with meals are teas, coffee, soft drinks, beers and house wines

^{*}Premium branded drinks at own cost

¹Please note that on some excursions we share the transport with other cruise passengers to and from a site or venue.

Dates & prices per person

29th May - 7th June & 9th - 18th October

Twin/Db'l Share **SS**

Exterior Cosmos Cabin with window on Decks 5 or 9

£4,745 £4,445 £570

Save £300pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.co.uk/aaac





Frequently asked questions

WILL I RECEIVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION WHEN I BOOK?

Yes, for all UK residents. All of our tours are fully bonded and protected via the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL scheme (flight-based holidays for UK residents) or through ABTOT (for holidays that don't include flights).

ARE YOUR TOURS SUSTAINABLE?

We work hard to ensure that our visits have a positive and respectful impact on the ancient places we go to. Our brochures and packing materials are made from recycled and sustainable sources, and we're always striving to improve on this where we can. We always buy local for treats and picnic lunches, and do our best to avoid single-use plastics on our tours where possible.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR?

We include as much as possible, from return flights, all sites listed in the itinerary, tips to local staff and breakfast, lunch and dinner (more often than not with wine at dinner). We like to think of everything and you shouldn't need much spending money other than for souvenirs, drinks at the bar and the occasional independent meal.

WHAT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED TO ENJOY A TOUR?

All you need in order to enjoy a tour with Andante is a passion for travel and a curiosity for the past. These are itineraries that everyone can enjoy, and are accessible for all interest levels.

DO YOU ACCEPT LATE BOOKINGS?

While we always recommend that you book as early as possible, we do understand that sometimes the spirit of adventure is too strong to ignore and often do take late bookings! Our Specialist Travel Executives are happy to help with late availability, should you require their assistance. It is, however, worth bearing in mind that the best prices will only ever be available to early bookers, so it does pay to plan ahead.

CAN I TAILOR MY TOUR?

Sometimes our guests want to add little extras to their tours to make their time away a bit more special. If you wish to fly out early or stay for a few extra days after your tour ends, we can book your flights accordingly or arrange local flights where possible for an additional fee. You may also wish to upgrade your flights or room, just call us to discuss.

WILL A STAFF MEMBER BE ON HAND AT ALL TIMES?

Absolutely. When you travel with us, you are looked after round the clock. In the event of an emergency, our team members will help you both on tour and from our UK office. We are experts in dealing with the unexpected and we are on call 24 hours a day to support you and the tour staff accompanying your trip.

WHAT KIND OF GUEST GOES ON ANDANTE TOURS?

Over the past 40 years, our groups have contained people of all ages and from all walks of life. Parties are a mixture of solo travellers and those holidaying with partners or friends. The majority are people whose families have grown up, leaving them with time to pursue their own interests, but there is usually a spread of ages. The atmosphere on our tours is easy-going, informal and, of course, fun.

HOW ACTIVE ARE THE TOURS?

We have a simple grading system from one to five in place, which should help you decide whether or not a tour is suitable (see page 5). You'll find this featured at the top of each tour page. If you would like more information about a particular itinerary, please just give us a call.

DO I NEED TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Yes, we have a duty of care for all of our guests and we must ensure that you are covered for any necessary medical issues or repatriation needs as we will not be able to cover these costs or access your personal funds. Your insurance will also need to cover you in the event that you have to cancel your trip.

Booking terms & conditions

Your package holiday booking is with Andante Travels, The Clock Tower, 4 Oakridge Office Park, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT.

Telephone: 01772 713800 email: tours@andantetravels.com

These Booking Conditions, together with our Privacy Policy and where your holiday is booked via our website, our Website Terms of Use, together with any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, form the basis of your contract with Andante Travels Limited, The Clock Tower, Unit 4 Oakridge Office Park, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT, company number 1969761 ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Booking Conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- he/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- he/she is over 18 years of age and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. BOOKING & PAYING FOR YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

A booking is made with us when you pay us a deposit (or full payment) and we issue you with a booking confirmation. We reserve the right to return your deposit (see the tables below) and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, and you are a resident of the UK, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document we send you are wrong, you must advise us immediately as changes cannot be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document.

DEPOSITS:

Holiday cost	UK guests deposit	US guests deposit
Up to £1,000 / \$1,000	£300 per person	\$300 per person
£1,001 to £2,500 / \$1,001 to \$2,500	£650 per person	\$650 per person
£2,501 to £5,000 / \$2,501 to \$5,000	£850 per person	\$850 per person
£5,001-£10,000 / \$5,001-\$10,000	£1,200 per person	\$1,200 per person
£10,001+ / \$10,001+	£1,700 per person	\$1,700 per person

The balance of the cost of your arrangements (including any applicable surcharge) is due not less than 14 weeks prior to scheduled departure. If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case we shall retain your deposit.

If you are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when flights are booked.

Ways to pay - We accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges. (Please note: If you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered in countries outside the EEA and the USA).

2. ACCURACY

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website [and in our brochures] are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before you make your booking.

3. INSURANCE

Adequate travel insurance is a condition of your contract with us and is compulsory for holidays outside of the UK. You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness. Details of a policy suitable to cover the arrangements you book are available by contacting Global Travel Insurance. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available.

4. PRICING

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increases which are a direct consequence of changes in:

- the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
- the level of taxes or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and
- the exchange rates relevant to the package.

Such variations could include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other transport providers.

You will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this condition. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £100. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

5. JURISDICTION & APPLICABLE LAW

These Booking Conditions and any agreement to which they apply are governed in all respects by English law. We both agree that any dispute, claim or other matter which arises between us out of or in connection with your contract or booking will be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

6. CUTTING YOUR HOLIDAY SHORT

If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

7. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR BOOKING & TRANSFERS OF BOOKINGS

If you wish to change any part of your booking after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you must inform us in writing or by phone as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will do our best to assist, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your requested change. Where we can meet a request,

all changes will be subject to payment of an administration fee of £100 per person per change, as well as any costs and charges incurred by us and/or incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with condition 8.

Transfer of Booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £100 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in condition 8 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.

8. IF YOU CANCEL YOUR BOOKING BEFORE DEPARTURE

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing or by phone. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices and will be effective from the date on which we receive it.

Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

Since we incur costs in cancelling your arrangements, you will have to pay the cancellation charges as follows:

Period before departure	Cancellation Charge in which you notify us
98 days or more	deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
84 – 97 days	deposit plus 15% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
64 – 83 days	deposit plus 35% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
46 – 63 days	deposit plus 55% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
31 – 45 days	deposit plus 75% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
0 - 30 days	100%

Study Days are non-refundable.

Please note that insurance premiums and amendments charges are not refundable in any circumstances.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or

cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Where possible, we will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any monies you have already paid to us.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract applicable to your holiday at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. You must be able to show at the time you wish to cancel that there is no reasonable possibility of your holiday going ahead, in order to rely on this clause.

For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which significantly affect travel to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract.

This condition 8 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

9. IF WE CHANGE OR CANCEL

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes: If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of what might be "significant changes" dependent upon the details of your booking include the following, when made before departure:

- (a) A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (b) A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (c) A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- (d) A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - I. The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - II. The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - III. The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - IV. The Midlands airports: Birmingham and East Midlands
 - V. The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - VI. The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - VII. The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- (e) A significant change to your itinerary.

Cancellation: Unless we absolutely have to, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 30 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Events Beyond Our Control or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- i (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or

- ii having a refund of all monies paid in respect to your package; or
- iii if available and where we offer one, accepting an offer of an alternative holiday (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Insurance: If we cancel or make a significant change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- (a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- (b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

Please get in touch with us directly to discuss compensation.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- (a) where we make a minor change;
- (b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 60 days before departure;
- (c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- (d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- (e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- (f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Events Beyond Our Control (please see condition 10).

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

10. EVENTS BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Events Beyond our Control". For the purposes of these Booking Conditions, Events Beyond Our Control means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Examples include warfare and acts of terrorism (and threat thereof), civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

Guides - In the case of events beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

Flights - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

11. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

12. DISABILITIES & MEDICAL PROBLEMS

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your booking, please provide us with full details before you make your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

13. COMPLAINTS

We make every effort to ensure that your holiday arrangements run smoothly but if you do have a problem during your holiday, please inform the tour manager or the relevant supplier immediately as they will endeavour to put things right. If this is not possible please contact the UK office or the emergency number on your final travel documentation.

If the problem cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must send formal written notice of your complaint to us at our office, ideally within 28 days of the end of your stay, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. Failure to follow the procedure set out in this condition may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint and will affect your rights under this contract.

14. YOUR BEHAVIOUR

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our opinion or in the opinion of any hotel manager or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any other customers or any third party, or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other arrangements immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

15. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional

services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.

(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

(a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected;

(b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

(c) Events Beyond Our Control (as defined in condition 10).

(4) We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:

(a) **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) **Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:**

i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. **You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package.** The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your

holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this condition that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

(a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;

(b) relate to any business;

(c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your holiday, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

16. EXCURSIONS

Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your contracted arrangements with us. For any excursion or other tour that you book, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

17. INSOLVENCY PROTECTION

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive [packages and ATOL protected flights] by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 4498, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons

of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection for our non-flight inclusive tours under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Andante Travels Limited, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

• Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Limited.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

You can find out more about ABTOT here: <https://www.abtot.com/>

If you book arrangements other than package holidays from us, your monies will not be financially protected. Please ask us for further details.

18. ENTRY, PASSPORT, VISA & IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS, SAFETY & HEALTH FORMALITIES

We can only provide general information regarding entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements and safety and health formalities applicable to your package itinerary. It is your responsibility to check such requirements (in good time before departure), in order to make your decisions to fulfil such requirements regarding your destination and/or the country(ies) through which you may be transiting through.

Such information which you may need to check includes (but is not limited to) passport requirements including how valid your passport must be after return date, whether your passport must be machine readable or which visas/waivers may be required for entry such as ESTA for USA travel, ETIAS for EU travel and/or the UK ETA if you are entering and exiting the United Kingdom.

You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant bodies as applicable. We have provided a few useful resources below, though **it is your responsibility to check and see if such a body would be relevant to yourself.**

- the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ("FCDO"; <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>) (applicable to UK residents);
- UK Passport Office (0870 5210410 or <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship>).
- Embassies, High Commission and/or Consulates;
- own doctor.

For UK residents booking European travel, you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC cannot be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

EES – European Entry and Exit system

All non-EU nationals travelling to a European country will be subject to checks at the border. The EES system replaces passport stamping and automates border control procedures collecting and recording the data in your passport, your date and place of entry and exit from a European country and also your facial image and fingerprints. In most cases these checks will be carried out upon arrival in the EU when arriving by air, however, due to the dual French and UK border arrangements in Dover, these checks will take place in Dover for coach passengers, prior to boarding the ship for the cross channel

sailing or at London St Pancras International and Paris Gare du Nord self-service pre-registration kiosk before going through the ticket gates if travelling via Eurostar.

European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)

During 2025 the rules of travel to Europe will change and there will be an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals. Travellers will be required to make an online application for and obtain an ETIAS travel authorisation to enter most EU countries, a fee of €7 will be charged. Once confirmed this is linked to your passport and will be valid for 3 years or until your passport expires if that is sooner. If you get a new passport, you will need a new ETIAS travel authorisation. You must carry the email confirming your successful ETIAS submission and unique ETIAS application number along with your passport when travelling as both documents will be checked at the border. ETIAS is not required for Crown Dependencies – Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, or the common travel areas of Northern and Southern Ireland. Further details can be found at travel-europe.europa.eu and we will update this page as exact dates and further details are released.

19. CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIERS

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

20. PROMPT ASSISTANCE

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

21. DELAYS, MISSED TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS & OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact our head office and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

Under UK Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details

of these rights will be publicised at UK airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in condition 10 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been despatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know.

Please note the existence of a "UK Air Safety list" (available for inspection at <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/licensing/requirements-and-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/>) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats will be refunded.

Some of our tours involve transfers or transport between, for instance, mainland and an island. Where ferries, and similar, are disrupted you may need to engage your travel insurance dependent upon the situation.

22. ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

23. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Andante Travels Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://andantetravels.com/privacy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

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