

# WORLDWIDE ARCHAEOLOGY TOURS COLLECTION 2025

Discover Archaeology, History and Ancient Civilisations

9 new tours | Small groups | Guided by experts

Save up to \$1,120pp\* | \$0 Single Supplement places available





## Travel with the experts

Winners of a Feefo 2024 Gold Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service, also winning a silver at the British Travel Awards 2023 for the Best Travel Company to Italy/Western Mediterranean Islands. And, our very own John Shepherd won the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023.



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

From November 2024 onwards, new mandatory border checks (EES – Entry & Exit System for Visiting the EU) and travel authorisation requirements (ETIAS – European Travel Information Authorisation System) will affect your holiday. Please read the information on page 162 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>

PART OF THE SPECIALIST JOURNEYS GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS

# WELCOME

Dear Traveller

We are delighted to present our second edition brochure for 2025, featuring an extensive collection of tours that offer a fascinating window into the past. If you haven't travelled with us before – a very big welcome, and if you have – a very big welcome back.

As the first specialist UK operator to go beyond the surface of archaeological travel, you can expect a truly unique, pioneering and informative experience that digs deeper into bygone eras and uncovers some of the world's most awe-inspiring sites. We take you to the very best of your chosen destination, all in the company of like-minded travellers, a friendly Tour Manager, a knowledgeable Guide Lecturer and, on certain tours, a local guide too. Planned for just 18 participants, these small groups mean you will receive a highly personalised service and in-depth explorations of world-famous wonders as well as a sense of shared companionship.

Alongside some perennial favourites, we are pleased to present some captivating new tours for the year ahead. On *Guatemala, Honduras & Belize*, delve into the ancient Mayan civilisation and immerse yourself in Central America's lands of colourful quetzal birds, jaguars, lush rainforests, volcanoes, lakes and waterfalls. Or, why not enjoy an introduction to the Minoans and journey to the sun-drenched island of Crete to admire its stunning archaeology, charming villages and striking landscapes on an unforgettable tour from East to West? Those wishing to uncover the centuries-old gems of Albania are in luck for 2025, as we are joined by Oliver Gilkes, an eminent archaeologist who spent 30 years excavating this remarkable country and trained students on the dig at impressive Butrint – so it won't disappoint!

We are also excited by our brand-new tour to Rome, based in a privately-owned historic hotel in the heart of the bustling metropolis and accompanied by archaeologists and historians who illuminate the triumphs, tragedies and political intrigue of the Eternal City. Be sure to take a look at *Egypt – New Museums & Discoveries* too, a celebration of the ever-changing nature of archaeology, which features a visit to the recently excavated tombs in Saqqara.

As always, our prices include everything, from the essentials to site donations, tips to drivers, local guides and hospitality staff plus most, if not all, meals as standard – with wine often included too. With everything taken care of for you, you can simply relax and make the most out of your holiday.

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.

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



*Jackie Willis*

CEO

## GET IN TOUCH WITH AN EXPERT

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

**646 802 1527 | [ANDANTETRAVELS.COM](https://www.andantetravels.com)**

## Travel for less with our Special Offers

### 2025 SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE up to \$1,120pp\*

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

**Offer ends 14th October 2024.**

### PAY IN FULL - AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF 10%

If you pay in full at the time you book, you can take advantage of an additional 10% discount.

**Offer ends 14th October 2024.**

### \$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We have over 150 places on selected tour departures in 2025 with no single supplement to pay, but when they are gone, they are gone – so look out for this sticker on the tour pages.

**\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE**

#### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

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

**2025 SPECIAL OFFER:** The discounts advertised are off the full selling price. Valid for new bookings only made up until 14th October 2024, and on a limited number of places on each tour departing in 2025. \*The discount of \$1,120 per person applies to our Egypt Encompassed tour departing on 10th February 2025 p108, and our Chile & Easter Island tour departing on 12th March 2025 p140. These discounts can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

**PAY IN FULL - AN ADDITIONAL SAVING OF 10%:** The 10% discount is applied to the remaining balance after any discount, customer holiday vouchers or credit notes have been applied. Valid for new bookings only made up until the 14th October 2024, on tours departing in 2025, and on a limited number of places on each tour departure. This discount 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. These places are also subject to hotel availability. This discount can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

# CONTENTS

From memorable experiences to special access, and from our renowned expert Guide Lecturers to hand-picked hotels, take a look at our broad range of award-winning tours on offer and choose your next ancient world adventure.

<b>ITALY</b> .....	<b>14</b>	<b>AFRICA &amp; EGYPT</b> .....	<b>90</b>
Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania .....	16	Morocco & Andalucía.....	92
Classical Sicily .....	20	The Romans in Algeria.....	94
<b>NEW</b> Rome .....	22	Tunisia - North & South .....	96
Romans on the Bay of Naples.....	24	Carthage & Roman Tunisia.....	98
<b>NEW</b> Prehistoric Italy .....	26	South Africa & Great Zimbabwe.....	100
Puglia & Basilicata .....	28	<b>NEW</b> Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries.....	104
The Samnites.....	30	Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries .....	106
Archeology in the Heart of Italy.....	32	Egypt Encompassed .....	108
Latium Countryside.....	34	<b>EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST</b> .....	<b>112</b>
Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice .....	36	Byzantium & Ottoman Istanbul.....	114
The Island of Sardinia .....	38	Classical Turkey: The Aegean Coast .....	116
Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto .....	40	Turkey: From Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe.....	118
<b>GREECE</b> .....	<b>42</b>	Jordan - Petra & the Desert Fortresses.....	120
Athens .....	44	<b>NEW</b> Oman.....	122
The Ancient Argolid.....	45	<b>ASIA</b> .....	<b>124</b>
The Peloponnese.....	46	<b>NEW</b> Vietnam, The Mekong & Cambodia .....	126
Crete & Santorini.....	48	Armenia & Georgia .....	130
<b>NEW</b> Crete - Introducing the Minoans .....	50	Uzbekistan.....	132
Discover the Dodecanese .....	52	<b>THE AMERICAS</b> .....	<b>134</b>
The Cyclades .....	54	Brazil - Rock Art & the Pantanal .....	136
Macedonia.....	56	Chile & Easter Island.....	140
Wild Thrace.....	58	<b>NEW</b> Guatemala, Honduras & Belize .....	144
<b>REST OF EUROPE</b> .....	<b>60</b>	Mexico - The Maya.....	148
Hidden Paris .....	62	<b>UK</b> .....	<b>150</b>
Chauvet & Cosquer .....	63	Highlights of Orkney .....	151
Brittany - Carnac & Beyond.....	64	Orkney & Shetland .....	152
Romans & Gauls .....	66	Walking Hadrian's Wall .....	154
Cave Art of the Dordogne.....	68	Richard III - Hero or Villain? .....	156
Roman Germany.....	70	Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast .....	157
Berlin - Beyond the Wall.....	72		
Vienna.....	73		
Romans, Visigoths & Viziers.....	74		
Rock Art of Portugal & Spain.....	76		
Highlights of the Viking Homelands.....	78		
The Archeology of Roman Istria.....	80		
<b>NEW</b> Frontier Lands of Romania .....	82		
Bulgaria.....	84		
<b>NEW</b> Albania .....	86		
Prehistoric Malta & Gozo .....	88		



# OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER MATCHED



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.

## WHY BOOK WITH ANDANTE TRAVELS?

- We keep it small with a maximum group size of 18
- We take you to see the key sights - our insider knowledge is garnered from nearly 40 years of touring
- Enjoy quality time on site – we don't cut corners
- We only see the very best on tour and only add free time when it is in the best interests of guests to do so
- Travel with Tour Managers as well as Guide Lecturers so they can focus on informing
- Learn from our high calibre Guide Lecturers - all are experts and highly regarded in their field
- Enjoy carefully thought-out programmes that follow a theme
- Excellent value – inclusive of 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

## 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.

Look out for this panel on all our tour pages

Activity Level ○○○○

### 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.

# KNOWLEDGE YOU WON'T FIND ELSEWHERE

What makes an Andante Travels tour a cut above the rest? The simple answer 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.



*“This is the first time I have travelled with Andante and it was exceptionally good!... One thing that surprised me was the impact of spending a week with people who had worked together for so many years... That easy familiarity was very, very special.”*





### 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 our new Rome tour p22, The Samnites p30, Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice p36, Macedonia p56 and on our new Albania tour p86.



### 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 p32, Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto p40, The Archaeology of Roman Istria p80, Morocco & Andalucía p92 and Carthage & Roman Tunisia p98.



### 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 p114 and Turkey: from Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe p118.



### 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, Classical Sicily p20, our new Rome tour p22 and Tunisia - North & South p96.



### 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 p45, The Peloponnese p46, Crete & Santorini p48, Macedonia p56 and Wild Thrac p58.



### 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 p20, Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice p36, Lake Garda & The Cities of Veneto p40, The Romans in Algeria p94, Tunisia - North & South p96 & Carthage & Roman Tunisia p98.



### 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 p68, Rock Art of Spain & Portugal p76, and our unique tours to Brazil - Rock Art & the Pantanal p136 and Chile & Easter Island p140.



### 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, Romans on the Bay of Naples p24, our new Rome tour p22, Hidden Paris p61, 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 p104, Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries p106 and Egypt Encompassed p108, to discover the archaeology of this great civilisation.



# 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 tittle 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.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

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.





## \$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.

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 this sticker on the tour pages.

**\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE**

### **Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania**

Departing: Multiple dates in 2025 – p16

### **Romans on the Bay of Naples**

Departing: 3rd & 31st March, 20th October & 3rd November – p24

### **Puglia & Basilicata**

Departing: 23rd September – p28

### **The Samnites**

Departing: 26th April & 15th October – p30

### **Athens**

Departing: 6th November – p44

### **The Ancient Argolid**

Departing: 21st October – p45

### **Chauvet & Cosquer**

Departing: 8th April – p63

### **Cave Art of the Dordogne**

Departing: 6th May & 9th September – p68

### **Berlin - Beyond the Wall**

Departing: 4th December – p72

### **Rock Art of Portugal & Spain**

Departing: 19th May – p76

### **The Romans in Algeria**

Departing: 16th February & 23rd November – p94

### **Armenia & Georgia**

Departing: 2nd October – p130

### **Uzbekistan**


Departing: 12th September - p132

### **Richard III - Hero or Villain?**

Departing: 30th September - p156

### **Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast**

Departing: 21st May - p157



*“I loved my tour to Armenia and Georgia- the local guides were excellent and the small group of fellow travelers made lectures and tours easy. It was lovely to get to know people - not just on the surface but to really get to know people as we traveled, walked and climbed. Ian was great.”*



# ANDANTE VALUE





## 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 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.

## QUALITY TIME ON SITE – WE DON'T CUT CORNERS

When you choose an archaeological tour with Andante, rest assured that your time at sites both iconic and lesser known will be very well spent. We don't cut corners, you won't be rushed, and your visits throughout will be at a pace that independent travellers aim for when they explore the ancient world.

## PROGRAMMES THAT FOLLOW A THEME

Our itineraries are designed by experts and led by them, too which means our tours remain engaging and invigorating, as it's in their warm and skilful presence that the past quickly springs to life. Our programmes are diverse and exciting, with each itinerary delving deeper into the stories of an era, a particular civilisation, or the life of a particular individual.

## 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 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 cost. Dinner is often taken at a local restaurant and most evening meals include wine.



*“I enjoyed every minute, I felt safe and well looked after, I learnt and saw so much. A good holiday.”*

# NEW ADVENTURES IN 2025

During the winter months we have been beavering away planning new tours, improving existing ones and searching out the very best archaeology and travel experiences there are to find across the globe.

It's always an exciting time and the enthusiasm of our Guide Lecturers is infectious. Dr Nicholas James had us all vying for a place on our new and improved Guatemala, Honduras and Belize tour with his descriptions of the deep blue water, dramatic mountains and lush cloud forests around Lake Atitlan – we have added two nights here to make the most of the Mayan culture in the area and those wonderful lake views.

Encouraged by the thought of star studded Arabian skies and rolling dunes, our Oman tour is now embellished by a trip to Wahiba Sands, a vast desert region inhabited by the Bani Wahiba, Al-Harthy and Al-Hinawy tribes in Oman. We shall spend the night at a luxury desert camp – enough to spark anyone's spirit of adventure.

In Egypt, we have not one - although it is a big one – new museum to enjoy but three! If the Great Egyptian Museum is not enough, you can fill your boots with the Imhotep Museum at Saqqara and Greco Roman Museum in Alexandria both recently opened after years of renovation work. For those of us who have been to Egypt before, we have made a lovely bundle of all three Museums and added some of the new tomb discoveries at Saqqara to enjoy.

Rome has some new sites to discover too. Added to our programme next year is 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. The last time the remains of the ancient map were seen by the public was a century ago! Also included by popular demand is a trip to Tivoli to see Hadrian's Villa.

There is also good news if you have been looking for old favourites making a comeback – Albania, Bulgaria and Istanbul programmes are once more on offer with the three experts who know them best. Having excavated, published and guided on these destinations, you couldn't choose anyone better to show you around.

*“This was an absolutely wonderful holiday..... I am still thinking about all that we saw and learned, and feeling refreshed and inspired by the time we spent in Chile. Really, one of the best holidays I have had in a long time. THANK YOU, ANDANTE!”*



## ROME

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 archaeologist and historians who will bring to life the triumphs, tragedies and political intrigue that characterised the Roman Empire. We stay at the privately owned Albergo Santa Chiara in the very heart of the ancient city, the perfect base for exploring Rome. Page 22

**Departing: 21st March, 25th April & 1st November 2025**



## FRONTIER LANDS OF ROMANIA

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 – 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. Page 82

**Departing: 13th September 2025**



## OMAN

Oman has been a crossroads of commerce for millennia and its archaeology has only recently begun to be understood. During this tour we travel from the mountains of Muscat to the beaches of Salalah, we explore the hub of Classical Arabia Felix, the great incense city of Sumhuram with a special drive out into the Empty Quarter to take us to the site of the lost city of Ubar, entrepot of the Frankincense trade. Page 122

**Departing: 31st January 2025**





### PREHISTORIC ITALY

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. 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. Page 26

**Departing: 31st May 2025**



### CRETE - INTRODUCING THE MINOANS

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. 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. Page 50

**Departing: 8th April & 7th October 2025**



### ALBANIA

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. Oliver Gilkes spent 30 years excavating in this fascinating country. His observations add interest and depth to our study of this land in ancient times and he is a well-known and well-loved figure here and the best guide to the archaeology of this country. Page 86

**Departing: 19th April 2025 2025**



### EGYPT - NEW MUSEUMS & DISCOVERIES

Archaeology in Egypt is seeing another Golden Age, this time led by local Egyptians themselves. 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. Page 104

**Departing: 28th January 2025**



### VIETNAM, THE MEKONG & CAMBODIA

Mysterious cities, atmospheric forests and colonial grandeur await in these evocative parts of southeast Asia. Home to some of the world's most iconic archaeological sites, our expert Guide Lecturer will accompany us during our journey back to the past as we wander ruined temple sites, explore collections housed in great museums and discover breathtaking architecture as well as enjoying a relaxing cruise along the Mekong. Combine this with history, culture and delicious regional cuisine of both Cambodia and Vietnam. Page 126

**Departing: 24th March 2025**



### GUATEMALA, HONDURAS & BELIZE

The juxtaposition of extreme cruelty and high cultural sophistication in the Maya world takes modern visitors by surprise but this enduring mystery of a magnificent civilisation, compounded by exotic jungle surroundings, make for a thrilling 'page-turner' of a tour. Much of Central America is still covered in lush rainforests as it would have been in most of the Maya period, so we are in a land of quetzal birds and jaguars, of volcanoes, lakes and waterfalls. Page 144

**Departing: 12th February 2025**







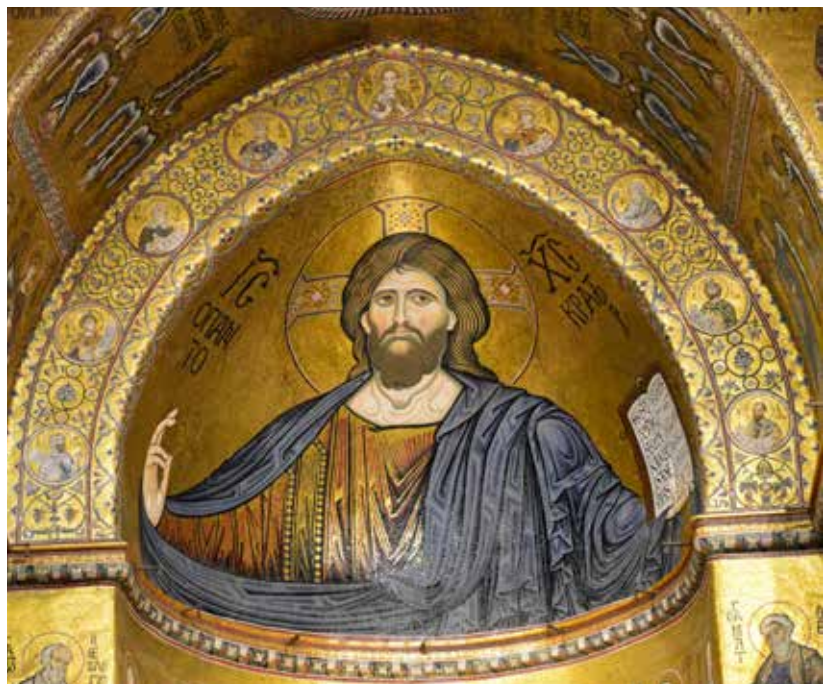
# ITALY

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 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.





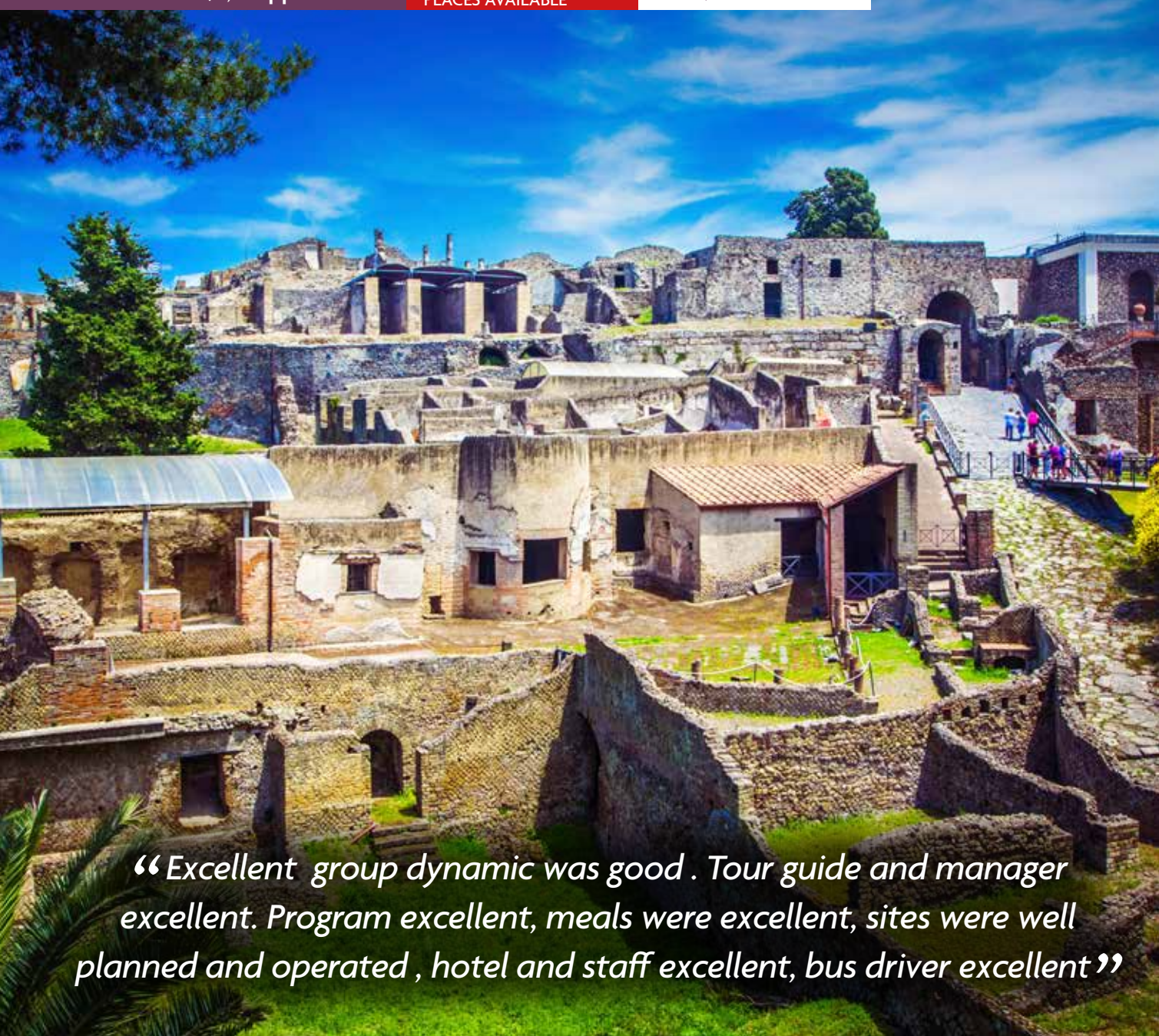
# Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

*Exclusive access to the off-site theatre of Herculaneum*

8 DAYS FROM \$3,685pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



*“Excellent group dynamic was good . Tour guide and manager excellent. Program excellent, meals were excellent, sites were well planned and operated , hotel and staff excellent, bus driver excellent”*

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.





## Tour highlights

- 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 | Naples - Cava de' Tirreni

Meet the group at Naples airport or at our hotel in Cava de' Tirreni.

### 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 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



## 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 27th January & 29th September departures.



### 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. Join Doru on our 17th March 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 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.



### 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.



scale. Subject to renovations being completed, we hope to visit the **Villa Arianna**, 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.

*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”*



#### 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. 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





## 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.

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

After breakfast we transfer to Naples airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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
27th Jan - 3rd Feb	<del>\$3,965</del> \$3,685	<del>\$370</del> \$0
17th Mar - 24th Mar	<del>\$4,255</del> \$3,975	<del>\$370</del> \$0
7th Apr - 14th Apr	<del>\$4,185</del> \$3,905	<del>\$370</del> \$0
28th Apr - 5th May	<del>\$4,185</del> \$3,905	<del>\$370</del> \$0
5th - 12th May	<del>\$4,250</del> \$3,970	<del>\$370</del> \$0
15th - 22nd Sep	<del>\$4,280</del> \$4,000	<del>\$370</del> \$0
29th Sep - 6th Oct	<del>\$4,280</del> \$4,000	<del>\$370</del> \$0
6th Oct - 13th Oct	<del>\$4,280</del> \$4,000	<del>\$370</del> \$0

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apom](https://andantetravels.com/apom)





12 DAYS FROM \$8,160pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Classical Sicily

*Rich archaeological sites and impressive artistic achievements*

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 | Catania

Meet the group 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 stelai. 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.

### 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 - Ortigia

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





## Tour highlights

- Admire truly exceptional mosaics at the Villa Romana, Piazza Armerina
- Discover the unique landscape around Marsala with its shallow water, windmills and glistening pyramids of salt
- Discover the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Enjoy a special access evening visit to view the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina

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

We return to Catania for our onward journeys.



## 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

- 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	<del>\$8,720</del> \$8,300	\$1,230
14th - 25th Oct	<del>\$8,580</del> \$8,160	\$1,230

**Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ascy](http://andantetravels.com/ascy)



**NEW**  
FOR 2025

# Rome

*The Eternal City*

7 DAYS FROM \$5,270pp

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.

### Day One | Rome

Meet the group at our hotel in Rome.

### 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.





## Tour highlights

- 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



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



Images top to bottom: Ara Pacis, Palatine & Ostia Antica

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

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

## 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. Join Oliver on our 9th & 21st March departures.



### 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.



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 make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 Albergo Santa Chiara

### Culinary inclusions

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

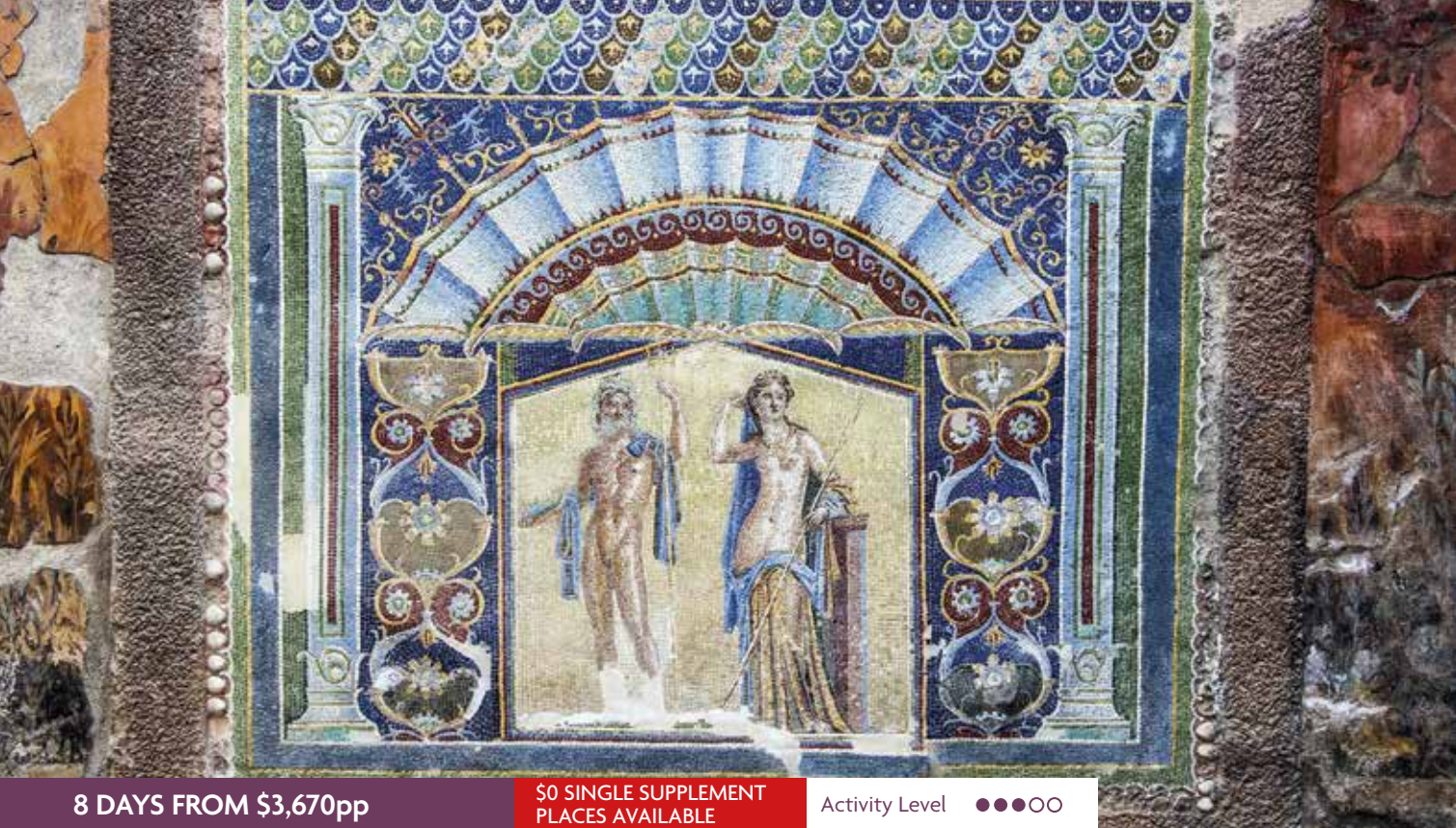
### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
9th - 15th Mar	<del>\$5,610</del>	\$5,330 \$550
21st - 27th Mar	<del>\$5,610</del>	\$5,330 \$640
25th Apr - 1st May	<del>\$5,550</del>	\$5,270 \$550
1st - 7th Nov	<del>\$5,660</del>	\$5,380 \$550

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/arme](https://andantetravels.com/arme)





8 DAYS FROM \$3,670pp

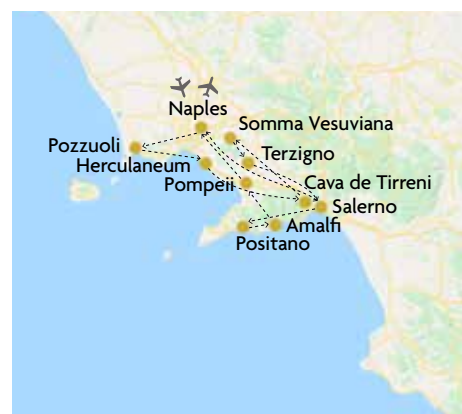
\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Romans on the Bay of Naples

*New discoveries and highlights in the shadow of Vesuvius*

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 | Naples - Cava de Tirreni

Meet the group at Naples airport or at our hotel in Cava de' Tirreni.

### 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.

### 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





*“An excellent combination of well-known and lesser-known sites. We very much liked staying in the same hotel for the whole time.”*

### Tour highlights

- 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

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

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. Later, we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.



### 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 3rd March and 20th October departures.



#### 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 31st March and 3rd November 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

- 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/Dbl Share	SS
3rd - 10th Mar	<del>\$3,970</del> \$3,760	<del>\$370</del> \$0
31st Mar - 7th Apr	<del>\$3,970</del> \$3,760	<del>\$370</del> \$0
20th - 27th Oct	<del>\$3,970</del> \$3,760	<del>\$370</del> \$0
3rd - 10th Nov	<del>\$3,880</del> \$3,670	<del>\$370</del> \$0

**Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/arb](https://andantetravels.com/arb)



**NEW**  
FOR 2025

## Prehistoric Italy

*Ötzi and the Alpine Valleys of Val Camonica*

6 DAYS FROM \$3,860pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





## Tour highlights

- 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

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.

### Day One | Verona or Boario Terme

Meet the group at the airport in Verona or at 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 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

We transfer from Trento to the airport in Verona to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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.



## 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 Brescia, Boario Terme & Hotel America, 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	<del>\$4,210</del> \$3,860	\$450

Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aphi](https://andantetravels.com/aphi)





9 DAYS FROM \$5,425pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Puglia & Basilicata

*Discover the extraordinary Sassi di Matera*

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 | Puglia or Lecce

Meet the group at the airport in Puglia or at our hotel in 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 **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

We transfer to Puglia airport from where we make our independent onward journeys.

### Tour highlights

- 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

### 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

- 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	\$5,775	\$5,425 <del>\$6,200</del> \$0

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/abap](https://andantetravels.com/abap)



Images top to bottom: Massafra, Castel del Monte & Taranto





7 DAYS FROM \$4,155pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## The Samnites

### *War and peace in the ancient Apennines*

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 to the heart of Italy and considers early Italians who were so important for establishing and maintaining the might of Rome.

#### Day One | Rome - Venafro

Meet the group at Rome airport to travel to the ancient site of **Venafro** on the River Volturno, famous for its olive groves. Created as a Samnite sanctuary, Venafro 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 | Venafro - 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 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 **Pietrabbondate** 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



Images top to bottom: Roccascalegna Castle & Venafro





## Tour highlights

- 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

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 Paleosabellian, an ancient Italian language.

### Day Six | Silvi Marina - L'Aquila

The day 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 - Rome

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 airport to make our independent onward journeys.



## 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.



## 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 Venafro, 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 Share	SS
30th Apr - 6th May	<del>\$4,435</del> \$4,155	<del>\$343</del> \$0
15th - 21st Oct	<del>\$4,435</del> \$4,155	<del>\$343</del> \$0

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asmn](https://andantetravels.com/asmn)



# Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

*Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio*

8 DAYS FROM \$4,970pp

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 | Rome - Viterbo

Meet the group at Rome airport to 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 benedictines. 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 pretty Umbrian hill-side town of Narni, first settled





## Tour highlights

- 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

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 musea, 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.

## Your expert guide

### Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann is bilingual and has led many tours for Andante.



### Day Eight | Viterbo - Rome

Today we make our way back to the Fiumicino Airport in Rome, from where we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/Dbl Share	SS
19th - 26th May	<del>\$5,250</del> \$4,970	\$700

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/auml](https://andantetravels.com/auml)





8 DAYS FROM \$4,960pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Latium Countryside

### *Retreats of the Roman rich*

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 | Rome - Gaeta

Meet the group at Rome airport to 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







## Tour highlights

- 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

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. 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

Our tour ends today, and we make our way back to Rome airport for our independent onward journeys.

## Your expert guide

### Diana Blumberg

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



## 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 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	<del>\$5,240</del> \$4,960	\$535

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/alat](http://andantetravels.com/alat)





# Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice

*Last bastions of the Byzantine Empire in northern Italy*

8 DAYS FROM \$5,165pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



*“It was excellent, well planned days and visits, Alex Casey, our tour manager, and Tony O'Connor, our guide lecturer were first rate and also very good hosts. For my husband who is an academic historian, and for me, the guiding was well pitched, always informative and engaging.”*

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 | Bologna or Ravenna

Meet the group at Bologna airport or at our hotel in 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 extraordinary **Mausoleum of Theodoric**, the





## Tour highlights

- 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



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

## 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 19th March 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 29th October departure.



in the 15th century in order to house the Classical manuscripts collected by Cardinal Bessarion after 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

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

- 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
19th - 26th Mar	<del>\$5,530</del> \$5,180	\$925
29th Oct - 5th Nov	<del>\$5,515</del> \$5,165	\$925

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/arvv](https://andantetravels.com/arvv)





9 DAYS FROM \$6,660pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## The Island of Sardinia

*Neolithic, Nuragic and Punic mysteries of this Mediterranean island*

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 | Alghero

Meet the group in 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 another tantalizing religious site,







## Tour highlights

- 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

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. We end the day with a visit to the **National Archaeological Museum of 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.

### 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 | Nora - Cagliari

Time permitting, we may have a final walk along the beach before we return home, setting off from Nora to Sardinia's capital, Cagliari, from where we make our independent onward journeys.



## 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

### Included travel

- 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	<del>\$7,010</del> \$6,660	\$890
23rd Sep - 1st Oct	<del>\$7,070</del> \$6,720	\$890

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asdn](https://andantetravels.com/asdn)

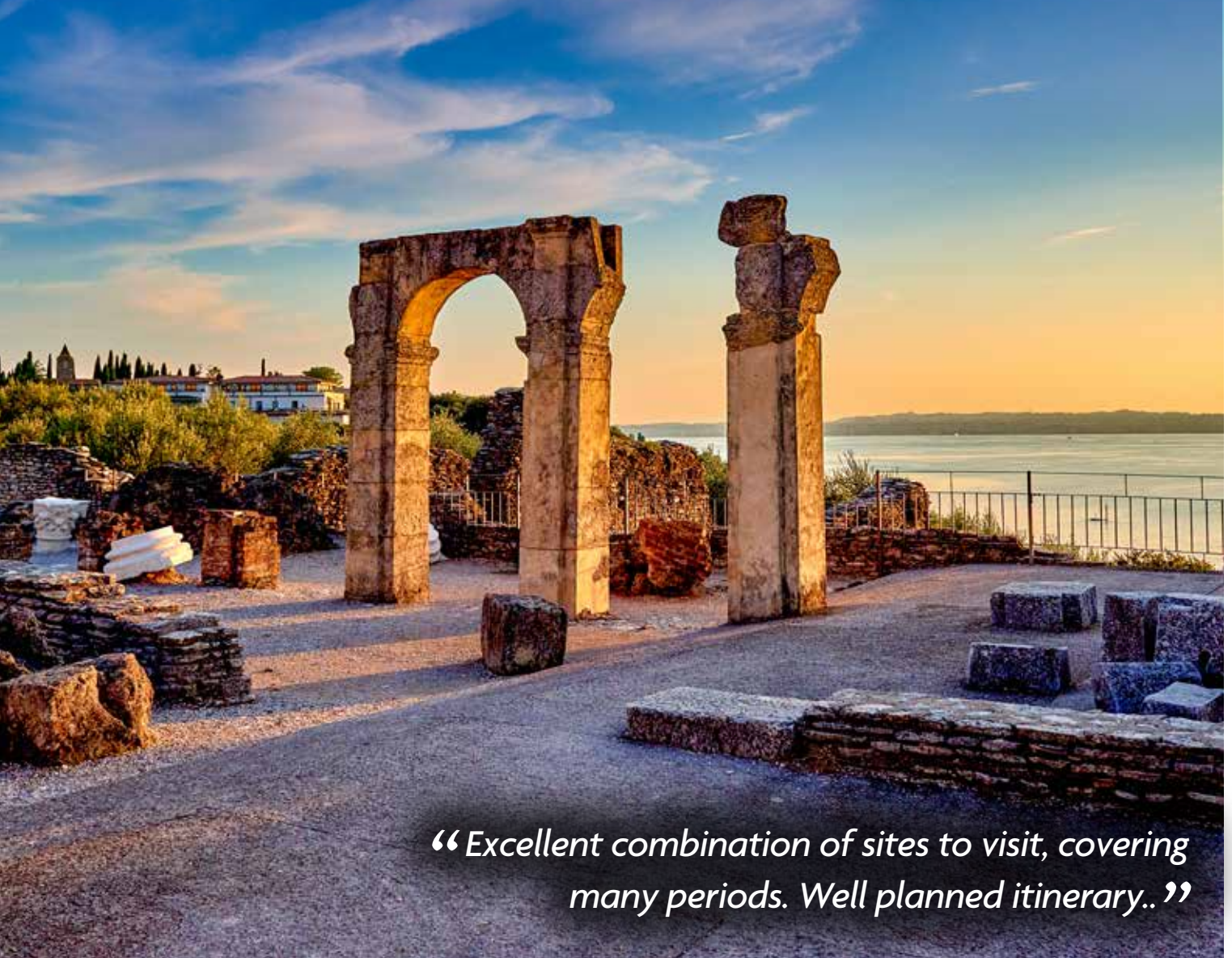


# Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

Romans to the Renaissance

8 DAYS FROM \$4,355pp

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 | Verona or Sirmione

Meet the group at Verona airport or at our hotel in Sirmione, a picturesque medieval town perched on the tip of a narrow peninsula at the edge of Lake Garda.

## Day Two | Verona

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 an deconsecrated monastery which was literally built on top of the Roman theatre.

## Day Four | Mantua

We spend our day today in **Mantua**, a gem of



## Tour highlights

- 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

Italian art and architecture often overlooked by unlightened 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 for some free time.

### Day Six | Vicenza

We spend our day in **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and almost archetypical 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

We transfer to the airport in Verona for our independent onward journeys.

## 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 31st March departure.



### 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 13th 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

- All local transport

### Accommodation

- Accommodation in 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/Db'l Share	SS
31st Mar - 7th Apr	<del>\$4,635</del> \$4,355	\$623
13th - 20th Oct	<del>\$4,635</del> \$4,355	\$623

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/alga](http://andantetravels.com/alga)







# 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.







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

4 DAYS FROM \$2,240pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Athens

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

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.

### Tour highlights

- 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

#### Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens.

#### 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 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

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**. Afterwards, we make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

### 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

- 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
20th - 23rd Feb	<del>\$2,310</del> \$2,240	\$215
6th - 9th Nov	<del>\$2,310</del> \$2,240	\$215 \$0

Save \$70pp with our 2025 Special Offer Discount

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asat](http://andantetravels.com/asat)





7 DAYS FROM \$3,935pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## The Ancient Argolid

*An archaeological treasure house*

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.

### Tour highlights

- 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 | Athens - Nafplion

Meet the group at Athens airport to transfer 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 Atrous.

#### 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 **Dendra**, 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 Piraeus and transfer to our hotel.

### 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.



#### Day Seven | Athens

We spend the morning at the **National Archaeological Museum** in Athens to see its fabulous collections before transferring to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

### 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 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/DbI Share	SS
21st - 27th Oct	\$4,215	\$3,935 <del>\$400</del> \$0

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apes](https://andantetravels.com/apes)

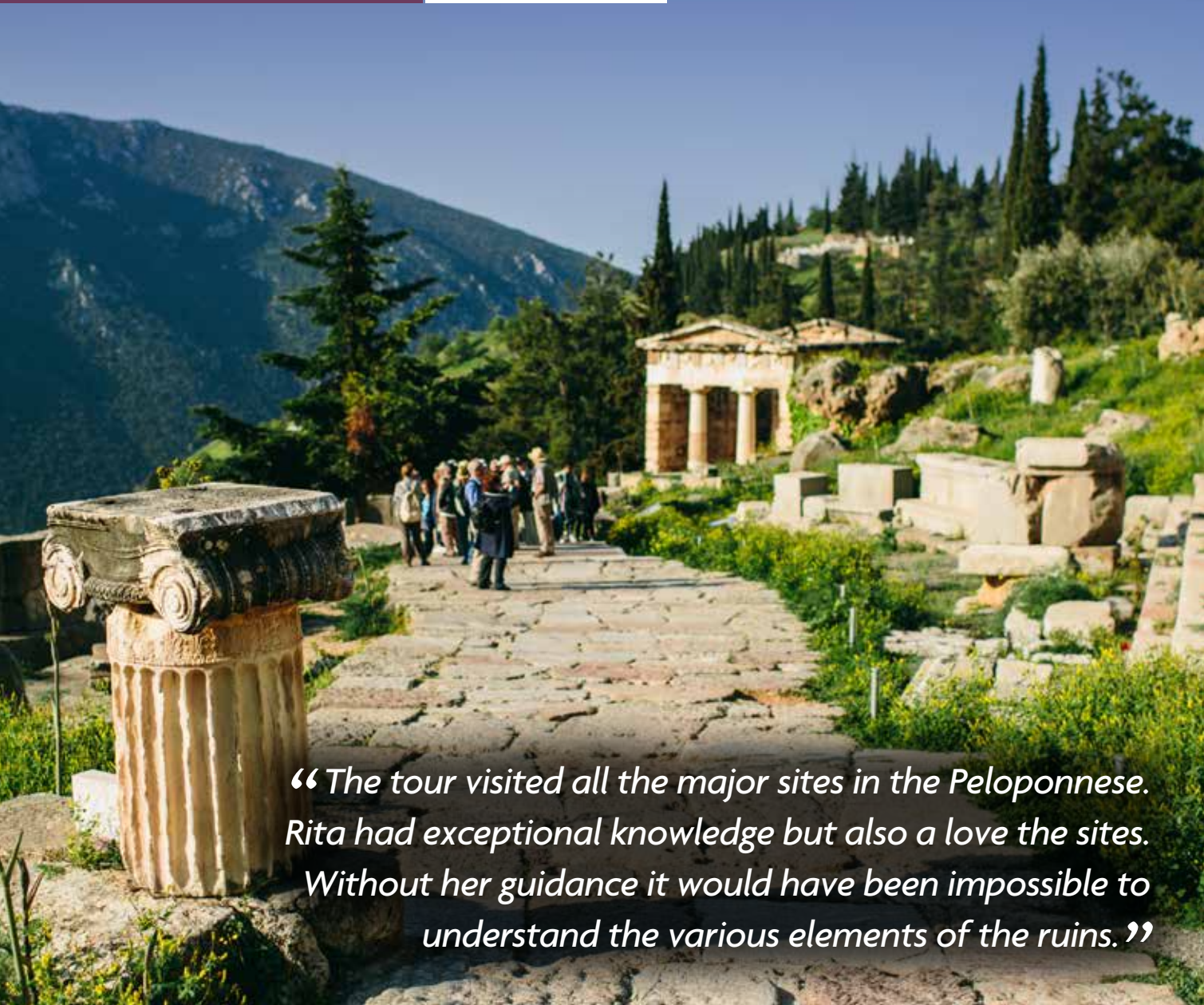


# The Peloponnese

*Homer and beyond*

12 DAYS FROM \$6,350pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



*“The tour visited all the major sites in the Peloponnese. Rita had exceptional knowledge but also a love the sites. Without her guidance it would have been impossible to understand the various elements of the ruins.”*

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 | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens.

## 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 Peloponnese peninsula at Olympia.



## Tour highlights

- 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 Atreus

### 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 & Epidauros

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 **Epidauros**, 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.

## Your expert guides

### Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught archaeology and art history at the American University of 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 Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 22nd September departure.



### 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

Our Peloponnesian odyssey comes to an end. We bid farewell to the city of Athens and make our independent onward journeys.



## 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 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	<del>\$6,700</del> \$6,350	\$1,050
22nd Sep - 3rd Oct	<del>\$6,730</del> \$6,380	\$1,050

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apel](https://andantetravels.com/apel)





8 DAYS FROM \$5,060pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Crete & Santorini

### *Rise and fall of the Minoan civilisation*

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 | Santorini

Meet the group at our hotel in Santorini, where we 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 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.







## Tour highlights

- 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

### 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

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

## 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 Praios 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.



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 make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/Db'l Share	SS
20th - 27th May	<del>\$5,640</del> \$5,220	\$920
2nd - 9th Sep	<del>\$5,480</del> \$5,060	\$920

Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acre](http://andantetravels.com/acre)







8 DAYS FROM \$4,940pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Crete - Introducing the Minoans

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

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 | Chania

Meet the group at our hotel in Chania.

### 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

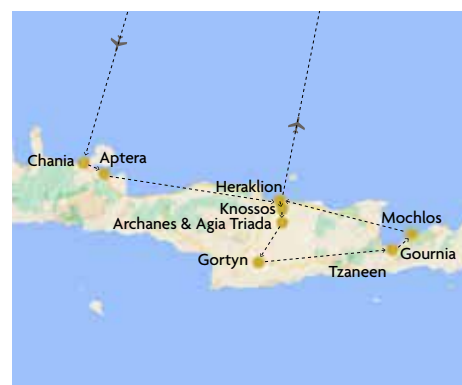
This morning we visit the fascinating **Maritime Museum** on the western end of the Old Venetian Harbour. It contains exhibits from Greek naval history from Bronze Age to the Venetian and Ottoman period to the Battle of Crete. Its star exhibit is a life size replica of a Minoan ship, the 'Minoa'. Later 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-storied 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 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





## Tour highlights

- 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

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

## 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.



period and beyond. Notable are the hoards of metal found on the islands, as well as a Minoan necropolis.

### Day Eight | Heraklion

We transfer to Heraklion airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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	<del>\$5,290</del> \$4,940	\$790

Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acmi](https://andantetravels.com/acmi)





9 DAYS FROM \$5,710pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Discover the Dodecanese

*Following in the footsteps of Herakles*

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 | Rhodes

Meet the group at our hotel in Rhodes.

### 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 overlooking the sea. 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 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 | Asklepion & Antimachia

We travel along the cypress-lined road to the **Asklepion**, 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**







### Tour highlights

- 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

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

### 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.



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 Baptistery of St. John Prodromos.

#### Day Nine | Kos

Our tour comes to an end and we make our independent onward journeys.



### 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 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	<del>\$6,130</del> \$5,710	\$870

Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/adod](https://andantetravels.com/adod)



# The Cyclades

Explore sacred islands and sprawling ruins

11 DAYS FROM \$7,510pp

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 | Santorini

Meet the group at our hotel in Santorini.

## 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



## Tour highlights

- 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

the most fertile areas of the island, the middle 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 dovecotes, 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

## 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.



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

We transfer to Athens airport for our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
22nd May - 1st Jun	<del>\$7,930</del>	\$7,510
<b>Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer</b>		

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aicy](https://andantetravels.com/aicy)







8 DAYS FROM \$5,055pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Macedonia

*The glories of northern Greece*

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 which can be said to rival that of Constantinople.

### Day One | Thessaloniki - Kastoria

Meet the group at Thessaloniki airport to 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 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



Images top to bottom: Dispilio & Saint Demetrius Basilica





## Tour highlights

- 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

survived. In the afternoon, we return to Thessalolinki 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

We transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.



Images top to bottom: Walls of Thessaloniki & Pella

## 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

- 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	<del>\$5,335</del> \$5,055	\$840
11th - 18th Sep	<del>\$5,335</del> \$5,055	\$840

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/amcd](http://andantetravels.com/amcd)





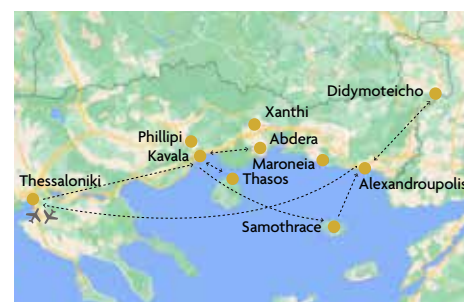
9 DAYS FROM \$5,025pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Wild Thrace

*Discover ancient kingdoms across this region*

East of Thessaloniki are the mountains and plains of Thrace. Its ancient kingdoms were alternately at war and allied to Persians, Greeks and Macedonians. Discover the strategic cities that grew up in the wake of passing conquerors Phillip, 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 | Thessaloniki – Kavala

Meet the group at Thessaloniki airport to transfer 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 end the day with a visit to **Komotini** whose history was closely tied to the Via Egnatia 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 Fonia Gorge.

### Day Six | Samothrace – Alexandroupolis

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

### Tour highlights

- 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

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

Our tour comes to an end, and we return to Thessaloniki airport to make our independent onward journeys.

### 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.



### 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 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/Dbt Share	SS
29th Apr - 7th May	<del>\$5,305</del> \$5,025	\$680
2nd - 10th Sep	<del>\$5,305</del> \$5,025	\$680

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/athr](http://andantetravels.com/athr)









# 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.







6 DAYS FROM \$4,395pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Hidden Paris

*Peek beyond the famous landmarks and explore the secret archaeology*

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.

### Tour highlights

- 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 | Paris

Meet the group at our hotel in Paris where we will gather for an introductory exploration of the historic Marais district, venturing on foot through this, one of the oldest parts of the city, where a 12th century fortress remains tucked away among fashionable 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.

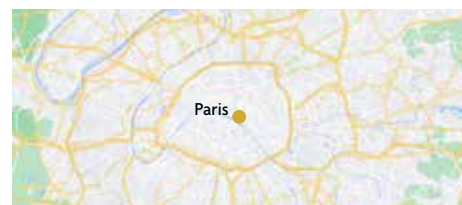
### Day Six | Paris

We leave Paris and make our independent onward journeys.

### Your expert guide

#### 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.



### 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 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/Db'l Share	SS
13th - 18th May	\$4,675	\$4,395 \$875

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ahpa](https://andantetravels.com/ahpa)





4 DAYS FROM \$3,050pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Chauvet & Cosquer

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

Palaeolithic cave painting 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.

### Tour highlights

- 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 | Marseille or Avignon

Meet the group at Marseille airport or at our hotel in Avignon. This evening there will be a 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 tunneled 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 2,300m<sup>2</sup> 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

We transfer to the airport in Marseille to make our independent onward journeys.

### Your expert guide

#### 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.



### 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 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	<del>\$3,260</del> \$3,050	\$287

Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acha](https://andantetravels.com/acha)



# Brittany - Carnac & Beyond

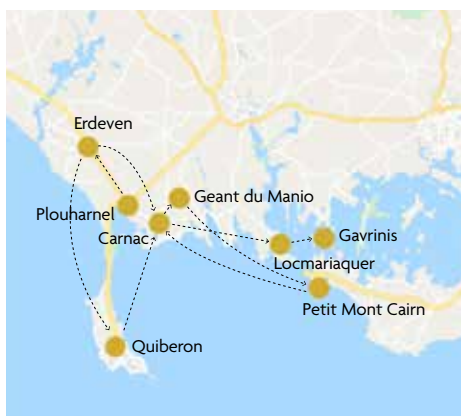
Encounter the world's largest assemblage of megalithic sites

7 DAYS FROM \$4,985pp

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 | Carnac

Meet the group at our hotel in Carnac, where we will be staying for all six nights.

## 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**,



## Tour highlights

- 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



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 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



Images top to bottom: Island of Gavrinis, Carnac and Table des Marchands

## 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.



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

Our tour comes to an end today and we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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/DbI Share	SS
1st - 7th Sep	\$5,265	\$4,985 \$775

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/abri](http://andantetravels.com/abri)





“Marvellous itinerary, excellent guiding and good company”

8 DAYS FROM \$6,020pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Romans & Gauls

### *From Alesia to Lugdunum*

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 is 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 | Lyon - Dijon

Meet the group at the airport in Lyon to 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 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







### Tour highlights

- 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

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

### 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.



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

We transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.



### 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 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	<del>\$6,440</del> \$6,020	\$825

**Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/arrs](https://andantetravels.com/arrs)



# Cave Art of the Dordogne

Discover the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe

7 DAYS FROM \$4,960pp

\$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 | Poitiers

Meet the group in Poitiers, then 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.



## Tour highlights

- 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 renowned experts in rock art and the archaeology of the last Ice Age
- View the extraordinary UNESCO-listed cave system at Grotte de Rouffignac



### 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 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 | Cougnac & Pech Merle

Our first visit is to **Cougnac**, two caves are found here which contain the claw-marks of cave bears and fascinating stalactite and stalagmite formations. We

## 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.



continue to **Pech Merle**, with painted black outlines of aurochs, mammoth, spotted-horses, geometric shapes and handprints.

### Day Seven | Les Eyzies

Our tour ends and we make our independent onward journeys.

*Cave visits may vary according to seasonal opening hours.*

## 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	<del>\$5,240</del> \$4,960	\$400
9th - 15th Sep	<del>\$5,240</del> \$4,960	\$400

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/adgn](http://andantetravels.com/adgn)







10 DAYS FROM \$7,360pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Roman Germany

### Exploring the Rhine Frontier

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 | Cologne

We meet at 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 period, 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, Saalburg & 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 **Saalburg**, 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





## Tour highlights

- 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 fur Antike Sciffahrt 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

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.

### 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 German. 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 we 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.

## 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 Ten | Aachen

Before making our independent onward journeys and time permitting, we pay our final visit 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

- 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	<del>\$7,780</del>	\$7,360 \$1,070
28th Sep - 7th Oct	<del>\$7,890</del>	\$7,470 \$1,070

Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ager](https://andantetravels.com/ager)





5 DAYS FROM \$3,205pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Berlin - Beyond the Wall

*The highs and lows of a city divided and reunited*

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.

### Tour highlights

- 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 | Berlin

Meet as a group in the evening and 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

Our 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

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 make our independent onward journeys.

### 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

- 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	\$3,415	\$3,205 \$330 \$0

Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.com/asbb](http://andantetravels.com/asbb)



**NEW  
FOR 2025**



**6 DAYS FROM \$4,955pp**

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Vienna

### *Exploring Habsburg Wonders in Winter*

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.

#### Tour highlights

- 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 wonderful treasures excavated in Ephesus, including the Parthian Monument
- View the fabulous collection of paintings and drawings in the Albertina Museum

#### Day One | Vienna

Meet the group in Vienna. 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

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 to make our independent onward journeys.

#### 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

- 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/Db Share	SS
3rd - 8th Dec	<del>\$5,235</del>	\$4,955

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/avna](http://andantetravels.com/avna)





8 DAYS FROM \$6,780pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Romans, Visigoths & Viziers

*Pay a memorable visit to the legendary Alhambra Palace*

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 | Seville

Meet the group at our hotel in Seville.

### 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 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**







## Tour highlights

- Follow the scenic 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

**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

We drive to Málaga on the southern coast, and make our independent onward journeys.



Images top to bottom: Mezquita, Real Alcázar & Carmona

## Your expert guides

### Dr Andy Fear

Andy is a Lecturer in Classics at the University of Manchester. He is primarily interested in Roman history and has authored books on the archaeology of both Cheshire and Staffordshire. Join Andy on our 7th April departure.



### 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. Join Doru on our 6th 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

- 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

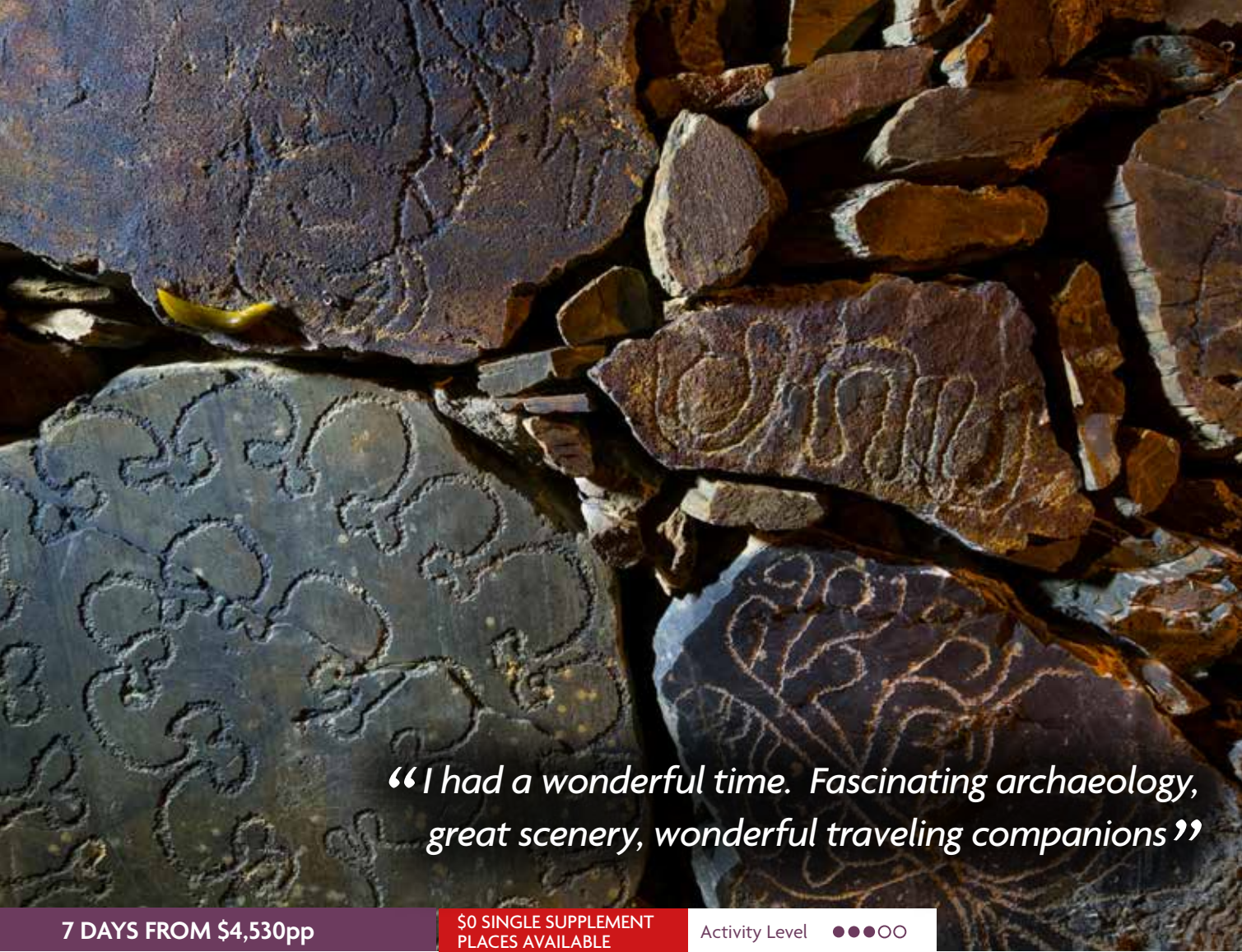
### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
7th - 14th Apr	<del>\$7,200</del> \$6,780	\$1,220
6th - 13th October	<del>\$7,300</del> \$6,880	\$1,220

**Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/avis](https://andantetravels.com/avis)





*“I had a wonderful time. Fascinating archaeology, great scenery, wonderful traveling companions”*

7 DAYS FROM \$4,530pp

50 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Rock Art of Portugal & Spain

*Cave art without the caves*

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 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 | Porto

Meet the group at our hotel in Porto.

### 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







## Tour highlights

- 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.



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 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

Our tours ends, and we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
19th - 25th May	<del>\$4,810</del> \$4,530	\$475 \$0
<b>Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer</b>		

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apor](https://andantetravels.com/apor)



Images top to bottom: Castelo Rodrigo & Foz Côa Museum





11 DAYS FROM \$10,130pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Highlights of the Viking Homelands

*Denmark, Norway & Sweden*

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 | Copenhagen or Odense

Meet the group at Copenhagen airport or at 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.







## Tour highlights

- Visit Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm, Scandinavia's fascinating capital cities
- Sail through the Kattegat and the Skagerrak straits connecting the Baltic and 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 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.

### 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.

## 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.



### Day Eleven | Stockholm

Time permitting, we will visit the amazingly complex Vasa warship before we head to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
5th - 15th Sep	<del>\$10,690</del> \$10,130	\$1,255

Save \$560pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/avik](https://andantetravels.com/avik)





5 DAYS FROM \$3,470pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## The Archaeology of Roman Istria

### Exploring idyllic Croatia

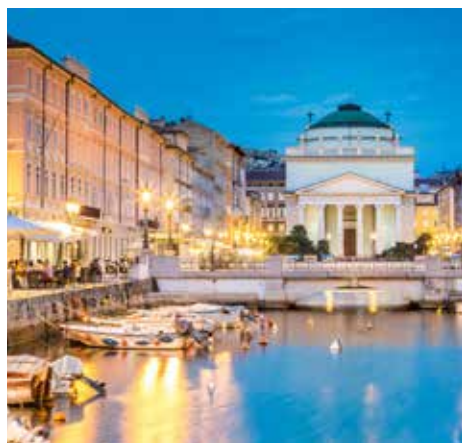
The idyllic peninsula of Istria, with its staggeringly beautiful coastline, has a rich history linking it to the Veneti and is now famed for its wonderful ancient ruins as well as its beautiful Venetian cities. This tour brings different layers of history to life, for a memorable journey through Istria's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

#### Day One | Pula

Meet the group at our hotel in Pula.

#### 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 sparsiones 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 of 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 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





## Tour highlights

- 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

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

Before we drive to Pula airport to make our independent onwards journeys, we drive to the pretty town of **Vodnjan** for a guided walk of its architecture which shows its Venetian heritage.



Images top to bottom: San Giusto cathedral, Hercules Gate & Vodnjan

## 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

- 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/Db'l Share	SS
27th -31st Aug	\$3,680	\$3,470 \$610

Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aris](https://andantetravels.com/aris)



**NEW**  
FOR 2025

# Frontier Lands of Romania

*From the Dacians to Dracula*

10 DAYS FROM \$5,920pp

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 | Bucharest or Constanta

Meet the group at either the airport in Bucharest or in 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*.



## Tour highlights

- 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

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.

### Day Five | 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



Images top to bottom: Sarmizegetusa & Golden helmet of Cotofinesti



the wonderfully crafted Dacian gold work, including the Golden Helmet of Cojofenești 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 visit the **Philharmonia Academy**, the **House of the People** and the **Village Museum of Romanian Ethnography**.

### Day Six | Bucharest – Bran - Brasov

We make the scenic drive along the Prahova valley 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 continue to the Saxon Medieval town Brasov.

### Day Seven | Brasov - Sibiu

Continuing our explorations of **Brasov**, we visit the **History Museum** set in the 17th century Saxon where we explore the archaeological remains of the region. We continue to the **Black Church**, the Lutheran church built by the German community in the 14-15th centuries which got its name after the Great Fire of 1689. It is the most significant Gothic building in Romania. Later, we visit **Sibiu**, founded by Saxon settlers and explore the old town and visit **Bruckenthal Palace**, home to one of Romania's oldest museums.

### Day Eight | Sarmizegetusa – Costesti - Hunedoara

On this is an adventurous day, we take off-road vehicles 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. We end the day with a visit to nearby **Costesti**, dating from the 1st century BC and one of the oldest Dacian forts in the area.

## 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.



### Day Nine | Hunedoara - Sibiu

Our morning is spent at the striking 15th century Gothic **Corvin Castle** at Hunedoara, one of the largest castles in Europe. In the afternoon we visit **Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa**, 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 Ten | Bucharest

We transfer back to the airport in Bucharest from where we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 Constanta, Bucharest, Brasov Sibiu & Hunedoara

### Culinary inclusions

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

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
13th – 22nd Sep	<del>\$6,270</del>	\$5,920 \$690

Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/armn](http://andantetravels.com/armn)



NEW  
FOR 2025



12 DAYS FROM \$5,560pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Bulgaria

### *Thracian Treasures & Mountain Monasteries*

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 | Sofia

Meet the group at our hotel in Sofia.

#### 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 – Kazanlak

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





## Tour highlights

- 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

relatively recently in 2000, this tomb is one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever made in Bulgaria. The frescoes in 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.

## 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.



### Day Twelve | Veliko Tarnovo – Sofia

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 to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
22nd Apr - 3rd May	<del>\$5,910</del> \$5,560	\$690
23rd Sep - 4th Oct	<del>\$5,920</del> \$5,570	\$690

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/abul](https://andantetravels.com/abul)



**NEW**  
FOR 2025



9 DAYS FROM \$4,150pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Albania

### *Land of the Eagles*

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 | Tirana

Meet the group at our hotel in Tirana.

#### Day Two | Tirana

We spend the morning 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 **Vlora**. 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 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





## Tour highlights

- 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

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.



## 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.



### Day Nine | Kruja

This morning, we transfer from Kruja to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
19th - 27th Apr	<del>\$4,730</del> \$4,450	\$640
1st - 9th Sep	<del>\$4,430</del> \$4,150	\$640

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aala](https://andantetravels.com/aala)





7 DAYS FROM \$5,265pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Prehistoric Malta & Gozo

### *Malta's first inhabitants*

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 | Valletta

Meet the group at our hotel in Valletta for our first dinner together as a group.

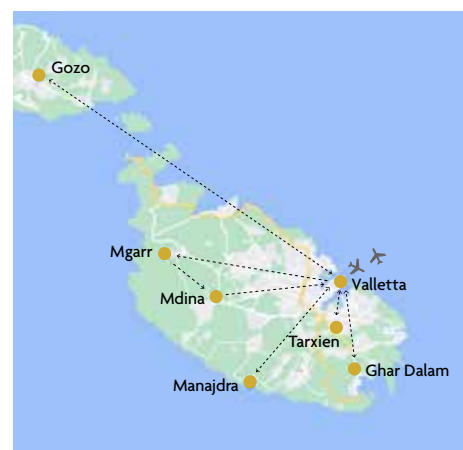
#### Day Two | Mġarr & Mdina

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 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







## Tour highlights

- 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

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.

### 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

## 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.



**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

After breakfast we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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	<del>\$5,615</del> \$5,265	\$1,080
6th - 12th Oct	<del>\$5,615</del> \$5,265	\$1,080

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/amal](http://andantetravels.co.uk/amal)









# AFRICA & EGYPT

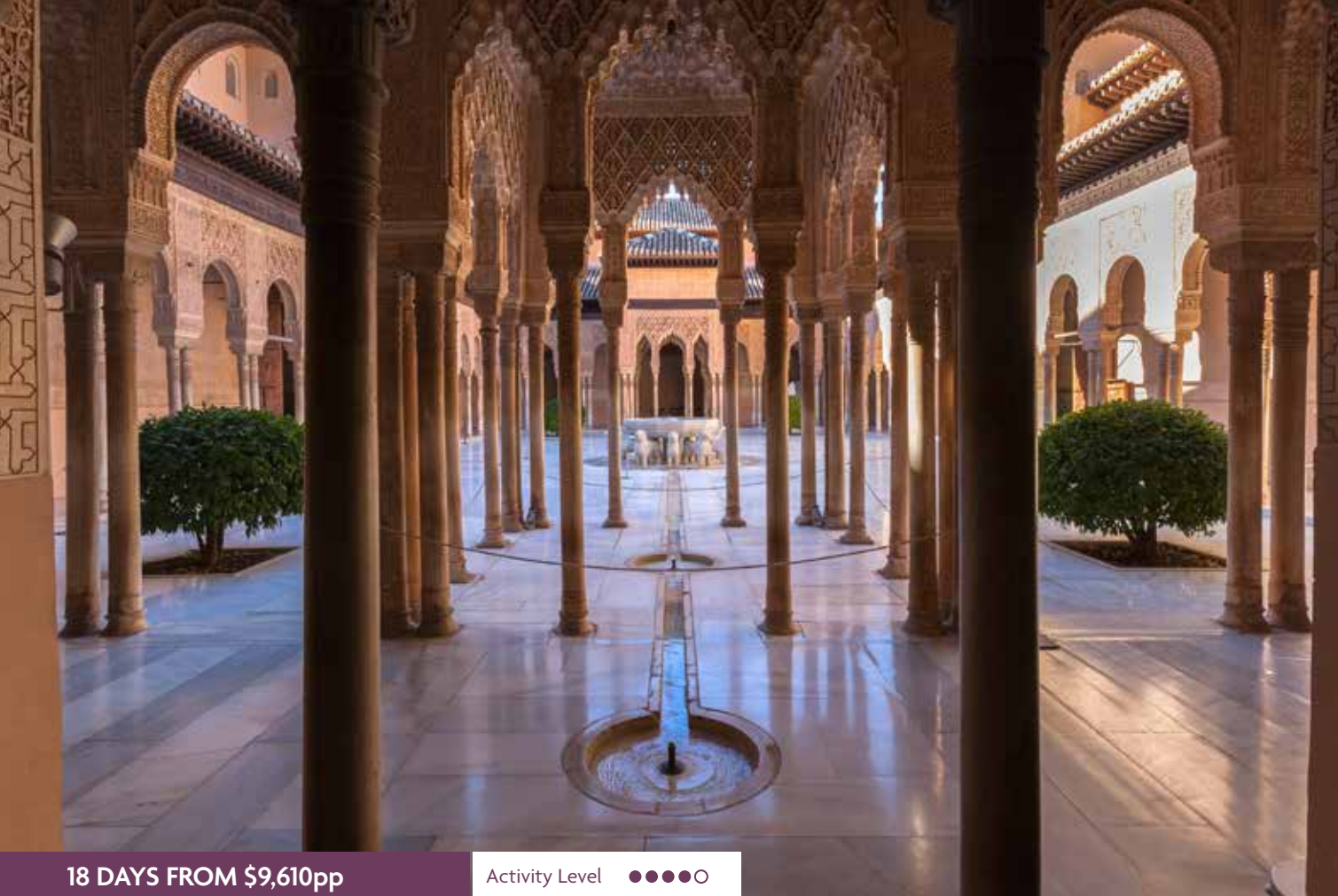
The sites in North Africa are vital for shedding light on other ancient peoples, notably the Phoenicians/Carthaginians, as well as the Numidians and Romans. Visiting Punic sites in Africa not only sheds light on the complexity of Carthaginian urban infrastructures but poses questions about the city's enmity with Rome and what would have happened had the Punic wars not been won by Rome. The wonder of North African archaeological sites is their fabulous state of preservation; cities such as Timgad, Dougga and Volubilis can scarcely 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 Andalusia 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, and we now have a brand new itinerary that will see you discover human origins in the African Savannah, taking in sites in both South Africa and Zimbabwe while offering a chance to spot the Big Five on game drives in national parks.

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.







18 DAYS FROM \$9,610pp

Activity Level ●●●○

## Morocco & Andalucía

*Where Africa and Europe meet*

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 | Marrakech

Meet the group at our hotel in Marrakech 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**.



## Tour highlights

- 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



### 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 panoply of this city's history. We begin with the **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.

## 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.



### 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

After the tour of a lifetime exploring the wonders of Morocco and Spain, we make our way to Málaga airport to make our independent onward journeys.



## 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 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/Db'l Share	SS
11th - 28th Nov	<del>£10,170</del> \$9,610	\$1,680

Save \$560pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/amas](https://andantetravels.com/amas)



# The Romans in Algeria

From Algiers to Timgad

11 DAYS FROM \$7,415pp

\$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 | Algiers

Meet the group at our hotel in Algiers.

## 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,



## Tour highlights

- 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

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 at 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 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

We transfer to Algiers airport to make our independent onward journeys.

*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 guides

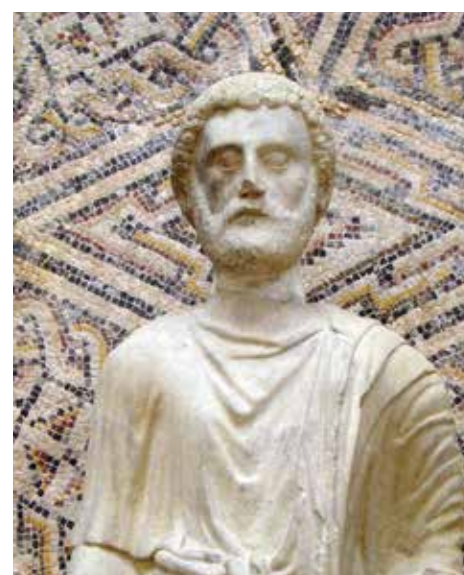
### Farès K Moussa

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 16th February 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 23rd 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

- All local transport

### Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Lamarz 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/Dbl Share	SS
16th - 26th Feb	<del>\$7,835</del> \$7,415	<del>\$980</del> \$0
23rd Nov - 3rd Dec	<del>\$7,835</del> \$7,415	<del>\$980</del> \$0

**Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aage](http://andantetravels.com/aage)





15 DAYS FROM \$5,840pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Tunisia - North & South

### Carthage to the edge of the Sahara

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 | Tunis

Meet the group at our hotel in Tunis.

#### 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.

#### 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

It's 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.

Image: Matmata





## Tour highlights

- 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 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

Our tour comes to an end and we transfer to Tunis airport to make our independent onward journeys.



## 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 10th February 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 10th 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

- 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/DbI Share	SS
10th - 24th Feb	<del>\$6,190</del> \$5,840	\$835
10th - 24th Nov	<del>\$6,550</del> \$6,200	\$835

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/anst](http://andantetravels.com/anst)





10 DAYS FROM \$4,420pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Carthage & Roman Tunisia

*Stand before the mighty ancient amphitheatre of El Djem*

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 | Tunis

Meet the group at our hotel in Tunis.

### 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 site of **Thuburbo Majus**. Originally Punic (though it has a characteristic *Th* sound associated with







## Tour highlights

- 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

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 Capitulum, 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 Hadrumetus, 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

We transfer to Tunis airport for our independent onward travel.

## 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

- 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/DbI Share	SS
17th - 26th Apr	<del>\$4,700</del> \$4,420	\$640
9th - 18th Oct	<del>\$4,770</del> \$4,490	\$640

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acrt](https://andantetravels.com/acrt)



# South Africa & Great Zimbabwe

*Human origins in the African Savannah*

14 DAYS FROM \$12,690pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





## Tour highlights

- Discover the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Cradle of Humankind and Great Zimbabwe
- Adventure into the bush on a walking rock art safari at Berg en Dal
- Admire the paintings depicted at Koaxa's Shelter, opening up the hidden world of the ancient San people
- Explore Mapungubwe, one of the glories of South African archaeology

Southern Africa's vast and open expanses hide a wealth of archaeology – from some of the earliest evidence of human ancestors who left behind stone tools and skeletons to kingdoms who traded gold and ivory beyond China. There are thousands of Stone Age sites in the wild, caves and rock shelters, inland and along the coast, that have recorded the way of life and history of people in the region over nearly two million years. From the famous Sterkfontein Caves to the relatively unknown archaeological treasures over the border in Zimbabwe, this is a fabulous opportunity to explore the far depths of the human past in the company of an expert in human origins while revelling in the magnificent Savannah landscapes in which humankind developed.

### Day One | Johannesburg - Maropeng

Meet the group in Johannesburg. We then travel together as a group to Maropeng where we start our introduction to human origins with a visit to the **Maropeng Visitor Centre**. Later, we transfer to our hotel and check in.

### Day Two | Sterkfontein Caves & Swartkrans

Continuing our exploration of the **Cradle of Humankind**, we start today with the **Sterkfontein Caves**. Finds here included the 2.1-million-year-old Australopithecus skull, and "Little Foot", an almost complete skeleton more than three million years old. In the afternoon we visit nearby **Swartkrans**, rich in archaeological material and a prominent fossil site.

### Day Three | Braamfontein

We visit two important museums today. First, the **Origins Centre in Braamfontein**. The centre displays an extensive collection of rock art from the Rock Art Research Institute at Wits University and follows the path of hominin innovation that began over

two million years ago. Offering a stark contrast to the morning, we visit the **Apartheid Museum** in the afternoon, a superb example of design, space and landscape offering the international community a unique South African experience. The Apartheid Museum is critical to our understanding of this beautiful and troubled country.

### Day Four | Maropeng - Polokwane

This morning we journey north to Polokwane in Limpopo, stopping en route at **Arend Dieperink Museum** to set the scene for tomorrow's explorations. The museum charts the history of the town and its surroundings from the discoveries at Makapan's Cave right through to the Anglo-Boer War. Here we will take a step back in time to look at the cultural heritage of the Afrikaans people, particularly in what is now Limpopo province, but was once Transvaal, one of the three Boer Republics.

*Continued...*

## Your expert guide

### Dr John McNabb

Senior Lecturer in Palaeolithic Archaeology at Southampton University since 2010, John has researched widely within South Africa including Makapansgat.







#### Day Five | Makapansegat

Transferring to 4x4s, we travel to **Makapansegat**, an important Palaeolithic site that is littered with caves. At Makapansegat we will gain insight into one of the most famous hominin sites in the world – the Limeworks Cave. Searches here revealed remains of about 40 individuals of *Australopithecus africanus* a species of hominin dating from 2.5 to 3 million years ago or more. Moving on in time we visit the **Cave of Hearths** which will show us something of how hand axe makers lived half a million years ago and the importance of their surrounding landscape to their survival.

#### Day Six | Polokwane - Mapungubwe National Park

We make our way to **Mapungubwe National Park**, an expansive Savannah landscape which was once a large kingdom before its abandonment in the 14th century. We explore the bush land and climb up to the site's lost city on the **Mapungubwe Hill**. Mapungubwe is one of the glories of South African archaeology. A little earlier than its more famous neighbour Great Zimbabwe, this city was connected through its trading links to an Indian Ocean-sized trading web, which reached to India and the great imperial court of far off China. This magical place is a must see.

#### Day Seven | Mapungubwe - Tzaneen

Today we drive to **Koaxa's Shelter** in our search for rock art. The paintings depicted here will take your breath away and open up the hidden world of the ancient San people. You can almost hear them conversing in their click language as they painted their experiences and beliefs. These 200 images of fine detail, depicting at least 16 animal species including lion, hyena, mongoose and locusts.

#### Day Eight | Tzaneen - Kruger National Park

We continue south to **Kruger National Park** today, one of the prime game-watching destinations in the world. This area has an incredibly diverse ecosystem and is home to an impressive array of wildlife: lions, cheetah, rhinos and buffalo wander a 20,000km square expanse of parkland. We arrive in time for lunch and a late afternoon game drive.

#### Day Nine | Berg en Dal

An adventure today at **Berg en Dal**, where we walk through the bush on the hunt for rock art scattered on boulders across the landscape. The sites here bring us face-to-face with the modern difficulties of preservation. The beauty and fragility of the rock art scattered amongst the bush will stay with you. We have some free time today to relax and rest before our return to Johannesburg.





#### Day Ten | Kruger National Park - Johannesburg

After an optional early morning game drive, we make the journey back to Johannesburg where we will stay before our onward travel to Zimbabwe tomorrow.

#### Day Eleven | Johannesburg - Bulawayo - Great Zimbabwe

We take a flight from Johannesburg to Bulawayo this morning arriving in time for lunch. In the afternoon we journey to Great Zimbabwe, known locally as “Dzimba Dzamabwe” meaning the house of stone or stone buildings. We will overnight nearby ready for our site visit tomorrow.

#### Day Twelve | Great Zimbabwe

We dedicate most of our day to the extensive site of the **Great Zimbabwe**, the largest and most important capital of the vast Shona Kingdom which at its peak controlled 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. We examine its extraordinary stonework and the fascinating architecture of its Great Enclosure as well as the finds from the site displayed at its museum. There will be some free time in the afternoon to spend relaxing or you could choose an optional game drive in the Lake Mutirikwi Recreational Park.

#### Day Thirteen | Great Zimbabwe - Nalatale - Bulawayo

We make our way back to Bulawayo stopping en route at the **Madzimbabwe of Nalatale**, in the remote Somabula Flats in central Zimbabwe. Nalatale was once the capital of the Butua Kingdom, which rose to prominence following the decline of Great Zimbabwe. The ruins are unique for their intricate herringbone, chevron and chequer-patterned stone walls.

#### Day Fourteen | Bulawayo - Khami - Johannesburg

Our last site visit is a short trip to **Khami** on the outskirts of Bulawayo. Continuously inhabited for 40,000 years, Khami was the court of the Rozvi's Mombo dynasty and later an important spiritual shrine of the Ndebele. This afternoon we take a flight to Johannesburg from where we make our independent onward journeys.

### 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 Johannesburg, Polokwane, Mapungubwe National Park, Tzaneen, Kruger National Park, Great Zimbabwe & Bulawayo

#### Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

#### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DBL Share	SS
1st- 14th Apr	<del>\$13,600</del> \$12,690	\$1,155

Save \$910pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/asaz](https://andantetravels.com/asaz)



# Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries

*Recently excavated tombs and new museums in Cairo and Alexandria*

7 DAYS FROM \$5,995pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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.



Images top to bottom: The 5th Dynasty Pyramid of Sahure at Abu Sir



## Tour highlights

- 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 guide

### 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.



### Day One | Cairo

Meet the group at our hotel in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly 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.

### Day Five | Alexandria - Abu Sir - Cairo

We leave the city centre and drive to **Abu Sir**, ancient **Tapaposiris** 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

We return to Cairo airport to make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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

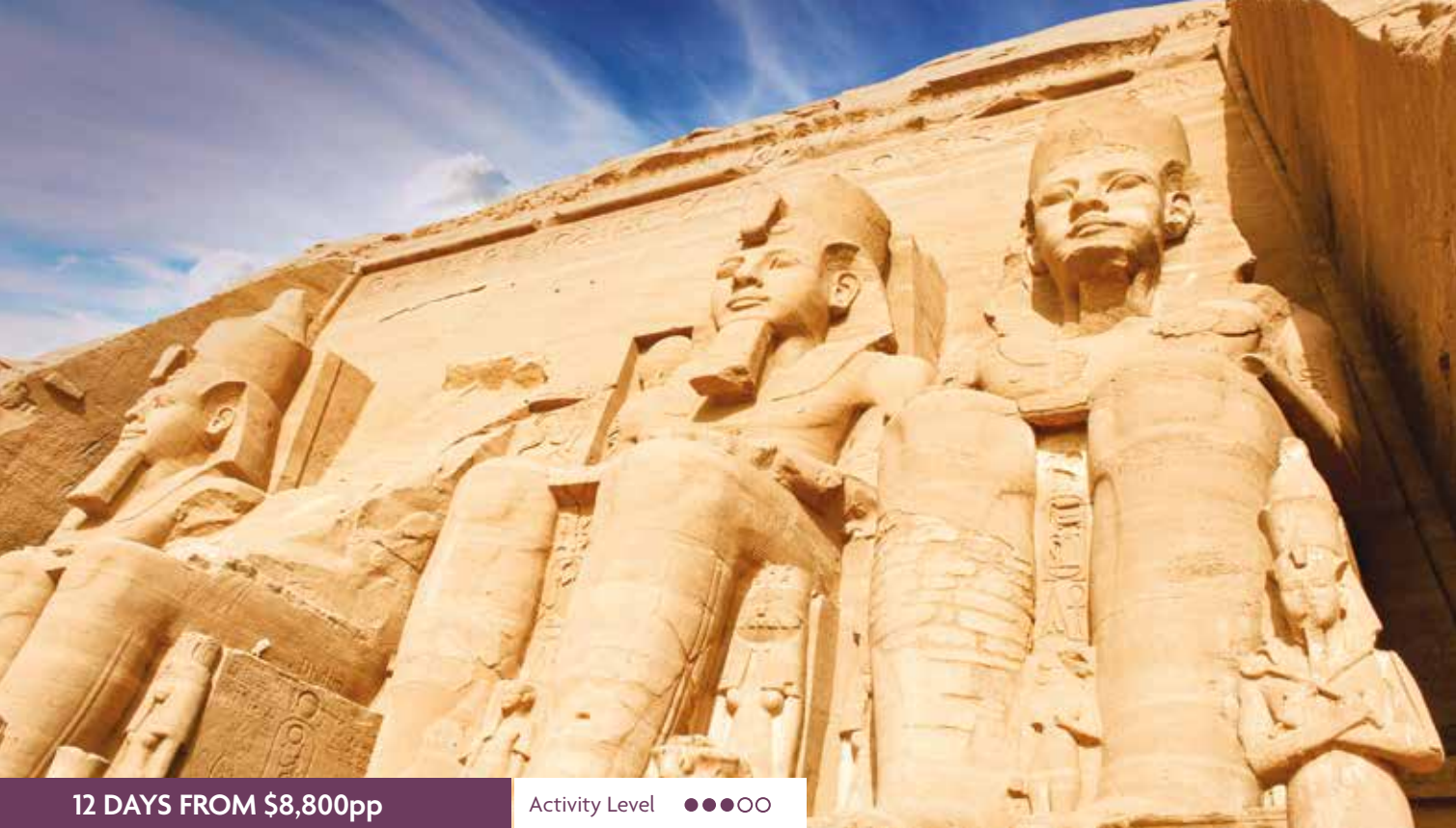
Date	Twin/Db Share	SS
28th Jan - 3rd Feb	\$6,345	\$5,995 \$1,025

Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aenm](https://andantetravels.com/aenm)







12 DAYS FROM \$8,800pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries

*Cairo, Luxor, a Nile cruise to Aswan, Abu Simbel and more*

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 | Cairo

Meet the group at our hotel 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**, including the **Great Pyramid** – a true wonder of ancient world, where atmospheric passageways lead to the breathtaking grand gallery and royal burial chamber. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra** and the enigmatic **Great Sphinx**. In the afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the new **Grand Egyptian Museum\***, where the world’s most extensive exhibition in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun and the Narmer Palette. The new museum is also now home to **King Khufu’s Solar Boat**.

### 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. This evening we fly from Cairo to Luxor.

### Day Five | Luxor

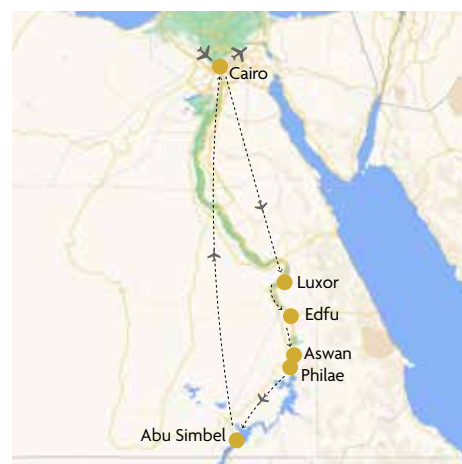
Our first visit of the day is to the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri, a stunning collection of shrines that have been heavily restored to reflect their former glory. In the afternoon, we visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III standing 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**, which includes the exceptionally preserved Tomb of Nefertari, who was the wife of Pharaoh Ramesses II.

### 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 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 Ramesses 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 Tuthmosis III, and **Luxor Temple** with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

Image: Abu Simbel





*“I thoroughly enjoyed the tour. It was a wonderful introduction to ancient Egypt. The tour manager and guide were impressive and the accommodation excellent.”*

### Tour highlights

- Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile
- Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel
- See the grand gallery as well as 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

#### 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 an 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 **Ramesses II and Nefertari**. After lunch, we fly to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

#### Day Twelve | Cairo

We take our leave from Egypt and make our onward independent journeys.

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

### Your expert guides

#### Dr Elizabeth Bloxam

Visiting Professor of Egyptology at North East Normal University in China, Elizabeth held an Honorary Senior Research Associate post at University College London for the last 10 years. Join Elizabeth on our 14th January departure.



#### Lucia Gahlin

A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years. Join Lucia on our 9th December 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

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Sofitel El-Gezira, 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
14th - 25th Jan	<del>\$9,640</del> \$8,800	\$1,600
9th - 20th Dec	<del>\$10,120</del> \$9,560	\$1,600

**Save up to \$840pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aegh](http://andantetravels.com/aegh)





# Egypt Encompassed

*From Pharaohs to Caesars*

19 DAYS FROM \$16,900pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Howard Carter's description of his first sight into Tutankhamen'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 Tutankhamen'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 | Cairo

We meet in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly 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



Images top to bottom: Tutankhamen



## Tour highlights

- 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 of Nefetari, Seti I, Sennefer and Rekhmire
- Enjoy privileged access at Tapaposiris, 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

distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the smooth-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 visit the best preserved of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Great Pyramid of Khufu** (Cheops) which towers some 481 feet (147 meters) above the plateau, its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weighing an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. But there is a great deal more to the site. We will also discover the **Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx** carved from a knoll of rock left in one of the stone quarries used to provide stone for the pyramids and tombs at Giza. Its face probably represents Khafra, but arguments have been made for Djedefra and recently for the Sphinx being much older than the pyramids themselves. In the afternoon, we visit the **Great Egyptian Museum\*** where the world's most extensive exhibitions in pharaonic artefacts can be seen. Among the many treasures on display are the solid gold mask of Tutankhamun, and the Narmer Palette, thought to depict the unification of Upper and Lower Egypt. The new museum is also home to King Khufu's Solar Boat.

### 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

## Your expert guide

### 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.



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.

### 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

*Continued...*



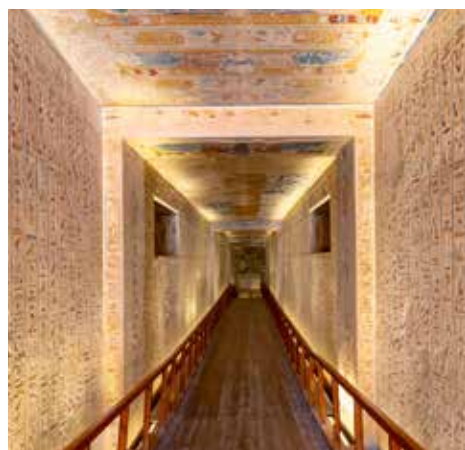




enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated **tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. In the afternoon we visit **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group 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 Tutmosis 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 Rameses 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 1.5k mile 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. After lunch 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 and, hopefully, the Greco Romano Museum due to reopen after 20 years 'under wraps'.

#### Day Eighteen | Alexandria - Cairo

This morning we explore the **National Museum** of Alexandria, located in a beautifully restored Italianate palace and contains galleries containing artefacts from the Pharaonic, Greco Roman, Coptic

and Islamic periods. The Greco-Roman galleries on the ground floor contain some of the material previously on display in the Greco-Roman Museum as well as finds from the programme of underwater excavations being conducted off the coast at Alexandria. Afterwards we travel on to Abu Sir, ancient Tapasiris 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.

#### Day Nineteen | Cairo

At the end of our epic journey, we return to Cairo airport for our independent onward journeys.

*\*subject to the new museum being open*

### 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 Cairo, Minya, Abydos, Luxor, Alexandria & 4 nights aboard a Nile cruiser

#### Culinary inclusions

- 18 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 17 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 ships are payable locally)

#### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
10th - 28th Feb	<del>\$18,020</del>	\$16,900 \$2,760
27th Sep - 15th Oct	<del>\$18,810</del>	\$17,970 \$3,040

**Save up to \$1,120pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.co.uk/aegy](http://andantetravels.co.uk/aegy)









# EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN & THE MIDDLE EAST

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.





# Byzantium & Ottoman Istanbul

*A glittering Jewel on the Bosphorus*

7 DAYS FROM \$4,800pp

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 | Istanbul

Meet the group at 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 Sarayi**, 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, infirmaries, caravanserais, a medical school, baths, a



## Tour highlights

- 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



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.

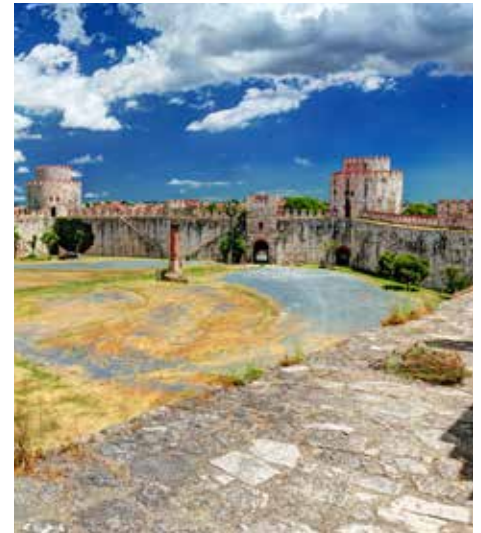
### Day Six | Topkapi Palace & Blue Mosque

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 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

## 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.



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

Our tour ends and we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 Eresin Sultanahmet, Istanbul

### Culinary inclusions

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

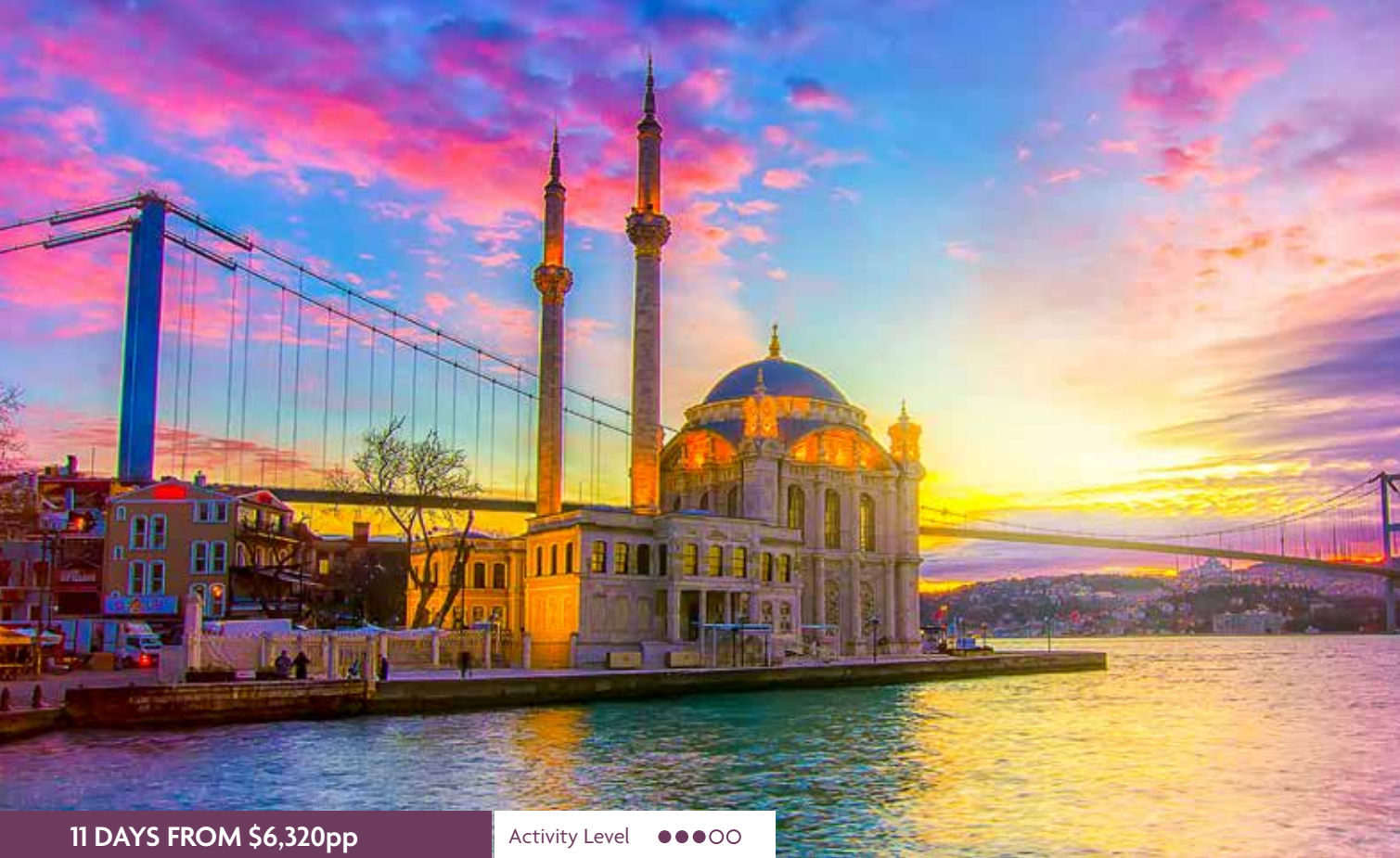
### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
17th - 23rd Mar	<del>\$5,080</del> \$4,800	\$940
3rd - 9th Nov	<del>\$5,360</del> \$5,080	\$970

**Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aboi](http://andantetravels.com/aboi)





11 DAYS FROM \$6,320pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Classical Turkey: The Aegean Coast

*Powerful city states of ancient history*

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 | Istanbul

Meet the group at 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.

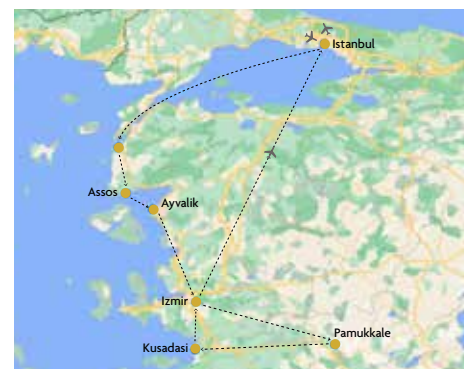
### Day Four | Assos - Ayvalik

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 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





## Tour highlights

- 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

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. 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 Didyma. 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

We drive to Izmir, where the tour ends, and we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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.



## 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 Istanbul, Assos, Ayvalik, Izmir, Pamukkale & Kusadasi

### Culinary inclusions

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

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
14th - 24th Apr	<del>\$6,670</del> \$6,320	\$1,160
29th Oct - 8th Nov	<del>\$6,720</del> \$6,370	\$1,160

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aaeg](https://andantetravels.com/aaeg)





14 DAYS FROM \$10,950pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Turkey: From Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe

*A journey through Cappadocia and south east Turkey*

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 and vividly frescoed churches, and the elaborate ritual sites of the ancient kingdoms in South East 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 | Istanbul - Konya

Arrive independently into Konya via Istanbul and meet the group at 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 & Sari 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

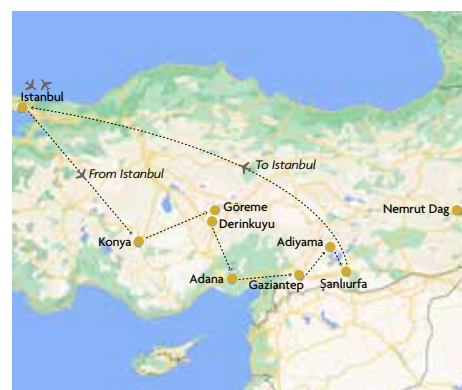
out to the **Sarihan Caravansary**, one of the many which once serviced the Selçuk trade route from Konya to Kayseri. After lunch we continue to our main visit of the day at **Göreme Open Air Museum**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a fairytale landscape of eroded volcanic tuffs, full of rock-cut 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 build 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**.

Image: Göreme





## Tour highlights

- 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

### 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

## 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.



caravanserai and ascent of the rocky citadel for splendid views of the old city.

### Day Fourteen | Şanlıurfa - Istanbul

After breakfast, this morning we transfer to Şanlıurfa airport to fly to Istanbul from where we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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	<del>£11,510</del> \$10,950	\$2,630
13th - 26th Oct	<del>£11,510</del> \$10,950	\$2,630

**Save \$560pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acse](https://andantetravels.com/acse)

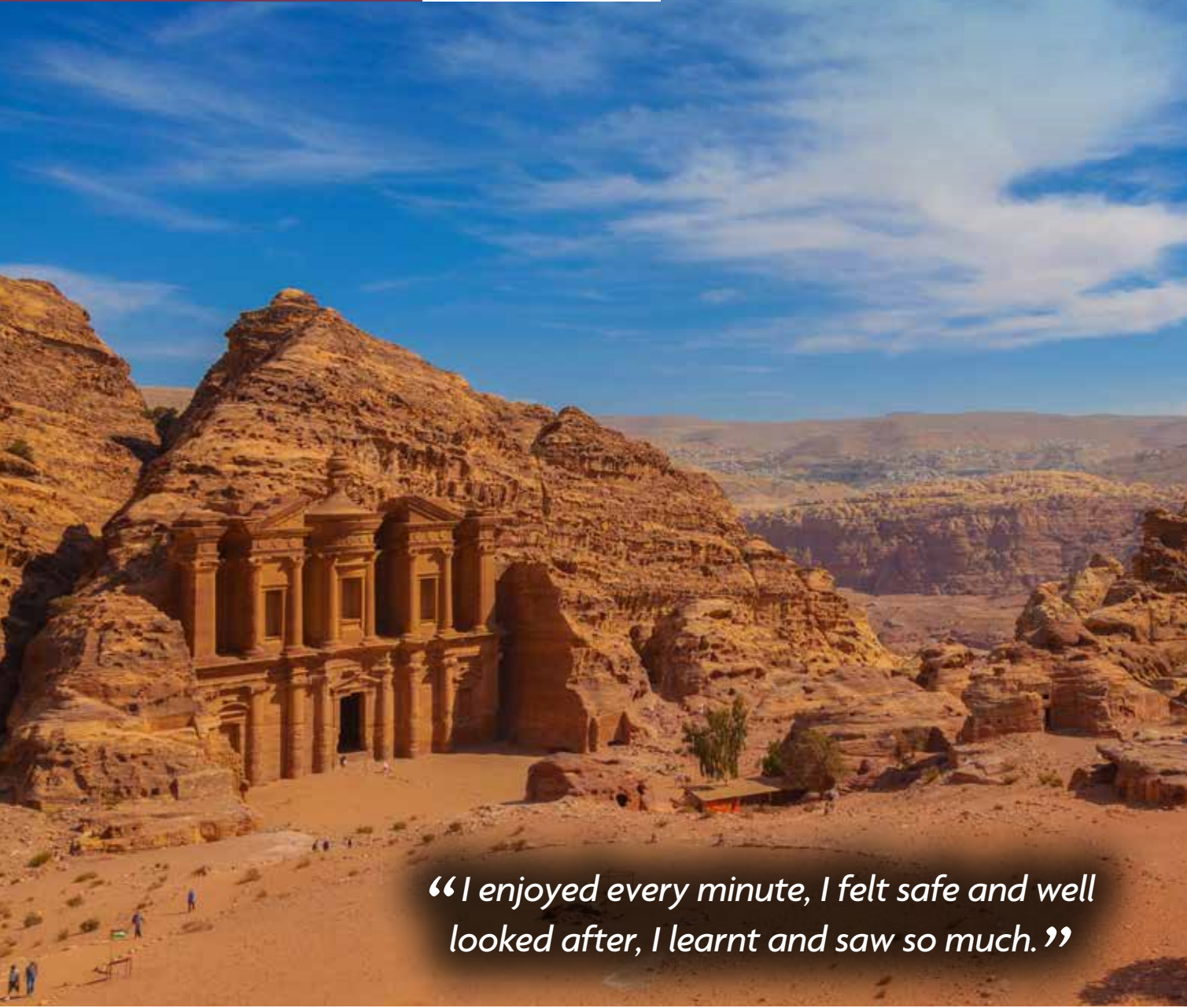


# Jordan - Petra & the Desert Fortresses

*Spend two days in the evocative rock-cut city of Petra*

10 DAYS FROM \$5,760pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



*“I enjoyed every minute, I felt safe and well looked after, I learnt and saw so much.”*

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 streets and temples carved into the rose-red rock.

## Day One | Amman

Meet at our hotel in Amman before we have dinner together as a group.

## 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 or 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.



Image: Petra



## Tour highlights

- 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

### 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 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

## 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.



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

Our tour ends in Amman and from here we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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 due to late arrival)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
17th - 26th Feb	<del>\$6,110</del> \$5,760	\$1,135
20th - 29th Oct	<del>\$6,110</del> \$5,760	\$1,135
6th - 15th Nov	<del>\$6,110</del> \$5,760	\$1,135

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ajor](http://andantetravels.com/ajor)







11 DAYS FROM \$8,155pp

Activity Level ●●●○

## Oman

### *On the frankincense trail*

Oman has been a crossroads of commerce for millennia. Traders came here from Mesopotamia for copper, Petra's Nabateans for incense; Greek and Roman merchants rode the monsoon winds that blew them to India and Arab seafarers used it as a base for trade to East Africa. Always there was the to and fro of caravans across the sands of connecting Arabia with the Mediterranean, through trading hubs such as the legendary lost city of Ubar, swallowed by the sands of the Empty Quarter around 300 AD. Its archaeology has only recently begun to be understood but is now known to include a rich prehistory of Bronze Age tombs and Iron Age fortresses as well as Classical trading settlements, mosques and emporia of the Islamic Age.

Travelling from the mountains of Muscat to the beaches of Salalah, we explore the hub of Classical Arabia Felix, the great incense city of Sumhuram with a special drive out into the Empty Quarter to take us to the site of the lost city of Ubar, entrepot of the Frankincense trade.

#### Day One | Muscat

Meet the group at our hotel in Muscat.

#### Day Two | Muscat

We spend the day in Muscat, an ancient trading city, noted by the geographer Ptolemy in the 2nd century and at times part of the Sassanid Persian Empire. The city was centre of trade and power on the Gulf of Oman and Indian Oceans. The Portuguese held it for a century but from the 17th century it was one of the hubs of the Omani Empire and its rulers ultimately overcame the power of the Imam princes of Nizwa to rule all Oman. Visits in the morning include the **Grand Mosque** and time to wander through the labyrinthine alleyways **Muttrah Souq**. In the afternoon we take a short drive to the **Al Alam Palace** followed by a visit to the **National Museum of the Sultanate of Oman** which showcases the nation's heritage from the earliest human settlement through to the present day.

#### Day Three | Muscat - Nizwa

Today we travel in 4x4s through date palm orchards to **Al Hazm fort Al Ayn** and the **UNESCO Site of Bat** where we discover the extraordinary Bronze Age beehive tombs. The tombs are part of a major copper mining settlement of the Umm-an Nar culture of the 3rd millennium BC. This region of Oman was a vital centre of early metallurgy, the ore

being exported as far as Mesopotamia and smelting taking place regionally. The distinctive 'beehive' dry stone tombs form an enormous necropolis. We continue to the historic walled town of Nizwa for the night.

#### Day Four | Al Hamra, Wadi Ghul, Wadi Nakhar & Misfah

We drive to the atmospheric village of **Al Hamra**, nestled in the foothills of the Jabel Ahkdar. Its old multi-storied mud houses are surrounded by a vast expanse of lush green date plantations. From here we continue to **Wadi Ghul**, home of the traditional weavers of Oman, and then to **Wadi Nakhr**, Oman's deepest canyon to see rock art and Bronze Age tombs. Our next stop is **Misfah**, a lovely village with stone houses precariously clinging to the side of the mountain cliff where we enjoy a picnic lunch. Afterwards we'll explore the Falaj irrigation system.

#### Day Five | Wadi Tanuf, Nizwa, Jabrin & Salut

Today we make our way to **Wadi Tanuf**, set against the backdrop of the Al Hajar mountains. Here we'll enjoy a short walk to see rock art and Hafit (Early Bronze Age) tombs. Afterwards we explore **Nizwa**, capital of the ancient Imamate of Oman, an ancient centre of trade in the pre-desert and the birthplace of Islam. We visit the famous Round Tower Fort, built in the seventeenth century, and its souq, renowned



for its intricately hand-carved khanjars (daggers) and ornamental silver jewellery. After lunch we drive to **Jabrin**; more of a fortified palace than a fort, it was built in the 17th century by Bil'arub bin Sultan, one of the Imam princes of Nizwa as a retreat and became a centre of Islamic scholarship and learning. We conclude our day in **Salut**, near Bisayah an archaeological site home to an ancient, fortified collection of ruins and fortifications, which offer rare evidence of the development civilizations in the Arabic peninsula in the Bronze and Iron ages.

#### Day Six | Nizwa – Lizq - Wahiba Sands

The archaeological site of **Lizq** in Ash Sharqiyah is our first visit today. Discovered in 1979 the hill fort here has pottery similar to Early Iron Age sites. We continue to **Wahiba Sands**, a vast desert region inhabited by the Bani Wahiba, Al-Harthy and Al-Hinawy tribes. The northern part of the Wahiba is dominated by huge parallel layered rusty coloured dunes. We shall spend the night at a desert camp where free of light pollution, we admire the star studded Arabian night sky.

#### Day Seven | Wahiba Sands – Muscat - Salalah

This morning, we leave the desert and drive to Muscat where we will catch our flight to **Salalah**,





### Tour highlights

- Follow in the footsteps of the ancient caravans as we explore rock art, Bronze and Iron Age, classical era and Islamic sites
- Explore the striking Bronze Age tombs at Bat, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Enjoy beautiful contrasting landscapes from the red gold dunes of the Wahabi desert to craggy mountains and glittering blue Arabian Sea
- Discover the once lost city of Ubar in the sands of the Empty Quarter

the historic centre of Dhofar and source of the frankincense trade which flourished in this region for centuries. Highly valued for its aromatic properties, frankincense was one of the most important commodities in the ancient and medieval world and its extraction was responsible for the construction of cities, forts, and irrigation systems in the harsh desert environment.

#### Day Eight | Sumhuram, Wadi Darbat & Mirbat

Today starts at Khor Rori Creek and the ruined city of **Sumhuram**, on a bluff overlooking the sea. This was an eastern outpost of the Arabian kingdom of Hadramawt whose centre was to the west, in modern Yemen, and was the capital of the frankincense trade before the coming of Islam. We will visit the museum here before heading to the nature park **Wadi Darbat** for lunch while we enjoy majestic views of waterfalls, lakes, mountains, caves, wildlife, and lush vegetation. Afterwards in **Mirbat**, an important town as early as the ninth century for its trade in frankincense, horses, and slaves, we explore old houses famous for their woodcarvings. We'll also reflect here on the 197 military campaign in Oman, in particular the legendary battle at Mirbat. We stop at Bin Ali's Tomb, a fine example of medieval architecture, on our return to Salalah.

#### Day Nine | Hanun, Empty Quarter & Ubar

We start today at **Hanun**, a depot along the frankincense routes, and the nearby, 5th-century B.C.

triliths (groups of three stones perched together). Driving into Rub Al Khali, the empty quarter the fabled city of **Ubar** - Iram of the Pillars at Shisr. Once a crossroads of the frankincense trade across Arabia, Ubar vanished beneath the sands around AD 300 and became a place of myth and Koranic legend. Searches for the vanished city in the 20th century amongst the great dunes proved fruitless, though ancient caravan routes and tracks were occasionally revealed by drifting sands. An expedition and excavation in 1992, partly based on satellite imaging, found an ancient, fortified spring which, while clearly not the 'Atlantis of the Sands', might well be the origin of the myth. On the way back to Salalah we will visit a Frankincense tree plantation.

#### Day Ten | Al Balid & Nabi Ayoub

Today we explore **Al Balid**, or the ancient port city of Zafar. It is the site of the first archaeological park in Oman and is today part of the UNESCO World Heritage Land of Frankincense. Walking around the ruins, we see remains of watchtowers, pylons of a bridge, and foundations of houses, souqs, and mosques. The site museum houses an excellent collection of frankincense. In the afternoon we travel through a spectacular landscape of plains, mountains, and pastureland to visit the biblical "**Nabi Ayoub**" Prophet Job's Tomb, perched high in the mountains.

### 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.



#### Day Eleven | Salalah – Muscat

We leave Salalah and travel to Muscat to make our independent onward journeys.

### 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 Muscat, Nizwa, Wahiba Desert, Salalah

#### Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunch & 10 dinners
- water, tea and coffee with dinner, soft drinks at lunch

#### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
31st Jan - 10th Feb	\$8,785	\$8,155 \$1,255

Save \$630pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aoma](http://andantetravels.com/aoma)







# 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 two 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.

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.





# Vietnam, The Mekong & Cambodia

*Journey through the heart of Indochina on this unique and immersive tour*

17 DAYS FROM \$12,175pp

Activity Level ●●●●○





## Tour highlights

- Explore the iconic Angkor Wat temple complex, the largest religious monument in the world and an architectural marvel
- Enjoy a relaxed week cruising up the Mekong River, from Ho Chi Minh City along the Chao Bao Canal to Siem Reap, observing rural life in the Delta
- Discover Banteay Srei, an exquisite 10th century temple of pink sandstone with exceptional carvings
- Highlights in northern Vietnam include the stilt house and mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, Tran Quoc Pagoda, the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Ho Chi Minh City Museum of History
- Spend a full day in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital where visits include the old Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, and the National Museum of Cambodia

Led by Miranda Bruce-Mitford lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London, this tour offers a splendid combination of travel by land and water, exploring the history, cultural complexities and staggering natural beauty of Vietnam and Cambodia. We uncover Vietnam's ancient past, partly shrouded in the myths of dragons and kings, and explore Cambodia's great Khmer kingdom centred at Angkor. We will also investigate sites relating to colonialism, communism, the Viet Cong and the Khmer Rouge in order to understand these nations' more recent history.

In Ho Chi Minh we board our river boat and embark on an exploration of the Mekong and its waterways. This vast, vibrant life-giving river starts as snowmelt in the Tibetan plateau and ends in the huge delta, renowned for its intricate network of canals and paddy fields before flowing into the South China Sea. Travelling along the narrow Chao Gao Canal, we cruise up the Delta towards Cambodia, relaxing into the rural way of life, stopping at villages, temples and pagodas along the way. Disembarking at Siem Reap, we continue to Angkor where we spend three days visiting the magnificent temple complexes built by the Angkor dynasty between the 9th and 13th centuries.

### Day One | Hanoi

Meet the group at our hotel in Hanoi. After we have lunch, we spend the afternoon exploring some of the city with our Guide Lecturer, taking in **Ma May Ancient House**, an example of the traditional Hanoi shop-house, restored in 1999, we continue to **Bach Ma Temple**, thought to be the oldest temple in Hanoi, and **Chung Gate**, the only remaining city gate, with its famous watchtower. Before dinner this evening we enjoy a performance by Vietnam's famous water puppets.

### Day Two | Hanoi

We explore more of this city today, first visiting the **Vietnam National Museum of History**, which contains bronzes from the Dong Son culture of 3 BC. In the afternoon we visit **Ho Chi Minh's simple traditional Stilt House**, his **Mausoleum**, which demonstrates the honour still paid to him today. We take a walk past the walls of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century, to the **Temple of Literature**, a Confucian temple for scholars which dates from 1070.

### Day Three | Nom Village & West Lake

Leaving the hustle and bustle of the city behind we visit the 200-year-old **Nom Village**. The centre of this little town reveals a beautiful architectural complex. Our first visit is to the holiest place in the village, **Nom Pagoda**, embedded in a century-old pine forest which is famous for its ancient Buddhist statues. We then explore the narrow brick roads and visit another antique house and engage in a conversation with the host over a cup of traditional tea to learn more about local life and the traditions that define this community. Afterwards we head to **Long Thuong Village** which is home of a community of bronze casters since the 13th century. In the afternoon, we visit **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, a majestic and ancient Buddhist temple nestled on an island in Hanoi's West Lake.

## Your expert guide

### Miranda Bruce-Mitford

Miranda specialises in social anthropology, literature, Buddhist Art & Architecture of South and Southeast Asia, and Oriental religious studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University.



### Day Four | Hanoi – Ho Chi Minh City

This morning we fly to Ho Chi Minh City. Formerly known as Saigon, it was the scene of key military events that shaped the war during the 1960's and 1970's and we spend the afternoon exploring sites associated with the city's recent past. We will visit the **Independence Palace** to see the 'war room' and the monument to **Thich Quang Duc**, the Buddhist monk who immortalized himself, photographed by Malcome Brown in 1963. We continue to the city's most famous landmark - the **Reunification Palace** which is now preserved as a museum. Our afternoon ends at a former 'revolutionary' hideout, once the secret base operations of the Viet Cong now a museum with hidden tunnels.

### Day Five | Ho Chi Minh

We start our day with a **walking tour of the city**. An ideal opportunity to gain an insight into this vibrant capital, exploring its atmospheric markets, walking through the narrow alleyways teeming with life to the wide streets lined with charming French-era architecture. Afterwards we join our fellow cruise passengers at the Liberty Central Riverside Hotel for lunch and spend the afternoon together discovering the Reunification palace, Notre Dame cathedral and Central Post office. We will also visit **Cholon**, the Chinese-influenced section of the city, including its lively market and **Ba Thien Hau Pagoda** which is dedicated to the sea goddess Mazu. Afterwards we board our boat, the RV Indochine I, our home for the next eight nights of the tour. Before dinner we will meet the crew and enjoy a welcome cocktail.

*Continued...*







#### Day Six | Ho Chin Minh - Chao Gao Canal – Long An

We travel by coach to visit the notorious **Cu Chi tunnels**, a vast labyrinth of underground passages used by the Vietcong during the Vietnam War as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches. In the afternoon we visit the **Ho Chi Minh City Museum of History** which houses a varied collection of artefacts reflecting early Vietnamese history and cultural heritage. Afterwards we return to our boat and cruise along the very narrow Chao Gao Canal.

#### Day Seven | Long An – My Tho – Cai Be – Sa Dec

After mooring overnight at Long An we cruise early morning for approximately three hours along the Chao Gao canal to arrive at My Tho where we have the first of two short visits today. The first of which is to visit **Vinh Trang Pagoda** one of the best-known Buddhist temples in the region which stands on a 2-hectre block filled with fruit trees and its architecture is an unusual blend of East Asian and European styles. After lunch back onboard we cruise

on to Cai Be. Our visits this afternoon are to two rural industrial plants which produce bricks, pottery, rice paper and rice alcohol. Few tourists decide to peek behind the scenes here, but these traditional factories provide a fascinating glimpse into local commerce and how life works in the Delta.

#### Day Eight | Sa Dec – Chau Doc, Cambodia

A relaxing day today and we have plenty of time this afternoon to watch life along the river. In the morning we visit the **home of Huynh Thuy Le**, a Vietnamese merchant whose affair with a French girl became the subject of Marguerite Duras' autobiographical book 'The Lover'. The house itself is an interesting mixture of Vietnamese, Chinese and French styles. Before we return to our ship for lunch we have some free time in Sa Dec. This afternoon we sail to Cambodia, arriving in Chau Doc mid-late afternoon.

#### Day Nine | Chau Doc – Phnom Penh

Located on the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, the prosperous city of Chau Doc is home to a large Cham community, some of whom live in floating houses above fish farms. Early morning we visit **Ba Chua Xu Temple** and **Tay An Pagoda**, and







then return to our ship mid-morning to continue cruising for the rest of the day to Phnom Penh, arriving early evening.

#### Day Ten | Phnom Penh

The capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh is the most populated in the country and is located at the junction of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap rivers. A full day of exploration lies ahead, and we begin our day with a visit to the **Royal Palace**, one of the most impressive examples of Cambodian Architecture. Here we admire the Silver Pagoda which stands in its grounds so called because of the 5,000 silver tiles, weighing more than 5 tonnes, which cover its floor. It also houses many precious Buddha images. We continue to the **National Museum of Cambodia**, the city's largest museum of cultural history and is the country's leading historical and archaeological museum. After lunch we visit **Tuol Svay Prey High School** a former detention centre run by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war. There is free time afterwards to visit the market before making out way back to our ship. Before dinner this evening we enjoy a traditional Apsara dance show.

#### Day Eleven | Phnom Penh – Koh Chen – Kampong Tralach – Kampong Prasat

Our day starts with a short visit to the small island of **Koh Chen**, located in the south of Tonle Sap Lake where craftspeople specialise in silver and copper work. After lunch onboard we arrive at Kampong Tralach to visit the vihara at **Wat Kampong Tralach Leu Pagoda**, an ancient Buddhist monastery dating back to the last century. In order to access the pagoda we need to cross the village of Kampong Tralach in "tuk tuk", moving along a small road that runs perpendicular to the river in the middle of magnificent rice fields.

#### Day Twelve | Kampong Prasat – Kampong Chhnang – Prek Dam

This morning we visit **Kampong Chhnang**, one of the largest fishing ports on Tonle Sap Lake. The region is best known for its fine traditional pottery which is a major source of revenue for the entire country. After lunch on board we continue our cruise on Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in southeast Asia and the heart of the hydraulic system of the Mekong. On our last night on board we enjoy a farewell cocktail

and gala dinner.

#### Day Thirteen | Prek Dam – Siem Reap

We disembark our ship early in the morning and make the long journey (approximately 6 hours) to Siem Reap where we will leave our fellow cruise passengers and continue our tour. After lunch we visit the remote temple complex of **Banteay Srei** ('Citadel of Beauty') where exquisite Angkorian reliefs shine out from pink sandstone, many as detailed and precise as if they had been carved only yesterday, not several centuries ago. It is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, the only Angkorean temple not built by a king. Among the many highlights here are the ornate library buildings, and the three central towers, adorned with deities.

#### Day Fourteen | Siem Reap

Travelling by "tuk tuk" we start our day discovering one of Cambodia's lesser-known temples, **Ta Prohm**, a Buddhist monastery held together by banyan and strangler fig roots. Afterwards we explore the fortified city of **Angkor Thom**. An astounding location dominated by giant stone heads of the Buddha, and which features the stunningly carved ceremonial Terrace of Elephants and the Leper King, the temples of Phimeanakas, Baphoun and Bayon, and the Royal Palace. In the afternoon we visit some of the **Roluos** group of 9th century temples – some of the earliest Khmer structures ever found, and once the seat of the ancient Khmer capital Hariharalaya.

#### Day Fifteen | Siem Reap

An early start brings us to Cambodia's most famous wonder: the outstanding **Angkor Wat**. We cross the moat into the site just after sunrise and maximise our time exploring this enormous complex, with its assortment of Khmer capital buildings; a testament to the powers of this incredible civilisation. As well as taking in the site's best-known monuments, we also visit the smaller temples of **Ta Som**, **Preah Khan** and **Baray Reach Dak**, which are rarely visited by Western tourists. This afternoon, we will have some time at leisure.

#### Day Sixteen | Siem Reap

Our morning is spent at the impressive **Angkor National Museum**. The museum's eight galleries

cover the history of Khmer civilization, and it is particularly noted for its fine collection of sculpture from the Angkor period and later. We will have some free time this afternoon in Siem Reap ahead of our flight to Ho Chi Minh City where we enjoy dinner on our last night together as a group.

#### Day Seventeen | Ho Chi Minh City

Our tour ends and we make our independent onward journeys.

### Your comprehensive expert guided tour includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions pre and post cruise with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Excursions during the Mekong cruise with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

#### Included travel

- All local transport

#### Accommodation

- 4 nights in hotels in Vietnam, 8 nights aboard RV Indochine I & 4 nights in hotels in Cambodia

#### Culinary inclusions

- 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 16 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner
- RV Indochine I: 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

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
24th Mar – 9th Apr	\$12,945	\$12,175 \$3,390

Save \$770pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/avmc](http://andantetravels.com/avmc)





15 DAYS FROM \$8,090pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●●○

## Armenia & Georgia

*Explore the site of Nokalakevi with Ian Colvin*

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 | Yerevan

Meet as a group at our hotel in the midst of the bustling city of Yerevan.

### 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

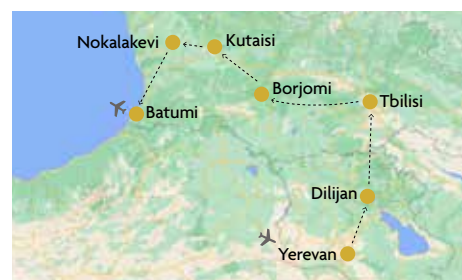
Today we visit some of Armenia's finest and best preserved monastic complexes. The 10th-13th century **Haghartsin** is hidden at the head of the wooded valley outside Dilijan, and we then travel to the impressive 12th-13th century **Goshavank** monastery in the scenic village of Gosh, which houses one 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.

### 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.





## Tour highlights

- 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

### 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 **Akhaltzikhe** 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.



Images top to bottom: Monastery of Vardzia & Ikalto Monastery

### 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.

## Your expert guide

### Ian Colvin

Ian is a researcher and historian who specialises in the Roman and Byzantine history of the Caucasus regions.



### Day Fifteen | Batumi

Our tour ends today and we make our independent onward journeys.

## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
2nd - 16th Oct	\$8,650	\$8,090 <del>\$7,135</del> £0
<b>Save \$560pp with our 2025 Special Offer</b>		

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/agaa](https://andantetravels.com/agaa)



# Uzbekistan

Visit the UNESCO-listed sites of Bukhara and Samarkand

14 DAYS FROM \$6,820pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○



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 | Tashkent

Meet the group at our hotel in Tashkent. 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 Two | 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 Three | 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 Four | 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 Five | 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



## Tour highlights

- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand and Shakhrisayabz
- 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

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.

### Day Six | 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 Seven | 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 Eight | 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 Ghengis Khan could not bring himself to destroy it. Tonight we enjoy a **traditional folk show** before having dinner.

### Day Nine | 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 Ten | 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 Eleven | 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 Twelve | Samarkand

Switching to smaller vehicles, we travel to the turquoise-domed city of **Shakhrisayabz**, 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.



Images top to bottom: Traditional dancers, Mizdakhan & Registan Square

## 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 Thirteen | 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 Fourteen | 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

- 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 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/Dbl Share	SS
13th - 26th Sep	<del>\$7,240</del> \$6,820	\$575 \$0
<b>Save \$420pp with our 2025 Special Offer</b>		

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/auzb](https://andantetravels.com/auzb)







# 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 maui-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.

New and improved for 2025 is our Guatemala, Honduras and Belize tour led by Dr Nicholas James, who has worked on the history, archaeology and anthropology of the indigenous peoples of the Americas for more than 40 years and he is author of 'Aztecs & Maya'.

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 Yerbas 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.





# Brazil – Rock Art & the Pantanal

*Unveiling the mysteries of the Serra da Capivara*

14 DAYS FROM \$16,330pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





## Tour highlights

- 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

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, Niède 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 | Rio de Janeiro

Meet the group in the hotel for lunch, then later in the afternoon we will take a trip to the iconic **Sugarloaf Mountain** which towers above Guanabara Bay. Travelling to the top by cable car, there are breathtaking 360 degree views over Rio.

### Day Two | 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 Three | 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 da Capivara, newly constructed at the edge of the park to accommodate visitors to the sites.

## Your expert guide

### Dr Paul Bahn

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



### Day Four | 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 Niède 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, cropoliths, 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.

*Continued...*







#### Day Five | Serra da Capivara

After breakfast we travel into the park to walk the **Cicuito Serra Branca route**. This is an area where the *manicobeiros* 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 Six | 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 Seven | 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 Eight | 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 Nine | 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 Ten | 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 Eleven | 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 Twelve | 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 Thirteen | Pantanal - Cuiabá

Our adventures in the wild come to an end and we travel back along the Transpantaneira 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 Fourteen | Cuiabá - Sao Paulo

We fly from Cuiabá to Sao Paulo, from where we make our independent onward journeys.

### 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 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/DbI Share	SS
7th - 20th Oct	<del>\$17,240</del> \$16,330	\$3,150

Save \$910pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/abra](http://andantetravels.com/abra)



# Chile & Easter Island

*Discover some of the world's most enigmatic rock art*

15 DAYS FROM \$15,170pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





## Tour highlights

- 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.



### Days One | Santiago

After a welcome lunch, we have the rest of the afternoon to simply relax and recover from our flights, or join a **guided walk around Santiago**, Chile's capital city since the Colonial era. During the orientation tour, we will visit the **Museo de Arte Precolombino**, which houses a world-class collection of Latin American antiquities.

### Day Two | Santiago - Arica

We catch an early flight to **Arica**, a seaside port and town in northern Chile, a few miles south of the Peruvian border. Here, we visit the **San Miguel Archaeological Museum**, home to the famous **Chichorro Mummies**, preserved for several millennia by the dry heat of the desert. Astonishingly, the oldest body pre-dates the Egyptian mummies by some 3,000 years. Later, we cross the **Azapa Valley** to see rock art visible on the hillsides — an assortment of human figures and animals.

### Day Three | Arica - Iquique

This morning, our journey takes us through the **Atacama Desert**, the driest desert in the world according to NASA. We stop at **Chiza** and **Tiliviche** to see the sprawling human and llama geoglyphs, thought to have been created as a guide to caravans



## Your expert guide

### Dr Paul Bahn

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



descending from the mountains to the coast. We also visit the **Cerro Rosita** and **Ex Aura geoglyphs**. Finally, we travel to our hotel in Iquique, stopping to see **El Gigante del Atacama**, the world's largest prehistoric depiction of a human.

### Day Four | Iquique

Our day begins with a **boat trip into the Pacific** from Iquique harbour, with the opportunity 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 and has since been declared a UNESCO Site. This is a unique opportunity to peer back through the sands of time.

### Day Five | Iquique - San Pedro de Atacama

After breakfast, we drive to **Cerros Pintados** to view geoglyphs scattered for miles on the hillsides. Over 450 figures have been discovered here, the largest collection of its kind in South America. We continue to **San Pedro de Atacama**, an oasis village surrounded by volcanic scenery – and one of Chile's most beloved destinations.

*Continued...*







#### Day Six | San Pedro de Atacama

Today we drive to the petroglyphs at **Yerbas Buenas**. More than 1,000 images are visible here, all left by the Altacameno people. Free time follows, but we can join an optional excursion, such as the Atacama salt flat tour. Taking us through natural landscapes, including part of the largest salt flat in Chile, we will see native fauna and flora, visit the Flamencos National Reserve, Lake Chaxa and Toconao village.

#### Day Seven | San Pedro de Atacama - Santiago

Our morning is spent among the 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. This afternoon, we catch a flight back to Santiago.

#### Day Eight | Santiago

We make our way over to **Viña del Mar** to visit the **Museo de Arqueología e Historia Francisco Fonck**. The museum boasts a collection of wooden carvings and striking displays of archaeological material from other parts of Chile. After lunch, we embark on an informative walking tour of **Valparaíso**, a quirky city famed for its maze-like streets, vibrant Colonial architecture and richly artistic heritage. This lively place has earned itself the nickname of the 'Jewel of the Pacific'.

#### Day Nine | Santiago - Easter Island

The next part of our adventure begins today as we fly over the ocean to enigmatic **Easter Island**, one of the most isolated locations on the planet. Our explorations start with a walk around **Hanga Roa**, the

island's capital and harbour. This calm and compact settlement is home to most of the island's 5,000 inhabitants.

#### Day Ten | Easter Island

Our first full day on **Easter Island** begins with a trip to see 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. We continue on to the nearby **Rapa Nui Museum** 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 spent at leisure.





### Day Eleven | Easter Island

After breakfast we visit the quarry at **Rano Raraku**, where many unfinished moai stand 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**, where we find the world's heaviest re-erected moai, weighing in at 86 tons. After lunch, our day ends 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 Twelve | Easter Island

We continue to explore further moai sites 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 among 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, finally, the 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, with time to relax.

### Day Thirteen | Easter Island

Discover restored moai in the harbour of **Hanga Piko** and then move on to **Ana Kai Tangata** ('cannibal cave') on the seafront. We continue to **Rano Kau**, a wide volcano within which lies a crater lake. Here, we visit the **Orongo ceremonial village**, perched on the crater's edge, beside a sheer 300-metre cliff. 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** and move on to **Ahu Akivi**, whose seven identical statues seem to have been placed to mark spring and autumn equinoxes. Next, we visit **Ahu Huri a Urenga**, an inland platform with an astronomical orientation and a single moai with four hands. 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 maori.

### Day Fourteen | Easter Island - Santiago

After free time in the morning, we transfer to the airport and catch our return flight to Santiago.

### Days Fifteen | Santiago

Our tour ends after breakfast and we make our independent onward journeys.

*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

- 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 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/Dbl Share	SS
13th - 27th Mar*	<del>\$16,290</del> \$15,170	\$1,410
20th Nov - 4th Dec	<del>\$16,355</del> \$15,515	\$1,395

**Save up to \$1,120pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

The exact date and price of this new tour date is subject to change. Please call or visit our website for the latest details.

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/achi](https://andantetravels.com/achi)



**NEW**  
FOR 2025

# Guatemala, Honduras & Belize

*Explore the magnificent civilisation of the Maya*

16 DAYS FROM \$15,134pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





## Tour highlights

- At daybreak, walk among Tikal's magnificent ancient temples and climb their steps as the sun rises over the horizon
- Observe endemic wildlife, from howler monkeys to macaws and eagles
- Tour the well-preserved buildings of Antigua, a UNESCO-listed city that was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773
- Discover the Mayan culture amongst the quiet villages and spectacular scenery of the Guatemalan mountains

The juxtaposition of extreme cruelty and high cultural sophistication in the Maya world takes modern visitors by surprise but this enduring mystery of a magnificent civilisation, compounded by exotic jungle surroundings, make for a thrilling 'page-turner' of a tour. We now have intricate details of the lives, politics, religious rituals and wars of the all-powerful and colourful figures who were the Mayan aristocracy. A vivid picture has emerged of competitive city-states headed by aggressive dynasts regularly at war, with blood-letting and human sacrifice at the centre of their religious practice.

Much of Central America is still covered in lush rainforests as it would have been in most of the Maya period. This makes it easier to imagine the lives of these fascinating people as we venture through the jungle, listening out for the roar of howler monkeys high in the canopy and looking for the flash of brilliant colour that denotes macaws darting among the branches. Here, we are in a land of quetzal birds and jaguars, of volcanoes, lakes and waterfalls.

### Day One | Antigua Guatemala

Meet the group at our hotel in Antigua Guatemala and enjoy dinner together.

### Day Two | Antigua Guatemala

Today is ours to explore the beguiling city of **Antigua**, Guatemala's candy-coloured capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, we receive an introduction to the region – in a city renowned for its Spanish colonial buildings, its vibrantly patterned textiles and dramatic backdrop of looming volcanoes. Today's Antigua is the third incarnation of the city, established on this land in the 16th century after the first incarnation was uprooted by native uprisings, and the second devastated by volcanic mudflow. From markets to churches, with tales of ground-breaking earthquakes in between, learn all about Antigua's colourful past. It a city made for walking with its cobbled streets arranged in grid pattern with the imposing Volcán de Agua to the

south and the twin peaks of Volcán de Fuego and Acatenango to the west.

### Day Three | Antigua Guatemala – Iximche - Lake Atitlan

We leave Antigua Guatemala to return to Guatemala City to visit the **National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology**. This museum was first founded in the late 19th century, and houses one of the most important collections of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican artefacts in the world – over 20,000 pieces in total, which offer an unparalleled glimpse into Guatemalan history. From here we drive to the small site of **Iximche**, once capital of the Highland Cakchiquel people situated on a pine forested plateau at an altitude of 7,000 feet. The ruins are made up of four central plazas, each containing between one and three temples, a number of surrounding palaces and several smaller platforms believed to have been used for ceremonial rites. It remains an important

## Your expert guide

### Dr Nicholas James

Author of "Aztecs & Maya", Nicholas graduated from Oxford and now teaches at Cambridge.



ceremonial site for indigenous pilgrims. After we continue to Lake Atitlan.

### Day Four | Lake Atitlan

We explore some of the villages along the shores of **Lake Atitlan** high in the mountains of central Guatemala. Its spectacular setting and deep blue water has long been a draw for artists, writers and travellers. Aldous Huxley compared it to Lake Como but "... with the additional embellishment of several immense volcanoes. It is really too much of a good thing." Although ancient Maya civilisation perished, Maya culture persists in the quiet villages along the shoreline and in the mountains where old customs and costumes still prevail. In the afternoon we shall take a boat trip on the lake.

*Continued...*







#### Day Five | Lake Atitlan – Chichicastenango – Antigua Guatemala

This morning we drive to **Chichicastenango** in time to experience the market which takes here twice a week. The town has been a main trading centre for hundreds of years and people throughout the Quiche region come here to buy and sell their produce and handicrafts. The streets are filled with stalls selling textiles, handicrafts, wood carvings, pottery and jewellery in the streets around the main square. In the middle of Chichicastenango is Santo Tomás, a 400-year-old church built on a Pre-Columbian temple platform. Its 18 stairs each represent one month of the Mayan calendar, and this is where you will see the combination of pagan and Catholic rites in practice as offerings are presented to pagan deities outside the Church and Catholic rituals are made within. After our visit we return to Antigua Guatemala for our last night there.

#### Day Six | Antigua – Copán, Honduras

A travelling day today as we leave Antigua Guatemala and make the long journey east to Copán, situated just over the border in neighbouring Honduras. We will break the journey at the riverside town of Rio Hondo set amidst farmlands of mango, lime and avocado groves.

#### Day Seven | Copán

Today is dedicated to the extensive ruined city of **Copán**. Though initially discovered in 1570, the ruins of Copán were not excavated until the 19th century. They are now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and are much admired for their Hieroglyphic Stairway, upon which the longest inscribed Maya text can still be viewed. We wander the stone ruins, viewing ancient tombs, the grand Monument Plaza, and the magnificent ball court, where an early precursor to the modern game of basketball was played – a site of great cultural and spiritual significance.

#### Day Eight | Copán - Petén

Today we head back across the border for a tour of the ancient city of **Quirigua**, which lies 30 miles north of Copán, as the crow flies, and is thought to have been inhabited from 200 AD. It is best-known for its gigantic carved stelae, the largest of them, Stelae E, weighs over 60,000. Although some are in poor condition, the carved detail which can be depicted is quite extraordinary. The Great Plaza here is also the largest known public space in the entire Maya region. The reason behind the city's decline remains a subject of much speculation. Later, we make the long journey to the attractive, laid-back town of Flores on Lake Petén, connected to the mainland by causeway. This is the main base for those visiting Tikal or the more remote areas of Petén.

#### Day Nine | Tikal

Our focus for today is nothing less than the mighty Tikal, an incomparable Maya metropolis that was occupied continuously from 800 BC to AD 900. The **Tikal National Park** is an enormous site – its central section alone contains over 3,000 buildings – and still only a small portion has been excavated. This includes steep pyramids, palaces, ball courts, huge plazas, temples, shrines and paved causeways. The finds from these vast excavations are housed in the **site museum** which offers plenty of extra historical and archaeological insight that will bring this ancient civilisation vividly to life.

#### Day Ten | Tikal

With so much to see at this fascinating site, we continue our discovery of **Tikal**. Toucans and parrots caw from hanging vines, wild turkeys scrub around the bush, monkeys howl from the tropical canopy, and crickets vibrate in unison. We take ourselves to the heart of this enchanting spectacle, climbing the highest jungle temple. In the afternoon, we will have some free time to relax at our hotel.

#### Day Eleven | Petén - Yaxhá - Topoxte - Belize

This morning we drive to the once thriving city of **Yaxhá**, a former ceremonial centre of the pre-Columbian Maya. Though still little-known archaeologically, Yaxhá is one of the greatest Maya sites and it retains its original pre-Hispanic name meaning blue-green water - yax-ha. Lying on a series of natural hills above the north shore of Lake Yaxhá, the site centre contains more than 500 structures including some massive pyramid temples and a large number of residential buildings for the nobility. After a picnic lunch, we enjoy a boat trip to the important Maya site of **Topoxte**, first discovered in 1904. We visit the archaeological ruins here, for a Middle Preclassic encounter. After our full day of exploration, we travel across the border into Belize.

#### Day Twelve | Xunantunich & Cahal Pech

On our first morning in Belize, we visit **Xunantunich** – a destination where well-known Maya stucco friezes depict dancing figures and ropes thought to signify those held by women in labour. The site dates back to the Preclassic period but, as usual at Maya sites, most of the visible buildings and the 8 stelae found here are from the Late Classic. It was only recently, in early 2016, some extremely exciting discoveries were made here which include two well preserved hieroglyphic panels and an intact Maya suggested by the unusual, shared practice of placing human digits in small bowls as burial offerings. After our site visit, we continue to **Cahal Pech**, where we see some of its 34 structures which two ballcourts and a number of plain stelae before returning to our hotel.

#### Day Thirteen | Caracol

Today we venture deep into the forests to the Vacau Plateau, where the impressive Maya city of **Caracol** invites more ancient exploration. Caracol is the biggest Maya city in Belize and contains some impressive structures dominated by the 'Canaa' or 'Sky Palace', a pyramid some 46 metres in height.





The settlement area of 'greater' Caracol is thought to have covered some 88 km<sup>2</sup> and around 35,000 constructions may have been occupied within this area when the city was at its peak in the Late Classic period between 650 – 700 AD. We spend the morning here and after lunch, we take the scenic route back through the jungle to our hotel.

#### Day Fourteen | San Ignacio - Lamanai

We make our way to Lamanai visiting en route the site of **Atun Ha**, to the north of Belize City and not far from the Caribbean coast. The architecture visible today, much restored, is from the Classic period around 1000 BCE and though it might seem a pretty ordinary place after visiting Copán, Tikal or Caracol, Altun Ha's rulers, in terms of material possessions, were certainly wealthy and powerful people. It is generally thought that they acquired this wealth as key players in trade networks, probably dominated by Tikal, that connected the Caribbean coast with the Maya heartland area of the Central Lowlands. Next, we board a motor-launch boat to Lamanai (also known as the 'Place of the Submerged Crocodile'), and cruise through acres of luxurious vegetation teeming with birds and jungle creatures. Tonight, we stay in eco jungle lodges.

#### Day Fifteen | Lamanai

We're in for a treat today as we wander the remote jungle remains of **Lamanai**, which spread along the shores of the New River lagoon. It is unique in being the longest lasting of all Maya cities and there was a settlement here on the banks of the New River lagoon by 1500 BC. Never abandoned, there were still Maya here to introduce themselves to the Spaniards when they arrived about 1545. In the 9th century, when everywhere else in the Maya world was falling apart, Lamanai was still prospering, its temples maintained, new residential areas built. Highlights here include the extraordinary Mask Temple, decorated by a 13-foot-high stone mask of a Maya king, and the High Temple. Later, we enjoy free time in our lodge.

#### Day Sixteen | Lamanai - Belize City

We leave our jungle abode and take a boat ride from Lamanai to Belize City's international airport to make our independent onward journeys.

### 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 Hotel Camino Real Antigua, Hotel Atitlan, Hotel Marina Copán, Hotel Casona del Lago, San Ignacio Resort Hotel & Lamanai Outpost Lodge or similar

#### Culinary inclusions

- 16 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 16 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

#### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
12th - 27th Feb	<del>\$15,974</del>	\$15,134 \$2,604

Save \$840pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/abel](http://andantetravels.com/abel)





15 DAYS FROM \$10,416pp

Activity Level ●●●●●

## Mexico - The Maya

*An in-depth tour from Mexico City to the Yucatán peninsula*

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 | Mexico City

Meet the group at our hotel in Mexico City and enjoy dinner together.

### 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

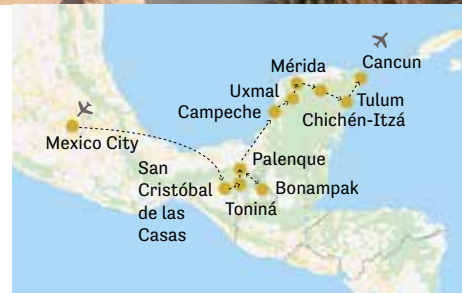
We drive east to **Toniná**, located in the hills above the fertile Ocosingo Valley. On the periphery of the Maya area, it seems to have been one of the longest lasting Maya cities, possessing the very latest Maya 'Long Count' date known, from 15th January 909 AD. Other hieroglyphic evidence points to 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 the famous carved lintels. A number of these were removed by the British explorer Alfred Maudslay in the 1880s and can now







## Tour highlights

- 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

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 | Tulum - Cancun

We end our tour in Cancún and make our independent onward journeys.



## Your expert guide

### Dr Elizabeth Baquedano

A Mesoamerican specialist, Elizabeth is Senior Honorary Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL.



## 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 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/DbI Share	SS
17th Nov - 1st Dec	<del>\$10,976</del>	\$10,416 \$1,340

**Save \$560pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/amex](https://andantetravels.com/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.

This diverse and long history has resulted in a plethora of burial mounds, stone circles, hilltop forts, settlements, ancient quarries, medieval castles and imposing palaces, serving as powerful symbols of authority and prestige.





5 DAYS FROM \$2,845pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Highlights of Orkney

*Discover the world-renowned archaeological sites of Orkney*

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.

### Tour highlights

- 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/DbI Share	SS
14th - 18th Aug	<del>\$3,055</del> \$2,845	\$545

Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aork](http://andantetravels.com/aork)





11 DAYS FROM \$5,940pp

Activity Level ●●●●○

## Orkney & Shetland

*From standing stones to chambered cairns*

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. 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**.





## Tour highlights

- 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

### 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.*



Images top to bottom: Mousa Broch, Scalloway & Tombolo joining St Ninian's Isle to Shetland

## 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	<del>\$6,290</del>	\$5,940 \$840

**Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer**

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/aoas](https://andantetravels.com/aoas)





9 DAYS FROM \$4,860pp

Activity Level ●●●●○

## Walking Hadrian's Wall

*Discover the archaeological remains at Vindolanda*

Crossing wild and beautiful terrain, the Hadrian's Wall footpath covers the shortest distance coast-to-coast across the country. On this holiday, we'll walk up to seven miles travelled per day, including hills and varied terrain – a wonderful way to chart the entire length of the frontier, following in the footsteps of the Romans. Pass forts, mile castles and fine museums as we make our way from west to east.

### Day One | Ruleholme

We meet at our hotel in Ruleholme where we meet our group and expert Guide Lecturer for the tour. This evening we enjoy an introductory talk about the history of Hadrian's Wall – an engaging taster of what's to come.

### Day Two | Bowness-on-Solway & Tullie House Museum

This morning we drive to **Bowness-on-Solway** where our walk begins. We ramble along the shore of the Solway Firth toward **Burgh-by-Sands**. The day ends with a visit to the **Tullie House Museum** in Carlisle. (c 4.5 miles)

### Day Three | Birdoswald

We start at **Lanercost Priory**, built from stone taken from Hadrian's Wall, and then hike via **Haytongate**, **Hare Hill** and the **Banks Turret** to **Birdoswald**. Later, we explore Roman remains at Birdoswald fort. An auxiliary unit of Dacians (from modern Romania) formed the garrison. (c 5 miles)

### Day Four | Carvoran

We return to Birdoswald and begin walking towards **Thirlwell** along the longest unbroken section of Hadrian's Wall. After a short drive, we stop at **Carvoran** to explore the notable collections at the Roman Army Museum. We continue towards **Burnhead** to view the quarry. (c 6 miles)

### Day Five | Vindolanda

Our morning begins with a visit to **Vindolanda**, located in the heart of the Northumberland National Park. The earliest remains of the fort here pre-

date Hadrian's Wall, and were first established in approximately AD 85 – the timber huts from this era are now buried in the waterlogged soil. The fort was subsequently demolished and rebuilt nine times, and the foundations of its stone constructions are still visible for us to explore. Highlights include the well-preserved 3rd century bath house and the remnants of the only temple dedicated to a Roman deity to have ever been found in a Roman auxiliary complex. After lunch, we drive to **Steel Rigg**, a dramatic crag with views of the rugged countryside. We pick up our trail and make our way to **Housesteads Roman**



**Fort** to finish the day, viewing the remains as well as the museum here. (c 3.5 miles)

### Day Six | Chesters

We lace up our boots and visit the mithraeum at **Carrawburgh**, our starting point for today. It is thought that this elegant temple was built by Roman soldiers in around AD 200, as its three altars, dedicated to the bull-slaying god Mithras, were all inscribed from commanding officers. A nymphaeum, or natural grotto, was also located here, though no visible traces remain. We stride out to **Chesters** on







## Tour highlights

- Walk along the largest unbroken section of Hadrian's Wall
- Delve deeper into the rich Roman history of this unique area
- Explore Birdoswald, where we will discover its fort and museum
- Walk this legendary route in the company of an expert guide, who knows both its stories and history inside and out

the bank of the North Tyne River, enjoying the fresh country air and changing views. At Chesters, we are rewarded with a visit to the most complete Roman cavalry fort in the country, **Cilurnum**. The site, maintained by English Heritage, features an extensive collection of artefacts, a fine bath building and officers' quarters. (c 6 miles)

### Day Seven | Corbridge

This morning we drive out to **Heavenfield** and trek to **Port Gate**, the site of a fortified gateway controlling traffic along Dere Street, the Roman road that ran north to the Firth of Forth. Following lunch, a drive to Corbridge takes us to a once vibrant Roman town and major military depot. We view artefacts at the museum here and we then take a walk along the River Tyne to **Corbridge**, where we see the preserved Roman bridge abutment and reused Roman masonry in the Anglo-Saxon church. (c 5 miles)

### Day Eight | Benwell

Starting our tour at **Whittle Dene Reservoir** this morning, we wander to **Heddon-on-the-Wall**, where we see a well-preserved stretch of the wall. This substantial structure demonstrates how thick the wall was meant to be, showing it at its original planned width of two metres. A medieval kiln and circular chambers are also visible here. Later, we view the surviving wall that stretches around Denton, before continuing to the **Temple at Benwell**, dedicated to the local god Antenociticus, a deity thought to have been involved with military affairs. With the majority of our leg-work now behind us, tonight we grab a chance to kick off our hiking gear and enjoy a well-earned dinner to mark the final

night of our fascinating holiday with the group. (c 4.5 miles)

### Day Nine | Segedunum

Our journey from coast to coast is almost at an end. The first stop today is at the **Great North Museum**, which was built for Northumbria's natural history collection in 1884. Alongside fantastic fossil galleries and displays about the living planet, we will find a detailed Hadrian's Wall exhibition, where treasures and stories abound. Next, we venture across to the seaside town of South Shields and visit **Arbeia Roman Fort**, once a large supply base. Our final destination is Wallsend, where we visit the site of **Segedunum**, the most completely excavated fort on Hadrian's Wall, which once housed troops from



## 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.



mainland North Europe. An interactive museum reveals what life would have been like for a cavalry officer at the height of the garrison's powers. Our tour comes to an end and we can make our onward independent journeys. (c 3 miles)

## 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 Fleece at Ruleholme & the Beaumont Hotel Hexham or similar

### Culinary inclusions

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

### Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
14th - 22nd Jul	<del>\$5,140</del>	\$4,860 \$960

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/ahad](https://andantetravels.com/ahad)





4 DAYS FROM \$1,665pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Richard III - Hero or Villain?

*Discover one of English history's most tragic, bloody and colourful epochs*

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?

### 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.

### Tour highlights

- 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



### 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	<del>\$1,805</del> \$1,665	<del>\$230</del> \$0

Save \$140pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit  
[andantetravels.com/arhv](http://andantetravels.com/arhv)





6 DAYS FROM \$3,135pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●○○

## Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast

*Exploring the wild, wild west*

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.

### 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.

### Tour highlights

- 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 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/Dbl Share	SS
21st - 26th May	<del>\$3,345</del> \$3,135	<del>\$413</del> \$0

Save \$210pp with our 2025 Special Offer

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/apem](https://andantetravels.com/apem)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS







## Will I receive financial protection when I book?

Yes, of course. 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 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, 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 travel out early before the start of the tour or stay for a few extra days after your tour ends, we can book extra nights accommodation where possible for an additional fee. You may also wish to upgrade your room, just call us to discuss. We can also arrange private transfers to and from the airport/accommodation at a supplement.

## 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 39 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.

## Do you organise visas?

No, but should you require a letter of invitation from the country you are planning on visiting, we will organise this for you and provide instructions on how to apply for the visa. As most visa applications require either biometric data or personal information, we will provide instructions on how to apply for a visa 12 weeks before departure.



# 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: 01722 713800 email: [tours@andantetravels.com](mailto:tours@andantetravels.com)

Historical Trips is a trading name of Andante Travels Ltd

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us, and this contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by English Law, and the jurisdiction of the English Courts. If you reside in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose the applicable law and jurisdiction if you wish to do so.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" includes all persons named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date). "We", "us" and "our" means Andante Travels. Andante Travels is a subsidiary of Specialist Tours Limited (company number 08395250). Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us and which we agree to make, provide, or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

## KEY POINTS

You enter into a booking with us when we issue our booking confirmation/invoice. If you then cancel, there will be cancellation charges. Initially as a minimum this may only be a deposit but can go up to 100%. In certain circumstances you may be able to make changes to your booking however charges will apply. We can change and cancel your booking. We'll pay you compensation in certain circumstances. It is a condition of booking that all travellers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. We are responsible to you for providing your holiday but there are legal limits.

ANDANTE TRAVELS holds ATOL number 3552 issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. For all other packages, The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

## 1. BOOKING

All information provided in the brochure/website is, to the best of our knowledge or belief, correct at the time of publication. We will advise you of any changes that are fundamental to the contract, or which we believe will affect your enjoyment of the holiday. Please advise us if there is any requirement, which you believe is fundamental to your holiday so that we can give you the latest information at the time of booking.

When you ask us to proceed with a booking you will be required to make a (minimum) deposit payment which will vary dependent on the specific holiday you are booking. This will be advised at the time of booking and confirmed in your booking confirmation. It may also be necessary to collect payment at the time of booking for other (non-refundable) costs e.g. flight tickets, transfers etc. In the case of bookings made after the balance due date, we will require full payment for the holiday.

You must be at least 18 years old to make a booking and you guarantee that you have the authority to accept, and do accept, these terms and conditions for all members of the party (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date), and in particular payment for all the persons on the booking. We reserve the right in our absolute discretion to refuse to accept any booking without necessarily specifying a reason.

A contract is made when we accept your booking and issue our written booking confirmation/invoice. If we cannot accept or confirm the booking, any money paid will be promptly refunded. On receipt of the booking confirmation/invoice it is important to check the details and if there is any inaccuracy this must be notified to us immediately. It may not be possible to make changes or corrections later, or additional costs may be incurred which we will have to pass on to you.

Many of our holidays are based on specially negotiated airfares booked in a specific airline booking class. At the time of booking if these fares are not available, we will endeavour to secure an alternative air fare and advise you of any additional cost. Please note that most special air fares are non-refundable and non-changeable.

## 2. PAYMENT

We hold your deposit (and any additional payment required at the time of booking) towards the full cost of the holiday. The balance must be received by us no later than the final payment due date shown on your booking confirmation/invoice, as appropriate to your holiday. If you do not pay the full cost within the time specified, we may treat your holiday as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges shown in point 4 - Cancellation by You, will apply.

### Deposit Payments (per person) for travel in 2024:

**UK Guests:** £250 for tours up to £1,000, £500 for tours £1,001 to £2,500, £750 for tours £2,501-£5,000, £1,000 for tours £5,001-£10,000 and £1,500 for tours £10,001+

**US Guests:** \$250 for tours up to \$1,000, \$500 for tours \$1,001 to

\$2,500, \$750 for tours \$2,501-\$5,000, \$1,000 for tours

\$5,001-\$10,000 and \$1,500 for tours \$10,001+

### Deposit Payments (per person) for travel in 2025:

**UK Guests:** £300 for tours up to £1,000, £650 for tours £1,001 to £2,500, £850 for tours £2,501-£5,000, £1,200 for tours £5,001-£10,000 and £1,700 for tours £10,001+

**US Guests:** \$300 for tours up to \$1,000, \$650 for tours \$1,001 to \$2,500, \$850 for tours \$2,501-\$5,000, \$1,200 for tours \$5,001-\$10,000 and \$1,700 for tours \$10,001+

The deposit payable for a small selection of tours including cruises may differ from the amounts above and are specified on the brochure and website price panels.

**Final Balance payment for travel in 2024:** 12 weeks prior to tour departure date.

**Final Balance payment for travel in 2025:** 14 weeks prior to tour departure date.

If we 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 the flights are booked.

**Ways to Pay** - we accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheques in GBP, 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 have to accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered outside the EEA and USA.

## 3. YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE

a) Prior to booking you will receive a verbal quote based on your specific holiday requirements and travel dates.

b) We reserve the right to notify you of any alteration in the advertised or quoted price and any changes in holiday arrangements before accepting your booking.

**Note:** We make every effort to ensure that the most up to date and correct prices are shown on our website, but we reserve the right to correct pricing errors at any time. The price you pay at the time of booking is the price we guarantee. Prices can go up when demand is so high, so we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, you may amend your booking or select an alternative holiday at the applicable and correct price.

c) Subject to these conditions, once we have confirmed your booking, the price is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any additional 'surcharges', which means any increase due to changes in the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from changes to the cost of fuel or other power sources, the level of taxes or fees imposed by third parties, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at port and airports or exchange rates.

d) Prices in our brochures and/or on our website are calculated on rates of exchange linked to those available to us; either based on rates previously secured or our view of currency exchange rates applicable at the time payments are due.

Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a twin/double room. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles), or a bed that is slightly smaller than a standard UK size double bed, but still larger than a single bed.

### What's Included

Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager (as specified by tour)

2-5\* Accommodation

Meals as per the itinerary, tea or coffee with dinner

Entries to all sites and local transport as per the itinerary

All taxes & gratuities (as specified by tour)

## 4. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY YOU

### Cancellation by You

If you or any member of your party wish to cancel your holiday, or if you fail to pay the full cost of the holiday within the specified time you will be liable, as a minimum, to pay the charges detailed below up to the point of cancellation, in addition to any non-refundable items\*. Or in the case of failure to pay, at the date that we deem your booking to have been cancelled. Notification from the person who made the booking must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter. The cancellation charge will be calculated according to the date this is received, or the date upon which your cancellation is treated as occurring because of non-payment.

\*Non-refundable holiday costs charged including upgraded air tickets, hotel upgrades, extensions, extra nights, transfers etc., will be charged at 100% and the charges shown below will then apply to the remainder of the holiday cost and any amendment charges are not refundable. Additional accommodation costs for reduced occupancy or other components, may be payable in the event that one or more passengers cancels but where remaining passengers still wish to travel.

**Group Bookings** - cancellation charges will apply to any guests in the group who may wish to cancel in the unlikely event of cancellation by the lead passenger.

**Note:** If your cancellation falls within the provisions of your travel insurance policy you may be able to make a claim which must be made direct to your insurance company.

### Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday - travelling in 2024

**Tours: Up to 84 days:** deposit | **83-64 days:** deposit and 35% of the balance | **63-46 days:** deposit and 55% of the balance | **45-31 days:** deposit and 75% of the balance | **From 30 days to departure:** deposit and 100% of the balance

### Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday - travelling in 2025

**Up to 98 days:** deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **97-84 days:** deposit and 15% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **83-64 days:** deposit and 35% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **63-46 days:** deposit and 55% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **45-31 days:** deposit and 75% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **From 30 days to departure:** deposit 100% of the balance.

**Study Days** are non-refundable.

We will observe travel advice provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Should circumstances dictate, you can cancel your booking without paying cancellation charges if the performance of your holiday, or the carriage of passengers to your destination, is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. In such circumstances, we will arrange for your booking to be cancelled and for you to receive a full refund.

### Variation by You

**Booking alterations:** If, after our booking confirmation/invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes (subject to agreement by our suppliers) but it may not always be possible. Any associated costs of the changes imposed by our suppliers and any extra arrangements will be payable by you and are non-refundable. Quotes normally have a 24-hour time frame before they expire, and the price is therefore subject to change. You should be aware that these costs could increase as the departure date becomes closer and you should contact us as soon as possible.

**Booking transfer to another person:** You can transfer your existing booking to another person suggested by you (subject to agreement by our suppliers)\*. Notice must be received at



our offices, this can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking at least 25 days before departure. The replacement traveller must satisfy and fulfil any conditions that apply to the holiday, and all costs of the original booking. Both you and the new traveller are responsible for paying all costs we incur before the transfer can be made by us. The cost of the transfer will consist of both an administration charge of \$50 and any costs which our suppliers impose\*.

**Note:** Certain travel arrangements may not be transferable after a reservation has been made, for example, some airlines may require payment of 100% cancellation charges and the cost of a new ticket for ANY variation that is made, and changes to other arrangements may incur a cancellation charge of up to 100%.

\* If you are unable to travel, you may wish to check whether cover is provided for your cancellation within the terms of your travel insurance policy as this may incur less cost to you.

**Booking transfer to an alternative holiday:** It may be possible at our discretion for you to transfer to another holiday, however this is subject to availability and time frame of departure. You must transfer within 7 days of notifying Andante Travels and the new departure must be within 1 year of notification. Any price difference between what you paid for your original tour and the price of the new tour will be payable. An administration fee of \$100 per person applies to any transfer up to 12 weeks prior to departure. Less than 12 weeks our cancellation charges will apply.

**While on holiday:** 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.

## 5. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY US

We start planning the holidays we offer many months in advance. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed or cancel confirmed bookings, events, or activities. Holidays to remote and in some cases, underdeveloped parts of the world carry the risk that parts of the holiday may be subject to alterations beyond our control, sometimes at short notice. While we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so.

### Cancellation by Us:

We reserve the right to cancel your booking. We will not cancel your confirmed booking after the final 'balance due' payment date, except for unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances (see point 6) or failure by you to pay the final balance of your holiday.

**Minimum Numbers** - some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If the minimum number of bookings required for a particular holiday or flight have not been achieved, we are entitled to cancel it and will notify you prior to the final 'balance due' payment date, or in exceptional circumstances following the final 'balance due' payment date. Please note that in such cases we are not able to accept responsibility for any costs you may have incurred, including costs of other travel arrangements made in association with the cancelled holiday, unless booked through Andante Travels. We are happy to give you an indication at any time of the current number of passengers booked on a trip, but this should not be taken as any guarantee whether the holiday will or will not go ahead as booking numbers can fluctuate. There may be certain circumstances when a holiday may operate with less than the minimum number than the advertised group size.

We will endeavour to do all possible to have a tour operate. If the tour is not viable due to numbers, where possible we will see if suppliers will supply a more 'private' tour and we will come back to you with a revised cost. If everyone currently booked is willing to pay this, then the tour may continue with a much smaller group.

If your holiday is cancelled, you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an alternative holiday of comparable standard from us if we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

In the event a refund is paid to you, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (e.g. flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

## Cancellation as a result of global travel disruption

If it becomes necessary to cancel your tour as a result of global travel disruption, we reserve the right to refund the cost of your tour in the form of credit for a limited amount of time, to be used against any other tour in the Specialist Journeys portfolio. If you do not use this credit within that time, a refund will be payable. This change to the standard booking conditions would only apply if approved by the UK Government and enshrined in the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations (PTRs) as an emergency measure to support tour operators in extraordinary circumstances such as the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak.

### Variation by Us:

It is a term of your booking that we are able to make changes to any aspect of your booking. If the change is insignificant, we will ensure that you are notified about it. Examples of insignificant changes include a change of airline or aircraft type, alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, change of airports and/or local connecting transport, tour staff and changes to supplementary arrangements such as site visit, or change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard.

Occasionally, we may have to make a significant change. If we are constrained by circumstances beyond our control to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of the travel services that make up your package, you will have rights set out below.

- We will contact you and you will have the choice of accepting the change or having a refund of all monies paid. You can also accept an alternative holiday, where we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of lower value) or purchase an alternative holiday subject to availability and applicable cost. We will tell you the procedure for making your choice. Please read any notification of changes carefully and respond promptly as if you do not respond to us within the timescale given, your booking may be cancelled.

- If you choose to accept a refund, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (e.g. flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Very rarely, we may be forced by 'circumstances beyond our control' (see point 6) to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely rare, if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain these from our suppliers), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

We do not control the day-to-day management of your accommodation, and in exceptional cases it is possible that we may be advised that the reserved accommodation has been overbooked. If this happens before your departure or on arrival in a location, we will endeavour to provide accommodation of at least the same standard in the same area. If only accommodation of a lower standard is available, we will refund the difference of the holiday price between the accommodation booked and that available and will pay up to \$50 per person for any inconvenience.

If under any circumstances a refund is applicable, this will be made to the lead passenger who made the original booking and to the payment method used for that booking.

## 6. CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation, reimburse expenses, or cover losses where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by, or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of 'circumstances beyond our control'. In these booking conditions, 'circumstances beyond our control' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences (including suspected terrorist activity and all action taken during any "terror alert"), industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport, airport or airspace closures, as well as other air traffic management decisions (that may result in long or overnight delays or cancellations), fire, concert/event changes or cancellation and all similar events outside our control. This list is not exhaustive.

**Group-based holidays and activities** - worldwide weather patterns are becoming ever more erratic and unpredictable. If

it is not possible to operate certain excursions for this reason, we will endeavour to offer alternatives if this is possible. Such circumstances are totally beyond our control, and you therefore should proceed with your booking on this basis.

**Public Holidays, Sporting & Local Events** - in addition to public holidays, many countries host other national or international events or there may be local festivals, which may impact on local/tourist services or travel arrangements, including the reduction or closure of facilities, route diversions etc. during your visit. We have no control over these events, and as dates and details of arrangements are often changeable year on year, it is not possible for us to guarantee to forewarn you of specific details that may be relevant to your holiday or accept any responsibility for any disruption that may be caused. During public holidays, shops, restaurants, and tourist attractions may also be closed.

**Third-Party Information & Websites** - your booking is based on the information supplied to you by Andante Travels. We understand you may conduct additional research into your holiday through other third parties and associated websites, but as we have no control over such information this does not form any basis of our contract with you.

**Wi-Fi** - where the provision of Wi-Fi may be indicated in a property description, no guarantee is given or implied that it will be operative during your holiday and its availability is outside our control. Some properties may charge for this service and the areas where it is available may be limited and not necessarily available in guest rooms. In all cases, no compensation or refund will be paid in the event that it is not available for whatever reason.

**Dietary Requests & Allergies** - even nowadays, in some destinations, basic well-known dietary requirements (such as vegetarian, gluten free etc.) are often misunderstood and seldom catered for adequately, despite the best intentions and assurances from hoteliers and restaurateurs. While we are happy to pass on any such requests, we cannot guarantee choice or availability - especially with any airline meal options. We cannot accept detailed lists of specific dietary or food preparation requests and are unable to accept any other requests (eg. personal preferences) that are not for medical or religious reasons. Note: Whilst on tour it is your responsibility to double-check and reconfirm any allergy or dietary requirements directly with the various holiday suppliers.

**Other Hotel Guests** - it is not unusual for hotels or other accommodation to receive group bookings (sometimes with large numbers) from guests participating in conventions and conferences or other gatherings. At certain times of the year, there may be an influx of groups such as students on organised educational visits (popular during school holidays), associations or clubs. This may result in hotel facilities being much busier than usual or additional demands on hotel staff and services, but we are unable to accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused by such groups or their activities.

**Guides** - 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.

## 7. FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH TRAVEL ADVICE, HEALTH, VISAS & DOCUMENTS

- Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements including, inoculations and health certificates are your responsibility, and you should confirm these for all countries to, or through which you are intending to travel and cover all costs for this. Requirements should be checked well in advance of travel, and we do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.
- Essential information for British citizens (only), including health, passport, and visa requirements along with up-to-date Foreign Office travel, safety and security advice can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>. We also strongly recommend that you sign up for the latest email updates as travel and safety information can change at any point without notice.
- If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country or countries to, or through which, you are intending to travel and consult the relevant authority for the latest travel and safety advice for the destinations you are visiting.



d) We recommend that you consult your doctor well in advance of travel for the latest advice on inoculations and health certificates. You can also obtain the latest health information ahead of travel by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website <https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk>.

#### **Entry & Exit system for visiting the EU (EES)**

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. All travellers will be required to disembark the coach and pass through the automated EES kiosks for the checks to take place, once complete the coach will have a seal attached to the door and proceed to the port and check-in for the ferry. Customers will no longer therefore be able to join the coach at the port of Dover and the last joining point will now become Stop 24 services on the M20.

#### **European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)**

During the first half of 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](http://travel-europe.europa.eu) and we will update this page as exact dates and further details are released.

#### **8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Our holidays are not designed for party members to undertake special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise. We cannot accept any liability for any losses or damages arising out of such use or planned use nor for any loss or damage which has special financial consequences. Please note if you do intend to use one of our holidays for such purposes you should obtain adequate insurance in respect of it and any special equipment you decide to bring with you on such holidays.

#### **9. HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION**

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, eg Covid-19, 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.

#### **10. OUR LIABILITY TO YOU**

We make every effort to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to provide as part of our contract with you are delivered with reasonable skill and care. It is the laws and regulations of the country in which the services are actually provided which apply to your holiday arrangements and not those of the UK or your home country and any resulting complaint or claim will be judged on this basis. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as being properly provided. Please note, it is your responsibility to

show that reasonable skill and care have not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). Also bear in mind that standards of, for example, safety, hygiene, and quality may vary and services and transport your holiday involves may differ to the stringent standards we are accustomed to in the UK or your home country. Including for example, the absence of seatbelts on coaches contracted outside the UK as this is not always a legal requirement elsewhere.

Certain holidays involve risks and hazards of travel to and in remote and/or uninhabited areas where injury, illness, death, delay, or unanticipated events may occur as a result of forces of nature, wildlife, and adverse weather conditions. Medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible in some parts, and the medical facilities that do exist could be of inferior quality compared to what is available at home. In remote regions risks may include but are not limited to: mechanical breakdown of expedition vehicle(s); becoming stranded in remote and/or uninhabited areas; being subjected to rugged terrain and a harsh climate; encounters with wild animals, insects and pests, and the possibility of illness, injury or death therefrom; the uncontrollable and unpredictable behaviour of wild animals in their natural habitat; the possibility of not seeing certain animals; and dangerous weather and climate conditions.

You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. If any of the travel services included in your package are not performed in accordance with the contract, or improperly performed, by us or the travel service suppliers, and this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements, you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. We will not be liable where any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services is due to you or another member of your party; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel services in the package and is unforeseeable or unavoidable.

Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury, or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of three times the cost of your travel arrangements (excluding amendment charges). Our liability (if we are found liable to you on any basis) will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to:

a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services that made up your package.

These terms are incorporated into this booking contract; and

b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of and conditions under which compensation can be claimed for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage (there are strict Conditions of Carriage obligations for making claims for missing or damaged baggage that must be followed). We are regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of the extent of or the conditions under which compensation is to be paid under these or any conventions.

You can ask for copies of the travel service contractual terms, or the international conventions from Andante Travels. Where a carrier or hotelier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights – see point 11 below.

If it is impossible to ensure your return as scheduled due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, we will bear the cost of necessary accommodation, if possible, of equivalent category, for a maximum of three nights if this is not provided by your airline, in accordance with Regulation 261/2004. The limit doesn't apply to persons with reduced mobility and any person accompanying them, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors, or persons in need of specific medical assistance, provided that you notified us of these needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday.

**Note:** This entire clause does not apply to any services which do not form part of your contract with us i.e. 'own arrangements'. This includes for example, any

additional services, including excursions, that you organise independently, or services which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where these are not organised by us as part of our contract with you. We recommend that sufficient and appropriate insurance is taken out. In addition, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) 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 or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees, or where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (3) arises out of use of our services for special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise or (4) is connected with any business. We further advise you, and you agree that in the event of any claim against us, that such claim shall be governed by English Law and Jurisdiction shall lie in any Court of Competent Jurisdiction in the United Kingdom and you further acknowledge these requirements and waive any objection(s) thereto.

#### **11. TRAVEL DELAYS & CARRIAGE BY AIR**

Should delays due to weather conditions disrupt your itinerary, additional costs may be incurred, and these would be the responsibility of you, the client. You will be assisted by the airline in accordance with the airlines' policy on delays. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in point 6 of these booking conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board a flight on time).

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However, reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in these booking conditions. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. You are required to make any claim under this regulation directly with the airline, but if your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 0207 453 6424 <https://www.caa.co.uk>.

Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, we are unable to offer any refunds for unused accommodation or other services as reimbursement will not be made by our suppliers in these circumstances, and hotel rooms are held for delayed arrivals and not re-let. We strongly recommend you have adequate insurance provisions in place to fully cover such eventualities.

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.

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban_en).

In accordance with EU Regulations, we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative, the provisions of point 5, "Cancellation and Variation by us" will apply.

We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings, which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown in our brochure, on



our website and/or detailed on your booking confirmation/invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems, and the ability of passengers to check in on time. Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct and up to date flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions. We advise that you keep check on your flight's departure information on the day of departure in case of any late flight changes.

In accordance with EU legislation, we are required to draw your attention to restrictions concerning the import of food items which cannot be brought into the EU (including the UK), from outside the EU. For details, please see <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/personal-imports/> or contact this office.

#### 12. INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you and all members of your party obtain travel insurance for all overseas Andante holidays, and highly recommended for all UK Andante holidays. It should include cover for COVID-19 cancellation, curtailment, repatriation, and quarantine. We also strongly recommend that you do not travel against medical advice. The cost of repatriation, medical and other treatment overseas can be high, and we are unable to assist in meeting those costs. You should organise it immediately when you book to ensure you have cover against possible cancellation charges, medical treatment, and repatriation. Should you have your travel insurance in place we will need to know the details of your policy 6 weeks before departure at the latest. It is a requirement of booking that you provide us with an emergency contact number while you are on holiday stating your relationship (e.g. family member, neighbour, workplace). This is purely for your benefit in the unlikely event of you becoming ill or incapacitated on tour.

#### 13. SPECIAL REQUESTS & MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES

If you or any member of your party have any special requests, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your booking confirmation/invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be provided (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), you must tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops or worsens after your booking has been confirmed.

Andante Travels cannot provide individual assistance with boarding coaches or other forms of transport, baggage handling, walking or other personal requirements, etc. and guests should be confident that they can do these tasks unaided. We are happy to give advice and assistance with the choice of your holiday which will be dependent upon the nature of any disability. Our brochures also give a simple guide per tour regarding how active the tour is. In order to ensure your enjoyment of the holiday, we ask all clients to provide

full details of any disability or special requirements at the time of booking. Some suppliers such as airlines and cruise lines may request certification from your GP to confirm that you are fit to travel. We regret that we cannot be held liable for any costs you may incur as a result. You are urged to contact our Sales department for further information if you have any difficulty in walking or mobility problems and they will be pleased to advise you on the suitability of any particular holiday.

#### 14. CLIENT BEHAVIOUR

When you book a holiday with Andante Travels you accept responsibility for the proper conduct of you and your party. Andante Travels reserves the right in its reasonable discretion to terminate the holiday of any member of your party whose conduct is disruptive or detrimental to the enjoyment of other clients, or whose conduct may prejudice the reputation of Andante Travels with our suppliers or hotel owners. In that situation Andante Travels shall have no further responsibility or liability to you. The departure of a coach, ship train, plane or other modes of transport will not be delayed for passengers who are not on board by the stated boarding time.

#### 15. COMPLAINTS & ASSISTANCE ON HOLIDAY

If you have any reason to be unhappy with any element of your holiday, we would ask you first to bring this to the attention of the person in charge of the relevant service, on the spot. If this is not possible, please either contact our local representative or our UK office, using the number provided with your travel documents. It is essential that you do this to enable us to try and put matters right where possible. If a problem remains unresolved during your holiday you should make a complaint which must be received at our offices within 28 days of the completion of your holiday giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. This can be in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. We will reply to you within 28 days of receipt of your complaint. Please keep your complaint concise and to the point. If you fail to follow the requirement to report your complaint while on holiday, we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify it and this may affect your rights under this booking. If you're in difficulty while on holiday and ask us to help, we will provide appropriate assistance, in particular by providing information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance; and helping you to find alternative arrangements and any necessary phone calls/emails. You must pay any costs we incur if the difficulty is your fault.

The terms of this contract are exclusively governed by English Law and the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

#### 16. PROTECTING YOUR MONEY

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays.

**Flight inclusive tours (only valid for UK residents):** we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the CAA (ATOL No. 3552) which provides for your protection in the event of Andante Travels Ltd insolvency. The price of your air holiday packages includes the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday 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. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme as explained below.

#### Tours without flights arranged by us:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Andante Travels Ltd - Member 5249, 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 Andante Travels Ltd.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 81397 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>

#### 17. 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 you 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.

**We are ANDANTE TRAVELS LTD, registered limited company no. 1969761.**

**Registered offices: The Clock Tower, Unit 4 Oakridge Office Park, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT.**

**Tel: 01722 713 800 | Email: [tours@andantetravels.com](mailto:tours@andantetravels.com)**

**[www.andantetravels.co.uk](http://www.andantetravels.co.uk)**



**The Clock Tower, Unit 4 Oakridge Office Park,  
Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT  
Tel: 01722 713 800 | Email: [tours@andantetravels.com](mailto:tours@andantetravels.com)  
[www.andantetravels.co.uk](http://www.andantetravels.co.uk)**



WHY  
CHOOSE



## THE ANDANTE EXPERIENCE

No one does archaeological holidays quite like Andante, the first specialist UK operator to go beyond the surface of cultural travel, to dig deeper into the past and create unique explorations of some of the world's most important sites. From the relationships we have with local custodians to the way travelling with an expert enhances the experience, and from 24-hour support from our team while you're on tour to the careful thought that goes into each itinerary, trust Andante for your next ancient world adventure and travel with the best.

## SMALL, BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

With maximum numbers of 18 on every tour, you can enjoy the sociability of travelling with people who share your interest but in a group small enough to allow for ease of access and quality time with your Guide Lecturer. We can travel with more flexibility and enjoy more of those spontaneous encounters which are simply not available to travellers on a typical group tour of 40 or more. Regardless of whether you are travelling with friends, with a partner or solo, rest assured you'll find a happy, informal ambience on our tours and a healthy respect for the good things in life.

## VALUE FOR MONEY

The price you pay for your Andante Travels tour represents excellent value for money. With most aspects of your tour included, from entry to all sites as per the itinerary, from tips to treats and – more often than not – wine with dinner. There is very little you will need to budget for on holiday except souvenirs and drinks at the bar. To secure your first choice of tour date at the best price, we strongly recommend you book as early as possible.

## Get in touch with an expert

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

646 802 1527

[andantetravels.com](http://andantetravels.com)

