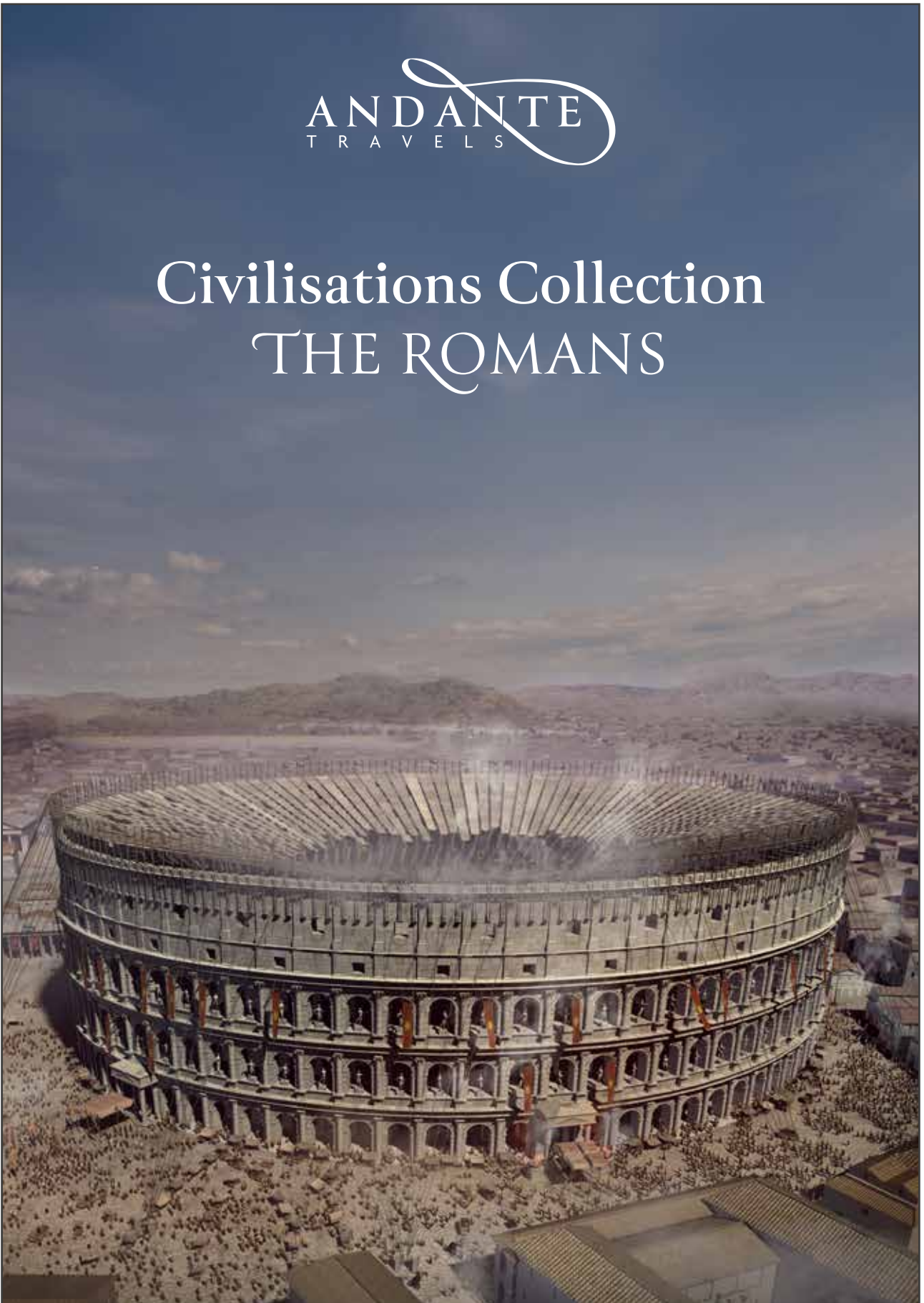


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TRAVELS

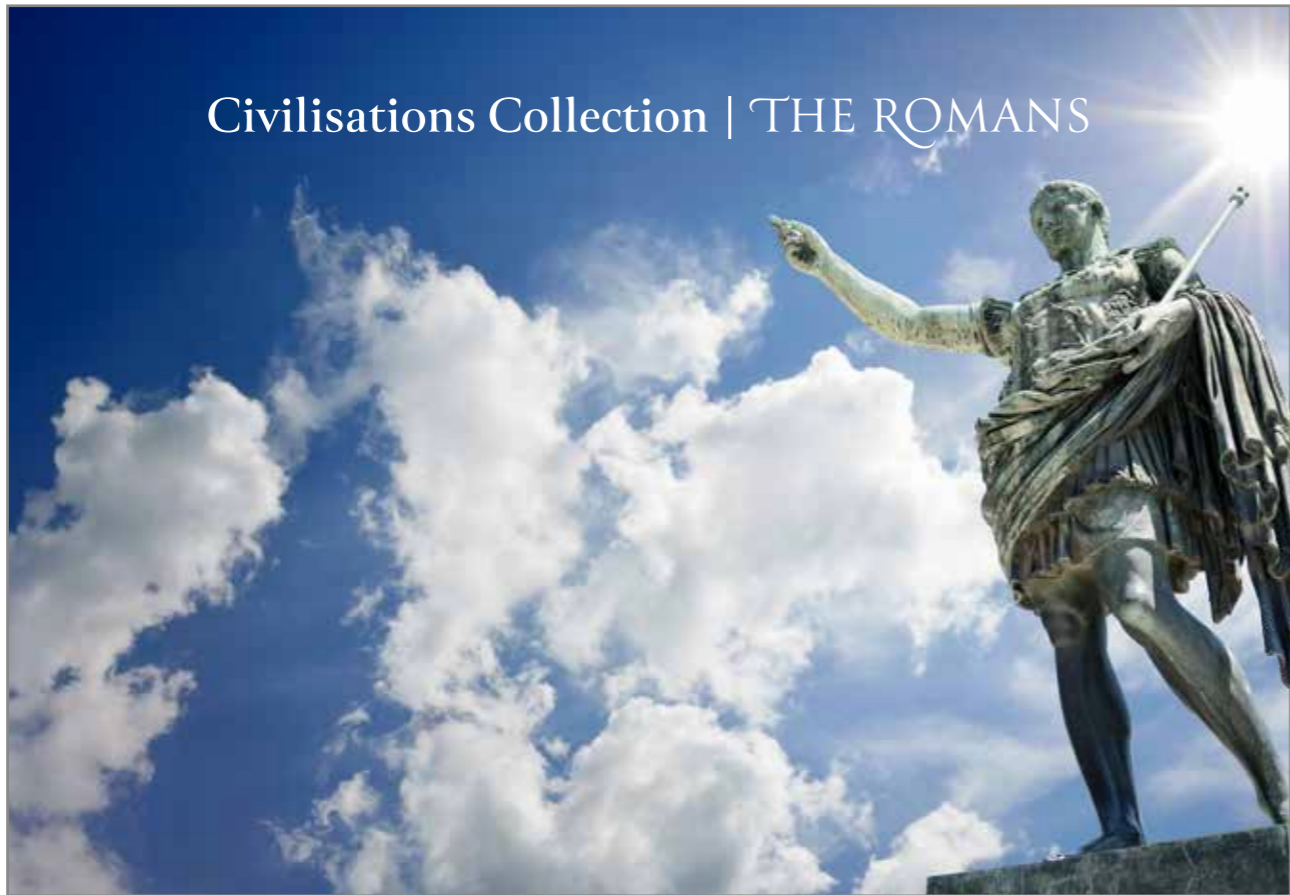
Civilisations Collection THE ROMANS



A COLLECTION OF TOURS EXPLORING THE REACH
AND INFLUENCES OF THE EXTENSIVE ROMAN EMPIRE



Civilisations Collection | THE ROMANS



THE VILLAGE THAT BECAME AN EMPIRE... |

We are delighted to introduce our first collection of our civilisation series for 2025: the Romans. This exciting range of tours offers a fascinating journey into an ancient world in a range of destinations across Europe and beyond, entering once-bloodied amphitheatres, heading underground to observe hidden remains and letting us treat you to special access at some unforgettable sites.

The Romans are perhaps most well known for their incredible feats of ancient engineering, from their roads and bridges to their mighty aqueducts, tunnels, amphitheatres and colosseums. The fact that many of these monuments are still standing today is testament to their craftsmanship and initiative, and their construction helped secure this civilisation's dominance for centuries. While there are plenty of these famous landmarks just waiting to be explored, we also go in search of hidden treasures, seeking out quieter spots such as the impressive villa at Oplontis, which encapsulates otium – a form of leisure that combined relaxing, contemplating, exercise and feasting during this era.

Each journey dives into the heritage and traditions of each destination with immersive tours of ancient ruins, world-renowned museums and more. The knowledgeable Guide Lecturers will lead you through spectacular sites, focusing on the detailed symbols of the past, explaining how things worked and what a miracle of human ingenuity they represent.

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, make the most out of your holiday and enjoy making new discoveries.

Whether you would like to join our experts and uncover a treasure trove of beautiful mosaics in Tunisia, visit newly opened houses in Pompeii, stroll through Roman towns in sun-soaked Jordan or admire incredibly well-preserved relics of the past in Croatia, France or Germany – it soon becomes apparent just how far the Roman Empire reached and the legacy it left behind.

We hope to see you in 2025 and look forward to uncovering once-vanished worlds together.



Jackie Willis

CEO

TRAVEL FOR LESS WITH OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

2025 SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE up to \$420pp*

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 2nd December 2024.

SO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We still have some tour departures in 2025 with no single supplement to pay, but when they are gone, they are gone.

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 2nd December 2024, and on a limited number of places on each tour departing in 2025. *The discount of \$420 per person applies to selected tours featured in this brochure that are in our 2025 tour programme. These discounts can only be combined with the other offers detailed on this page.

SO 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.

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.

866 551 8629 | andantetravels.com



KNOWLEDGE YOU WON'T FIND ELSEWHERE |

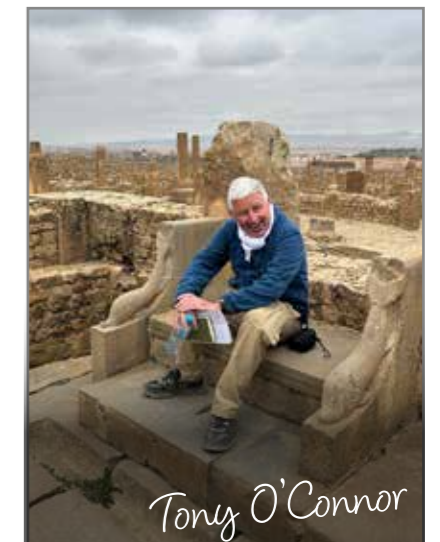
Our Guide Lecturers make an Andante tour a cut above the rest. Guests who travel with us frequently tell us that it is not only the high quality of guiding they receive but also the informality and ease of travelling with an Andante lecturer which keeps them coming back. Many of our Guide Lecturers are specialists in the Roman Empire, such as Tony O'Connor, an archaeologist with extensive field experience:

"An Andante tour is special. Travelling with those who have a genuine interest in the past means travelling with a ready-made group of friends. Sharing knowledge of the sites I know and love so well is a joy amongst such company.

I've had a wonderful time on tour with Andante in 2024. At the start of the year, I returned to Tunisia where I spent two weeks enjoying a plethora of stunning Roman mosaics, spectacular Roman ruins and the stunning landscapes of the Sahara with my fellow Andante travellers. In the spring, I went to my perennial favourite, Pompeii. On site we enjoyed the newly opened insula of the chaste lovers where the houses and bakery are still being excavated and at the Hotel Scapolatiello, we enjoyed several pre-dinner Negrinis while watching the sun go down.

Autumn is always a wonderful time to travel too – admiring the sites in the longer shadows and evening glow that comes early in October and November, with spectacular sites blissfully devoid of tourists.

In 2025, I am thrilled to be joining Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania (p6), Classical Sicily (p16), The Romans in Algeria (p24), Tunisia – North & South (p30), Carthage & Roman Tunisia (p34) and look forward to discovering Roman treasures together."



Tony O'Connor

WHY BOOK WITH ANDANTE TRAVELS?

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.

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 to tips for local staff, domestic flights all local transport and, on most of our tours, all meals.

Quality time on site – we don't cut corners

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

Programmes that follow a theme

Our itineraries are designed by experts and led by them, which means our tours remain engaging and invigorating. Our programmes are diverse and exciting, with each itinerary delving into the stories of a particular era or civilisation.

Insider Knowledge

We know the destinations and sites we visit inside and out, including the best way to get you there, enabling us to create the most in-depth and immersive tours possible.



Small Groups mean more attention

Most of our tours are limited to 18 guests, meaning 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 of 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.

Dine with us

We have made sure that many of your meals are included in the price. Dinner is often taken at a local restaurant and most evening meals include wine.

And the essentials...

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.

We can also arrange private transfers to and from your hotel/airport at a supplement.



LASTING OVER A THOUSAND YEARS, THIS ANCIENT CIVILISATION CONTINUES TO SHAPE AND INSPIRE THE MODERN WORLD



The proverb 'all roads lead to Rome' originated from the intricate network of roads built by the Roman Empire. This saying reflects the idea that many different paths or methods can lead to the same goal. During the height of the Roman Empire, the city of Rome was the centre of civilisation, and the extensive system of roads connected the far reaches of the empire to its capital. These roads were crucial for military movements, trade and communication, making Rome accessible from various directions. But who were these Romans that built such a network of roads that linked trade and commerce from country to country? And why is their legacy still seen today in various aspects of modern society, from government and law to architecture and engineering? The Romans are renowned for their vast empire, which at its peak encompassed much of Europe, North Africa and parts of the Middle East. The Roman Empire was known for its advanced engineering, architecture, legal system and military prowess. Romans contributed significantly to the development of Western culture, including the Latin language, which evolved into the Romance languages.

A lifestyle and culture that stands the test of time

The ancient Roman lifestyle was a fascinating blend of practicality and indulgence. Romans placed great importance on family, social status and public life and their homes ranged from modest apartments to grand villas, reflecting the social status of the inhabitants. We can see remains of some of the grandest villas on Romans on the Bay of Naples in the picturesque town of Positano on the Amalfi coast.

Culture in ancient Rome was heavily influenced by the Greeks, particularly in the realms of art, literature and philosophy. Romans were great patrons of the arts, and their contributions included intricate mosaics, sculptures and frescoes that adorned public buildings and private homes.

Leisure activities, feasting and entertainment were an essential part of Roman life. If you've ever wondered what a Roman dinner was like, imagine the sophisticated conversation, recitations of poetry and gentle music performed by a flute. However, some gatherings were just as likely to involve raucous drinking, naked tightrope walkers and vulgar ostentation. Traditionally thrown in the early evening, after a visit to the baths and an afternoon of fun and games, the Roman dinner party was one of the most important pieces of social and political cement in the Republic and Empire. Indeed, public baths, known as *thermae*, were popular places for socialising, relaxation and exercise. The Romans also enjoyed attending theatrical performances, gladiatorial games and chariot races. Most people are familiar with the film *Ben Hur* and the epic chariot race scene with Charlton Heston. These types of events were held in grand arenas like the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus – part of the Rome

tour, drawing large crowds and providing entertainment for all social classes. Roman art was diverse and prolific, encompassing various forms such as painting, sculpture and architecture. Public art was often used to celebrate military victories and honour gods and emperors. The Romans were skilled engineers and architects, as evidenced by their impressive aqueducts, roads, and monumental structures like the Pantheon and the Roman Forum. Private art, found in homes and villas, often depicted scenes of daily life, mythology, and nature, showcasing the Romans' appreciation for beauty and craftsmanship.

The path to military (and road) expansion is the Roman legion

The Roman path to military growth was marked by strategic alliances, disciplined armies and innovative tactics. Initially, Rome's military efforts were focused on defending its territory against neighbouring tribes.

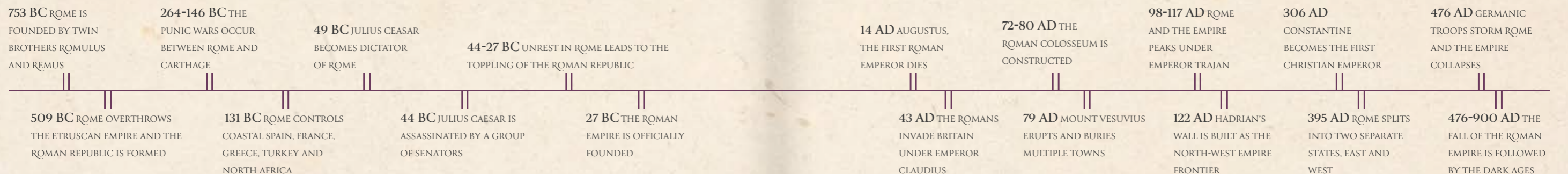
However, as Rome grew in power, it began to adopt a more aggressive stance, seeking to expand its influence across the Italian peninsula and beyond. The Roman legions, known for their rigorous training and strict discipline, played a crucial role in these conquests. Moreover, Rome's ability to integrate conquered peoples into its society helped to stabilize and secure its growing empire. The use of engineering and logistics, such as the construction of roads and fortifications, further facilitated the movement and supply of Roman troops, enabling them to maintain their dominance over vast territories. Key periods of expansion include the Punic Wars, where Rome defeated Carthage and gained control over the western Mediterranean, and the conquests of Julius Caesar, which extended Roman territory into Gaul (modern-day France).

Eventually, the roads that paved the way to Rome would be responsible for its destruction. Military unrest and invading forces alongside political strife all contributed to the fall of the empire. The city of Rome was sacked by German tribes and was ultimately destroyed when the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed by the Germanic king Odoacer.

All roads lead to the legacy of the Roman Empire

Andante Travels presents the opportunity to trace the history of the Roman Empire across continents, back to Rome itself. We invite you to discover for yourself what the Romans left behind that can be found in the Temples, ruins, relics, villas, fortifications and roads across Europe and West Africa. Evidence of Roman Civilisation is all around us and with the help of our expert guides, the ancient past can be discovered today.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE



POMPEII, HERCULANEUM & CLASSICAL CAMPANIA

Access to the off-site theatre of Herculaneum

8 days from \$3,905pp



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

Pompeii was once a centre for trade, 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 is beyond compare, which is why we have been leading tours here for over 30 years. This is, however, perhaps the most exciting time for visitors as discoveries are being made and new houses opened. Take the chance to journey back in time, to walk with us as the Romans did, from amphitheatres and baths to forums, as our Guide Lecturer conjures an evocative picture of the everyday life of these prosperous Roman towns.

Expert guides for this tour

John Shepherd | Join John on our 27th January & 29th September departures.



Tony Wilmott | Join Tony on our 5th May departure.



Dr Doru Bogdan | Join Doru on our 17th March departure.



Dr Gillian Shepherd | Join Gillian on our 15th September departure.



Dr Jamie Sewell | Join Jamie on our 7th April departure.



Diana Blumberg | Join Diana on our 6th October departure.



Tony O'Connor | Join Tony on our 28th April departure.



YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Naples - Cava de' Tirreni
- Day 2 - Cava de' Tirreni - Paestum
- Day 3 - Pompeii
- Day 4 - Naples - Pozzuoli
- Day 5 - Stabiae
- Day 6 - Herculaneum
- Day 7 - Vesuvius - Oplontis
- Day 8 - Cava de' Tirreni - Naples

Pompeii

No other site compares in revealing details of daily life in a Roman town than Pompeii. Look forward to visiting some of the town's most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum, bathhouses, bars and even brothels. Keep an eye out for fountains in the street, worn from where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and the Roman graffiti which can still be seen on the walls. As part of the Great Pompeii Project, recent finds here include 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 and seismological evidence that confirms to modern volcanologists the accuracy of the account written by the eye-witness Pliny the Younger for his friend and historian, Tacitus. Travelling via the best routes to avoid the crowds, we also visit some houses that are newly reopened to the public.



Stabiae

Go off the beaten track to the villas of Stabiae, an exclusive Roman resort for the very wealthy. The vast Villa San Marco, with its swimming pool and bath complex, is one of the most opulent along this coast and it remains very impressive in its scale. Subject to renovations being completed, we hope to visit the Villa Arianna, with its wonderful frescoes and fabulous views over the Bay of Naples. The Archaeological Museum of Castellammare di Stabia Libero D'Orsi awaits too, 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, tableware and more.





Boscoreale

Boscoreale is a locality north of Pompeii, located on the slopes of Vesuvius. Here we explore Villa Regina, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas in the nearby seaside towns, this is a modest small holding which provides us with intriguing evidence of how ordinary people lived. With the inauguration of the Great Pompeii, in October 2023, the Antiquarium of Boscoreale was reopened with a room dedicated to the excavations underway in the suburban villa of Civita Giuliana, with the ceremonial chariot found there in 2021.



Vesuvius - Oplontis

Ascending to the great volcanic crater of Vesuvius is no doubt one of the most memorable moments of this tour. The majority of our journey is by bus, but the final part requires a short walk, which is always well worth the effort and begins at Monte Somma, the crater of the AD 79 eruption. After the ascent and peering into the crater, forged since the ancient eruption, we 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! The highlights continue with the impressive villa at Oplontis, which boasts sumptuous frescoes of vibrant golds, reds and blues, 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, making it one of the most significant treasures of the Pompeii suburbs. It is easy to imagine how the villa once was, overlooking the sparkling seas with lavish decorations and paintings inside and olive groves, lemon trees, cypresses, roses, climbing ivy, sculptures and fountains adorning the gardens outside. Quieter than sites such as Pompeii, a visit here is like stumbling upon a hidden gem and is a fitting end to this wonderful tour.



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
All local transport | Accommodation in the Hotel Scapolatiello or similar | 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 7 dinners | Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/DbI share

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

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer



Herculaneum

Fascinating Herculaneum, revealed in 1748, perfectly complements a visit to Pompeii. This seaside city was once a retreat for the Roman elite and was buried to a significantly greater depth than Pompeii – under 23 metres of pyroclastic to be exact – perfectly preserving everyday objects as well as houses up to their rooftops. Highlights include the House of Galba with its unique cross-shaped pool, the dolphin mosaic on the floor of the frigidarium at the well-intact baths, the colourful frescoes at Sacello degli Augustali, with one featuring Hercules, Juno and Minerva in Olympus, plus the series of shops, where dye pots, bronze baking pans and containers filled with walnuts and chickpeas were found. In addition to this expansive site, we explore the Antiquarium, newly opened after 44 years, which houses precious articles found along Herculaneum's seafloor, including a well-preserved boat, found alongside the remains of the residents attempting to escape the eruption. Other items from both public and private buildings range from objects of daily life to the statue of Marcus Nonius Balbus and beautiful frescoes found in the Villa of the Papyri.



ROME

The Eternal City

7 days from \$5,270pp



Expert guides for this tour

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.



YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Rome
- Day 2 - Forum & Colosseum
- Day 3 - The Appian Way
- Day 4 - Domus Aurea & Celian Hill
- Day 5 - Tivoli
- Day 6 - Field Of Mars & Ara Pacis
- Day 7 - Ostia Antica

The Colosseum

The shifting movements within art, entertainment, religion and politics are forever engraved on the Colosseum, the eternal city's iconic amphitheatre, where gladiators once fought. The elliptical arena's construction, carried out by 100,000 workers, began in 72 by Emperor Vespasian, who tore down the previous ruler Nero's palace and ordered for the Colosseum to replace it, on a far grander scale. It became a fashionable place to enjoy entertainment – gladiator fights and executions attracted huge crowds. It even hosted mock sea battles, as they would seal up the holes and flood the entire lower area of the stadium, allowing mock naval battles to take place inside.



Forum

Offering a fascinating glimpse into this ancient civilisation, the Roman Forum is where the ruins of ancient Rome's political and social centre can be found and is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world. Once the heart of public life for the Romans, it hosted triumphal processions, elections, public speeches, trials and more. From the 7th century BC onwards, the forum soon became more than a bustling religious, administrative and legal hub and made increasingly grandiose by the Imperial period. Julius Caesar and Augustus made extensive renovations – marble paving and columns to showcase power, wealth and military success. Today, notable highlights include the Temple of Saturn, the Arch of Titus and the Basilica of Maxentius, while excavations are still ongoing to hopefully unearth new evidence about Rome's exact age.



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.

The Appian Way

The Appian Way was used as the main route for military supplies to aid the conquest of southern Italy, connecting Rome to Capua and allowing the troops to move quickly across the Empire. One of the most strategically significant roads of the ancient republic, its construction began in 312 BC and was named after the Roman censor Appius Claudius Caecus. Stretching for over 350 miles, it remains a marvel of Roman ingenuity and even featured a sophisticated drainage system to prevent flooding. Surrounding it, in tranquil countryside, were the villas of the senatorial aristocracy, including the Villa of the Quintilii. This vast suburban estate was so sumptuous that the emperor Commodus executed its owners and confiscated it. The equally extensive Villa of Emperor Maxentius was built as a dynastic centre for his family. It includes the palace villa, a chariot racing circus and a large mausoleum. As of July 2024, the Appian Way was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List and offers other landmarks along the route, from baths and temples to mausoleums and tombs.



Domus Aurea & Caelian Hill

Emperor Nero built Domus Aurea, the Golden House, after the great fire of Rome, with the intention of creating a countryside in the city, and as such included artificial lakes, fountains, vineyards, as well as flocks. 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. Caelian Hill is one of the famous seven hills of Rome and home to several ancient Roman houses known as the Domus Romane Del Celio, which date from the 2nd century. The site includes beautifully preserved frescoes and provides insights into the daily lives of its inhabitants.



Tivoli

Tivoli is where 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, including temples, barracks, theatres, gardens and fountains, many of them modelled after places he had seen on his travels around the empire. The complex ended up larger than most Roman cities and has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999.

The Romans considered water an element of high capital importance and the growing number of Roman imperial baths signified their growing power. Due to the abundance of sulphurous water in Tivoli, the baths were established here and deemed to have therapeutic properties.



Ara Pacis

Ara Pacis, a marble altar, was commissioned by the Roman Senate to honour the return of Augustus, after his campaigns in Spain and Gaul. The intricately carved alter serves as propaganda for Augustus, depicting the transition from the riotous times of civil war, the Roman Republic's chaotic era to a more peaceful era under Augustus, known as the 'Roman Peace.' The animation and individuality of the figures represent not only a change to calmer waters but also a growth in arts and culture during this time.

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
All local transport | Accommodation in the Albergo Santa Chiara | 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 6 dinners | Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices		
per person based on Twin/DbI share		
9th - 15th Mar	\$5,610	\$5,330
Single Supplement	\$550	
21st - 27th Mar		\$5,610
Single Supplement	\$640	
25th Apr - 1st May	\$5,550	\$5,270
Single Supplement	\$550	
1st - 7th Nov	\$5,660	\$5,380
Single Supplement	\$550	

Save \$280pp with our 2025 Special Offer

ROMANS ON THE BAY OF NAPLES

New discoveries and highlights in the shadow of Vesuvius

8 days from \$3,670pp



The extraordinary Roman sites in the Bay of Naples have been regenerated in recent years. This beautiful stretch of coast, developed in the Roman era by elites and emperors in search of leisure, has witnessed exciting new archaeological activities, and 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 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.

Positano & Amalfi

The picturesque town of Positano, located on the Amalfi Coast of Italy, has a rich history that dates back to ancient times. The area was first settled by the Phoenicians and Greeks, but it was during the Roman era that Positano began to flourish. The Romans were captivated by the beauty of the Amalfi Coast and established luxurious villas and resorts in the region.

Evidence of Positano's Roman past can still be seen today. Archaeological excavations have uncovered remnants of ancient villas, including the famous Villa Romana. This villa, buried under the volcanic ash from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, offers a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of the Roman elite. Visitors can explore the ruins and marvel at the well-preserved frescoes and architectural details.

Discovered under the church of Santa Maria Assunta, the Roman Villa and museum is 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.

On the Amalfi Coast, explore the Cathedral of St. Andrew. 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.



Expert guides for this tour

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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Naples - Cava de Tirreni
- Day 2 - Positano & Amalfi
- Day 3 - Pompeii
- Day 4 - Naples
- Day 5 - Baia & Pozzuoli
- Day 6 - Herculaneum, Boscoreale & Terzigno
- Day 7 - Villa Sora & Somma Vesuviana
- Day 8 - Cava de Tirreni - Naples

Naples

One of the most beautiful cities in the world, Naples, known as Napoli in Italian, is deeply intertwined with that of the ancient Romans. Founded by the Greeks in the 8th century BC, Naples became a significant cultural and commercial hub. When the Romans took control of the city in the 4th century BC, they further developed it into a prominent part of their empire. Under Roman rule, Naples flourished as a centre of the arts. The Romans built grand structures, including theatres, aqueducts and public baths, many of which still stand today. The city's strategic location along the coast made it an important port for trade and military purposes. Additionally, Naples was known for its luxurious villas and estates, which were popular among wealthy Romans seeking a retreat from the hustle and bustle of Rome.

Naples is brimming with ancient archaeological artefacts from the height of the Roman Empire. The Museum of Archaeology in Naples is one of the most important archaeological museums in the world. It houses a vast collection of artefacts from ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt. The museum is particularly renowned for its extensive collection of Roman artefacts from the nearby sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae, which were buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

Also of notable interest is the church of Santa Chiara, a stunning example of Gothic architecture. Built in the early 14th century, it is part of a larger religious complex that includes a monastery, tombs, and museum. The church is renowned for its beautiful cloister, adorned with vibrant 18th-century majolica tiles depicting scenes of daily life and nature. Inside, visitors can admire the serene atmosphere, historical frescoes, and the impressive Baroque decorations added in later centuries.



Herculaneum

When Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, Herculaneum was buried under a thick layer of volcanic ash and mud, which preserved much of the town's architecture and artefacts remarkably well.

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. Excavations have revealed well-preserved wooden structures, furniture, and even food, providing a unique glimpse into Roman life. Today, Herculaneum is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a popular destination for tourists interested in history and archaeology.

In Boscoreale, the Villa Regina was 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 Romans lived. The Museum of Archaeology at Terzigno houses precious remains and frescoes of three ancient farms destroyed by the AD 79 earthquake and excavated only recently.

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CLASSICAL SICILY

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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.

Expert guides for this tour

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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Catania
- Day 2 - Segesta & Monreale
- Day 3 - Palermo
- Day 4 - Cefalù & Himara
- Day 5 - Palermo – Motya - Marsala
- Day 6 - Selinus
- Day 7 - Agrigento
- Day 8 - Piazza Armerina – Morgantina - Ortygia
- Day 9 - Syracuse
- Day 10 - Ortygia & Noto
- Day 11 - Ortygia – Catania - Taormina
- Day 12 - Catania

Monreale

The Byzantine Empire was highly influential in Monreale, a city that later became the former hunting ground of the Norman kings of Sicily. By the late 12th century, when William II built Monreale, the Byzantine/Eastern Roman Empire had passed its peak, yet glorious mosaics in its cathedral remained and signified what the Romans considered to be the highest level of superiority and culture in Europe. The opulent Norman-Byzantine cathedral and abbey was founded by King William II in 1174 and he dedicated it to the Virgin Mary. It was said that he had a vision of her, in which she told him where he could find treasure to pay for the cathedral. The 68,000 square feet of beautiful mosaics depict characters from the story of Genesis, with images of the Virgin Mary and further on, of Christ crowning the King.



Agrigento

Known as the 'Valley of the Temples', the archaeological area of Agrigento was taken over in 210 BC by the Romans during the Second Punic War and under new rule was renamed Agrigentum. Founded by the Greeks in the 6th century BC and after a long rule by the Carthaginians, the city entered a renaissance period during Roman occupation but later saw a decline as the Empire began to collapse.

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Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager, entries to all sites as per the itinerary, field notes, all taxes & gratuities
All local transport | Accommodation in Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, Ortygia & Taormina | 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners | Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/DbI share		
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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROMAN ISTRIA

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With its staggeringly beautiful coastline, the idyllic peninsula of Istria boasts a rich history linking it to the Veneti and is, today famed for its wonderful ancient ruins, as well as its beautiful, Venetian cities. Little is known about the ancient Histri who gave the peninsula its name, save for the fact that it took Rome some time to conquer it in the 2nd century BC because of its tenacious citizens. When incorporated into the Roman Empire, it was ruled alongside Venetia, an association which foreshadowed Venetian dominance, beginning in the 9th century when the maritime republic started its inexorable conquest of the Illyrian coast.

It was only during the Napoleonic era that Istria slipped from Venetian control when it came under the dominion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. History has, inevitably, shaped Istria, starting with the splendid Roman ruins found in its cities, notably Pula, which has some of the finest ruins anywhere outside of Italy, including a superb Temple of Augustus and a famous amphitheatre. Trieste, the busy port city of the Austro-Hungarians, owes much of its elegance to the central European influence imbued in the period of Habsburg domination, although it also contains a fine Roman temple. In turn, although it is home to Roman remains, Poreč is notable for its extraordinary 6th-century Euphrasian Basilica, an early Byzantine church which is scintillating with its shimmering gold mosaics. Thus, any visit to this lovely region offers a wonderful immersion into a range of bygone periods, not simply just the Roman times.



Pula

The wonderful remains of Pula, a historic gem on the southern tip of the Istrian peninsula, offers precious testimony to the Roman presence and influence in this region. Most prominent among these is the stunning amphitheatre, featuring the underground service rooms, as well as the four outer towers, which contained water for the sparsions sprinkled on the spectators during performances, plus evidence of the structures necessary for the awnings used to shade the spectators. Another treasure is the Roman Forum, home to 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, while nearby is the Gate of Hercules, recognisable from the high relief sculpture of the hero's bearded head, together with his club. The well-preserved Roman theatre is astounding too, built into the hillside on which the castle now sits and, along with the other ruins here, instantly transports visitors to an ancient Italianate world.

Expert guide for this tour

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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Pula
- Day 2 - Pula & Vizula
- Day 3 - Monkodnja - Poreč - Trieste
- Day 4 - Trieste
- Day 5 - Trieste - Pula



Poreč

The lovely town of Poreč is situated on the western side of the pretty Istrian peninsula. Inhabited since prehistoric times, it was a Roman castrum in the second century BC, making use of the natural harbour, and became a municipium during the time of Augustus. The Roman Forum can be found at Marafor Square, where remains of some of the Roman temples are still visible, as well as paving from the forum itself. Nearby is the pediment of the Temple of Neptune, once the largest in Istria and dedicated to the Roman god of the sea. Perhaps the most notable site in Poreč is the Euphrasian Basilica, housed in a complex that includes a baptistry and bell tower and a landmark that cemented Poreč as an ecclesiastical centre. This UNESCO-listed building is a particularly fine example of Byzantine architecture, built in the 6th century on top of an older, 4th-century basilica, as well as a Roman domus, a townhouse occupied by the wealthy. Inside, the eye is caught by the staggering mosaics in this complex, while the oratory retains a mosaic floor that belonged to the domus.

Vizula

Delve deeper into imperial Rome at Vizula Archaeological Park, a stunning peninsula hiding a wealth of remains, with evidence showing habitation here from the Neolithic period onwards. Just one of the striking and significant sites is the Imperial Villa, whose grandeur underlines the prosperity of some of Vizula's inhabitants. With its impressive size, rich decorations, stunning mosaics and gleaming marble, it is no wonder that this is one of the most luxurious and attractive villas found on the Adriatic coast that stems from the Roman Empire. One of the elite resorts of its day, the villa boasts spectacular views over the Gulf of Medulin and took three decades to excavate, leading to valuable insight into those who were once drawn here.



Trieste

Located in North Eastern Italy on the border with Slovenia, the beautiful city of Trieste is richly intertwined with Roman culture and influence, strongly contributing to its economic development centuries ago. Originally founded as a Roman colony in the 1st century BC, Trieste (then known as Tergeste), served as a significant hub for trade and military operations, thanks to its strategic position on the Adriatic Sea. The city's elegant avenues are dotted with a whole host of archaeological treasures to explore, such as the Cattedrale di San Giusto, built between the 9th and 10th centuries on top of an early Christian church and a Roman temple, notable for its Venetian apsidal mosaics. Just outside the cathedral lies the remains of the Roman Forum. Once the bustling heart of the city, it's fascinating to simply walk in the footsteps of politicians, traders, merchants and citizens, gaining an insight into daily Roman life along the way. There is plenty more to see too, including the Arco di Riccardo, one of the ancient city gates which monumentalised the entrance to the Cardo, and the well-preserved Roman theatre, dating back to the 1st century BC. Still occasionally used for al fresco shows in the summer, it is yet another symbol of the Roman's enduring legacy and continued presence within the modern world.



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
All local transport | Accommodation in Pula & Trieste 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices
per person based on Twin/DbI share
27th -31st Aug ~~\$3,680~~ \$3,470
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ROMANS & GAULS

From Alésia to Lugdunum

8 days from \$6,020pp



Expert guide for this tour

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



YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Lyon - Dijon
- Day 2 - Châtillon-sur-Seine & Alésia
- Day 3 - Autun & Bibracte
- Day 4 - Dijon & Nuits-St-George
- Day 5 - Dijon - Lyon
- Day 6 - Lyon
- Day 7 - Vienne & St. Romain-en-Gal
- Day 8 - Lyon

Lyon

In antiquity, Lyon's position at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône placed it on an important axis linking the Mediterranean to the future interior provinces. Early Christian churches and cathedral baptistery also provide an insight into the importance of Lugdunum (the ancient name for Lyon) in late Roman times. Founded in 43 BC by Lucius Munatius Plancus, it soon became the capital of the Roman province of Gallia Lugdunensis. In this vibrant city, look forward to discovering the capital of the Three Gauls (Gallia Celtica, Belgica, and Aquitania) in the Gallo-Roman Museum, plus the adjacent theatre, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site that encompasses Lyon's ancient centre. There is an odeon here too, a masterpiece of Roman architecture that was built in the 2nd century AD as a more intimate venue, complete with a roof to enhance the acoustics and provide a different experience to the theatres and amphitheatres of the day. The aqueducts of the city are not to be missed too, unique in the western Roman Empire for their complexity and engineering.



Vienne

Set on the banks of the river Rhône, Vienne was once a wealthy Roman town, with evidence of their dominance throughout, making it easy to forget that this is France – not Italy! The near complete Temple of Augustus and Livia is an astonishing relic of the past, dating back to 10 BC and the former heart of this municipium, built in honour of Emperor Augustus. Vienne is also home to an impressive theatre, which could seat up to 13,000 spectators and now holds concerts and shows, as well as the Archaeological Garden of Cybele, where the crumbling walls are likely the remains of Roman Forum council members' houses and were only discovered in recent times when an old hospital was demolished. Just across the river is St. Romain-en-Gal, a suburb that has seen vast excavation, and now has a rich display of houses and mosaics on display in situ and in the new Gallo-Roman Museum. This fascinating hub of culture offers both an interactive experience inside and an extensive outdoor area, where visitors can see the crumbling remains of the forum, bathhouses and more.



Nuits-St-Georges & Dijon Museum

After a spot of en-route wine tasting at Burgundy's vineyards, Nuits-St-Georges awaits. Surrounded by rich and fertile soil, grapes would have been grown thousands of years ago to create wine for Roman Gaul and beyond. This historic town has been occupied since the Roman times and boasts a temple site plus a museum. Set in a former wine house, it's home to a wide array of objects collected from local diggings, from pottery and jewellery to tools and more. Another fascinating museum is Dijon's, housed in the former abbey of Sainte Bénigne and boasting a wide variety of treasures. Just one of the highlights is the wooden Gallo-Roman statues found at Sources-de-la-Seine, a sanctuary associated with a 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.

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Dates & prices
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Single Supplement \$825

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Join us in Burgundy, the gorgeous French region served by the conjoining Rhône and Saône. This is a region where two great French passions collide: wine and food. Aside from its gastronomic pedigree, however, amidst its mustard field dotted rolling green hills, we find cobbled medieval streets, glorious Gallo-Roman and Celtic antiquity and some of the most important Western churches and monasteries of the Middle Ages.

This territory was right in the heart of Gaul, and it was here at Alesia that Julius Caesar finally conquered his Gallic opponents, thus beginning the Romanisation of the region. A statue of Vercingetorix, the Celts' supreme commander, symbolizes the extinction of the Celts' independence and marks the place where France was born, or at least conceived.

Autun & Bibracte

Autun is nestled in the Saône Valley, in the hill country of the Morvans, an unsung but lovely part of France, with the mottled greys and pinks of local granite often featured in the work of artist Pierre Bonnard. Once one of the wealthiest towns in Roman Gaul, it boasts an impressive theatre, among the largest in the empire with a capacity for 20,000 people, as well as town walls and imposing gates, together with fascinating remains of a large Romano-Celtic temple, hinting at the grandeur which stood proudly here. Nearby Bibracte is another significant spot – one of the largest and most important hillforts of Gaul and the site of Caesar's defeat at the hands of the Helvetii tribe, the climax of his first campaign in Gaul. Caesar even mentioned Bibracte in his Commentaries on the Gallic War in 58 BC as the main town of the Aedui, a Gallic tribe. However, after the Roman conquest of Gaul, Bibracte was abandoned in favour of Autun and was left untouched, lying under woodland, until it was discovered by modern archaeology.



ROMAN GERMANY

Exploring the Rhine frontier

10 days from \$7,360pp



Germany's history with the Roman Empire is both rich and complex. The Roman Empire first made contact with the Germanic tribes during the 1st century BC. The most notable event in this early period was the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD, where an alliance of Germanic tribes ambushed and destroyed three Roman legions. This episode – long remembered in Rome and etched in Augustus' memory – brought about a change in Roman strategies in Germany.

Over the following centuries, the Romans maintained a presence along the Rhine and Danube rivers, constructing fortifications and engaging in trade and occasional conflict with the Germanic tribes. The Roman influence can still be seen today in the remnants of their settlements, roads and fortifications found throughout modern Germany.

In this beautiful part of Europe often overlooked by tourists, we explore extraordinary museums, such as the Romano-Germanic Museum in Cologne and the Museum für Antike Schifffahrt in Mainz, stunning houses such as the Ahrweiler Villa and the Villa Nennig, along with the limes strategies for controlling its borders. We end with Aachen, the stunning capital of the Holy Roman Empire with its unique cathedral.

Cologne

One of the oldest cities in Germany, Cologne was founded by the Romans around 39 BC as a military outpost and later became the capital of the Roman province of Germania Inferior in 50 AD. Evidence of Cologne's Roman past can still be seen in various archaeological sites, such as the Romano-Germanic Museum, which houses a vast collection of artefacts, including mosaics, pottery and statues. The remains of the ancient city wall and the Praetorium, the former Roman governor's palace, are also notable historical landmarks that highlight Cologne's significance during the Roman era.

Romano-Germanic Museum has an excellent collection of artefacts from the Roman colony and is built over a section of a Roman road, as well as an impressive elite domus which contains a wonderfully preserved mosaic of Dionysus.



Expert guide for this tour

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.



YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Düsseldorf - Cologne
- Day 2 - Xanten
- Day 3 - Cologne
- Day 4 - Cologne - Boppard - Braubach
- Day 5 - Zugmantel, Saalburg & Feldberg
- Day 6 - Braubach - Mainz - Trier
- Day 7 - Trier
- Day 8 - Porta Nigra & Villa Borg
- Day 9 - Trier - Aachen
- Day 10 - Aachen - Dusseldorf

Zugmantel and Saalburg

Zugmantel and Saalburg are ancient Roman forts located in the Taunus Mountain range of Germany. It was part of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes, which was a frontier line of the Roman Empire. The fort served as a strategic military outpost to protect the Roman provinces from Germanic tribes. Today, visitors can explore the remnants of the fort, including sections of the defensive walls and the reconstructed watchtower.

The limes are a 500km boundary fortified with great banks and ditches overlooked by 900 watchtowers and patrolled from 60 forts. The site offers a glimpse into the Roman military architecture and the historical significance of the Roman Empire's northern frontier.

The Saalburg fort was part of the Roman frontier known as the Limes Germanicus, which marked the boundary of the Roman Empire in the province of Germania. The site includes well-preserved remains of the fortifications, gates, barracks, and other buildings, providing a fascinating glimpse into Roman military life. Today, the UNESCO-listed site at Saalburg serves as an open-air museum where visitors can explore reconstructed buildings, view artefacts, and learn about the history of the Roman Empire's presence in Germany.



Trier including Porta Nigra

Some of the most spectacular and significant Roman remains in Germany can be found at Trier, a UNESCO-listed site. Trier, often referred to as the 'Second Rome,' is located on the Moselle River.

The city was of great strategic importance and boasts some fantastic museums displaying key Roman artefacts, such as the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, which contains the Trassen gold hoard from 1600 BC.

Another must-see is Constantine's Basilica, built by the emperor Constantine as part of a palace complex and which remains the largest extant ancient hall.

The famous Porta Nigra is a large Roman city gate in Trier. The historic landmark is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is in remarkable condition due to its transformation into two superimposed churches as well as the Kaiserthermen Baths, whose impressive remains were built in the 4th century.



Aachen

The Romans were attracted to Aachen due to its natural hot springs, which they used for their baths and therapeutic purposes. They established a settlement known as "Aqua Granni," named after the Celtic god of healing, Grannus. This settlement grew in importance as a spa destination and became a key point in the network of Roman roads that crisscrossed the region. The remnants of Roman baths and artefacts found in Aachen today are a testament to its ancient Roman heritage.

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, and continued to the late antique period, it is fitting that it ends with the Holy Roman Empire.

Be sure to 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. The incredible UNESCO-listed Cathedral of Aachen was 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 marble taken from Rome and Ravenna, this cathedral is one of the oldest in Europe.



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All local transport | Accommodation in Cologne, Braubach, Trier, Aachen | 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 9 dinners | Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/DbI share

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THE ROMANS IN ALGERIA

From Algiers to Timgad

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Algeria is a country with a rich history that dates back to ancient times. One of the most significant periods in its history is the Roman civilization.

The Romans first arrived in Algeria in the 2nd century BC and established numerous settlements, including the prominent city of Timgad, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Roman influence in Algeria is evident in the well-preserved ruins of temples, amphitheatres, and aqueducts found throughout the country. These structures highlight the architectural and engineering prowess of the Romans and their ability to integrate their culture with the local Berber traditions. The Roman period in Algeria lasted until the 5th century AD, when the region was invaded by the Vandals and later the Byzantines.

The many Roman sites that can be found scattered across the landscape pay testament to a wealthy province with cities equipped with running water, palatial bath houses, hypocaust heating, opulent latrines and monumental architecture and triumphal arches. The museums, which have been little publicised, contain some astounding artefacts and illuminate this fascinating history even further.



Cherchell & Tipasa

Cherchell is a coastal town known for its rich historical significance and beautiful Mediterranean scenery. Originally founded by the Phoenicians, it was later developed by the Romans who named it Caesarea Mauretaniae. Cherchell boasts several archaeological sites, including Roman ruins, ancient baths and a theatre, making it a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts.

The Roman city of Tipasa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking the sea, has impressive remains both of the high Roman Empire and of the early Christian period. The city is renowned for its archaeological sites, which include well-preserved ruins of Roman temples, amphitheatres and basilicas. The town's strategic location along the Mediterranean Sea made it an important trading hub in ancient times.

Expert guides for this tour

Dr 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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Algiers
- Day 2 - Algiers
- Day 3 - Cherchell & Tipasa
- Day 4 - Algiers - Annaba
- Day 5 - Annaba - Constantine
- Day 6 - Tiddis & Constantine
- Day 7 - Constantine - Djémila - Setif
- Day 8 - Setif - Batna
- Day 9 - Batna - Timgad - Biskra
- Day 10 - Biskara - Algiers
- Day 11 - Algiers

Annaba

Annaba, a port city in northeastern Algeria, is renowned for its rich history and cultural heritage. Located on the Mediterranean coast, it serves as a significant hub for trade and tourism. The city boasts beautiful beaches, vibrant markets and a blend of French and Algerian architecture. Notable landmarks include the Basilica of St. Augustine, a stunning example of religious architecture, and the ruins of the ancient city of Hippo Regius, which offer a glimpse into the region's Roman past. Annaba's mild climate and scenic landscapes make it a popular destination for both locals and tourists seeking to explore Algeria's diverse offerings.



Constantine & Tiddis

Nestled in the mountains, Tiddis offers a glimpse into Roman urban planning and architecture. Visitors can explore various structures, including a forum, a basilica and a triumphal arch. 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 hilltop 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 here. Known as the 'City of Bridges' due to its numerous picturesque bridges spanning the Rhumel River, Constantine is a place where history and modernity blend seamlessly. The city is renowned for its dramatic landscape, perched on a rocky outcrop with deep ravines and lush valleys below. Constantine's history dates back to ancient times when it was known as Cirta, a major city of the Numidian Kingdom. It later became a prominent centre of the Roman Empire in North Africa. The city's rich historical heritage is evident in its many archaeological sites, museums, and well-preserved structures, such as the ancient Roman aqueducts and the Kasbah, a fortress dating back to the Ottoman era.



Batna & Timgad

Batna is situated in the Aurès Mountains, which provides it with a picturesque landscape and a moderate climate. Batna is also a gateway to several important archaeological sites, including the Roman ruins of Timgad and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The city has a vibrant community and is a hub for education and commerce in the region.

Timgad is an ancient Roman city founded by Emperor Trajan around 100 AD, principally as a colony for veterans of the Legio III Augusta. Known for its well-preserved ruins, Timgad offers a fascinating glimpse into Roman urban planning and architecture. The city was designed on a grid plan, featuring a rectangular layout with a central forum, a triumphal arch, and various public buildings such as baths, a library and a basilica. The site also includes a large theatre that could accommodate up to 3,500 spectators. Timgad is a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its remarkable state of preservation and historical significance, providing insight into the life and culture of a Roman colonial town in North Africa.



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All local transport | Accommodation in Lamaz Arts Hotel, Sheraton Annaba Hotel, Protea Hotel by Marriott Constantine, Novotel Setif, Hotel Messouadi - Batna & Hotel Nail Zakaria - Biskra or similar | 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 11 dinners
Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/DbI share

16th - 26th Feb	\$7,835	\$7,415
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JORDAN - PETRA & THE DESERT FORTRESSES

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10 days from \$5,760pp



After the conquest of the region by General Pompey, Jordan soon became an integral part of the Roman Empire, leaving behind a rich tapestry of historical and architectural marvels that can still be seen today.

Indeed, throughout the recorded past, Jordan shook to the often-heavy footfalls of conquerors and felt the sweeping movements of peoples and customs, of prophets and kings. Its Iron Age history, home to the Israelites, Ammonites, Edomites and Moabites, is documented in the Old Testament, while the upheavals caused by the mighty Assyrian and Babylonian Empires and the Roman Empires are recorded in the New Testament. Here the East first met the revolution of Hellenism, bringing its world philosophy and technological expertise.

The gorges of the wadi beds, the deserts of black basalt and golden sand plus the end of the Great Rift Valley containing the salty waters of the Dead Sea create dramatic backdrops for its historic tales, with Petra's tombs and temples just being a fraction of Jordan's story. As well as these iconic gems, we explore traces of Roman legions, biblical tribes, Christian crusaders and Islamic caliphates in this promised land of archaeology and fascinating history, discovering along the way how the Roman road network in Jordan facilitated trade and movement across the empire too, contributing to the economic prosperity of the region.

Expert guides for this tour

Nick Jackson | A graduate of the Institute of Archaeology at UCL, Nick is an archaeologist and historian with over 20 years of excavation experience.



“Enjoyed it all. The guide lecturer was very knowledgeable and thought provoking”

YOUR TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Amman
- Day 2 - Wadi Seer - Dead Sea - Amman
- Day 3 - Gadara - Jerash
- Day 4 - Amman
- Day 5 - Umm al-Jimal
- Day 6 - Umm al-Rasas - Kerak
- Days 7 & 8 - Petra
- Day 9 - Little Petra - Wadi Rum
- Day 10 - Amman

Jerash

Known as the 'Pompeii of the East', Jerash (ancient Gerasa) is set in the pine valleys of the biblical land of Gilead and is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in this part of the world. Hidden in the sand for centuries before its excavation, it was founded as a Greek city by Alexander the Great but only truly flourished under the Romans, becoming a fascinating example of Roman urbanism that rivals ancient cities found in Italy. The architecture is particularly fine and includes the impressive Hadrian's Arch (built in AD 129 to mark Emperor Hadrian's visit), the Hippodrome, where thrilling chariot races took place in front of thousands of spectators, as well as the Corinthian columns of the Temple of Artemis and the Oval Plaza – framed by a magnificent colonnade – a unique feature of the Forum. Strolling between these wonders along centuries-old avenues is undoubtedly a highlight of any trip to Jordan.





| Wadi Rum & Petra |

There are plenty more iconic spots in Jordan where if you scratch the surface, you will no doubt find influences and stories dating back to the Roman period. While taking 4x4s through the otherworldly scenery of Wadi Rum, made famous by the filming of 'Lawrence of Arabia', consider that this was once home to the largest Roman copper mine in the empire. Similarly, when strolling through spectacular Petra, look out for the many Roman marks on the ancient city, from the style of its landmarks and sculptures to the layout itself. The incredibly straight Colonnaded Street once ran through the centre of the bustling metropolis and, with its large columns, was unlike anything previously seen in Petra. Like many other places across the globe, the Romans certainly left their mark and created a century-spanning legacy here.



| Amman |

Jordan's modern capital of Amman juxtaposes wonderfully with its ancient ruins. The Archaeological Museum is a gem to explore and was purposefully established on Citadel Hill so that the crumbling Roman, Byzantine and Arab Citadel would forever be a part of it. The museum is home to artefacts from archaeological sites from across the country, including the Dead Sea bronze scroll written in Aramaic characters, as well as Roman glass, the marble bust of the protector of Roman Philadelphia and many more treasures. The citadel is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world, and is also home to the ruins of the Roman Temple of Hercules with its typical tall columns and panoramic views. Demonstrating the religious and cultural influence of Romans in the region, this incredible window into the past was built during the reign of Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd century AD and also features ruins of The Hand of Hercules, believed to have been part of a gigantic marble statue of the demi-god Hercules.



| Umm al-Rasas |

The well-excavated church ruins and spectacular mosaics at Umm al-Rasas are true sights to behold. Inhabited since the Iron Age and mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, the Romans once used the land here as a military outpost before fortifying the city with a large wall. It then became one of the strongholds that formed the Limes Arabicus, a desert frontier created to protect the southeastern part of the Roman Empire from the Sassanid Empire and troublesome raiders. A UNESCO-listed Roman and Byzantine gem, the mosaics of the churches here boast fine depictions of the nearby principal cities and offer clues about this region from centuries ago. Don't miss the mosaic flooring in the Church of St Stephen, the largest of its kind in Jordan, and just pause here to imagine how many people have traipsed over this spectacular marvel before us.

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

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
All local transport | Accommodation in the Al Qaser Metropole Hotel Amman & The Petra Moon Hotel, or similar | 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 8 dinners | Water with all meals & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/DbI share

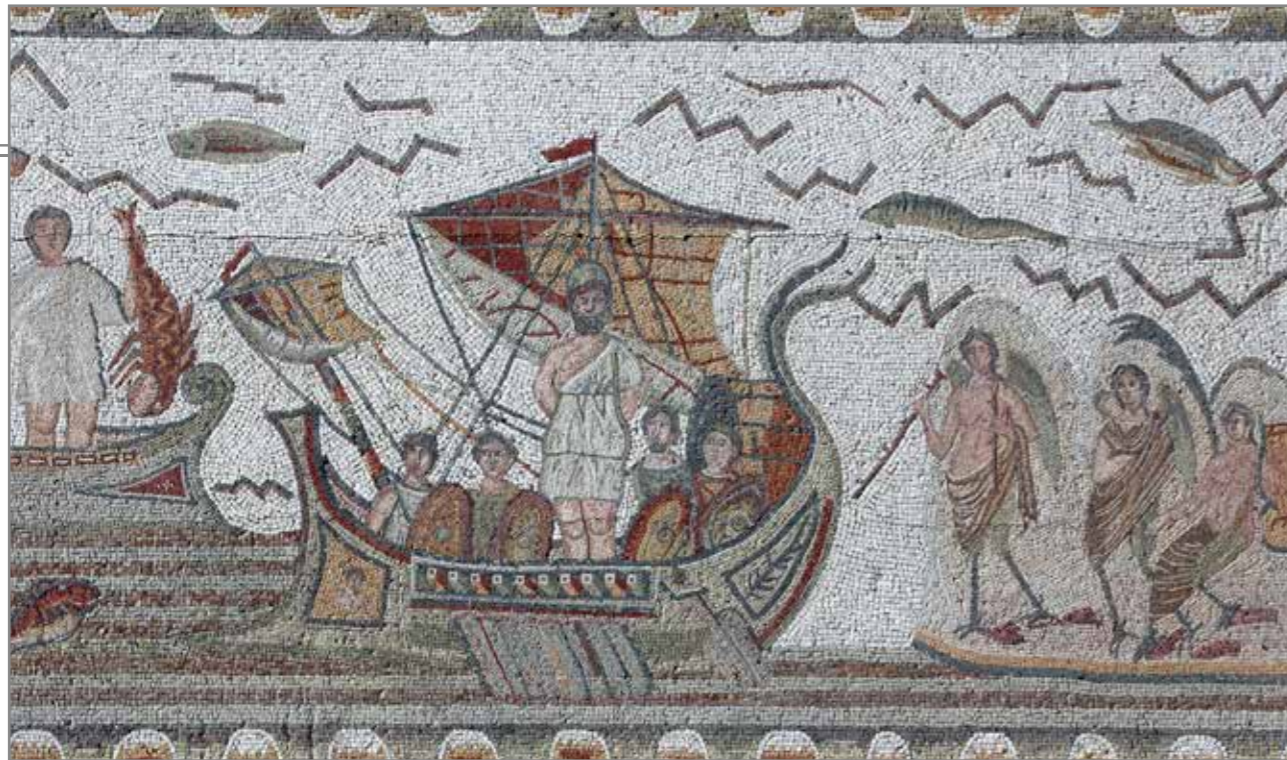
17th - 26th Feb	\$6,110	\$5,760
Single Supplement	\$1,135	
20th - 29th Oct	\$6,110	\$5,760
Single Supplement	\$1,135	
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Single Supplement	\$1,135	

Save \$350pp with our 2025 Special Offer

TUNISIA - NORTH & SOUTH

Carthage to the edge of the Sahara

15 days from \$5,840pp



Tunisia has some of the finest and best-preserved Roman cities in the world. Many retain the romance of ruins in the countryside, unnoticed and unspoiled by mass tourism. Starting with Carthage and the early Punic colonies, we travel south through ruined towns of the high Roman Empire, where impressive public monuments and houses decorated with brightly coloured mosaics bear witness to the wealth once enjoyed here. We also see the highlights of Islamic culture in Kairouan before continuing to the landscapes of the salt chotts, palm oases and dunes of the south where some remarkable architecture shows how people adapted to conditions at the edge of the desert.

Expert guides for this tour

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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Tunis
- Day 2 - Carthage
- Day 3 - Oudna & Thuburbo Majus
- Day 4 - Tunis - Dougga - Teboursouk
- Day 5 - Teboursouk - Musti - Kairouan
- Day 6 - Kairouan
- Day 7 - Kairouan - Tozeur
- Day 9 - Tozeur - Douz
- Day 10 - Douz & Matmata
- Day 11 - Douz - El Djem - Kairouan
- Day 12 - Kairouan - Sousse - Hammamet
- Day 13 - Kerkouane & Nabeul
- Day 14 - Tunis
- Day 15 - Hammamet - Tunis



Oudna & Thuburbo Majus

Oudna and Thuburbo Majus are two of Tunisia's most intriguing archaeological sites. Oudna, once known as Uthina, was a prominent Roman city and today boasts well-preserved ruins, including an impressive amphitheatre, a capitol and luxurious Roman villas. The site offers a glimpse into the grandeur of Roman architecture and urban planning.

Thuburbo Majus is another ancient Roman city renowned for its monumental ruins. Located approximately 60 kilometres southwest of Tunis, Thuburbo Majus was a thriving agricultural and trading centre. Visitors can marvel at the remains of the Capitol, the Forum, the Temple of Mercury and the sprawling bath complex. The intricate mosaics and architectural details provide a vivid picture of life in Roman North Africa.

This tour not only delves into the historical significance of these sites but also offers an opportunity to appreciate the scenic landscapes of the Tunisian countryside. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply looking to experience the rich cultural heritage of Tunisia, the journey from Oudna to Thuburbo Majus promises to be an unforgettable experience.

Carthage



"Delenda est Carthago," cried Cato, the Elder to the Senate of Rome – "Carthage must be destroyed!" This phrase emphasised the Roman determination to eliminate Carthage as a rival power. The two cities clashed in a series of conflicts known as the Punic Wars, the most famous of these conflicts was the Second Punic War, where the Carthaginian general Hannibal famously crossed the Alps with his war elephants to invade Italy.

Ultimately, Rome emerged victorious, leading to the destruction of Carthage in 146 BC. Despite its fall, Carthage's legacy lived on, influencing Roman culture and later becoming an important centre in the Roman Empire. Today, the ruins of Carthage are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Byrsa Hill site in Carthage is a historically significant location. It served as the citadel of ancient Carthage, offering a strategic vantage point over the surrounding area. This site is renowned for its archaeological importance, providing insights into the Punic and Roman periods of the city's history. Visitors to Byrsa Hill can explore the remnants of ancient fortifications, residential areas and public buildings, making it a must-visit for history enthusiasts.

The Antonine Baths are among the largest Roman bath complexes in Africa. The complex features various rooms, including the frigidarium (cold room), tepidarium (warm room), and caldarium (hot room), each designed to provide a unique bathing experience. The grandeur of the architecture, with its impressive columns and intricate mosaics, highlights the advanced engineering skills of the Romans.



“As good as any of our past Andante experiences. Guide Lecturer, Tour Manager/lecturer, Local Guide and Driver were all of the highest standard. They ceaselessly gave of their best and took care of us all, entertained, shared their knowledge and nothing was too much for them.”

Bulla Regia

Located in northwestern Tunisia, the ancient city of Bulla Regia provides a fascinating insight into Roman urban planning along with many treasures to uncover. This rare site contains complete, superbly preserved, subterranean Roman houses, designed to keep the inhabitants cool in the heat of the summer, along with an amphitheatre, baths and temples. Most of the intricate mosaics remain in situ and therefore can be viewed in their original context. In antiquity, the city acquired a notorious reputation and in the 4th century, St. Augustine preached a famous sermon here, berating the citizens for their loose and immoral ways.



Tozeur

Although most of the archaeological remains are situated in the fertile regions of the north, the Romans did not leave the south unexplored. There are records of military expeditions into the Sahara Desert and a series of fortlets, outposts and towers have been identified to form a frontier intended to control the transhumant movements and trade of desert tribes.

Gafsa is a large oasis town and industrial centre for the phosphates collected from the Chotts of El Jarid. It was once a Numidian town later occupied by the Romans (ancient name Capsa) and guarded the whole of this region until the Arab troops of Okba-Ibn-Naffa seized it in 668. See here one of the remaining 'Roman pools', a deep open-air basin fed by hot water springs and visit the small museum opposite.



El Djem

El Djem is renowned for its impressive Roman amphitheatre, the sixth largest in the world. It had three tiers of seats, to accommodate 30,000 spectators, with further standing room. The huge structure reflects the great wealth of the region, which was founded on its extensive olive groves. It was likely built as a symbol of Rome's strength, at a time when troubles were besetting the Empire. 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.



Sousse

This vibrant city of Sousse is a busy tourist destination but once was an early trading post on the route from Tyre to the West. Often referred to as the "Pearl of the Sahel," Sousse boasts a medina that is a UNESCO World Heritage site, filled with narrow winding streets and historical landmarks.

It was the port used by Hannibal in his campaign against Scipio at the end of the Second Punic War and also by Caesar in 47 BC. The Museum is housed in part of the Kasbah, or high citadel, and the displays include an exceptionally fine series of mosaics from Sousse and the surrounding region. 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 overnight hotel near Hammamet.

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
All local transport | Accommodation in the Hotel Dar Said, Hotel Thugga, La Kasbah Hotel, Hotel Dar Horchani, a hotel in Douz & Hotel Sindbad or similar | 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 14 dinners | Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person based on Twin/Dbt share		
10th - 24th Feb	\$6,190	\$5,840
Single Supplement	\$835	
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Single Supplement	\$835	

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CARTHAGE & ROMAN TUNISIA

Stand before the mighty ancient amphitheatre of El Djem

10 days from \$4,420pp



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.

Carthage

As the Phoenician cities of Tyre, Byblos and Sidon became absorbed by the Assyrian and Persian Empires, Carthage became the 'new capital' of the West, at the head of its own trading empire. This fabled kingdom of Dido and her faithless lover Aeneas was the power that Rome sought to emulate and finally destroy in the third Punic War. High on the Byrsa Hill we find a tiny section of what once was – the ruins of Punic houses, parts of the street network and the necropolis, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Expert guides for this tour

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 TOUR ITINERARY

- Day 1 - Tunis
- Day 2 - Carthage
- Day 3 - Tunis
- Day 4 - Tunis - Dougga
- Day 5 - Bulla Regia
- Day 6 - Dougga - Kairouan
- Day 7 - El Djem
- Day 8 - Kairouan - Hammamet
- Day 9 - Kerkouane
- Day 10 - Hammamet - Tunis



Dougga

Dougga is one of the oldest towns in Tunisia beginning life as a Numidian walled citadel which was later built over by the Romans. Its native ancestry and hillside location resulted in a winding street plan, rather than a typical Roman grid. One of Tunisia's World Heritage sites, the town contains many stunning sites, including a beautifully preserved temple, dedicated to the three Roman Gods Jupiter, Juno and Minerva and the giant statues of the gods can be seen today.

El Djem

El Djem was prosperous in the 2nd century AD and into the late antique period when it was an olive oil production centre during the Roman era. On the back of this wealth, the city built several amphitheatres, the most important of which was built in the 3rd century AD and like Rome's Colosseum, was used for various public events, such as gladiatorial games. It still stands today, as Africa's largest and best-preserved amphitheatre. The

Colosseum is impressive but less well known is the city's fabulous collection of Roman mosaics which rival those we also see at the Bardo.



Kerkouane

A UNESCO listed site overlooking the sea, Kerkouane was inhabited from the 7th to 3rd century BC and abandoned after the first Punic War. The town was never reoccupied by the invading Romans, making it the only purely Punic site in Africa.


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Dates & prices per person based on Twin/Dbl share

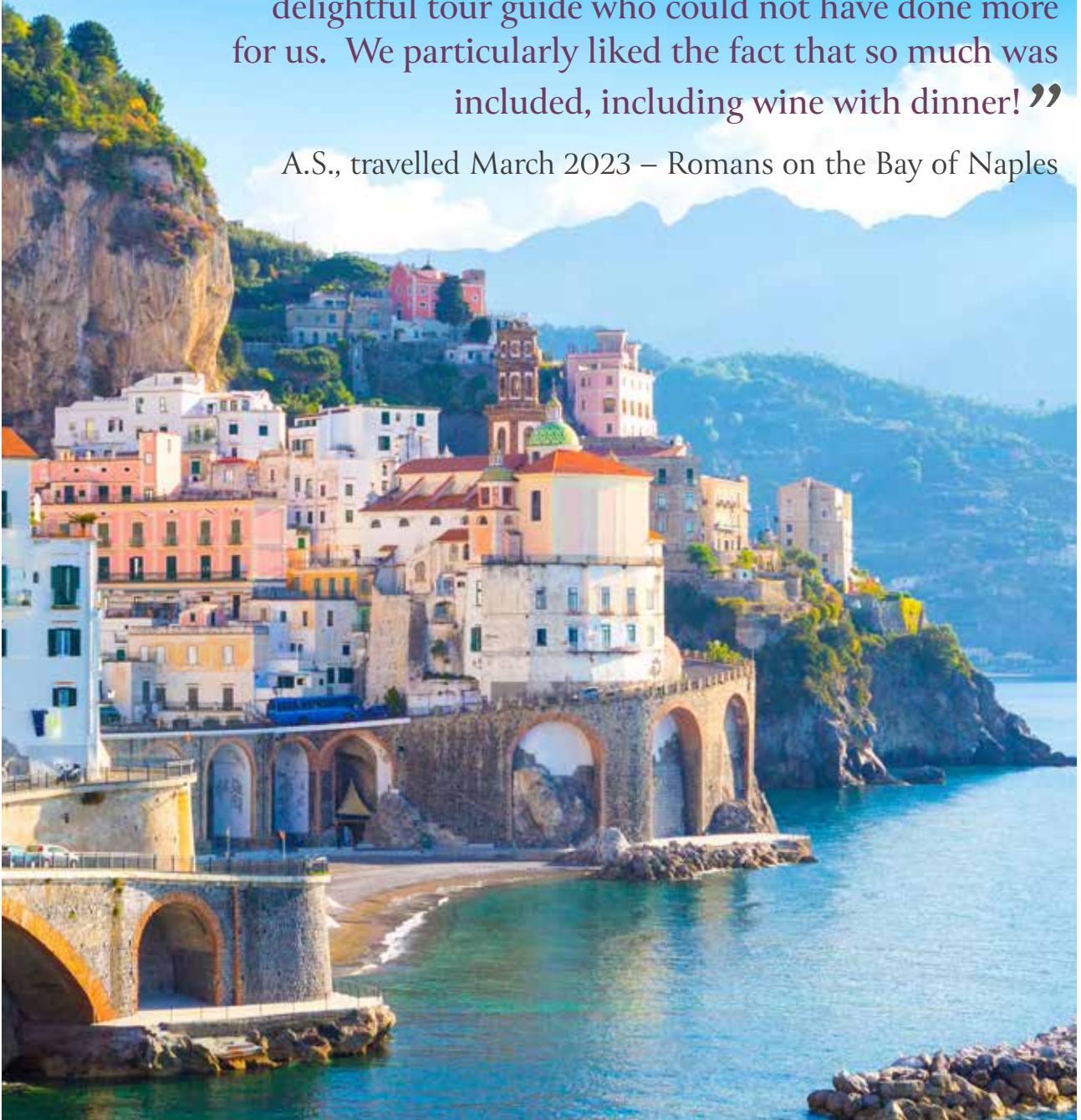
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“Most enjoyable - our first tour with Andante, and the best experience with a tour company we’ve had so far. Good company, great hotel, brilliant lecturer and delightful tour guide who could not have done more for us. We particularly liked the fact that so much was included, including wine with dinner!”

A.S., travelled March 2023 – Romans on the Bay of Naples



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