

THE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

MILITARY, CLASSICAL & HISTORY

2026-2027 TOURS



ARCHAEOLOGY | CLASSICAL | MEDIEVAL | ENLIGHTENMENT | NAPOLEONIC | VICTORIAN
FIRST WORLD WAR | SECOND WORLD WAR | MODERN | POLITICAL HISTORY



Welcome

We are delighted to present our new look brochure and inspiring collection of tours for 2026–2027. Within these pages, you'll discover a carefully curated selection of journeys, each crafted to ignite your curiosity and immerse you in the remarkable stories, landscapes and cultures that have shaped our world.

Driven by a passion for exploration, we are constantly seeking out new destinations and creating original itineraries that offer fresh insights and memorable experiences. This season's programme features an exciting range of expert-led tours, from captivating historical adventures to fascinating archaeological discoveries.

Retrace the dramatic path of Napoleon after his escape from Elba, uncover the enduring legends of **Macbeth** and **King Arthur**, or explore the rich heritage of the ancient Mediterranean on **Classical Sardinia**. In **Normandy: Conquerors, Liberators and Artists**, discover a region where military history, artistic achievement and cultural legacy intertwine in unforgettable ways.

We are also proud to expand our collection of political history tours, offering thought-provoking journeys through pivotal moments of change, resistance and transformation. Walk in the footsteps of the **Suffragettes**, brought vividly to life through the insights of Helen Pankhurst, or delve into the turbulent histories of great capital cities on **Paris in Revolt** and **Rebellion! London in Revolt**, where stories of protest, courage and progress unfold at every turn.

Whether you are a returning traveller or discovering us for the first time, our experienced team is always on hand to help. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@theculturalexperience.com or call one of the numbers listed at the foot of every page.

Thank you for travelling with us—or for considering us for your next adventure. We look forward to welcoming you on one of our exceptional journeys and sharing unforgettable experiences together.

Dr Stephen Miles, History Tours Curator

Our Services

As our range of tours expand, so does the range of services. We now offer:



Scheduled Tours

These are our pre-arranged tours, and the main subject of this brochure.



Bespoke Tours

These are tailor-made tours for groups and specialist organisations.



Travel Service

Finally, as a travel company in our own right, we are able to cater for specialist travel and accommodation needs, particularly for those guests travelling long distances - and to arrange extensions to, or linking travel between, our scheduled tours.

Our Team

We are a small but highly-professional travel team with a passion for history. We enjoy building and maintaining personal relationships with our clients, many of whom become friends. As much as you do, we look forward to travelling with you on these special journeys that we have diligently created.

Our Ethos

Our ethos is based on three principles:

- Using sound research and planning to create a three-dimensional version of history (human, time and space) - and to place the colourful characters and exciting events at the very locations they came together.
- Using experienced expert guides, chosen for their ability to pull these three dimensions together in an engaging and entertaining manner - so you can virtually 'touch and feel' what it would have been like on the day.
- Putting all this in the cultural context of the local countryside, customs and cuisine - in a relaxed but organised way.

This is what The Cultural Experience is all about: providing a well-planned, quality themed tour which is informative, informal and inclusive - aimed at both enthusiasts and those with a general interest in history and travel. We hope you enjoy perusing what is on offer in these pages.

Front cover:
Wadi Rum, Jordan

Torre Cannai, a Spanish watchtower on the southern coast of Sant'Antioco island in Sardinia, Italy

Contents and Timeline



Early Periods

This category covers Ancient History, e.g. Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and Classical Era.



c.900-1500

Also known as the Middle Ages or Medieval period.



Enlightenment

An intellectual and cultural movement primarily in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Napoleonic Period

Defined by the rise and rule of Napoleon Bonaparte.



Victorian Era

Named for the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901.



First World War

The first global conflict, 1914-1918.



Second World War

The second global conflict, 1939-1945.



Modern & Cross Periods

Including the Cold War and the contemporary age.

- 10. Ancient Egypt's Hidden Treasures: Through the Delta and Middle Egypt
- 12. Egypt's Best Museums: Featuring the Grand Egyptian Museum
- 14. Immortal Egypt: Bringing an ancient civilisation to life
- 16. The Golden Journey to Samarkand: The Silk Roads of Uzbekistan
- 17. The Grandeur of Ancient Rome: Built of Bricks, Clothed in Marble
- 18. Macedon: The Kingdom of Philip II and Alexander the Great
- 19. Classical Albania: In Illyrian Lands
- 20. Classical Sardinia
- 21. The Lost Legions: The Road to the Teutoburg Forest
- 22. In Trajan's Footsteps: Serbia to Romania
- 23. In the Shadow of Vesuvius: Pompeii and the Perished Cities of the Bay of Naples
- 24. Classical Algeria: Numidians and Romans in North African sands
- 25. The Etruscans
- 26. Where Empires Collide

- 27. Flames of Faith: The Cathar Crusade Journey
- 28. The Pale Horseman: The Wessex of Alfred the Great
- 29. Macbeth
- 30. King Arthur
- 31. Plantagenet France: Intrigue, War, Collapse - Featuring Eleanor of Aquitaine

- 32. The English Civil War: Bible in One hand, Pistol in the Other

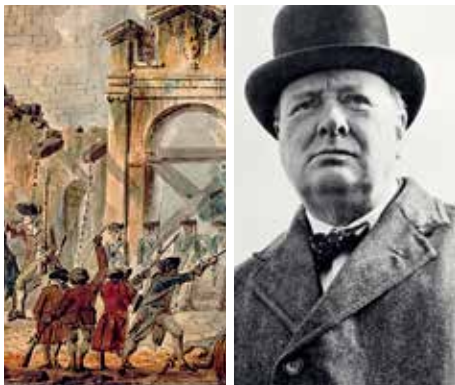
- 33. Wellington in Spain: A Classic Peninsular War Tour
- 34. Walking Austerlitz: The 1805 Campaign on Foot
- 35. Walking Waterloo
- 36. Sharpe's Rifles: The Story of The 95th Rifles in The Peninsular War
- 37. Napoleon at Bay: The 1814 Campaign in France
- 38. The Flight of the Eagle: Napoleon's Escape from Elba
- 39. Wellington over the Pyrenees: The Invasion of France
- 40. Wellington in Portugal: The French Invasions Thwarted
- 41. A Near Run Thing: The Waterloo Anniversary Tour

- 42. The Franco-Prussian War 1870: The German Invasion of France
- 43. The American Civil War: Eastern Theater Tour
- 44. The Zulu War: The Washing of the Spears

- 45. Journey's End: A sweeping tour of the Western Front from Verdun to Ypres
- 46. Italy During the First World War: Battles in the Mountains and Clouds

- 47. The Holocaust: Poland and the Nazi Death Camps
- 48. The Rise & Fall of Nazi Germany: Darkness Visible
- 49. Shells exploding at a picnic: Norway during WW2
- 50. Operation Husky: The Allied Invasion of Sicily
- 51. The Liberation of Mainland Italy 1943-45
- 52. D-Day: Operation Overlord: Breaching the Atlantic Wall
- 53. The Fall of Singapore and the Death Railway: A World Turned Upside Down
- 54. MacArthur and the Battle for The Philippines: Hell and High Water
- 56. Dictator: Mussolini & Italian Fascism
- 57. Liberation! From Normandy to the Rhine: With America's GIs across North-West Europe
- 58. Operation Marita: The German Invasion of Greece 1941
- 59. The Spanish Civil War: For Whom the Bell Tolls: Conflict, Conviction, and the Fight for Spain

- 66. The Vietnam War: From Defeat at Dien Bien Phu to the Fall of Saigon
- 68. Normandy: Conquerors, Liberators and Artists
- 69. The Pillars of Hercules: The History of Gibraltar, Ceuta and Cadiz
- 70. Fortress Malta: From The Knights of St John to World War Two



Political History Tours

Explore the people, places and events that have shaped governments, societies and international relations.

- 71. The Suffragettes: Deeds, not words
- 72. Churchill! Walking With Destiny
- 73. Paris in Revolt: From the Three Glorious Days of 1830 to the barricades of 1968
- 74. Rebellion! London in Revolt

Other Pages

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Eilean Donan Castle

The ancient ruins of Tharros,
Sardinia



Isandlwana Mountain, often
referred to as the 'Sphinx'



Added Values

At The Cultural Experience we can offer many additional extras - subject to availability - to your holiday to enhance the overall experience. Please ask us for further details and costs. Here are just some of the elements we can arrange to make your tour tailored specifically to you. Think of us as your personal travel agent.



Flights

The Cultural Experience is a British Airways Appointed Operator. In most instances, and where it is practical, we fly out of London Heathrow for our overseas tours. We have access to the majority of the world's airlines.



Regional or Connecting Flights

We are able to offer regional connections to our London flights, or when available, direct flights from airports around the UK. Please contact us for prices. Subject to availability.



Flight Upgrades

Enjoy an enhanced in-flight experience by upgrading to Premium Economy, Business or First Class. For more information please see our website or telephone us.



Trains

Our tours to Europe by train include Eurostar Plus, where you will enjoy comfortable, spacious seats and a light meal with hot and cold drinks. If you prefer to travel in even more comfort, and enjoy a three-course gourmet meal and drinks served at your seat, together with complimentary newspapers and magazines, then why not upgrade to Eurostar Premier - the ultimate Eurostar experience!



Room Upgrade

We often stay in hotel accommodation where it is possible to upgrade your room to a superior room, scenic view room or suite. Please ask if you would like us to enquire on your behalf.



Reading Lists

We have compiled suggested reading lists for each of our tours. Although certainly not essential to have prepared for any of our tours in this way, it may improve and add to your enjoyment of your trip to your selected destination. They are available on our website.

Activity Levels

Please read and ensure you understand before booking.

All tours involve a fair amount of walking, often over uneven surfaces, hillsides or steps. Participants on all tours must be able to walk or stand for at least sixty minutes without aid or requiring a rest. Use our Activity Level Guide opposite to measure your ability to join a tour. If you have any concerns in this regard, please contact us for advice. You must be able to carry your own luggage as portage is not provided. For tours travelling by rail we recommend a suitcase with wheels.



Level 1: Tours where the group is generally conveyed by coach between stands, with walking confined to a short stroll to each observation point. Although stamina is required for the standing and walking involved at and around each observation point, museum, etc., the tour is generally untaxing physically.

Hybrid: Where a walk is described as e.g. Level 2 / 3, this means it is a Level 2 tour with one or two short Level 3 pitches - e.g. a steep climb - which could be avoided by less able participants, rather than holding up the rest of the group.

Level 2: This is our standard tour type which necessarily involves a certain amount of walking along country tracks and up slopes in order to reach vantage points. As these vantage points may be exposed to the elements, sensible shoes and outdoor clothing are needed. Distances of up to a few miles a day may be involved, occasionally up to six miles, which any reasonably fit person should be able to cope with.

Level 3: These are tours involving a higher level of fitness and stamina, i.e. our 'walking tours', or those tours regularly involving uphill stretches or walks of more than a few miles a day, occasionally up to ten miles. Such tours take participants off the normal tourist trail, so suitable walking gear and a day pack will be required. But again, there is nothing here that a regular walker could not cope with.

Our Expert Historians



Professor Bill Allison
Professor of History,
Georgia Southern
University



Aurzelle Da Silva
Medieval Historian



**Colonel (Retd)
David Harrison**
Former soldier and
diplomat



Dr David Appleby
Honorary Research
Fellow, University of
Nottingham



Dr Simon Elliott
Archaeologist, author
and broadcaster



Fred Hawthorne
Prominent American
Civil War Historian



Lt-Col David Barron
Retired Colonel in The
Gordon Highlanders and
battlefield guide



Dr Andy Fear
Lecturer at Manchester
University and classical
historian



Julian Humphrys
Historian, author
and guide



Dr Waitman Beorn
Assistant Professor in
History, Northumbria
University



**Colonel
Andrew Field**
Former soldier & author



Bob Kershaw
Military historian,
author and
commentator



Dr Konogan Beaufay
Field Archaeologist
and expert on Roman
architecture



**Professor
Joann Fletcher**
Professor of Archaeology,
University of York and
Lead Ambassador for the
Egypt Exploration Society



Ian Knight
Renowned Zulu War
historian and author



Grenville Bird
Author & historian



Professor John Foot
Professor of Modern
Italian History,
University of Bristol



Aristotle Koskinas
Archaeologist and
lecturer on Greek
history



Mark Crathorne
Peninsular War specialist
and Chair of the British
Historical Society of
Portugal



Oliver Gilkes
Consulting archaeologist,
writer and educator



**Professor
Ryan Lavelle**
Professor of Medieval
History, Winchester
University



Dr Bruce Cherry
Military historian
and former university
lecturer



John H. Gill
Retired soldier and
historian



Dr Gregory Lippiatt
Senior Lecturer in
Medieval History,
University of Exeter



Professor Tim Cole
Professor of Social
History, University of
Bristol, historian and
author



Dr David Hall
Author and historian



Dr Robert Lyman
Former soldier, writer,
historian and historical
adviser



**Brigadier Justin
Maciejewski**
Director, The National
Army Museum



Alan Rooney
Expert in Napoleonic
history and Managing
Director of The Cultural
Experience



Dr Simon Trew
Retired lecturer at The
Royal Military Academy
Sandhurst, military
historian and author



Farès K Moussa
Anthropologist,
archaeologist and
consultant in heritage
management



Dr John Sadler
Military historian and
lecturer in War Studies,
University of Sunderland



**Major-General (Retd)
Ashley Truluck**
Retired soldier, historian
and former Chairman
of the Army Society for
Historical Research



Dr Laura O'Brien
Associate Professor in
Modern European History,
Northumbria University



**Professor
Nick Saunders**
Archaeologist and
anthropologist, author
and Professor Emeritus,
Bristol University



**Professor
Jerry White**
Historian of London and
Visiting Professor of
History, Birkbeck College,
University of London



Allen Packwood
Director of the Churchill
Archives Centre,
University of Cambridge



James M Scott
Former Nieman Fellow
at Harvard, author and
military historian



**Colonel Ray
Wilkinson**
Member of the
International Brigades
Memorial Trust



Dr Ben Raffield
Researcher at the
Department of
Archaeology and
Ancient History,
University of Uppsala



Dr Iain Shearer
Archaeologist and
specialist in Central Asia
and the Middle East



Tony Wilmott
Former Senior
Archaeologist with
Historic England



**Dr Alasdair
Richardson**
Reader in Holocaust
Education, University
of Winchester



**Professor
Gary Sheffield**
Professor Emeritus of
War Studies, University
of Wolverhampton



Martin Winstone
Senior Historical Advisor
to the Holocaust
Educational Trust



**Professor
Sarah Richardson**
Professor of Modern
British History, University
of Glasgow



Dr Kyle Sinisi
Professor of History,
The Citadel Military
College of South Carolina



Dr Isabel Wollaston
Senior Lecturer in Jewish
and Holocaust Studies,
University of Birmingham



**Squadron-Leader
(Retd) Jon Rooke**
Former RAF officer and
military historian



**Professor
Matthias Strohn**
Professor in Military
Studies, military expert



Palle Ydstebo
Retired Lieutenant Colonel
and Senior Lecturer at
the Norwegian Military
Academy



Temple of Ramesses III, Karnak

Ancient Egypt's Hidden Treasures Through the Delta and Middle Egypt

12 Days: 25 October–5 November 2026 Professor Joann Fletcher
 12 Days: 24 October–4 November 2027 Guide TBC
 2 Starting from £5,425

Highlights

- Visit some of ancient Egypt's lesser known yet spectacular sites
- In the company of Egyptologist, author and TV presenter Professor Joann Fletcher
- Explore the impressive pyramids of Dahshur, Meidum, Lahun and Hawara
- Visit the site of the Rosetta Stone's discovery
- Tour Alexandria's Qaitbay Citadel, site of the legendary Pharos Lighthouse
- Enjoy some of Egypt's most rewarding museums including the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum and Coptic Museum
- Explore Tell El-Amarna, Akhenaten's new capital city built for the worship of Aten
- Visit Tanis, once a major city and home to Egypt's royal tombs, but lost under the sands until modern times
- Travel through some of Egypt's most emblematic scenery – from the Delta to the oasis of Fayoum and on down the lush Nile Valley.

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Scan for the
full itinerary

With Egypt's most famous ancient monuments visited by millions each year, some of its most spectacular sites still lie beyond the usual itineraries. On our 11-night and 12-day 'Hidden Treasures' tour, we not only visit pyramids, tombs and temples across the Delta and Middle Egypt, but royal settlements and palaces to follow in the footsteps of some of ancient history's greatest names.

In the company of expert Egyptologist, author and TV presenter Professor Joann Fletcher we travel through little-known landscapes to some of Egypt's key sites and the people who made history there.

Beginning with our visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum to see the treasures of Tutankhamun, we then travel across the Delta to the Temple of Bubastis, to the royal tombs at Tanis and to the discovery site of the celebrated Rosetta Stone. Spending time in Alexandria, royal capital of Alexander the Great and his ultimate successor Cleopatra, our journey takes us south to the huge pyramids of Dahshur, Meidum, Lahun and Hawara, to the tombs of Beni Hasan and on to Tell el-Amarna, home of Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Tutankhamun himself. In Abydos we tour the temple of Osiris and the royal ancestors, in Dendera the temple of goddess Hathor, and in our final destination Luxor we explore its West Bank and the spectacular Medinet Habu.

This is an ideal tour for those who already know the more familiar sites of ancient Egypt and want to further their knowledge of this spellbinding civilisation. It is a perfect sequel to our Immortal Egypt: Bringing an ancient civilisation to life tour.

Please note that for this tour we will be including special visits to sites not normally open to the public. Details of these will be announced on our website



Statue of Ramesses II, Grand Egyptian Museum



Citadel Of Qait bay, Alexandria



Tour group at Giza



The Temple of Hathor, Dendera

Historical Background

Since ancient times Egypt has rightly been called 'the gift of the Nile', whose rich alluvial soil made possible the rise of a legendary civilisation in an otherwise desert landscape. The great river also dictated the way the Egyptians referred to their country, with northern 'Lower' Egypt and southern 'Upper' Egypt so named because of the south-north direction in which the Nile flows before spreading out across the Delta into the Mediterranean.

With these two distinct regions of Upper and Lower Egypt first brought together around 3100 BC when southern leader Narmer (aka Menes) eventually defeated his opponents in Lower Egypt, this pivotal moment created the 'world's first nation state'. It also initiated a succession of 30 royal dynasties who ruled Egypt and its empire for the next 3000 years, these three millennia divided into the Old, Middle and New Kingdoms punctuated by 'Intermediate Periods' of instability.

Although the Old Kingdom (c.2686–2181 BC) is best known for its pyramid tombs located around the north, temples were also created throughout the Nile Valley and Delta into the Middle Kingdom (c.1985–1650 BC), whose cultural glories include the continued creation of pyramids together with rock cut tombs. The Middle Kingdom rulers also expanded Egypt's empire abroad, as did their counterparts at the beginning of the subsequent New Kingdom (c.1550–1069 BC). Yet during the political upheaval of the so-called 'Amarna Period' when the traditional temples were closed down and the royal capital relocated to Amarna, Egypt's infrastructure fell apart as its empire began to fragment.

Despite the best efforts of later New Kingdom pharaohs, a combination of regicide, corruption and inflation allowed a succession of Libyans, Nubians and Persians to gain control of Egypt for much of the first millennium BC. Only in 332 BC did the arrival of Greek king Alexander the Great reverse Egypt's fortunes, for he not only created a new capital Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast but initiated the Ptolemaic dynasty of male and female pharaohs culminating in the great Cleopatra herself. Issuing their edicts in both Greek and Egyptian, the Ptolemies rebuilt temples throughout Egypt, in which they were

portrayed as traditional pharaohs, as were the Romans who invaded in 30 BC.

Only when Rome's empire adopted Christianity at the end of the c.4th AD did all this change, as temples became churches or were closed down along with the temples' schools in which hieroglyphs were traditionally taught. For 1,400 years Egypt's ancient past lay silent until the discovery of the Ptolemies' Rosetta Stone, whose bilingual Greek and Egyptian text allowed hieroglyphs to be deciphered in 1822 when this immortal civilisation could finally begin to re-emerge into the modern world.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Cairo (or join tour at hotel). Hotel in Cairo – 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: full day in Cairo: Coptic Museum, Old Cairo Museum (Tanis collection), Grand Egyptian Museum (Tutankhamun treasures). (B,L,D)

Day 3: drive into Nile Delta, Bubastis (Tel Basta), Tanis (San el-Hagar). Hotel in Ras El Bar – 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Fort Julian, Rosetta Museum, citadel of Qaitbay in Alexandria. Hotel in Alexandria – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 5: full day in Alexandria: Kom el Shoqafa Catacombs, Serapeum, Graeco-Roman Museum. (B,L,D)

Day 6: drive to Dahshur (Red and Bent Pyramids). Hotel in Cairo – 1 night. Free time. (B,L,D)

Day 7: drive to Meidum (pyramid of Sneferu), Fayum oasis, Tunis Pottery Village. Hotel at Qurun Lake – 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tuna El Gabal necropolis, Beni Hassan. Hotel in Minya for one night. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Tell El-Amarna. Hotel in Abydos (Sohag) – 1 night. (B,L,D)

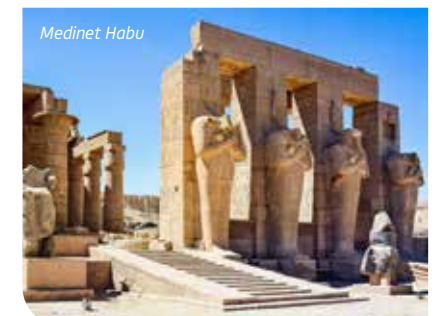
Day 10: Abydos (incl. Temple of Seti I), Dendera (incl. Hathor Temple). Hotel in Luxor – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Medinet Habu (incl. Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III), Valley of the Nobles, Deir el-Medina and Ramesseum. Free time in Luxor. (B,L,D)

Day 12: fly Luxor to London via Cairo (or extend stay in Egypt). (B)



Kom el Shoqafa Catacombs



Medinet Habu



The Pyramid of Sneferu



Valley of the Nobles



Egypt's Best Museums

Featuring the Grand Egyptian Museum

- 5 Days: 13–17 November 2026 Local expert Egyptologist
- 5 Days: 12–16 November 2027 Local expert Egyptologist
- 5 Starting from £2,095

Highlights

- Explore the complete Tutankhamun collection at the Grand Egyptian Museum
- Enjoy a carefully curated set of visits to Egypt's key museums: the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Coptic Museum and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation
- Exclusive behind-the-scenes access at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation
- Visit Cairo's finest museums in a single expertly curated itinerary
- Stand before the pyramids and Sphinx at Giza
- Learn from specialist historians and Egyptologists

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotel, all lunches, tour information booklet, return flights from London (optional), modern, comfortable, air-conditioned coach, meals as indicated in the itinerary, helpful and friendly travel advice, expert historians throughout providing a daily variety of talks, presentations and Q&A, entrance fees for sites included in itinerary, dedicated Tour Manager, best available accommodation, buffet breakfast each morning.



Scan for the full itinerary

A tour which captures the newest and best museums of ancient Egypt and some of the most breathtaking sites of this captivating ancient culture.

Your adventure centres on a full day inside the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) - now fully open and widely regarded as the most significant archaeological museum in the world. Here, the entire Tutankhamun collection is displayed together for the first time, among tens of thousands of extraordinary artefacts that redefine how Egypt's past is presented.

This carefully structured short break is designed to give maximum depth in a limited timeframe. Rather than attempting to cover everything, the itinerary focuses on the museums that matter most, arranged to tell a coherent story of ancient Egypt, its rediscovery, and how its heritage is understood today. With expert historians and Egyptologists providing context throughout, each visit builds on the last, allowing you to move beyond isolated highlights and develop a richer understanding of Egypt's long and complex civilisation.



Complementing the GEM are visits to:

The Egyptian Museum

A historic institution housing masterpieces that trace Egyptology's evolution and continue to inspire scholars and visitors alike.

The Coptic Museum

A beautifully curated collection illustrating Egypt's early Christian heritage, showcasing manuscripts, textiles, icons, and architecture that reveal another vital chapter of the nation's story.

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation

Here, we enjoy exclusive behind-the-scenes access, offering rare insight into conservation practices and the meticulous work that preserves Egypt's treasures for future generations.

No journey through Egypt would be complete without standing before the Giza Pyramids and the Great Sphinx - the most evocative and awe-inspiring archaeological landscape in the world. This carefully designed short tour is perfect for travellers seeking the essential highlights, extraordinary new discoveries, and authoritative historical interpretation delivered by our expert historians.



Historical Background

We spend a full day at the remarkable Grand Egyptian Museum, now fully opened, and showcasing a startling collection of artefacts including the entire Tutankhamun collection. Visits are also made to the Egyptian Museum, the Coptic Museum, and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation where we enjoy a special behind-the-scenes visit. To provide context we also spend time at the Giza Pyramid complex, the most evocative ancient site in the world. This is a short tour designed for those who want a concise but carefully curated tour of the highlights and newest discoveries of ancient Egypt.

A major feature of the tour is our accommodation: the legendary Marriott Mena House in Giza. This is a truly premium, historic property set in gardens at the foot of the pyramids, and staying here is an experience in its own right. Few moments rival stepping outside to see the Great Pyramid in the early morning light or returning after a day's touring to views that feel almost impossibly close. Because the Mena House is a super-premium hotel in an exceptional location, it also explains why the single supplement is higher than on many short breaks - but for many guests, the chance to stay at one of the most iconic hotels in Egypt, with the pyramids on the doorstep, is one of the most memorable elements of the entire journey.

The tour is ideal both for first-time visitors who want a strong, authoritative introduction to Egypt's greatest museums, and for return travellers who wish to focus on the newest discoveries and most important collections. By combining world-class museums, expert interpretation and one of the most remarkable hotel settings in the world, this short break delivers an experience that is intellectually rewarding, atmospherically rich and carefully paced throughout.

Itinerary

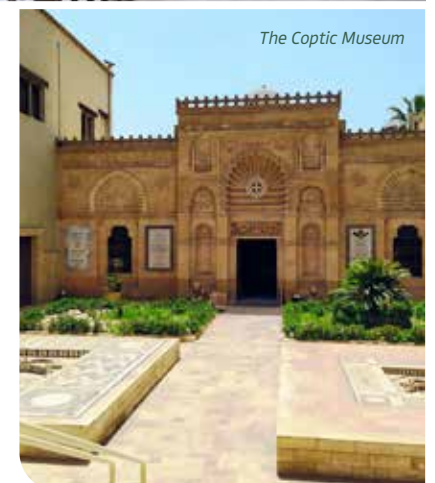
Day 1: Arrival - Fly London to Cairo (or meet at Cairo hotel). Cairo hotel for 4 nights.

Day 2: Full day at The Grand Egyptian Museum. (B,L)

Day 3: Great Pyramids of Giza and Egyptian Museum. (B,L)

Day 4: National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation, Old Cairo (incl. Hanging Church and Ben Ezra Synagogue), Coptic Museum. (B,L)

Day 5: Medieval Cairo (incl. Citadel, Khan El Khalili Bazaar). Fly Cairo to London (or extend stay in Egypt). (B,L)



The Pyramids at Giza



Immortal Egypt Bringing an ancient civilisation to life

10 Days: 30 January - 08 February 2027 Professor Joann Fletcher

2 Starting from £6,045

Highlights

- Travel in the company of expert Egyptologist, author and TV presenter Professor Joann Fletcher
- Enjoy special visits to the tomb of Tutmosis III and the funeral chapel of Kha and Merit, not normally open to the public
- Visit the spectacular pyramids at Giza and Saqqara
- Capture the unique atmosphere of ancient Egypt at the temples of Luxor, Karnak and Abu Simbel
- Visit the unforgettable Valleys of the Kings and Queens and Temple of Hatshepsut
- Enjoy Egypt's excellent museums including the Grand Egyptian Museum and newly opened Museum of Egyptian Civilisation
- Soak up the stunning landscapes of the beautiful Nile Valley.

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Scan for the full itinerary

Egypt captures the imagination like no other destination. From the colossal pyramids at Giza and Saqqara through to the exquisite intimacy of its art and the beguiling lives (and deaths) of its rulers ancient Egypt is the gift that keeps on giving. We are therefore pleased to offer a tour which provides a fresh outlook on the archaeology, history, religion, art and distinctive way of life and death of this fascinating civilisation.

In the company of expert Egyptologist, author and TV presenter Professor Joann Fletcher we travel through an incomparably rich history and gain new perspectives on the sites and people who inhabited them. This is more a journey of discovery than mystery.

We are delighted that Professor Joann Fletcher, the expert historian who leads this journey, has featured in the BBC series *Civilisations: Rise and Fall*, where she

explores the remarkable world of ancient Egypt. Joann's appearance showcases the depth of knowledge, insight, and engaging storytelling she brings to her work - the very qualities that make travelling with her such a rewarding experience. Guests on this tour will have the unique opportunity to explore Egypt's monumental landscapes and archaeological wonders alongside one of the country's most respected Egyptologists.

From Giza and Saqqara in the north we move south down the Nile Valley to enjoy the temples in Luxor and the tombs in Valley of the Kings before continuing to Edfu, Kom Ombo and Aswan. The tour culminates in an unforgettable trip to Abu Simbel.

Please note that for this tour we will be including special visits to sites not normally open to the public. Details of these will be announced on our website.



The rock-cut temple at Abu Simbel



Historical Background

Since ancient times Egypt has rightly been called 'the gift of the Nile', whose rich alluvial soil made possible the rise of a legendary civilisation in an otherwise desert landscape.

From Egypt's earliest art, created an astonishing 20,000 years ago, to the development of farming around 5000 BC, some of the world's first writing appeared in Egypt c.3250 BC to calculate the taxes due to local leaders. These leaders then competed among themselves for territory until only the regions of north and south remained, with northern 'Lower' Egypt and southern 'Upper' Egypt so named because of the south-north direction in which the Nile flows.

Around 3100 BC southern leader Narmer (aka Menes) eventually triumphed over his opponent in Lower Egypt to unite the country, this pivotal moment initiating a succession of 30 royal dynasties who ruled Egypt and its empire for the next 3000 years. These three millennia are now divided into the successive Old, Middle and New Kingdoms characterised by stability and prosperity, punctuated by spells of instability known as Intermediate Periods. The Old Kingdom (c.2686-2181 BC) is best known for the pyramid tombs of its rulers, from Egypt's first pyramid at Saqqara to its most famous, the Great Pyramid of Giza, the last of the World's Seven Wonders still standing today. Passing into the glories of the Middle Kingdom (c.1985-1650 BC), a time of exquisite art and literature, the Middle Kingdom pharaohs expanded Egypt's empire abroad. Yet it is the New Kingdom (c.1550-1069 BC) which is best known today due to its famous pharaohs - male and female - who continued Egypt's foreign expansion, at least until the so-called 'Amarna Period' when pharaohs Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Tutankhamun focused on religious reforms. Replacing the traditional gods with a new form of sun god in a policy so disastrous that Tutankhamun's tomb was used to bury all trace of the Amarna Period, the golden contents of his tomb discovered in 1922 continue to reveal their secrets with ongoing study.

Despite the efforts of remaining New Kingdom pharaohs to keep their empire intact, Egypt's power began to wane and during the first millennium BC it was taken over by a

succession of Libyans, Nubians, Greeks and Romans. Yet such was the strength of Egypt's ancient culture it conquered all such invaders who had themselves portrayed as pharaohs, adopted mummification and worshipped the gods of Egypt within temples they continued to build at places like Karnak, Edfu, Kom Ombo and Philae. Only when Rome's empire adopted Christianity at the end of the 4th century AD did all this change, as temples became churches or were closed down, the temple schools no longer able to teach the hieroglyphic language and the ancient sites gradually disappearing under drifting sands. For over 1,400 years Egypt's ancient past lay silent until hieroglyphs were finally deciphered in 1822, triggering the beginnings of excavations up and down the Nile Valley and allowing this immortal civilisation to re-emerge into the modern world.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Cairo or make own arrangements to join tour at hotel. Hotel in Cairo - 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Saqqara, 'old' Egyptian Museum in central Cairo. (B,L,D)

Day 3: National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation. Fly Cairo to Luxor. Hotel in Luxor - 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Luxor Museum, Luxor Temple, Temple of Karnak. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Temple of Hatshepsut. (B,L,D)

Day 6: By coach to Aswan via Edfu and Kom Ombo. Hotel in Aswan - 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Elephantine Island, Island of Philae, Aswan Dam, Column Quarry (unfinished obelisk). (B,L,D)

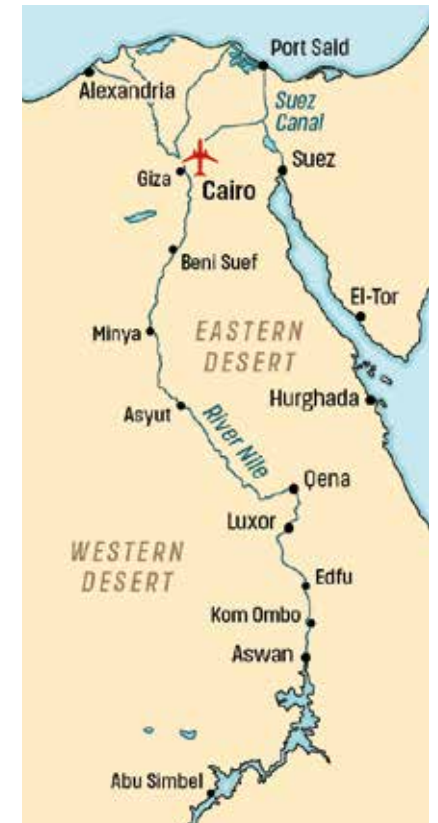
Day 8: By coach to and from Abu Simbel. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Fly Aswan to Cairo. Giza Pyramids. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Grand Egyptian Museum, Khan el-Khalili Bazaar, Cairo. (B).

Fly Cairo to London early evening or perhaps extend your stay in Egypt.

Scan the QR code to view the full itinerary on our website.





The Registan, Samarkand

The Golden Journey to Samarkand

The Silk Roads of Uzbekistan

13 Days: 21 April–3 May 2027 Dr Iain Shearer

2 Price TBC

Uzbekistan is the very epitome of intrigue and historical captivation. It is a cradle of culture from where a mesmerising collection of sapphire and gold buildings, monuments and magnificent cities have arisen reflecting the influence of a variety of cultures that have passed along the 'Silk Road'. Some of the oldest settlements in the world conjure up images of sandy-coloured buildings adorned with turquoise domes, intricate wall tiles in magnificent rich colours that fill entire rooms, and bustling bazaars complete with patterned carpets and the smell of spices swirling through the air, all of which will transport you back to a time when these places were the centre of world trade. Situated in the heart of the Eurasian Steppe, the country boasts a dramatic geography of unforgiving deserts, sumptuous oases and fertile valleys watered by the Amu Darya, the ancient River Oxus. From its exhilarating capital Tashkent to the small oasis town of Khiva, a trip to Uzbekistan offers a truly once in a lifetime opportunity.

Historical Background

The 'Silk Road' was a series of trade routes that stretched from China to the Mediterranean, established during the Han dynasty. Not only were these routes crucial to the trade of goods including textiles, spices and, of course, silk, arguably its most important export was culture. Religion, language, philosophy and technology all travelled with the merchants and were introduced to societies all over the civilised world. The Silk Road was closed off in the mid-fifteenth century by the Ottoman Empire, which wasn't a setback, as traders were forced out to sea, giving birth to the 'age of discovery'. Uzbekistan played an important role on the route and flourished. After a turbulent past in which it has been conquered by Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Imperial Russia as well as a period of oppressive Soviet regime, it has been left with a particularly beguiling history.

Itinerary

Day 0: Fly overnight to Tashkent or join tour at the hotel.

Day 1: Morning arrival. Check into hotel for one night. Rest/free time. Introductory talk. (B,D)

Day 2: Tashkent walking tour incl. Mustakillik and Amir Temur Squares, Crying Mother Monument; Old Town incl. Hast Imam Square, mosques of Tellya Sheik, Hazrati Iman. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Early morning flight to Urgench. Drive to Khiva. Hotel for 2 nights. Walking tour of Ichan Kala citadel incl. Kalta Minor/ Islam Khodja minarets, Kunya Ark, Madrassah Rakhimkhon, Djuma Mosque, Mausoleum of Pakhlavan Makhmud. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Day trip to incl. Ayaz Kala, Kyzyl Kala, Chalpikkala, Toprak Kala. (B,L,D)

Day 5: By vehicle across Kyzylkum Desert and Amudarya River to Bukhara – hotel for 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Bukhara incl. Po-i-Kalyan, Lab-i-khauz, Nadirkhon Davanbegi, Khanaga, Mogaki Attari, Ark fortress. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Day trip to the Sitara-i-Mokhikhosa, Bahauddin Naqshbandi Mausoleum. Free time. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Travel Bukhara to Samarkand via Sarmysh Gorge petroglyphs. Hotel in Samarkand - 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Samarkand. Incl. Registan Square, Gur Emir, Bibi-Khanum, Shahi Zinda. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Shakhrisabz incl. Ak-Saray, Dor-us-Saodat Burial Complex. Kok-Gumbas Mosque. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Samarkand - Konigil paper workshop, Ulugbek Observatory, Afrosiab museum. High-speed train to Tashkent. Hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Depart. Morning flight to London or extend stay in Uzbekistan. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore Tashkent's old city, 'Eski Shakhar'
- The Khan's fortress of Ichan Kala in Khiva
- Desert castles at the Khorezm Oasis
- Bukhara's massive Ark fortress
- Samarkand's Registan Square
- Travel by high-speed 'bullet' trains
- Tamerlane's Gur Emir Mausoleum
- Wonderful Khorazmian architecture at Shakhrisabz

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



City walls, Khiva



Po-i-Kalyan



Ark Fortress, Bukhara



The Forum



The Grandeur of Ancient Rome

Built of Bricks, Clothed in Marble

7 Days: 21–27 April 2027 Dr Simon Elliott

2 Starting from £2,745

In the company of our expert historian we explore the eternal city's major archaeological sites to realise the full grandeur of Ancient Rome. At each monument, work of art and building, we will explain who built or erected them, highlight important characteristics and interpret their purpose. Through a series of in-situ vignettes we discuss how and where Roman society functioned and see evidence of the impact of its laws, class structure, military, education, government, economy, religion, art and even cuisine. Our tour will take us to the private dwellings of the Palatine, the civic buildings of the Forum, the mighty Colosseum, Imperial mausoleums, martial columns, the ancient port of Ostia and Hadrian's villa at Tivoli.

Based out of our centrally located hotel, the majority of our exploration will be on foot or by public transport, so ensure that you bring comfortable walking shoes.

Historical Background

To paraphrase the historian, Livy, gods and men chose the Seven Hills as the site for the salubrious capital of what was to become the greatest empire of the ancient world because of its position in the very heart of Italy. Surrounded by fertile plains, its navigable river brought produce from the inland regions, facilitated seaborne commerce from abroad and yet was far enough from the sea to avoid the danger of foreign fleets. From its mythical founding around 750 BC, the hegemony of Rome spread first through Italy, then across the whole Mediterranean. Rome's conquests, above all of the Greeks, profoundly changed its culture and architecture. As the empire grew, so Rome transitioned from monarchy to republic, then, via murderous civil wars, back to the autocracy of the emperors. Each era left behind indelible architectural footprints that remain for us to explore during our seven days in Rome.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Rome and transfer to our hotel for 6 nights. Welcome drinks and introductory talk before dinner. (D)

Day 2: Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, Palatine Museum. (B,D)

Day 3: Colosseum, San Clemente, Arch of Constantine. (B,D)

Day 4: Day trip to Tivoli - Hadrian's Villa. (B,D)

Day 5: Trajan's Market, Imperial Fora and Column of Marcus Aurelius, Triumphal Arch of Trajan. (B)

Day 6: Ara Pacis (Altar of Peace) Museum, Mausoleum of Augustus, Pantheon. (B,D)

Day 7: Ostia Antica. Transfer to airport for return flight to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore the Roman Forum
- Ascend the Palatine Hill, often referred to as "the first nucleus of the Roman Empire"
- Visit the Colosseum
- Venture under the church of San Clemente
- View the Arch of Constantine
- Spend a whole day at Hadrian's Villa, one of the most extraordinary Roman archaeological sites in Italy
- Explore the archaeological complex of Trajan's Market
- See the victory Column of Marcus Aurelius and the Triumphal Arch of Trajan
- Explore the vaulted cells of the recently restored Mausoleum of Augustus
- Spend time at the Pantheon

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



The Colosseum



The Pantheon



The ruins of ancient Pella

Macedon

The Kingdom of Philip II and Alexander the Great

8 Days: 6–13 May 2027 Aristotle Koskinas

2 Starting from £3,195

In this wide-ranging expert-led tour we explore the culture and history of Macedon, focusing especially on the reign of Philip II and the early years of Alexander the Great (359–334 BC); the crucial years when Macedon was transformed from a backwater into the centre of the Classical world. We will walk in the footsteps of the young Alexander and his tutor Aristotle at Mieza, stroll through the extraordinarily well-preserved streets of the city of Olynthus, and retrace the final journey of Philip, standing on the spot where he was assassinated, before entering his world-famous tomb.

Historical Background

Macedon was a land of gold and timber, of wide plains and rugged uplands, of hard drinking noble horsemen, who lived by the heroic values of the poetry of Homer and loved the plays of Euripides. Their kings, immersed in blood feud and treachery, lived and died by the sword. Although in the eyes of the Classical Greeks to the south they were no better than barbarians, the Macedonians created, not only an empire, but some of the finest art and architecture surviving from the ancient world.

When Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, came to the throne in 359 BC the Kingdom of Macedon was surrounded and on the verge of extinction. In the West Philip's elder brother and thousands of his best warriors had been killed by Illyrian tribesmen. In the South the Greek city of Athens was poised to invade, as were the Thracians to the East, and the Paeonians in the North. To make matters yet worse there were numerous pretenders to the throne. Twenty-three years later, Philip had reduced all his former enemies to subjects by a combination of diplomacy and warfare, as well as piety and treachery. Macedon was transformed into the richest and most powerful state ever seen in Europe. Philip stood ready to begin the conquest of the mighty Persian empire. Then, at the height of his power, he was struck down by a spurned lover in the theatre at Vergina. Civil war threatened, all the subject peoples rose in revolt. The new king was only twenty years old. But the new king was Alexander the Great.



The Lion of Amphipolis

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Thessaloniki or join group at hotel. Hotel in Thessaloniki (7 nights). (D)

Day 2: Pella. (B,D)

Day 3: Veroia, Mieza & Nymphaeum. (B,D)

Day 4: Dion, Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki. (B,D)

Day 5: Olynthus. (B, L)

Day 6: Amphipolis. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Vergina. (B,D)

Day 8: Flights home. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Visit Vergina, Philip II's capital and site of his incredible tomb
- Visit the evocative cities of Pella, Veroia, Olynthus and Amphipolis
- Enjoy the magnificent view over sacred Mt Olympus from the ancient city of Dion
- Explore the city of Thessaloniki with its rich heritage and world-renowned archaeological museum

Holiday Essentials

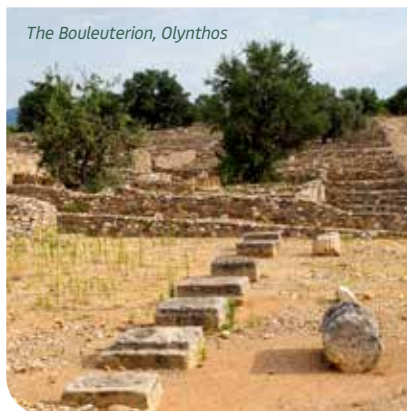
4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Apollonia Archaeological Park



The School of Aristotle, Mieza



The Bouleuterion, Olynthus



Skanderbeg Museum, Kruja

Classical Albania In Illyrian Lands

9 Days: 26 May–3 June 2027 Oliver Gilkes

2 Starting from £3,345

Albania is home to some of the Classical world's most fabulous sites but is frequently overshadowed by its southerly neighbour. This is without justification as the country holds a rich panoply of Classical remains. We visit Apollonia, where a youthful Octavian on hearing of the assassination of his great-uncle Caesar embarked on his bid for power that ultimately made him emperor. At the bucolic site of Antigoneia we learn about its famous founder Pyrrhus of Epirus (319/318–272 BC), whose victories were won at such great cost and at Durres marvel at the splendid Roman amphitheatre. At Butrint we soak up the atmosphere of what is arguably the most beautiful combination of archaeology and nature in the Mediterranean world, whose occupation lasted from 50,000 BC up until the nineteenth century. We enjoy the stone city of Gjirokaštër, Albania's best-kept secret, and Berat, the 2,400-year-old "city of a thousand windows", both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Throughout our stay we are hosted by the wonderful Albanian people, proud of their origins in the 2,500-year-old tribes of Illyria, and eager to share their fine cuisine, 3000-year-old tradition of winemaking and lively folk music scene.

Historical Background

During classical antiquity Albania was inhabited by groups of Indo-European speaking tribes in an area known later to the Greeks and Romans as Illyria. Nevertheless there is considerable debate as to whether these peoples recognised themselves as Illyrians in the way later writers framed them. The first known Illyrian king, Bardylis, emerged in what is now Albania around 400 BC and soon came into conflict with Macedon. Greek colonies started to be set up in what is now Albania from the 7th century BC one of the most prominent being Apollonia, established by Corinth. The greatest known Illyrian kingdom was that of the Ardiaei, who emerged in the 3rd century BC and extended their dominance into northern Albania. The Ardiaei Queen Teuta clashed with the expanding Roman Empire and initiated 60 years of war which resulted in the end of Illyrian independence by 168 BC. Rome came to dominate the western Balkans and the province of Illyricum was created. Rome absorbed Greek cities and culture and introduced levels of civilisation enjoyed in other parts of her empire. Christianity came to the region in the 3rd to 4th centuries AD and the new religion was preached from, amongst other places, the huge Durres Amphitheatre. When the Empire divided in 395 AD what is now Albania found itself in the unusual position of being administered as part of the Eastern Empire from Constantinople but under the religious jurisdiction of the Pope in Rome until 732 AD.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly from London to Tirana or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Explore Tirana; welcome drinks and introductory talk. Hotel in Tirana – 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Tirana: walking tour to include National Museum and Ethem Bey Mosque. (B,D)

Day 3: Apollonia; continue to Gjirokastra. Hotel in Gjirokastra – 4 nights. (B,D)

Day 4: full day at Butrint. (B,L,D)

Day 5: full day at Gjirokastra, incl. museum, castle and konaks (residences). (B,D)

Day 6: Antigoneia, Labova i Kryqit, Hadrianopolis. (B,L,D)

Day 7: leave Gjirokastra, drive to Byllis and visit site, continue to Berat. Hotel in Berat – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 8: Durres - amphitheatre, drive to Kruje. Free time to explore town. Hotel in Durres – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 9: Drive to Tirana airport for flight to London or extend your stay in Albania. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Experience Butrint's unique fusion of archaeology and natural beauty
- Follow Octavian's early footsteps at Apollonia
- Discover Gjirokaštër's UNESCO-listed Ottoman stone architecture
- Marvel at the scale of Durrës' Roman amphitheatre
- Explore Berat's layered religious and architectural heritage
- Enjoy refined Albanian hospitality, cuisine, and ancient wine traditions.

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



Apollonia Archaeological Park



Castle of Gjirokastra





Tharros

Classical Sardinia

 8 Days: 26 May–2 June 2027  Dr Farès K Moussa
 2  Price TBC

Sardinia offers one of the richest and most fascinating archaeological repertoires in Europe. The island has seen Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs and Catalonians come and go. Before them, the mysterious Nuraghi people left over 7000 weird and wonderful stone structures which pepper the bucolic landscape. This 7-night and 8-day tour explores fabulous Greco-Roman towns, stunning rock-cut tombs and corbelled towers, impressive giant statues of warriors, ancient pyramidal structures and mysterious Tophet cemeteries to bring you the best of the island's intriguing past.

Historical Background

Sardinia—known to the Greeks as *Sandaliotis* ("the sandal") and *Ichnoussa* ("the stepping stone")—has been forged by a remarkable roll-call of cultures: Phoenician traders, Greek settlers, Carthaginian merchants, Roman administrators, Arab navigators and Catalan rulers. Long before any of them arrived, the enigmatic Bronze Age Nuraghi people left their mark in the form of more than 7,000 striking stone monuments scattered across the island's idyllic hills. Among Sardinia's most compelling sites are Europe's only known pyramidal structure from the late Neolithic; extraordinary sacred wells carved in an inverted pyramid form; rock cut tombs adorned with paintings and engravings—nicknamed "fairies' houses"; the iconic Nuraghi towers; imposing stone statues of warriors and archers; and the controversial Punic Tophet burial grounds. As we wander through hidden passages inside corbelled towers and study the impressive *bronzettis* of proud warriors, a tantalising question lingers: could the Nuraghi have been the same horned helmeted *Shardana*, the "Sea Peoples" who—according to Egyptian letters and reliefs from the 14th and 13th centuries BC—raided the Levantine coast?



Torre Cannai, Sant'Antioco

Highlights

- Explore the rich archaeological legacy of the island's multilayered past including Nuraghic, Phoenician, Greek, Roman and Arabic remains
- Visit the spectacular 'giant tombs' of the Nuraghic people at S'Ena'e Thomes
- Admire a remarkable Nuraghic site of Sa Sedda'e Sos Carros in a 4x4 excursion
- Wander the Punic-Roman cities of Nora and Tharros in their stunning coastal settings
- Visit the extraordinary prehistoric pyramid of Monte d'Accoddi, unique in Europe
- Explore the rich archaeological collections at Cagliari and Cabras Archaeology Museums, the latter housing the famed stone giants of Mont'e Prama
- Ponder the mystery surrounding the island's Tophet cemeteries and their dark possibilities



Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Tharros



Roman amphitheatre, Cagliari



The battle of the Teutoburg Forest

The Lost Legions

The Road to the Teutoburg Forest

 6 Days: 2–7 June 2027  Tony Wilmott
 2  Starting from £2,925

Follow in the footsteps of Quintilius Varus and his three legions on the road to their destruction. On this tour we travel through the little visited regions of the Netherlands and North Germany, stopping at the historic towns of sleepy Leiden, Xanten and Paderborn. We will experience the glory of Rome come to life at a variety of different museums along the way, including the Hogwoerd and Xanten open air Archaeological Parks, built on the sites of old Roman forts. At Anreppen we will see some of the ongoing excavations of the earthworks and foundations of the Fort that once controlled the Lippe Valley. The whole tour will come to a climactic end with a visit to the Hermannsdenkmal and to the rediscovered site of the battle itself.



Historical Background

The Battle of Teutoburg Forest was nothing short of a massacre of three Roman legions, resulting in the retreat of the Roman Empire across the Rhine, a border they would never successfully conquer again. In 9AD, Quintilius Varus, supreme commander of Germania led the doomed 17th, 18th and 19th legions across the Rhine, intending to demand tribute, but instead were ambushed by four Cherusci tribes, united under the German symbol of resistance and unity, Arminius. The legions were decimated, some captured, some escaped, but most died. Such was the devastation that their legion numbers were never used by the Romans again. Varus escaped, but eventually committed suicide.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport or make own arrangements to join tour at Leiden. National Museum of Antiquities, Leiden. Hotel in Leiden – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2:** Fossa Corbulonis canal, Archaeon and Mansio Archaeological Parks, Hogwoerd. Drive to Kleve: hotel – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Xanten archaeological park and museum. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Lippe Valley – incl. Haltern am See, Oberaden and Anreppen. Drive to Paderborn. Hotel – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Hermannsdenkmal, Battle of Teutoburg Forest site. Drive to Hannover Airport hotel – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6:** Fly Hannover to London or perhaps extend your stay in the area. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- With an expert historian
- See the Lippe Valley, Hogwoerd and Xanten
- Explore the Varus Battlefield
- Visit the world-class National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden
- See Fossa Corbulonis
- Discover every day Roman life at Archaeon by exploring its reconstructed town
- Visit the Roman archaeological park at Xanten
- Follow Varus's route across the Lippe Valley
- See the site of the Battle of Teutoburg Forest
- Spend time in Hogwoerd, the largest site of archaeological research in the Netherlands
- Explore the interactive museum at Haltern am See



Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Roman stadium, Xanten



Hermannsdenkmal, Detmold



Belgrade Fortress

In Trajan's Footsteps

Serbia to Romania

9 Days: 25 June–3 July 2027 Oliver Gilkes
 2 Price TBC

This journey follows the frontiers of the Roman Empire and Emperor Trajan's campaigns (98–117 AD) against the Dacian tribes north of the Danube during two Dacian Wars. Travelling through a region crafted by centuries of political, military, and cultural change, we explore Rome's strategic presence on the Danube, a natural boundary separating the Empire from the non-Roman peoples beyond. We also see how Roman conquest left its mark on these lands, laying foundations still visible today in the name Romania and its Latin based language.

Beginning in Belgrade, ancient Singidunum, we continue to Sremska Mitrovica to view the remains of the Imperial Palace at Roman Sirmium and at Viminacium, a major Roman city and camp, we encounter over 16,000 excavated graves. Passing the dramatic Iron Gates gorge, we reflect on the challenges faced by Trajan's army and consider the Tabula Traiana inscription commemorating his engineering feats. Near Kladovo, we examine the remains of Trajan's monumental bridge, crossed in 105 AD as he launched the second Dacian War. We follow his route toward the Dacian capital, Sarmizegetusa, scene of the decisive battle. The tour concludes with visits to Dacian and Roman fortresses and Bucharest's National History Museum, home to the remarkable reconstruction of Trajan's Column.

Historical Background

In the late 1st century AD the Dacian tribes were reinvigorated by their leader Decebalus and became increasingly belligerent towards the Romans along the Danubian frontier. Peace with Rome in 89 AD led to stability but as Dacia was a source of much needed precious metals for the Empire further war seemed likely. The First Dacian War (101–102 AD) started when the Emperor Trajan advanced from Viminacium into the heart of Dacian territory and defeated their army at the Second Battle of Tapae (depicted on Trajan's Column). After a series of hard-fought battles Decebalus was persuaded to submit and was forced to surrender territory and weapons. But the peace did not last long as he continued to agitate leading to the Second Dacian War (105–106 AD). Trajan advanced again into Dacia and laid siege to the capital Sarmizegetusa. Suffering from acute starvation the city surrendered and was razed to the ground. Decebalus fled and later took his own life. For Rome this was a great victory as the wealth of the area flooded into the Empire – reportedly some 700 million denarii per year. But for the Dacians this meant subjugation and slavery as their land became more Romanised.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Outward travel. Fly London to Belgrade or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Explore city. Hotel in Belgrade – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Belgrade National Museum, Kalemegdan Park and Fortress. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Sremska Mitrovica (Sirmium), Novi Sad - museum and Petrovaradian Fortress. (B,D).
- Day 4:** Viminacium, Golubac, Derdap gorge, Kladovo. Hotel for 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Trajan's bridge, cross Danube into Romania, Sarmizegetusa. Hotel in area. (B,D)
- Day 6:** Orastie museum, Sarmizegetusa Regia, Costesi and Alba Julia. Sibiu - hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7:** Arutel Roman fort. Drive to Brasov. Free time. Hotel in Brasov - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 8:** Drive to Bucharest. Visit Bucharest National Museum, replica of Trajan's Column, Avenue of Socialist Victory. Hotel in Bucharest – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9:** Further explore Bucharest – optional visit to Palace of the Parliament. Transfer to Bucharest airport for our flight to London or perhaps extend stay in Romania. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Visit the graceful cities of Belgrade and Bucharest with their fantastic museums and vibrant and welcoming hospitality
- Gain an insight into Rome's frontier lands through visits to lesser known sites: the forts at Alba Julia and Arutel
- Visit the amazing Roman city sites at Singidunum and Viminacium
- Journey from Belgrade to Bucharest enjoying magnificent Danubian scenery to mountainous Transylvania
- Travel the Derdap gorge glimpsing the modern statue of Decebalus
- Visit Sarmizegetusa Regia, capital of the Dacians

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



Derdap Gorge



Arutela Roman Castrum



Sarmizegetusa Regia



Paestum

In the Shadow of Vesuvius

Pompeii and the Perished Cities of the Bay of Naples

2026: Your Guide: 2027: Your Guide:
10–16 September .. Dr Konogan Beaufay 1–7 April Dr Andy Fear
8–14 October Dr Simon Elliott 6–12 May..... Dr Simon Elliott
9–15 September Dr Konogan Beaufay
7–13 October Dr Simon Elliott

7 Days 2 Starting from £2,575

This comprehensive archaeological tour of the Bay of Naples and the events of AD 79 not only includes the well-known and impressive remains of Pompeii and the superbly preserved Herculaneum but also those lesser known, but nonetheless important sites such as the seaside villas of the wealthy at Oplontis, possibly once owned by Poppaea, wife of the Emperor Nero; Stabiae, where the frescoes are amongst the most beautiful found anywhere in the world; Cumae, the first Greek colony on the Italian mainland; Baiae, a fashionable Roman seaside resort, and Pozzuoli, the main port of the early Roman Empire.



Mount Vesuvius

Historical Background

When Vesuvius erupted, pyroclastic debris was hurled more than twenty miles into the atmosphere, engulfing the entire Bay of Naples and beyond, killing thousands of people. Pompeii was not the only city to be destroyed - the inhabitants of all the neighbouring Roman resort cities, including Herculaneum and Stabiae, were also completely obliterated. The devastation wrought and the way the volcanic ash sealed and preserved everything it engulfed, has fascinated visitors since the first archaeological investigations at Pompeii in 1748. The fact that it has been the most famous archaeological site in the world for so long means that centuries' worth of repairs and restorations have added their own overlay to the Roman originals. Modern day archaeologists have to sift through not only layers of dust and ash to interpret this large city but also the theories and presumptions of the excavators that went before them.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Naples. Fly London to Naples or make own arrangements to join tour at airport. Drive to Pompeii. Welcome drink and dinner. Hotel – 6 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Paestum. Full day at Poseidonia. Paestum Museum incl. 'Tomb of the Diver' fresco. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Cumae, Baiae and Pozzuoli. Full day at The Phlegraean Fields, Cumae, Baiae, Castello Aragonese (Campi Flegrei museum), Pozzuoli theatre. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Stabiae and Oplontis. Ancient Stabiae, Villa San Marco, Villa Arianna and the Villa of Poppea at Oplontis. (B)
- Day 5:** Pompeii. Full day in Pompeii. Dinner at customer's own expense. (B,D)
- Day 6:** Herculaneum. Herculaneum ruins, San Lorenzo Maggiore Catacombs (Roman forum and macellum) in Naples. (B,D)
- Day 7:** Naples. National Archaeological Museum. Transfer to Naples for return flights home or extend your stay in Italy. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Expert classical historians/archaeologists accompany the tour throughout
- Discover the Bay of Naples area in quieter months
- Explore the heart of the ancient city of Poseidonia
- See the 'Tomb of the Diver' at Paestum
- A whole day in Pompeii exploring the public monuments and private residences
- The impressive houses of Villa San Marco, Villa Arianna and the Villa of Poppea at Oplontis
- Explore Herculaneum
- A day exploring the area west of Naples known as The Phlegraean Fields

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



The Temple of Hera II, Paestum



Pompeii





Timgad

Classical Algeria

Numidians and Romans in North African sands

11 Days: 8–18 November 2027 Dr Farès K Moussa
 2 Price TBC

In recent years Algeria has opened itself up to the adventurous traveller keen to explore the extremes of the Roman Empire that relatively few have visited.

Compare the lavish life of the ancient coastal settlements of Tipasa, Cherchell and Hippo Regius, rich in trade and war, with the challenging remote life at the inland Roman outposts of Tiddis and Timgad. Walk the streets of the vast ruins of Djémila and see the startling mosaics from across the country, showcasing everyday Roman life in all its intimacy. Explore the ancient cities of Constantine, the Roman capital Cirta, Anabba once home to St Augustine, and the modern vibrant capital of Algiers. Through a combination of museum visits, city walks and talks by our expert guide we get close to this fascinating past, with its wealth of Classical heritage, set against the backdrop of a bold and rapidly changing country. There has never been a better time to immerse yourself in the rich and complicated history and culture of North Africa's largest country. Algeria is waiting to be discovered - this is a tour not to be missed!

Historical Background

Algeria, like most of North Africa, suffered a violent early period with Numidian turncoats and uprisings, betraying first their Carthaginian allies to the Romans, then the Roman Empire itself in 105 BC before Rome re-established control. The decline of Rome in Africa made way for the Vandal conquest, the destruction of which can still be seen today, before the Christian Byzantines invaded, leaving behind beautiful basilicas and fortifications in the crumbling Roman cities. Finally, the Arab Conquest in the 8th Century irreversibly changed the culture and landscape of the country, arguably the biggest change until the war of independence from the French ending in 1962.

Each of these periods has left a treasure trove of ruins, architecture and artefacts behind to be discovered, showing the ingenuity and vibrancy of life in this diverse and demanding landscape.

Itinerary

- Day 1: Fly London – Algiers. Explore Casbah. Hotel in Algiers - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2: Mausoleum of Mauretanie, Cherchell, Tipaza. (B,L,D)
- Day 3: fly from Algiers – Annaba. Hippo Regius. Hotel in Annaba - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4: Madauros, Khemissa, El Khroub Constantine. Hotel in Constantine - 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5: Tiddis, afternoon in Constantine. (B,L,D)
- Day 6: Djémila, Setif. Hotel in Setif - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7: Medracen mausoleum, Lambaesis. Hotel in Timgad - 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: full day at Timgad. (B,L,D)
- Day 9: Balconies of Ghoufi, Biskra, El Kantara, Tahouda. Hotel in Biskra - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 10: fly Biskra - Algiers. National Museum of Antiquities, free time in Algiers. Hotel in Algiers – 1 night (B,L,D)
- Day 11: fly Algiers - London. (B)

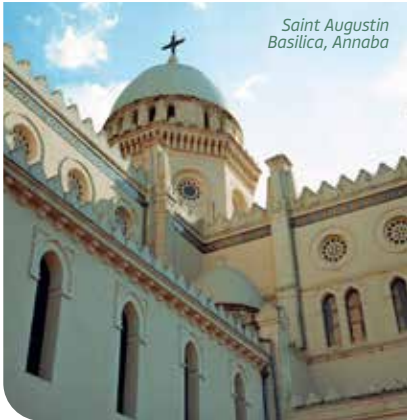
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Travel in the company of an expert archaeologist and North Africa specialist
- Visit amazing Classical sites at Lambaesis, Madauros, Khemissa and El Khroub
- Spend a whole day touring the spectacular Roman city of Timgad (Thamugadi)
- Capture the amazing North African city-scape and atmosphere of Constantine, known in Classical times as Cirta, and its rich history
- Enjoy Algeria's excellent and seldom-visited museums including the Bardo in Algiers, the Musée Cirta in Constantine and the Setif Archaeological Museum
- Enjoy the stunning Mediterranean sites of Chercell and Tipaza

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Saint Augustin Basilica, Annaba



Lambaesis



Orvieto

The Etruscans

8 Days: 18–25 November 2027 Oliver Gilkes
 2 Price TBC

This 7-night and 8-day tour is an exploration of the fascinating Etruscan people, often overshadowed by their Roman conquerors, but sophisticated artists, craftsmen, traders, builders and military leaders in their own right. In their heartland of Etruria this Italic culture has left a trove of dazzling artefacts which are still being discovered in the captivating hill towns of central Italy. On this tour we marvel over the engaging legacy of the Etruscans including planned towns, built centuries before Roman civic planning; impressive necropolises with frescoed tombs, decorated sarcophagi, glittering jewellery, and bronze sculptured offerings; remarkable underground chambers reflecting the sheer ingenuity of Etruscan engineering; and the exquisite Tomb of the Infernal Chariot, one of the most significant discoveries in Etruscan art. Complemented by some of the best museums in Italy – including the superlative National Etruscan Museum – this is a tour that will inspire and stimulate your interest in what came before Rome.

Historical Background

The Etruscans were one of ancient Italy's most influential civilisations, shaping early Roman culture and dominating central Italy.

An endless thorn in the side to the young expanding Roman Republic, the Etruscans were portrayed by Rome's historians as cruel, corrupt and avaricious. Their wars litter the pages of the early chronicles with Rome ultimately emerging victorious and absorbing their northern neighbours, leaving hardly a trace of their culture and long story. However, Rome was more influenced by these enigmatic neighbours than she would admit, adopting Etruscan religious rituals, architectural forms such as the arch, and even political institutions.

The Etruscans, known to themselves as Rasenna, developed in the region of Etruria—modern Tuscany, western Umbria, and northern Lazio—beginning around 900 BC with the Iron Age Villanovan culture. By the 8th–6th centuries BC, they had become a sophisticated network of independent city-states, enriched by abundant mineral resources and thriving Mediterranean trade. Their cities, including Tarquinia and Cerveteri, grew into powerful urban centres that helped make the Etruscans the first major superpower of the western Mediterranean alongside the Greeks.

Although their own written histories have not survived, archaeological evidence—especially elaborate tombs and colourful wall paintings—reveals a culture deeply engaged with art, religion and the afterlife. Their artistic skills

blended local traditions with Greek, Phoenician and Egyptian influences.

By the late 4th century BC Etruscan power waned as Rome expanded and by 27 BC their territory was fully absorbed into the Roman Empire. Centuries later the rediscovery of the Etruscans would prompt a frenzy of 'Etruscomania' amongst the aristocracy of Papal Rome and Europe reflected in palaces parks and museums.

Itinerary

- Day 1: Fly London to Rome Fiumicino, transfer to hotel in Viterbo for 7 nights. (D)
- Day 2: National Etruscan Museum in Rome, Sutri – incl. amphitheatre, necropolis, Mithraeum. (B,D)
- Day 3: Tarquinia, Monterozzi Necropolis, Tarquinia Archaeological Museum. (B,D)
- Day 4: Cerveteri, Banditaccia Necropolis, National Museum of Cerveteri. (B,D)
- Day 5: Civita Castellana, Agro Falisco Archaeological Museum, Falerii Novi. (B,D)
- Day 6: Sarteano, Sarteano National Museum, Tomb of the Infernal Chariot, the Chiusi National Museum, Labyrinth of Porsenna. (B,D)
- Day 7: Orvieto, underground city, Necropolis del Crocofisso, Museo Fainia. (B,D)
- Day 8: Palazzo Farnese at Caprarola, Garden of Bomarzo. Fly Rome Fiumicino to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Travel through some of Italy's most magnificent landscapes and stunning hill towns
- Visit the Tomb of the Infernal Chariot, one of the most significant discoveries in Etruscan art
- Wander the streets of the ancient Etruscan towns of Civita Castellana, Cerveteri and Tarquinia
- Explore Etruscan necropolises and gain a close understanding of their way of death, and life
- Marvel at Etruscan engineering at the underground city of Orvieto
- Enjoy the splendid Etruscan collections in the region's museums including the superb National Etruscan Museum in Rome

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



National Etruscan Museum



Garden Of Bomarzo





Where Empires Collide

A journey through north-east Turkey from Lake Van to the Black Sea

8 Days: 2028 (dates TBC) Dr Andy Fear
 2 Price TBC

This 7-night and 8-day tour explores the history, archaeology and culture of the fascinating region of north-east Turkey. From gorgeous Lake Van we journey through magnificent mountain scenery to the Eastern Anatolian plain passing by Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest peak, to finish at the Black Sea coast at Trabzon. On the way we admire atmospheric Byzantine monasteries, Ottoman mosques, madrassas and palaces, the remote Georgian churches of Tao-Klarjeti, the remarkable lost Armenian city of Ani, and Urartian citadels set within the vibrant modern culture of the modern Turkish nation. This is a region of incredible diversity with traces of intriguing cultures, both past and present, including Urartians, Byzantines, Ottomans, Zazas, Kurds, Armenians and Georgians. Set within the breathtaking scenery of Turkey's most spectacular region this is a tour of contrast and discovery.

Historical Background

The history of northeast Turkey is marked by a host of differing kingdoms which move on and off the stage like actors. The first organised historically attestable kingdom in the region is the Hayasa-Azzi who came into conflict with the Hittite Empire to the west in the 14th century BC. Within a century the kingdom had been absorbed by the Hittites. In the southern part of the region the Kingdom of Urartu flourished between the 9th century BC and 585 BC with its capital at Tushpa (Van). The kingdom is known for its formidable fortresses and cuneiform writing. Urartu gradually succumbed to the growing power of Assyria and then the Iranian Medes who eventually extended their hegemony over most of the area. By the 6th century BC a new regional superpower, the Achaemenid Empire, had extended its control over the whole of Anatolia. Between 334 and 331 BC the Empire was decisively conquered by Alexander the Great ushering in the westward expansion of the Kingdom of Armenia which ruled the area up to the Euphrates by the 1st century AD. In 387 AD the western part of the Kingdom became part of the Roman Empire which ruled – in the guise of its Byzantine successor – until its conquest by the Seljuk Turks in the 13th century. The dominant religion of north-east Turkey has been Islam ever since.

A rump Byzantine court ruled from Trabzon until 1461 when the Ottomans conquered the area. Ottoman rule continued until the modern Republic of Turkey was created in 1923 ending warfare between Russian, Armenian and Turkish armies over the region.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London to Van via Istanbul or meet at hotel. Hotel in Van – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2:** drive to Doğubeyazıt - Ishak Pasha Palace. Continue to Kars. Hotel in Kars – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 3:** Ani. Return to Kars. (B,L,D)
- Day 4:** drive to Erzerum (pause at Çobandede bridge). Erzerum - Uli Cami (Grand Mosque) Çifte Minare. Hotel in Erzerum – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5:** churches of Tao-Klarjeti - Haho (Hahuli), Ösk Vank. Free time in Erzerum. (B,L,D)
- Day 6:** drive to Trabzon via Sümela Monastery. Hotel in Trabzon – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 7:** Trabzon, Atatürk Mansion, Panagia Theoskepastos (Kızlar) Monastery, Church of Aya Sophia. (B,L,D)
- Day 8:** fly Trabzon to London via Istanbul or extend stay in Turkey. (B)

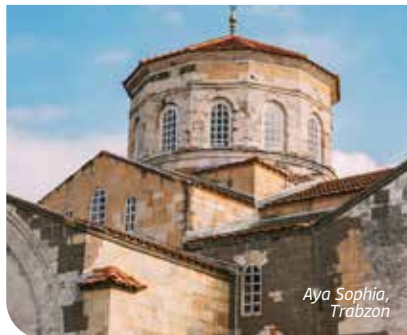
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Stay at the historic cities of Trabzon, Erzerum and Kars
- Marvel over the lost city of Ani, once capital of an Armenian kingdom
- Enjoy the splendid Georgian churches of the historic Tao-Klarjeti principality
- Visit the magnificent Ishak Pasha Palace, a true gem of Ottoman architecture

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



The city walls of Carcassonne



Flames of Faith: The Cathar Crusade Journey

Where medieval heresy was extinguished by fire

7 Days: 30 May–5 June 2027 Dr Gregory Lippiatt
 2 Starting from £3,375

This tour explores the Land of the Cathars, tracing the Albigensian Crusade (1209–29) and the effort to eradicate Catharism in southern France. From bases in Carcassonne and Couiza, we visit major castles and villages linked to the movement while examining the nature of Cathar belief, its rise, suppression, and eventual destruction. The medieval city of Carcassonne offers a vignette of France in this period, its preserved walls providing a rare glimpse into medieval urban life. From Carcassonne we travel to Lastours to explore the Four Castles, once an important Cathar centre. At Minerve, Saissac, Termes, Arques and Puivert we encounter dramatic ruins that reflect the sect's desperate struggle. Some strongholds surrendered peacefully, but others faced brutal sieges, after which Cathars who refused to recant were typically burned – most notoriously at Montségur. The tour also includes villages central to the Cathar story, such as Fanjeaux, site of the Great Assembly of 1204 and an early attempt to convert Cathars to orthodoxy. Through these landscapes and fortresses, we follow the turbulent history of a movement that left a lasting imprint on the region.

Historical Background

From the 11th century a movement emerged within the Catholic Church which challenged accepted church teachings through a form of Dualism. These Cathars (from the Greek for 'pure ones') believed that a good God had created everything immaterial and a bad force everything material. The movement gained traction particularly in Languedoc (south-east France) and Cathars were known by the Catholic Church as 'Albigensians', after the town of Albi where they thought the heresy was centred. The Church tried various forms of propaganda to try to convince the Cathars to come back into the fold but by the early 1200s war seemed certain. In 1208 Pope Innocent III declared a Crusade against the heretics, a word hitherto reserved for military missions to the Holy Land or Baltics.

The Albigensian Crusade (1209–29) was savage and unrelenting in its pursuit of Cathars. It has been estimated that half a million men, women and children were massacred, Catholics as well as heretics. So indiscriminate was this slaughter that when the town of Béziers was captured the Abbot-Commander, Arnaud Amaury, gave the dreadful command: "Kill them all! - the Lord

will recognise His own". The Cathars retreated to the many castles and fortifications that today make this area so absorbing. This led to a series of sieges many of which were conducted by the English knight Simon de Montfort, father of the more famous personage. By 1244 a renewed Crusade expunged the last vestiges of Catharism at Montségur where around 220 victims were burned alive.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London Heathrow to Toulouse or join tour at Carcassonne hotel. Drive to Carcassonne - hotel for 4 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Lastours: Four Castles - Cabaret, Quertinheux, Surdespine and Tour Régine; Minerve. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Fanjeaux, Saissac. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Full day at Carcassonne, incl. Château Comtal and ramparts. Free time. (B)
- Day 5:** Termes, Arques. Hotel near Couiza - 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 6:** Puivert, Montségur. (B, D)
- Day 7:** Foix castle. Fly Toulouse to London Heathrow (or extend stay in France). (B)

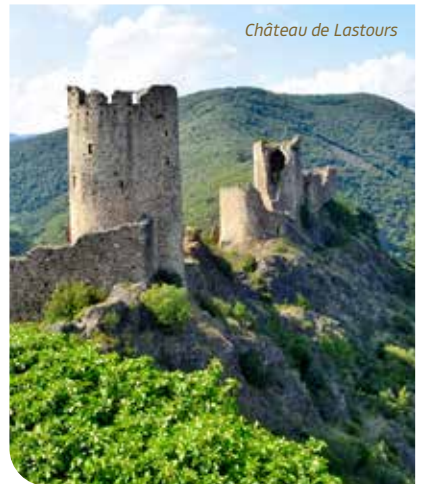
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Follow the tragic story of the Cathars in the company of an expert historian
- Explore the evocative Four Castles of Lastours - Cabaret, Quertinheux, Surdespine and Tour Régine
- Stay at the picturesque city of Carcassonne with its medieval old city and ramparts
- Walk to the lofty castle of Montségur - site of the dramatic siege and execution of captured Cathars
- Visit stunningly located Cathar castles at Termes, Arques, Puivert and Saissac set within the beautiful landscape of the Aude

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.





The Pale Horseman

The Wessex of Alfred the Great

5 Days: 24-28 June 2027 2
 Professor Ryan Lavelle Starting from £1,995

Travelling and walking through some of the finest English landscapes, we will try to understand how Anglo-Saxon kingship worked during this crucial period in English history as the most famous son of Wessex, Alfred the Great, fought for survival against his Viking enemies. Examining the remains of ancient fortifications and taking the high ground as we search for likely battlefields, the tour allows us to explore the reality behind Bernard Cornwell's popular novels, The Last Kingdom and The Pale Horseman, as Alfred moved from near total defeat to crucial victory. Situated in the heart of historic Wessex, we will enjoy stunning scenery, a series of short walks and one or two country pub sandwich lunches.

Historical Background

Alfred of Wessex (871-99) is renowned as one of the great kings of medieval English history and is the only English king to be remembered as 'the Great'. A major part of this reputation is built on his military leadership of the West Saxon kingdom, the last of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to survive the Viking onslaught of the ninth century. The youngest of five brothers to rule Wessex in turbulent times, Alfred's accession to the throne of Wessex in 871 took place in a 'year of battles', the most important of which was the Battle of Ashdown, when the young prince proved his mettle against his enemies. A series of treaties with the Vikings bought time for the West Saxons but, after a surprise attack in the winter of 878, the king took refuge and finally rallied his forces to victory at the Battle of Ethandun. The peace treaty which resulted allowed the king to build a series of fortifications throughout his kingdom, which provided the heartland of the West Saxon kingdom with the strength it needed to withstand future Viking attacks.



Itinerary

Day 1: Winchester: walk around historic centre, Cathedral with Kings and Scribes exhibition. Welcome drinks, dinner and introductory talk. Hotel in Winchester – 2 nights. (L,D)
Day 2: Wantage to Wallingford. Drive to Wantage, short walk along The Ridgeway – battle of Ashdown, Wallingford, sites overlooking the Thames Valley. (B,D)
Day 3: Winchester and Salisbury: Winchester City and Westgate museums; Salisbury – Old Sarum. Hotel in Shaftesbury area – 2 nights. (B,D)
Day 4: Alfred's Tower, Ethandun, Athelney: Bratton Camp, Edington (Ethandun), Somerset Levels – Athelney. (B,D)
Day 5: Shaftesbury, Wareham and Wimborne Minster. Return to Winchester mid-afternoon. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore Saxon Winchester
- Travelling through the fine English countryside during mid summer
- Fascinating discovery of ancient Wessex
- Battles of Ashdown and Ethandun
- Visit superb museums in Winchester and Salisbury

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Macbeth

6 Days: 27 June-2 July 2027 Dr John Sadler
 2 / 3 Price TBC

This absorbing 5-night and 6-day tour takes us from Edinburgh to Scone, to Dunsinane and Birnam Wood, mighty Dunnottar Castle, on to the fatal field of Lumphanan, and from Cawdor and Inverness, the highland capital. Traversing some of the most spectacular landscapes that Scotland has to offer, and visiting parts often overlooked, we trace the life and times of the real king Macbeth (r. 1040-57), immortalised by William Shakespeare in his play Macbeth, and a major player in the roiling historical events of his time. Dissecting fact from fiction the tour weaves archaeology, history and drama together, with plenty of contemporary weapons and fighting styles to create a unique and memorable experience.

Historical Background

'By the pricking of my thumbs, something wicked this way comes'.

Everybody has heard of Macbeth, Shakespeare's blood-soaked tyrant, regicide and murderer driven on by his 'fiend like' queen. It is one of the Bard's most dramatic tragedies and the one we probably all learnt at school. Shakespeare relied heavily on Holinshed's Chronicles (1577) and his version, however enduring, is very far from historical reality.

'Glamis thou art, and Cawdor; and shalt be what thou art promised'.

The real Macbeth (d. 1057) was originally Mormaer or Earl of Moray in northeast Scotland, a title he won after defeating and killing his predecessor whose lands and widow he appropriated. Lady Macbeth, Gruoch (c. 1015-c. 1060) was a powerful character in her own right but no psychotic murderess.

'I am in blood / Stepped in so far, that, should I wade no more, / Returning were as tedious as go o'er'.

He ruled Scotland for 17 years after killing King Duncan I in battle, Duncan being the Aggressor until, after an initial invasion led by Siward of Northumbria, he finally also fell in battle at Lumphanan but was still allowed burial on Iona.

'At least we'll die with harness on our backs'.



Itinerary

Day 1: Midday arrival Edinburgh hotel. Sandwich lunch and introductory talk, National Museum of Scotland. Hotel in Edinburgh – 1 night. (L,D)
Day 2: Scone Palace, Perth Museum. Hotel in Perth – 1 night. (B,D)
Day 3: Dunsinane Hill, Birnam Wood, Dunnottar Castle. Hotel in Aberdeen – 1 night. (B,D)
Day 4: Lumphanan, Spynie Castle, Elgin Cathedral. Hotel in Elgin – 1 night. (B,D)
Day 5: Sueno's Stone, Cawdor Castle, Inverness Museum, free time. Hotel in Inverness – 1 night. (B,D)
Day 6: Inverness to Edinburgh. Tour ends. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore the medieval galleries at the National Museum of Scotland
- Beautiful Scone Palace where nearby Macbeth was crowned
- Perth Museum, home of the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scotland's kings for centuries
- Visit key sites mentioned in Shakespeare's play, from both fact and fiction
- Walk the historic battle fields of Spynie and Lumphanan – site of the king's death
- Marvel at some of Scotland's most dramatic castles including Dunnottar, Spynie and Cawdor
- Elgin Cathedral, in medieval times 'the lantern of the north'
- Travel through some of Scotland's most stunning scenery

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.





Tintagel Castle Bridge

King Arthur

5 Days: 11–15 July 2027 Dr Andy Fear 2 Price TBC

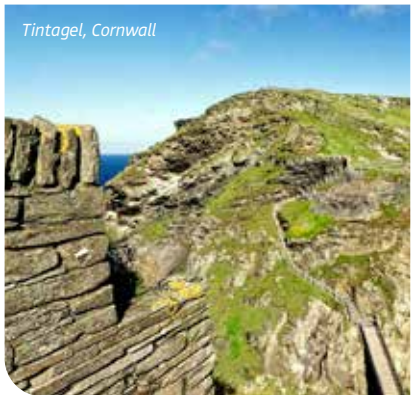
This tour endeavours to untangle Dark Age fact from medieval fiction in Britain's most intriguing historical enigma: King Arthur. We start at Cadbury, an Iron Age hillfort refortified in the Dark Ages, which could have been Arthur's headquarters. On our second day we travel to the coastal castle of Tintagel, one of the most dramatic historic sites in the country situated on a rock above the waves below, and location of Arthur's birth. Here we examine the remains of a Dark Age palace which once traded with the Byzantine world. Stopping at nearby Slaughter Bridge we visit the site of the great warrior's last battle. We also visit Glastonbury where we see the site of Arthur's supposed grave as revealed in 1191 and later enhanced by Edward I, himself a great Arthurian. The tour crosses into Wales, to see Roman ruins which Arthur would have known and may have inspired the legend of the Round Table. Finally we visit the area around Bath exploring the Wansdyke, the Hadrian's Wall of the South, which may have delineated the battle site of Mount Badon.

Historical Background

Whether a historical figure called Arthur existed has been a fierce topic of debate but there may well have been an ancient Romano-British leader who stood up to invading Saxons in the late 5th to early 6th centuries. Ninth and tenth century sources link Arthur to the Battle of Badon where he is said to have killed 960 of his foes single-handedly. However, doubt has recently been cast on the reliability of these sources and whether a historical Arthur has been constructed through later additions. It is remarkable how Arthur is not mentioned in any manuscript dating between 400 and 820.

Arthur's place in British mythology has been embellished by several texts including the collection of Welsh songs known as The Gododdin (6th century), Geoffrey of Monmouth's History of the Kings of Britain (1130s) and the works of Chrétien de Troyes (late twelfth century), who established the legend of the Arthurian court and his coterie of knights. With Thomas Malory's Le Morte d'Arthur in the fifteenth century the romantic legend of Arthur had been sealed.

Historical figure or folklore hero - for many it doesn't matter. King Arthur remains one of the nation's most celebrated heroes and the sites connected with him the most fascinating and compelling locations from the murky world of post-Roman Britannia.



Tintagel, Cornwall

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Assemble Taunton hotel midday for buffet lunch and introductory talk. Cadbury Castle. Hotel in/near Taunton – 4 nights. (L,D)
- Day 2:** Tintagel, Slaughter Bridge, Dozmary Pool. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Glastonbury. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Caerleon, Chepstow Castle. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Bath – the Wansdyke, Solsbury Hill, Dyrham. Return to Taunton station/hotel. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Enjoy some of the most evocative sites associated with King Arthur including Tintagel and Glastonbury
- Visit Cadbury Castle, thought to be the site of Arthur's court of Camelot
- Explore the twilight of Roman Britain at Caerleon Roman fort
- Ponder suggested locations for Mount Badon, Arthur's crushing victory over the Saxons
- Visit Dyrham - the site of the Saxons' revenge
- View the Wansdyke - the Hadrian's Wall of the South
- Travel through the beautiful West Country enjoying some of England's most appealing countryside

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, buffet breakfast, picnic lunches, 3-course dinner with drinks each evening, all entrance fees and expert guide throughout.



Pulteney Bridge, Bath



Chepstow Castle



Château d'Angers

Plantagenet France: intrigue, war, collapse

Featuring Eleanor of Aquitaine

8 Days: 26 August–2 September 2027 Aurzelle da Silva 2 Price TBC

The Plantagenet dynasty was a key player in medieval France from its 12th-century origins in Anjou to its 15th-century fall, while profoundly influencing England after Henry II's accession in 1154. This tour follows their legacy through castles, abbeys, museums and preserved medieval towns. Beginning in Angers, birthplace of the Angevin line, we trace the development of the dynasty at the castles of Chinon, Langeais and Loches. The religious world of the era is revealed at the abbeys of Épau and Fontevraud, burial place of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry II and Richard the Lionheart. A full day in the Vexin highlights the fierce territorial struggles between the Angevin kings of England and the Capetian rulers of France, with the mighty castles of Gaillard and Gisors standing as reminders of this rivalry. Based in Tours and Rouen, this expert-led journey deepens understanding of medieval France and the shared origins of France and England, complemented by excellent food and fine wines.

Historical Background

The Plantagenet dynasty is said to have received its name from a habit of Geoffrey (1113–51), Count of Anjou, who wore a yellow sprig of broom (genêt is French for the planta genista, or broom shrub) in his hat. Geoffrey's son Henry ruled lands in both Anjou and Normandy adding Aquitaine after his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152 and succeeded to the throne of England in 1154. This dynasty was one of medieval Europe's most successful, ruling for over 300 years in England. The Angevin Empire (as this branch of the Plantagenet dynasty became known) soon ruled half of French territory and came into contact with the Capetian kings of France to whom they owed feudal loyalty. The rivalry between the dynasties resulted in a long series of wars and the gradual reconquest of Angevin territory by the Capetians. The large number of castles in the region meant that sieges were common and the huge and evocative sites at Chinon, Montsoreau and Château-Gaillard are powerful reminders of this era (although many were embellished in the Renaissance). Under John (r. 1199–1216) England lost most of its French possessions resulting in the demise of the Angevin Empire. In the Hundred Years War (1337–1453) Plantagenet England won back most of its continental possessions but lost them again ignominiously.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Eurostar from London St Pancras to Paris Gare du Nord where group assembles. Train Paris to Tours. Hotel in Tours – 5 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Angers - Palace of the Counts of Anjou, Apocalypse Tapestry, Collegiate Church, Cathedral. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Abbey of Fontevraud, Saumur and Montsoreau castles (exteriors only), Langeais Castle. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Chauvigny medieval town; Poitiers - Grand Palace of the Dukes of Aquitaine, Baptistry of St John, Saint-Pierre Cathedral, Notre-Dame-la-Grande church. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Chinon Castle, Sainte Radegonde Chapel, Royal City of Loches. (B)
- Day 6:** Le Mans – Cathedral, Plantagenêt Museum, Royal Abbey of Épau. Drive to Rouen – hotel 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7:** Gisor Castle, Château-Gaillard. (B,D)
- Day 8:** Rouen and cathedral. Train to Paris then Paris Gare du Nord where tour ends (unless returning with us to London St Pancras via Eurostar). (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Visit the historic towns of Angers, Poitiers, Tours and Le Mans, the Cité Plantagenêt
- Explore the life of one of the medieval world's most remarkable women, Eleanor of Aquitaine, at Poitiers and the Abbey of Fontevraud
- Visit or view the stunning castles of Chinon, Saumur, Langeais, Loches and Château-Gaillard
- Marvel at the beautiful cathedrals of Rouen, Poitiers and Le Mans
- Visit the complete royal city of Loches with its five centuries of amazing medieval history
- Enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the abbeys of Fontevraud and Épau

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Le Mans Cathedral



Château de Saumur





Cromwell in the Battle of Naseby, 1645

The English Civil War

Bible in one hand, pistol in the other

8 Days: 14–21 August 2027 Dr David Appleby
 2 Price TBC

This tour traverses landscapes, towns and battlefields where the dramatic conflict unfolded. We begin in Oxford, the Royalist capital, exploring its defences and the Ashmolean Museum. From here we visit Newbury, scene of two major battles, and the ruins of Basing House, a Royalist stronghold that endured three sieges before falling to Cromwell. Travelling north, we explore Broughton Castle, a centre of Parliamentary plotting, before continuing to Cropredy Bridge and the battlefield of Edgehill, the first major clash of the war. We spend a day in Worcester, where Cromwell defeated Charles II in 1651, visiting Powick Bridge, the Commandery and the Cathedral. At Naseby we visit the site of the decisive 1645 victory of the New Model Army over the King's forces. We then continue to Newark to visit the National Civil War Centre before heading to York. Here we explore Marston Moor, the battle that broke Royalist power in the north, and finish with a walking tour of York, scene of the pivotal 1644 siege.

Historical Background

The English Civil Wars (1642-51) comprised the deadliest conflict ever fought on British soil. Although much historical attention has focused on the events in England and the key battles of Edgehill, Marston Moor and Naseby, this was a conflict that engulfed the entirety of the Three Stuart Kingdoms, led to a trial and execution of the King, the establishment of a Republic, and profoundly shaped the history of Britain and Ireland. Churchill wrote of wars: 'underlying the apparently clear-cut constitutional issue was a religious and class conflict'. Suggesting that one of the main drivers was based on class and material considerations is both misleading and unhelpful; yet this vision of the wars as David (the Parliamentarians) rising up against Goliath (the Royalists) pervades. This was simply not the case: in the English Civil War brother fought against brother, and father against son.

This tour will include a special visit to the battlefield at Naseby guided by the Naseby Battlefield Project and including access to areas not open to the public.

Itinerary

Day 1: Oxford. Arrive at hotel midday, light lunch and introductory talk; Civil War walking tour. Hotel in Oxford - 2 nights. (L,D)
Day 2: Battles of Newbury, Shaw House, siege of Basing House. (B,D)
Day 3: Broughton Castle, Battles of Cropredy Bridge and Edgehill. Hotel in Stratford-on-Avon - 2 nights. (B,D)
Day 4: Battle of Worcester. Powick Bridge; Worcester tour to include the Commandery, Fort Royal Park, Cathedral; City Museum. (B,L)
Day 5: Special full day visit to the battlefield of Naseby led by the Naseby Battlefield Project. Hotel - 1 night. (B,L,D)
Day 6: Siege of Newark and National Civil War Centre, Civil War walking tour of Newark. Hotel in York - 2 nights. (B,D)
Day 7: Battle of Marston Moor, St James' Church Bilborough; free time in York. (B,D)
Day 8: York in the Civil War walking tour. Tour ends after lunch. York has excellent rail connections including regular trains to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore Civil War Oxford, Charles I's Royalist capital
- Enjoy a special visit to the battlefield of Naseby including areas not accessible to the public
- Stand on the iconic battlefields of Edgehill and Marston Moor
- Visit besieged Basing House and Broughton Castle
- Discover the historic cities of York, Worcester and Stratford-on-Avon
- Visit the superlative National Civil War Centre in Newark and see original artefacts from the era

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Broughton Castle



Wellington at Talavera, 1809

Wellington in Spain

A Classic Peninsular War Tour

8 Days: 17–24 September 2026 Mark Crathorne
 2 Starting from £3,445

This eight-day tour visits some of the most beautiful and historic parts of central Spain and Wellington's most notable battles and sieges during the period 1809 – 1812. We begin with a drive down the Tagus Valley to Talavera and on down to Badajoz and Albuera in the agricultural centre of Extremadura. Then to the fortified town of Elvas, Portugal, a UNESCO world heritage site steeped in history, before heading north again via the atmospheric Roman bridge at Alcántara. Back across to Portugal and the perfectly preserved fortified town of Almeida and the hardly-changed village of Fuentes de Oñoro. Finally, we visit Salamanca, a beautiful and culturally rich city with the best-preserved Peninsular War battlefield.

Historical Background

After his initial successes in twice driving out the French from Portugal, Wellington advanced towards Madrid to fight his first battle in Spain at Talavera in July 1809. Uncomfortable with the support that he received from his Spanish Allies, 1810 saw him recuperating in the rugged countryside along the Portuguese border fighting a series of small actions, particularly around Almeida and Ciudad Rodrigo, where the Light Division founded its legendary reputation. After defeating a third invasion of Portugal, he strengthened his position on the border with the twin sieges and bloody storming of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, before making his second advance on Madrid which resulted in the classic encounter battle of Salamanca.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly from London to Madrid and/or start tour at Madrid. Hotel in Toledo - 1 night. (D)
Day 2: Talavera, Almaraz, Trujillo. Hotel in Trujillo - 1 night. (B,D)
Day 3: Albuera, Badajoz, Elvas. Hotel in Elvas - 1 night. (B,D)
Day 4: Elvas, Alcantara, Fort Concepción. Fort Concepción hotel - 2 nights. (B,D)
Day 5: Almeida, the Coa and Fuentes de Oñoro. Hotel in Ciudad Rodrigo - 1 night. (B,D)
Day 6: Ciudad Rodrigo, Salamanca. Hotel in Salamanca - 2 nights. (B,D)
Day 7: Salamanca battlefield, free time in Salamanca. (B,D)
Day 8: Avila, leave tour/flight to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



Alcantara Bridge

Highlights

- From Talavera to Salamanca via the border fortresses
- Wonderful and wild Extremadura countryside
- Walk the battlefield of Talavera
- Visit the fortress town of Badajoz
- Pay respects at the British Peninsular War Cemetery on the Bastion walls, Elvas
- Walk the walls and visit the Cathedral in Ciudad Rodrigo
- Walk-up the Greater Teson
- Visit the wonderful battlefield of Salamanca
- Climb the hill above Miranda de Azan and the Greater Arapile from where there are superb panoramas of the Salamanca battlefield

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Alcazaba wall, Badajoz



Elvas



New Cathedral of Salamanca



The Battle of Austerlitz, 1805

Walking Austerlitz

The 1805 Campaign on Foot

6 Days: 26 September–1 October 2026 Alan Rooney
 3 Starting from £2,645

We enjoy a series of curated walks: Kutuzov's gamble at Dürnstein, Bagration's rearguard action at Schöngrabern, and two full days following in the footsteps of both armies at Austerlitz. The walking throughout is steady, rewarding, and suited to those comfortable on varied terrain. Daily distances range from gentle 4 km strolls to longer 15–16 km routes, with ascents of up to 370 metres on hill paths and vineyard tracks. Much of the ground is open countryside, taking in woodland trails, ridgelines, and historic village lanes. We walk at a measured pace with frequent stops for explanations, views, and rest. Good walking shoes and a reasonable level of fitness will ensure you enjoy the experience fully. The routes offer rich scenery, atmospheric landscapes, and an immersive connection to the history underfoot.

Historical Background

As a result of the capitulation of the “unfortunate General Mack” at Ulm, reinforcing Russian Armies were compelled to retrace their steps along the Danube valley hotly pursued by the victorious French. What followed was a dramatic game of ‘cat and mouse’ as both sides tried their utmost to hinder their opponents by way of manoeuvre, ambush, speed of march and trickery. Ultimately the armies would find themselves astride the Moravian fortress city of Brunn (Brno) each waiting for the other to make the next move. When the Allies finally advanced, the battle of Austerlitz was fought on the 2 December 1805 which saw Napoleon decisively defeat the combined armies of Russia and Austria bringing the Third Coalition to its knees in front of an astonished Europe. Fighting on a field of his own choosing, Napoleon used the rolling countryside to conceal his troops waiting to spring their master's trap. By ostensibly showing his weakness by surrendering the high ground, the overconfident Allied army was drawn forward exposing its flanks and rear to counterattack by Marshal Soult. However, despite the apparent gullibility of the Allied commanders, the tenacity of the Russian soldier ensured that Napoleon's victory was harder won than he might have expected.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London to Vienna or meet at Vienna Airport. Drive to Krems - hotel for 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Dürnstein; walk path of French along riverbank (9 km). (B,L,D)
- Day 3:** Floridsdorf, Tabor Bridge, Schöngrabern. Brno hotel for 3 nights, historic city walk. (B,L,D)
- Day 4:** Krzenowitz, Pratzen Heights, walk routes taken by Kollowrat's and Miloradovich's columns, Goldbach valley, Sokolnitz, Telnitz mound (15 km). (B,L,D)
- Day 5:** Slapanitz, walk to Žuráň, Jírovice, Ponětovice, follow Soult's route to Pratzen Heights and Kollowrat's engagement, Staré Vinohrady, St Anthony's Chapel (16 km). (B,L,D)
- Day 6:** ascend the Santon, Špálovský Mill. Drive to Vienna for flight to London (or extend stay in Austria). (B)

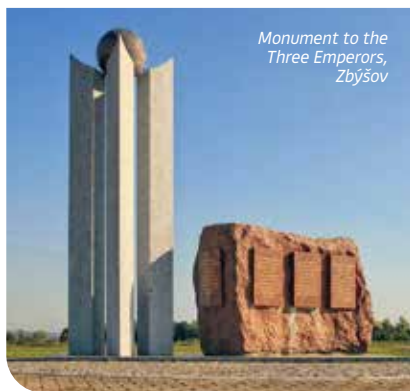
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



Napoleon at Austerlitz



Dürnstein



Monument to the Three Emperors, Zbýšov

Highlights

- Admire stunning Danube scenery
- Visit many locations from Tolstoy's 'War and Peace'
- Walk the battlefield of Schöngrabern
- A full day walking in the hills above the Danube between Krems and Dürnstein
- Two full days walking the battlefield of Austerlitz

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Charge of the Scots Greys

Walking Waterloo

The Campaign on Foot

4 Days: 2–5 October 2026 Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck
 3 Starting from £1,635

Waterloo is a fascinating but subtle battlefield. Wellington's eye for terrain and talent for drawing his opponent onto ground of his own choosing allowed him to observe enemy dispositions and approach routes whilst concealing his own troops thus achieving tactical surprise which was key to his success. Under the guidance of our expert guide you will gain that same insight. These will be a series of country walks, not a route march, during which we cover about 5 or 6 miles a day, with stops for lunch and beverages. There is nothing here that any reasonably fit weekend walker couldn't cope with but what this tour really offers is fresh air, a fresh perspective, and a chance to enjoy the surprisingly peaceful and pretty Belgian countryside in the convivial company of fellow walkers.

Historical Background

This tour follows the same historical story as our classic Waterloo tour A Near Run Thing but concentrates on walking the ground rather than standing at road-side viewpoints. The tour is equally suitable as an introduction to the Waterloo campaign and as a follow up for those who have already seen the standard viewpoints and want to explore further. Our expert guide will adapt the itinerary to match the experience and interests of the group members accordingly.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Eurostar from London St Pancras to Brussels or join tour at Brussels station. Grand Place, Town Hall. Waterloo Town, Wellington Museum. Hotel in Waterloo town – 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Ligny, Quatre Bras. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Waterloo battlefield. (B,D)
- Day 4:** La Garde Recule! Brussels. Return Eurostar to London or leave tour. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- View battlefield from the soldiers' perspective
- Understand the lines of sight and communication challenges
- Feel the ground and appreciate its challenges
- A day and half walking Waterloo
- A full day walking Ligny and Quatre Bras

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Hougomont Farm



The Lion's Mound



Sharpe's Rifles

The real story of the 95th Rifles in the Peninsular War

 6 Days: 12–17 October 2026  Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck
 2  Starting from £2,275

On this 5-night and 6-day tour we explore the exploits of the legendary Light Division immortalised in Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe novels. Based out of comfortable hotels in Ciudad Rodrigo and Salamanca we traverse this evocative conflict landscape visiting some of the best Peninsular War battlefield sites. These include the narrowly won victory at the River Côa, the brilliantly executed action at Bussaco, the spectacularly disciplined manoeuvres at Fuentes de Oñoro, and the impressive victory at Salamanca. Throughout we will focus on the actions and personalities of the soldiers and officers involved and for Sharpe fans one or more of the novels is used as a theme for each day.

The tour stands alone as an intimate and easily digested introduction to the wider Peninsular War so participants need have no prior knowledge of the region or the events.

Historical Background

Between 1808 and 1813 the Duke of Wellington fought a grinding but ultimately outstandingly successful campaign in the Iberian Peninsula. During this time he honed his troops into arguably the most professional army Britain has ever produced and literally bled Napoleon's available manpower dry, contributing to his defeat and exile to Elba in 1814.

Pivotal to the campaign was the legendary Light Division, Wellington's crack troops who, spearheaded by the 95th Rifles, marched the length and breadth of Portugal and Spain during the course of the Peninsular War. The ubiquity of the Division was remarkable - acting as the British Army's vanguard in advance; screen in defence; and rearguard in retreat - there was no major battle in which they were not involved.

Their exploits are recorded in a wealth of contemporary diaries written by officers and soldiers which paint a vivid picture of what it was like to march with them 'Over the Hills and Far Away' (to quote The Rifles marching song).

Highlights

- In the company of soldier and historian Maj Gen Ashley Truluck
- Inspired by Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe novels
- Follow in the footsteps of the legendary 95th Rifles
- Explore evocative battle sites at Salamanca, the Côa, Fuentes de Oñoro, Bussaco, Barba del Puerco and García Hernández
- Stand on the walls of Ciudad Rodrigo, scene of the dramatic siege of 1812
- Visit some of Spain's most historic towns including Salamanca and Ávila
- Journey through the rugged splendour of the ravines and fortress landscape of the Spanish-Portuguese border

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Napoleon at Bay

The 1814 Campaign in France

 8 Days: 30 March–6 April 2027  Andrew Field
 2  Starting from £4,295

Stand on the fields where armies clashed during the final defence of Napoleonic France, from quiet Champagne villages to commanding ridges overlooking sweeping plains. The journey explores remarkably preserved landscapes where the terrain still explains the movements of troops and artillery. Visitors see bridges, crossroads and villages that formed the focal points of combat, while elevated viewpoints reveal the wider battlefields across which Napoleon manoeuvred his forces. Historic towns provide atmospheric settings for discussion, with medieval streets, rivers and church towers often visible in contemporary accounts of the fighting. The tour also includes evocative memorials and monuments marking key actions of the campaign. The experience concludes at the magnificent Château de Fontainebleau, where grand imperial halls and the famous Cour d'Honneur offer a powerful setting for reflecting on the dramatic final chapter of Napoleon's rule.

Historical Background

Following the disaster in Germany the previous year, Napoleon's defensive campaign of 1814 was remarkable as he fought against vastly superior and better supplied Allied armies that had advanced deep into France. With greatly reduced forces, Napoleon conducted a series of rapid manoeuvres across the plains and river valleys of Champagne, striking isolated enemy columns in an attempt to delay the march on Paris. During the celebrated Six Days' Campaign in February he won a sequence of sharp victories at Champaubert, Montmirail, Château-Thierry and Vauchamps, briefly restoring French morale and demonstrating the operational brilliance that had long defined his command. Yet the emperor's successes could not alter the strategic balance. Vast Allied armies continued to converge on the capital, and the exhausted French army lacked the numbers to stop them everywhere at once. As the struggle shifted steadily east and south through the Marne, Aube and Seine valleys, the Allies closed on Paris. The capital fell at the end of March, forcing Napoleon's abdication and bringing the long Napoleonic Wars to their first conclusion.



Itinerary

- Day 1:** London – Paris – Troyes (D)
- Day 2:** Brienne-le-Château battlefield and La Rothière battlefield (B,D)
- Day 3:** Champaubert and Montmirail battlefields (B,D)
- Day 4:** Château-Thierry and Vauchamps battlefields (B,D)
- Day 5:** Mormant, Valjouan and Montereau battlefields (B,D)
- Day 6:** Craonne ridge battlefield and Laon (B)
- Day 7:** Arcis-sur-Aube and Fère-Champenoise battlefields (B,D)
- Day 8:** Fontainebleau Palace and return to London (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore Napoleon's dramatic Six Days' Campaign battlefields in Champagne
- Stand on the fields of Champaubert, Montmirail and Vauchamps
- Visit Brienne and La Rothière, opening battles of the campaign
- See the ridge battlefield of Craonne and the fortress city of Laon
- Follow Napoleon's desperate manoeuvres across rivers and villages of Champagne
- Conclude at Fontainebleau, site of Napoleon's abdication in 1814

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.





Forte Stella, Elba

The Flight of the Eagle

Napoleon's Escape from Elba

9 Days: 6–14 April 2027 Alan Rooney

2 Starting from £4,545

A journey following key locations connected with Napoleon and his family during this pivotal period. Beginning in Rome, we explore sites linked to the Bonapartes, including the residence of Napoleon's mother Letizia and collections that preserve the family's memory in the city. Travelling north through the landscapes of central Italy, we stop at Canino, the small town closely associated with Napoleon's younger brother Lucien Bonaparte, where his statue and tomb testify to the Bonaparte family's wider European story. From the Italian mainland we cross to the island of Elba, where Napoleon spent his first exile in 1814–15. Here we explore the residences and fortifications connected with his brief rule of the island, gaining a vivid impression of daily life during this unusual episode when the former emperor governed a tiny Mediterranean principality. After exploring Elba we travel on to the French Riviera, where the next chapter of Napoleon's story unfolded. At Golfe-Juan we stand at the place where Napoleon landed after escaping Elba in March 1815, beginning the extraordinary march on Paris that would restore him briefly to power. From the Mediterranean coast we follow the historic Route Napoléon through Alpine landscapes and towns associated with his progress northwards. Along the way we visit sites linked to the dramatic encounters that secured the loyalty of French troops and allowed Napoleon to advance without major resistance. Our journey concludes in Grenoble, one of the key cities that welcomed Napoleon during his triumphant advance during the Hundred Days.

Historical Background

Napoleon Bonaparte's career reshaped Europe, but it was also marked by exile, resilience, and dramatic return. Following his abdication in 1814, the defeated emperor found himself banished to Elba. But the restrictions of the small island were too great for his restless ambition. Regularly receiving reports from France as to the unpopularity of the Bourbon regime that had replaced him on the throne of France, he determined upon the last great gamble of his career. Slipping away under the cover of darkness and evading the Royal Navy, he landed at Golfe Juan on 2 March 1815 and immediately commenced his march on Paris to regain his place at the head of the French Empire and prepare for what was to be his final campaign – Waterloo.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrival Rome: introductory talk and welcome drinks. (D)
- Day 2:** Palazzo Bonaparte, Museo Napoleonico, Galleria Borghese. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Canino – Lucien Bonaparte statue, Collegiate Church tomb, historic centre; ferry Piombino to Elba. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Elba – Villa dei Mulini, Villa San Martino, Pauline's bathing spot, Stella and Falcone forts. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Elba to Rome; flight to Nice. (B,D)
- Day 6:** Antibes Fort Carré, Golfe-Juan landing site, Cannes, Villa Masséna Museum, Bonaparte house Nice. (B,D)
- Day 7:** Route Napoléon – St-Vallier, Séranon, Castellane, Barrême, Digne, Sisteron; overnight Gap. (B,D)
- Day 8:** La Prairie de la Rencontre, Château de Vizille, Museum of the French Revolution, Grenoble. (B,D)
- Day 9:** Departure Grenoble or transfer to Lyon airport. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Galleria Borghese, Rome – see Canova's iconic sculpture Pauline Bonaparte as Venus Victrix.
- Museo Napoleonico, Rome – explore Count Primoli's remarkable Bonaparte family collection.
- Canino – visit Lucien Bonaparte's statue and tomb in the Collegiate Church.
- Villa dei Mulini – Napoleon's main residence during his exile on Elba.
- Golfe-Juan – landing site of Napoleon's dramatic return from Elba in 1815.
- La Prairie de la Rencontre – where Napoleon won the 5th Line Regiment's loyalty.

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, Rome–Nice flight, Elba ferry, expert historian, dedicated Tour Manager, entrance fees, meals as indicated.



Château de Vizille



Elba's rugged coastline



Fort Carré, Antibes



The Pont Vieux, Orthez

Wellington over the Pyrenees

The Invasion of France

9 Days: 8–16 May 2027 Alan Rooney

2 Starting from £3,895

A natural progression from our popular 'Wellington in Spain' tour, this journey follows the dramatic closing phase of the Peninsular War. Travelling from Pamplona to San Sebastián and on to Biarritz, we trace Wellington's advance during the final campaign, exploring the battlefields of Vitoria, Sorauren and Orthez, the last pitched battle of the war, and visiting the formidable French border fortress of Bayonne. Along the way we cross rugged sierras and great rivers that once formed formidable obstacles for the armies on both sides, before ascending into the commanding heights of the western Pyrenees, where sweeping views reveal much of the ground over which the campaign unfolded. We also follow the wild coastline of the Bay of Biscay, visiting the vital harbour havens through which Wellington's army received its supplies. Crossing into France, the landscape softens into rich, green countryside that reminded many British soldiers of home, bringing a fitting close to the story of Wellington's triumph in the Peninsula.

Historical Background

After his victory at Salamanca in July 1812, Wellington marched into Madrid, briefly liberating the Spanish capital. However, an unsuccessful attempt to capture the fortress of Burgos left his army dangerously over-extended, forcing a difficult retreat across northern Spain as French forces regrouped. When campaigning resumed in 1813, Wellington advanced with greater caution and coordination. In a brilliantly executed offensive he drove three French armies back across northern Spain, culminating in the decisive Battle of Vitoria in June 1813. The French army collapsed and fled toward the Pyrenees, abandoning guns and supplies as Allied forces pressed forward. Determined to prevent the invasion of France, the French attempted to hold the mountain frontier. Wellington captured San Sebastián and fought a series of hard battles in the Pyrenees, gradually forcing the French back. Once across the frontier, further fighting at Nivelle and the Nive pushed Marshal Soult eastward through Orthez and Tarbes toward Toulouse, where the final major battle of the Peninsular War was fought in April 1814.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly London Gatwick to Bilbao or meet at Arrivals Hall of Bilbao Airport. To Pamplona for 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Vitoria (B,D)
- Day 3:** Maya, St. Jean Pied de Port, Roncesvalles. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Sorauren, Pasaia, San Sebastian for 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5:** San Marcial, The Bidassoa, Vera, Bayonet Ridge. Bayonne for 4 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6:** The Nivelle: Santa Barbara, La Rhune, Amotz. No dinner. (B)
- Day 7:** The Nive, St Pierre, Bayonne. (B,D)
- Day 8:** Orthez, Tarbes (B,D)
- Day 9:** Farewells at Bilbao Airport. Fly Bilbao to London Gatwick. (B)

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Highlights

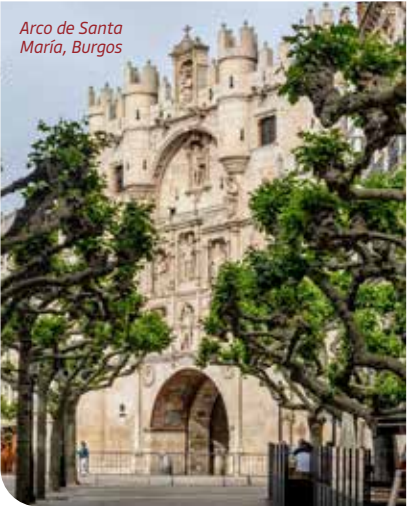
- Explore the decisive battlefield of Vitoria, turning point of the war.
- Visit dramatic passes fought over during the Battle of the Pyrenees.
- Discover the siege sites of San Sebastián and Wellington's coastal supply ports.
- Examine Wellington's breakthrough battles of the Nivelle and the Nive.
- Stand on the battlefield of Orthez, last pitched battle of the campaign.
- Ride to the summit of the Grand Rhune for sweeping campaign views

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



St. Jean Pied de Port



Arco de Santa María, Burgos





The Battle of Roliça

Wellington in Portugal

The French Invasions Thwarted

8 Days: 10–17 June 2027 Mark Crathorne
 2 Price TBC

On this eight-day tour we escape the main roads to discover the Portugal known so well to the men of Wellington's Army during the years 1808– 1811. As well as visiting the magnificent battlefields, we will see one of the beaches on which Wellington landed his army in August 1808 amidst the treacherous rolling surf; explore the forts and signal redoubts along the Lines of Torres Vedras; wander around the historic centre of Lisbon; sample port wine in one of the many port houses in Porto besides the banks of the mighty River Douro; walk the walls of the pretty medieval town of Obidos the site of the first action of the Peninsular War; stay in a former palace in Lousa and marvel at the stunning Portuguese countryside as we travel over its mountain ranges and through its river valleys and national parks. All set amidst the background of wonderful local and international cuisine and great Portuguese hospitality.



Foz de Arouce

Historical Background

Three times the French invaded Portugal between 1807 and 1811 and each time the nation's saviour was a professional mongrel army led by Arthur Wellesley the future Duke of Wellington. The first invasion by General Junot ended following the battle of Vimeiro in August 1808; the second by Marshal Soult ended abruptly following Wellington's audacious operation to recapture the city of Porto in broad daylight, forcing Soult's force into a harrowing retreat over the mountains in north Portugal; while the third invasion by Marshal Massena came to an equally dramatic end in front of the Lines of Torres Vedras necessitating, the following year, Marshal Ney to conduct a series of rear-guard actions for the French to escape.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Opening Shots: Fly London to Lisbon or join tour at Lisbon airport. Obidos, hotel near town – 1 night. Introductory talk and drinks. (D)
- Day 2:** Roliça and Vimeiro: Lake's Gully, Columbeira Heights, Paimogo, Maceira Bay, Vimeiro battlefield and interpretation centre, Ventosa. Hotel in Curia – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Porto: recapture of Porto, Vila Nova monastery, military museum, visit a Porto port lodge. (B,D)
- Day 4:** Bussaco: monument, Massena's headquarters, Wellington's command post, military museum, Craufurd's rock, Penacova. Hotel in Lousã – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5:** Massena's Retreat: sites of Ney's rear-guard actions, Foz de Arouce, Condeixa-a-Nova, Fonte Coberta, Pombal, Redinha. (B,D)
- Day 6:** Lines of Torres Vedras: First and Second Line forts, Mount Socorro, Sobral redoubt, San Vicente fort, Pero Negro, Casal Cochim, Alhandra monument. Hotel in Lisbon – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7:** Lisbon: full day in Lisbon including Belém castle, military museum, Castello de São Jorge. (B,D)
- Day 8:** Home: Palácio de Queluz. Fly Lisbon – London (or extend stay in Portugal). (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- From Wellington's observation tower we discuss the opening shots of the campaign
- Explore the battlefield of Roliça and visit Lake's monument
- See the Vimeiro Battlefield
- Visit Junot's headquarters
- Examine Wellesley's audacious crossing of the Douro and the recapture of Porto
- Drive to the formidable ridge on which the battle of Bussaco was fought
- Visit the Bussaco battle monument, Massena's headquarters, Wellington's command post, the military museum and Craufurd's rock
- Explore the Lines of Torres Vedras
- Colonel Fletcher's monument at Alhandra

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Belém Castle



Vimeiro Battlefield



A Near Run Thing

The Waterloo Anniversary Tour

4 Days: 18–21 June 2027 Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck
 2 Starting from £1,745

Our ever-popular Classic Waterloo Anniversary tour covers the battles of Ligny, Quatre Bras and especially Waterloo itself – and takes place over the annual anniversary weekend when there will likely be re-enactors dressed in period uniform on the battlefields. We will be staying in historic Waterloo town, home to Wellington's Headquarters. The Waterloo Campaign in June 1815 ensured relative peace in Western Europe for the next fifty years. It was the first time that the two greatest commanders of the era, Napoleon and Wellington, met each other in battle and it was to be the last campaign for both of them. It was also the last campaign for grand old Marshal Blucher whose Prussian Army, having been trounced at Ligny, nevertheless arrived in the nick of time to tip the scales in the Allies' favour as Wellington's 'infamous army', already tested at Quatre Bras, hung on grimly to the ridge at Waterloo.

Historical Background

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Hougomont Chapel



Itinerary

- Day 1:** Train from London and/or start at Brussels. Grand Place Town Hall. Hotel in Waterloo – 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Ligny, Brye, Quatre Bras, Genappe. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Full day on Waterloo Battlefield. (B,D)
- Day 4:** The Museums: Waterloo Visitor Centre, Waterloo Panorama. Train Brussels to London or extend stay in Belgium. (B)

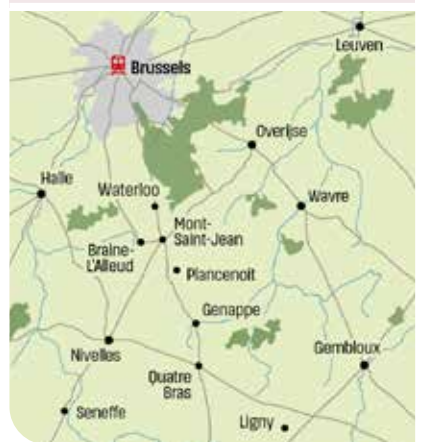
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Visit the spectacular Grand Place in Brussels
- See the building where Wellington planned the battle and wrote his famous Waterloo despatch
- Walk through the hotly-contested village of Ligny
- View Napoleon's windmill at Fleurus
- Stand on the crossroads at Quatre Bras
- Spend a whole day on the battlefield of Waterloo
- The fortified farmhouse of La Haye Sainte
- Walk the route of the advance of the Imperial Guard and its defeat by Wellington's elite Guards and Light Troops
- Visit the Waterloo Visitor Centre the Lion Mound viewing platform, the Waterloo Panorama

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



'Closing the Gates'



Grand Palace, Brussels





The Battle of Mars la Tour

The Franco-Prussian War 1870

The German Invasion of France

8 Days: 21–28 July 2026 Grenville Bird

2 Starting from £3,350

In the company of one of the leading experts on the Franco-Prussian War Grenville Bird you will explore some of the most important battlefields in Europe and discuss the evolution of tactics and strategy as they morphed in tandem with the development of new weapons, transport systems and social change. Travel to and from France and Germany will be in Eurostar's comfortable Standard Premier class and first class TGV. We are based out of wonderful hotels, each situated in the historical heart of Strasbourg, Metz or Sedan, the latter the town's 15th century chateau and birthplace of Turenne. We enjoy dinner at a variety of local restaurants all within a short, pleasant, atmospheric walk of our hotel.

Historical Background

The Franco-Prussian War was the largest and most important war in Europe after Waterloo, changing the face of the continent for the next fifty years. Having already defeated Austria in 1866 as part of his continuing plan for the unification of Germany, the Chancellor of Prussia Otto von Bismarck, engineered this war against the France of the Second Empire under Napoleon III. The contrast between the efficient Prussian war-machine under Helmuth von Moltke and the shambolic performance of the French Army shocked all observers. Within a matter of weeks, the Prussians and their allies had won a series of spectacular victories, leading to Napoleon's abdication and the establishment of the French Third Republic, followed by the Siege of Paris and the abortive revolution of the Paris Commune. In 1871 a unified Germany dominated by Prussia was proclaimed, eclipsing France as the leading power in Europe, and leaving a legacy of rivalry and hatred that was not finally resolved until the end of the Second World War.

Itinerary

Day 1: Strasbourg. Eurostar London to Paris, TGV to Strasbourg (2 nights). (D)

Day 2: Opening Battles. Wissembourg, Worth (B,D)

Day 3: Opening Battles. Worth (continued), Spichern, Metz (3 nights) (B,D)

Day 4: Mars la Tour. (B)

Day 5: Gravelotte-St Privat. (B,D)

Day 6: Advance on Sedan. Nouart, Beaumont, Bazeilles. Sedan (2 nights). (B,D)

Day 7: Sedan (B,D)

Day 8: St Quentin. Eurostar Lille to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Travel in the company of expert historian Grenville Bird
- Discover the atmospheric towns of Strasbourg, Metz and Sedan in the delights of summer
- Follow the path of the Prussian war-machine from the German border to Amiens
- Walk the battlefields, discuss the evolving tactics and witness the social change of the most important war since Waterloo
- Full exploration of the seminal battles of Wissembourg and Worth
- Investigate the decisive battle of Sedan and the site of Napoleon III's surrender
- Explore how the war and its legacy changed the face of Europe for the next fifty years
- Discuss the fight for the Niederwald

Holiday Essentials

Includes Standard Premier Eurostar, first class TGV, 4-star hotels, buffet breakfast, meals as indicated, all entrance fees and expert guide.



French gunners, July 1870



Monument des Chasseurs d'Afrique



Sedan Castle



The American Civil War: Eastern Theater Tour

The Classic Civil War Tour

13 Days: 13–25 September 2026 Fred Hawthorne

2 Starting from £5,695

Our 12-day tour takes you through the picturesque American countryside, including the scenic Shenandoah Valley and several outstanding national parks. You will explore historic towns and cities such as Fredericksburg, Richmond and, of course, Gettysburg, visiting the key sites of major Civil War battles along the way. We walk across remarkably well-preserved battlefields, many set within national parkland, and enjoy engaging presentations not only from your expert historian, but also from selected park rangers. The itinerary includes a wide range of museums, historic buildings, and interpretation centres that bring the period vividly to life. Accommodation is in comfortable, full-service hotels where you can enjoy a hot buffet breakfast each morning and relax with a drink at the bar in the evening. Evening meals will be taken either in typical American restaurants and diners or in the hotel.

Historical Background

During the American Civil War more Americans lost their lives than during the whole of WW1 and WW2 combined. An estimated 750,000 – some 2% of the population – died of battle wounds or disease. For four years, battles raged across the continent, but rarely was the fighting fiercer than in the Eastern Theater where six of the ten bloodiest battles of the war were fought. Encouraged by early victories, the Confederate forces held off subsequent Federal advances around Richmond until they felt confident enough to take the war into the North, where their advances were checked at Antietam in 1862 and Gettysburg in 1863. After achieving their 'high water mark', Southern forces were engaged in a fight against the inevitable which was to finally end at a small courthouse in Appomattox in April 1865.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival. Fly from London to Washington Dulles (optional). Rooms available from 16:00. No dinner included due to late flight arrival.

Day 2: Manassas. Tour begins with a briefing and visit to the First and Second Manassas battlefields. Continue to Fredericksburg for two nights. (B,D)

Day 3: Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville. Explore Chatham Plantation, the Sunken Road and Stone Wall, followed by a tour of Chancellorsville battlefield including Hazel Grove and the Lee-Jackson bivouac. (B,D)

Day 4: The Overland Campaign. Visit key sites from the Wilderness to Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, with stops at famous locations such as the Bloody Angle and Mule Shoe. Continue to Richmond for four nights. (B,D)

Day 5: The Peninsula Campaign. Visit Fort Monroe and the Mariners' Museum, home to the USS Monitor Centre. (B,D)

Day 6: Richmond & Seven Days' Battles. Follow the Seven Days' Battles, ending at Malvern Hill. Visit the Confederate White House and the American Civil War Museum. (B,D)

Day 7: Petersburg. Explore siege sites including Grant's HQ, Fort Stedman, the Crater, and Pamplin Historical Park. (B)

Day 8: Appomattox. Trace the final Confederate retreat through Sailor's Creek to Appomattox Court House. Overnight in Charlottesville. (B,D)

Day 9: Drive through the Shenandoah Valley to New Market, Cedar Creek and Stonewall Jackson's HQ in Winchester. Overnight Winchester. (B,D)

Day 10: Antietam. Explore the Maryland Campaign with visits to South Mountain and Antietam battlefield, including Dunker Church, the Cornfields, and Burnside's Bridge. (B,D)

Day 11: Gettysburg. Full day exploring the pivotal battlefield, including Pickett's Charge and the Gettysburg Cyclorama. (B,D)

Day 12: Farewell & Return. Visit Shriver House and Gettysburg National Cemetery before transferring to Washington Dulles for return flights (optional). (B)

Day 13: Arrive London

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- A full day exploring Gettysburg
- An opportunity to walk the route of the climactic attack: Pickett's Charge
- Explore the two Battles of Manassas
- The battle of Fredericksburg
- Visit the Chancellorsville museum and interpretative centre and battlefield
- See where 'Stonewall' Jackson spent his last hours and see his HQ
- Explore Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War soldier
- Appomattox museum and battlefield park
- Visit Monocacy battlefield

Holiday Essentials

Return flights from London, American 3-star hotels, buffet breakfast, 3-course dinner with drinks each evening, all entrance fees and expert guide throughout.



Gettysburg



Pennsylvania Memorial



Stone House, Manassas battlefield





Isandlwana Hill

The Zulu War

The Washing of the Spears

14 Days: 14–27 November 2026 Starting from £5,245

14 Days: 6–19 March 2027 Starting from £5,555

Ian Knight 2 / 3

This fascinating study of the Anglo-Zulu War takes us to ground that has hardly changed since the memorable events of the period, all set amongst spectacular scenery still populated by Zulu tribes. As well as visiting battle sites such as Isandlwana, Rorke's Drift and others that have gone down in British military folklore, we will be discussing the men, armies and tactics of both sides, their problems, successes and failures. But this is much more than 'just' a battlefield tour: we will be staying in comfortable lodges and hotels and have ample opportunity to observe the local people and customs as well as participating in a game drive featuring many of Africa's best loved animals such as the elephant, rhino, giraffe, zebra, leopard and antelope.

Historical Background

First annexed by Britain during the Napoleonic Wars the Cape of Good Hope secured a vital route to the Far East. Yet the 1879 clashes between Queen Victoria's redcoats and the Zulu kingdom remain unusually vivid in both nations' memory. At the height of British imperial confidence, Lord Chelmsford led three columns into Zululand to punish King Cetshwayo. Two highly disciplined armies, with utterly different weapons and traditions, met with dramatic results. At Isandlwana, the Zulus inflicted the most devastating defeat of the Victorian era on an overconfident British force. Hours later, the small, determined garrison at Rorke's Drift repelled repeated Zulu assaults and captured public admiration. Ultimately, rifles triumphed over spears, but the campaign revealed a story of arrogance, resolve, innovation, and extraordinary bravery on both sides. The Zulu nation was broken, but British military prestige had suffered a lasting blow.

Itinerary

Day 0: Depart on overnight flight from London to Johannesburg.

Day 1: Assemble Arrivals Hall, Johannesburg Airport. Fly to Durban. Fort Pearson, site of the 'Ultimatum Tree'. Overnight in Prince's Grant. (L,D)

Day 2: Gingindlovu, Nyezane, Eshowe mission, cemetery, Fort Nongqayi historical museum and complex. Two nights in Eshowe. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Drive deep into Zulu country to visit the grave of King Cetshwayo. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Ulundi battlefield and museum, homestead of King Cetshwayo at oNdini. 2 nights at Hluhluwe Game Reserve. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Hluhluwe Game Drive

Full day open game drive in search of the 'big five': lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and buffalo. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Hlobane Mountain, graves of Campbell and Lloyd. 2 nights at Vryheid. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Ntombe Spruit. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Khambula, Blood River & Prince Imperial monument. 4 nights in Isandlwana area. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Isandlwana 1: Ngwebeni valley, Zulu knoll, battlefield monuments, British lines, Durnford's Donga. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Isandlwana 2. Walk 'fugitives' trail', Melville and Coghill's graves, Chelmsford's route. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Buffalo River crossing, Rorke's Drift. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Drive to Johannesburg for overnight return flight to London or perhaps extend stay in South Africa. (B,L)

Day 13: Arrive London

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Drive up to the site of the old mission station at Eshowe
- Visit King Cetshwayo's grave
- Visit the battlefield and royal homestead at Ondini
- 2 night stay at the Hluhluwe Game Reserve
- Walk up the slopes of Hlobane mountain
- The battlefield of Khambula
- Two days spent hearing the full story of the battle of Isandlwana
- A full day at Rorke's Drift
- Wild African scenery; wildlife game drive
- Superb game lodge and hotel accommodation
- Visit Fort Pearson
- The Buffalo River crossing

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Journey's End

A sweeping tour of the Western Front from Verdun to Ypres

12 Days: 13–24 August 2026 Dr Bruce Cherry

12 Days: 10–21 June 2027 Dr Bruce Cherry

2 Starting from £5,175 (2027 price TBC)

Like two huge, blood-soaked tectonic plates, the grinding Western Front was a battle fought by a rollcall of nations who made the supreme sacrifice. This sweeping tour traverses the trenches, saps, sangars and fortifications of the Front visiting a range of places sacred in our memory of the conflict. From the shattered landscape of Verdun in the east to the fields of Flanders in the west the tour traverses some of the most iconic battlefields of the war in Europe: the Aisne, Meuse-Argonne, Marne, Arras, Mons, Somme and Ypres, a town synonymous with the entire First World War. This far-reaching tour is an excellent way of appreciating the dramatic narrative of the Western Front set in the context of the war's last witness, the landscape itself.

Historical Background

The battlefields of the Western Front saw the deaths of almost one million British and Commonwealth soldiers during the First World War. From the firing of the first shots by the British near Mons in August 1914 to the signing of the Armistice at Compiègne four years later the bloodletting continued as attested to by countless cemeteries and monuments along the Front, most notably Douaumont, Thiepval, the Menin Gate and Tyne Cot. Starting as a war of manoeuvre, the fast-moving German armies swept through Belgium taking all before them until brought to a halt. The stagnation of trench warfare ensued with the Allies attempting to break the deadlock through a succession of costly and indecisive battles. But during those years both sides significantly developed their armies, weaponry and tactics to such an extent that the final months of the war saw troops once more on the move, employing tactics that would develop into the German Blitzkrieg of the Second World War.

Itinerary

Day 1: Eurostar London St Pancras to Brussels (or join tour at Brussels South/Midi Station). Drive to Namur - overview of 1914 siege. Hotel in Verdun - 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Battle of Verdun incl. Les Épages, Herméville Canon, Spinacourt, Douzey, Mangiennes German Cemetery, Douaumont Ossuary, Fort Douaumont. (B,D)

Day 3: Explore Meuse-Argonne offensive incl. Montfaucon, American Cemetery and Memorial, Butte de Vauquois, Navarin Monument. Hotel in Château-Thierry - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 4: Explore Battle of the Marne and Belleau Wood. (B,D)

Day 5: Château-Thierry Monument, Compiègne Armistice Glade, Saint Quentin (Kaiser offensive), Manchester Hill. Hotel in Saint Quentin - 3 nights. (B,D)

Day 6: Casteau, Mons, Mons-Condé Canal, Le Quesnoy, Ors Forester's Cottage, Wilfred Owen grave, discussion of Hindenburg Line, Riqueval bridge. (B,D)

Day 7: The Somme incl. Villers-Bretonneux, Le Hamel, Mont St Quentin, Péronne. (B,D)

Day 8: The Somme incl. Delville Wood, Mametz, Lochnagar Crater, Pozieres, Thiepval. Hotel in Arras - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 9: Arras, Carrière Wellington, Vimy Ridge, Canadian National Memorial. (B,D)

Day 10: Ypres Salient (north) incl. Menin Road, Hooghte, Polygon Wood, Pilkelm Ridge, Passchendaele, Langemark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial. Hotel in Ypres - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 11: Ypres Salient (south) incl. Poperinge, Toc H, Lijssenthoek, Messines Ridge, Ploegsteert, Menin Gate Last Post. (B,D)

Day 12: Free time in Ypres. Eurostar Brussels to London St Pancras (or perhaps extend stay in Belgium). (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore the battle of Verdun and its remarkable forts
- Learn about Allied and German strategy in the Meuse-Argonne, Somme and Kaiser offensives
- Visit the site of the 1918 Armistice signing at Compiègne and go inside the replica railway carriage
- Learn about the underground war at Vimy, the Carrière Wellington at Arras, and the Lochnagar Crater
- Visit Delville Wood South African Memorial at Longueval
- Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- Casteau, where the first British shots of the war were fired
- War poet Wilfred Owen's grave
- Langemark and Tyne Cot Cemeteries
- Watch the emotional Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.





Italian Alpine troops,
August 1915

Italy During the First World War

Battles in the Mountains and Clouds

6 Days: 16–21 September 2026 Professor Nick Saunders
 2 Starting from £2,495

Set amongst some spectacular mountain scenery, these infrequently visited battlefields have changed little over the years. Marvel at many of the precarious and exposed positions occupied by both sides and visit many of the ingenious caverns and tunnels that were built for warmth and protection during the severe winters. A sure highlight will be the short, but breath-taking walk along the Grenadier's Path hewn out of and into the sides of Monte Cengio (although there is a nearby café with fantastic views for the faint-hearted). The contrast with the topography of the Western Front is remarkable; from rain and wind-swept trenches built in chalk and mud, imagine trenches carved out of rock to protect against snow, ice and avalanche. Today the area over which these battles were fought straddles the border between Italy and Slovenia, which we will explore thoroughly.

Historical Background

Whilst the Italians prevaricated over whether to join the Entente powers in their struggle against the Central Powers, the Austro-Hungarians set about fortifying their Alpine borders. When Italy finally decided to take up arms, the only really practical terrain to take the fight to the enemy was along the River Isonzo, where she made as many as 11 major attempts to drive through the Ljubljana Gap until they were finally thwarted by the spectacular Austrian counter-offensive at Caporetto (where a young German Officer called Erwin Rommel earned his spurs). This resulted, in late 1917, in the arrival of five British and six French divisions around Asiago to bolster the realigned Italian positions. This small force was to play a disproportional role in repelling the last Austro-Hungarian thrust on the Piave in June 1918 and spearheaded the pursuit during the final battle of Vittorio Veneto, assisting the Italians in their 'land grab' before the end of the war.



Redipuglia War Memorial

Highlights

- Gaze down on the Isonzo Valley from the San Michelle Heights
- Visit trenches and bunkers carved out of the mountainside
- Walk the astounding Grenadier's Mule track carved into the edge of Monte Cengio
- Enjoy magnificent breath-taking Alpine scenery
- Examine the battles of the Isonzo
- Visit the excellent museum of the battle of Caporetto in Kobarid
- Explore the trenches and tunnels of the Italian defence line
- Ascend the Asiago Plateau
- Walk along the San Sisto Ridge to explore trenches, dressing stations and bunkers

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Second Battle of the Isonzo



Monte Cengio



Auschwitz perimeter fence

The Holocaust

Poland and the Nazi Death Camps

2026: Your Guide: 2–9 September... Dr Waitman Beorn
7–14 October Martin Winstone

2027: Your Guide: 14–21 April Dr Isabel Wollaston
19–26 May Dr Alasdair Richardson
1–8 September ... Prof Tim Cole
6–13 October Martin Winstone

8 Days 2 Starting from £3,195

In this 8-day tour to Poland, we visit the sites of the former ghettos in Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow alongside two purpose-built death camps (Treblinka, Belzec), and two multifunctional camps that were both concentration camps and death camps (Majdanek, Auschwitz). We look at the struggle of both the Jews and non-Jewish Poles against their oppressors, visiting the scenes of Ghetto Uprising in 1943 and the memorial to the Warsaw Rising in 1944. You will see the shift from complete physical destruction of ghetto and camp to the actual remnants due to the rapid advance of the Soviets. However, the tour is not limited to the serious and emotive history of the Holocaust, with its clear message for future generations. We also enjoy expert guided tours of the historic cities of Warsaw and Krakow. We sample much of the local culture and visit the world-famous salt mine at Wieliczka. Each evening we will dine in a different local restaurant to enjoy a wealth of a rich local cuisine. The topography of the sites we visit involves a fair amount of walking: at Auschwitz/Birkenau you will cover almost 8 miles over the course of the day, but that is necessary to achieve a full appreciation of the subject.

Historical Background

Under Communism, in Poland it was traditional to refer to 'six million Poles murdered during World War II', a figure that referred to 3 million non-Jewish Poles and 3 million Polish Jews. Those Polish Jews were murdered in ghettos, forests in the east of the country, or purpose-built death camps set up after the German occupation of Poland. By far the largest of these was Auschwitz II-Birkenau, which was the site of over one million deaths, mainly Jews brought here from all over Europe. The smaller, purpose built 'killing' camp of Treblinka, where Warsaw's Jews were taken, was said by its commandant SS-Obersturmführer Franz Stangl to be able to murder over 1000 people per hour at its peak. With the positioning of the Majdanek camp on the outskirts of Lublin, the Germans made no effort to disguise the killings, its slave labour, brutality, shootings and crematorium being plainly visible to passers-by. The overarching narrative of the tour is about the shift from Polish Jews to European Jews and the evolution of policy from concentration camps to death camps.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Fly from London and/or start tour at Warsaw (2 nights). (D)
- Day 2:** Warsaw: ghetto walls, POLIN Museum, the Umschlagplatz, Warsaw Jewish cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Treblinka, Lublin (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 4:** Belzec, Majdanek, Rzeszów (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 5:** Krakow: Krakow's Old Town (3 nights). (B,D)
- Day 6:** Auschwitz, Birkenau. (B)
- Day 7:** Krakow: Kazimierz, Old Synagogue Museum. Wieliczka salt mines. (B,D)
- Day 8:** Leave tour/flight to London. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- See parts of ghetto walls in Warsaw
- The POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
- Treblinka memorial and museum
- The multi-purpose prisoner of war camp, concentration camp and death camp at Majdanek, on the outskirts of Lublin
- Belzec camp and museum
- Guided tour of the architectural wealth of Krakow's Old Town, and former Jewish quarter in Kazimierz, now a major cultural and heritage site (and which featured heavily in Steven Spielberg's film Schindler's List).
- Full day at Auschwitz and Birkenau
- Visit the awesome 700-year-old salt mine at Wieliczka

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Auschwitz



Treblinka





The Reichstag

The Rise & Fall of Nazi Germany

Darkness Visible

9 Days: 9–17 August 2026 Dr David Hall

9 Days: 8–16 September 2027 Dr David Hall

2 Starting from £3,450 (2027 price TBC)

This tour traces the dramatic and harrowing story of the Rise and Fall of the Third Reich chronologically from its birth in 1919 Munich, to its bloody end in Berlin in 1945. In the company of an expert historian, we visit all the significant milestones marking Adolf Hitler's ascent and Germany's descent into the abyss. We begin in the Bavarian capital where we see the sites associated with the Nazi party's rise, including the route of the 1923 Beerhall Putsch, the site of the party HQ and that of the 1938 Munich conference. We tour the appalling Buchenwald concentration camp; the Fuhrer's idyllic mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden; the Nazi party's monster rally grounds at Nuremberg; and where Nazi crimes were judged and condemned. We explore the state building that housed the weak and ineffectual government of the Weimar Republic. During our final days in Berlin, we visit Wannsee, where the Holocaust was planned, and walk through the city centre viewing the Reichstag, Holocaust memorial, and the site of the bunker where Hitler's life ended.

Historical Background

Munich, 1919. An unknown Austrian corporal walked into a beerhall...and the rest is history. The remarkable rise of Adolf Hitler from obscurity to Germany's dictatorial Fuhrer, and finally to the overlordship of occupied Europe, is the story of a catastrophe unparalleled in human history. The Nazi dream of a racially pure Third Reich, and the quest for Lebensraum in Russia, turned Germany into a totalitarian state and plunged the world into war.



Brandenburg Gate

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Munich (or start tour in Munich). Hotel in Munich - 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Munich: tour on foot and public transport, incl. Sternecker beerhall, 1923 Beerhall putsch route, Odeonsplatz, Hofbräuhaus, Brown House, Munich conference site (exterior only). (B,D)

Day 3: Dachau, Surberg, Berchtesgaden. Hotel in Berchtesgaden - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 4: Kehlstein (Eagle's Nest), Obersalzberg Documentation Centre, Berghof. (B,D)

Day 5: Nuremberg: Congress Hall, Rally Grounds. Hotel in Nuremberg - 1 night. (B,D)

Day 6: Nuremberg: Courtroom 600 and documentation centre. Drive to Weimar, House of the Weimar Republic. Hotel in Weimar - 1 night. (B,D)

Day 7: Wannsee, Platform 17 Memorial. Hotel in Berlin - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 8: Berlin: tour on foot and U-Bahn: incl. Brandenburg Gate, Fuhrer bunker, Holocaust memorial, Topography of Terror Museum, German Resistance Memorial Centre. (B,D)

Day 9: Reichstag, Olympic Stadium, Tempelhof Airport. Continue to Brandenburg airport for flight home or perhaps extend your stay in Germany. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Enjoy a drink at the historic Hofbräuhaus in Munich
- Ascend the spectacular 6,000ft Kehlstein or Eagle's Nest to enjoy amazing mountain views
- Visit the remains of the Berghof, Hitler's mountain home
- Stand in the Nuremberg courtroom where the surviving top Nazis were tried by the International tribunal in 1946
- Dachau & Wannsee
- Tour the Topography of Terror Museum
- Walk around central Berlin, viewing the Reichstag, the Holocaust memorial, and the site of the Bunker where Hitler and his bride Eva Braun committed suicide in April 1945

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



The Nuremberg trials



Kehlstein (The Eagle's Nest)



Beauffighters of RAF Coastal Command over the Sognefjord

Shells Exploding at a Picnic

Norway during WW2

12 Days: 2–13 September 2026 Lt-Col (Ret'd) Palle Ydstebo

2 Starting from £7,325

The journey through wartime Norway unfolds amid some of Europe's most striking landscapes. Starting in Oslo, with its elegant boulevards and calm waterfront, the route follows the Oslofjord before rising into sweeping valleys, high passes, and lakes glittering beneath pine forests. Telemark and the Setesdal Valley reveal wooden farmsteads and mirror-still rivers beneath snow-tipped peaks. Along the southern coast, Kristiansand mixes maritime charm with rugged fortifications overlooking the Skagerrak. Further north, the scenery shifts from fjords and fishing villages to wild uplands where reindeer roam. In Trøndelag and northern Norway, the landscape becomes more elemental: granite ridges, deep blue fjords, and the clear Arctic light that once illuminated the battles of Narvik. Museums, guides, and memorials bring personal stories to life, while the landscape itself reflects endurance and beauty.

Historical Background

In April 1940, Norway became the focus of one of the most dramatic campaigns of the Second World War. Hitler's Germany sought to secure vital iron-ore shipments from Sweden and dominate the North Sea by occupying Norway. The surprise invasion on 9 April brought sudden war to a neutral nation and tested both Allied resolve and Norwegian courage. The campaign witnessed fierce naval battles in icy fjords, heroic resistance in the mountains, and the first airborne assaults in military history. Cities such as Oslo, Trondheim, and Narvik became battlegrounds where Norwegian troops, aided by British, French, and Polish forces, fought against overwhelming odds. Although Norway eventually fell, the campaign delayed German plans elsewhere and inspired a determined resistance movement that would harass the occupiers for years. From Quisling's betrayal to the daring commando raids against the Vemork Heavy Water Plant, Norway's wartime story is one of courage and endurance amid some of Europe's most dramatic landscapes.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Oslo or join tour in Oslo. Hotel in Oslo - 3 nights. Introductory talk/drinks. (D)

Day 2: Oslo: Villa Grande, Victoria Terrasse, Akershus Fortress, Resistance Museum, Norway's Defence Museum, medieval castle. (B,D)

Day 3: Oscarborg: Drøbak and ferry to Oscarborg Fortress, five military-history museums. (B,D)

Day 4: Gaustabanen: funicular/cable railway inside Gaustatoppen. Operation Gunnerside. Hotel in Rjukan hotel - 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Saboteurs' Trail and Vemork: Optional walk along 8 km (2-hour, level 3) route taken by Norwegian commandos to attack Vemork Heavy Water Plant, hydroelectric power station, Heavy Water Cellar exhibition. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Setesdal Valley and Odderøya: Setesdal, Bygland, Odderøya island. Hotel in Kristiansand - 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Kristiansand and The Altmark: Kristiansand Gestapo headquarters, Møvik Fort, Jøssingfjord (Altmark incident), Eiganes Cemetery, fly Stavanger to Trondheim. Hotel - 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Trondheim: Hegra mountain, Falstad SS Camp, Trondheim Armoury Museum. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Harstad: Kristiansten Fortress, fly to Narvik, Trondenes Fort (Adolfkanonen battery). Hotel in Narvik - 3 nights. (B,D)

Day 10: Narvik: Narvik war museum, Gratangen, Gratangsdalen, Bjerkvik. (B,D)

Day 11: Endgame: Ofoten Railway to Bjørnfjell, Haugfjell (level 3). (B,L,D)

Day 12: Tirpitz and Departure: Håkøya Island, Tirpitz monument/Tallboy bomb crater, fly Tromsø to Oslo then to London (or extend stay in Norway). (B)

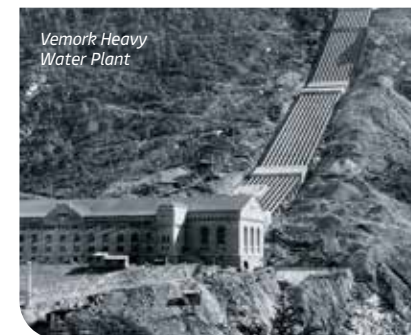
Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Follow the dramatic 1940 Norwegian Campaign from Oslo to Narvik across stunning fjords and mountain landscapes.
- Explore Quisling's residence at Villa Grande and key resistance sites at Akershus Fortress.
- Visit Oscarborg Fortress, where the German cruiser Blücher was sunk.
- Ascend Gaustatoppen via the remarkable Cold War funicular and visit the Vemork Heavy Water Plant.
- Walk part of the iconic Saboteurs' Trail used in Operation Gunnerside (optional level 3).
- Discover major coastal defences at Odderøya and Møvik Fort, including its massive Krupp gun.
- Study the decisive battles for Narvik.
- Ride the scenic Ofoten Railway and visit the site of the battleship Tirpitz's destruction

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.





U.S. Sherman tanks being loaded onto LSTs in Tunisia in preparation for Operation Husky

Operation Husky

The Allied Invasion of Sicily

7 Days: 25 September–1 October 2026 Col David Barron

2 Starting from £3,275

The island of Sicily is rich in military history. From classical Greek and Roman sites, to the Napoleonic war and, of course, the Second World War. The northeast of the island, where we spend the majority of our time, is dominated by the imposing site of Mount Etna which looms menacingly over the coast line and countryside through which we travel. There is also the famous Strait of Messina, the narrow body of water that separates Sicily from the mainland, and from where the German army orchestrated their almost miraculous escape in 1943. Whilst travelling through Sicily we will admire its beauty, but also see for ourselves the difficulties the terrain posed for both attacker and defender during the war. We travel along the rock-strewn coastline, visit mountain top villages, scale an active volcano and stay in some of the island's most historic and picturesque towns. This is a tour that has everything, in a place steeped in history.

Historical Background

1943 was a difficult year for the Allies. America was still not at full capacity industrially and she was still learning on the battlefield. The British Empire, on the other hand, was under assault in the Atlantic and from the air whilst her victory in North Africa had done little to convince the battered Soviets that she was sacrificing enough.

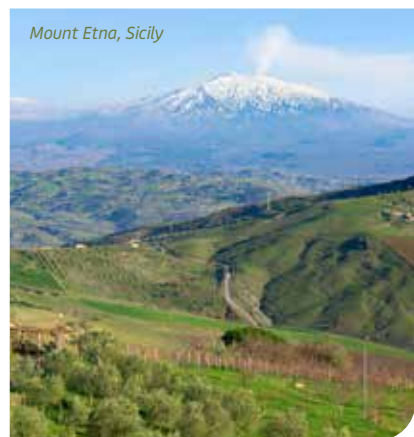
With a view both to knock Italy out of the war and to seize a foothold in the Mediterranean, the ambitious plan to grab Sicily was hatched. However, the campaign there marked the turning point of the Alliance. Patton's 7th Army arrived in Sicily expecting to play second fiddle to Montgomery's 8th Army but, after the British offensive stalled at Primosole from 13th July, Patton seized the initiative, driving first for Palermo and then, in tandem with three, daring amphibious landings, racing against the British to liberate Messina.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Catania. Drive to Syracuse (or make own arrangements to join the tour at hotel). Hotel in Syracuse– 3 nights. (D)

Day 2: Landings at Gela: Gela Beachhead, Ponte Dirillo, Pachino. (B,D)

Day 3: British & Canadian landings: Castello Eurialo, Capo Porco di Murro, Ponte Grande. Operation Ladbroke sites - Lamba Doria battery, Fontane Bianche. (B,D)



Mount Etna, Sicily

Day 4: Exploitation: Primosole Bridge Durham Light Infantry memorial, Berkshire Farm, Storico dello Sbarco museum. Drive to Taormina. Hotel in Taormina - 3 nights. (B,D)

Day 5: Cracking the Etna Line: Etna defences, Gerbini, Sferro, 51st Division Memorial, Assoro, Regalbuto and Adrano, Agira CWGC Cemetery. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Aftermath: Mount Etna (via cable car), Messina, Forte Cavalli. (B,D)

Day 7: Depart: Catania CWGC Cemetery. Fly Catania to London or perhaps extend stay in Sicily. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Walk the beaches of Gela where the Invasion Began
- Discover the daring glider and commando landings
- Follow the fierce battle for Primosole Bridge
- Track the relentless Allied advance in the Shadow of Etna
- Survey the battlefields from Mount Etna
- Discuss the dramatic escape Axis escape at Messina.

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels (except one night at Flix, 3 star), meals and drinks as indicated, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, rail travel as indicated, optional travel from UK.



Primosole Bridge



Lamba Doria Battery



Agira Cemetery



The Liberation of Mainland Italy 1943–45

From Salerno to the Po River

11 Days: 3–13 October 2026 Col David Harrison

2 Starting from £4,425

This tour follows the Allied invasion of the Italian mainland at Salerno, Cassino, Anzio and to the Po Valley. During 20 long months the US 5th and British 8th Armies battle their way northwest up the peninsular through the Gustav and Gothic Lines. After the initial amphibious landing hopes are high that Rome would be liberated before Christmas 1943 but the effective German defence of the line from the mouth of the Garigliano River to Ortona delayed the Allies for 5 months at Cassino. From the fall of Rome in mid-1944 the Italian Campaign became very much a second front and during the tour we hear how Allied leaders try to maximise their resources to overcome the Pisa - Rimini line. The multinational force is delayed by skilful German defence until this is overcome in the Po valley in 1945.

Historical Background

Agreement was reached to mount an invasion of the Italian mainland concurrently at Salerno and across the Straits of Messina soon after the capture of Sicily in 1943. Salerno was the furthest north that air cover, essential for an amphibious landing, could be provided, yet close enough to Naples that a major port could be gained relatively quickly. The mountainous terrain of mainland Italy would result in the US 5th and the British 8th Armies effectively fighting separate campaigns along the west and east coasts. An early strategic objective was for the 8th Army to secure the Foggia Airfields to allow the Mediterranean Air Forces to move from North Africa and reach southern Germany and further east to the Ploesti oilfields. Great uncertainty existed as to how the Germans would react immediately following the Italian Armistice, which Eisenhower chose to announce the night before Operation AVALANCHE. It was into these circumstances that the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the Allied forces stepped in September 1943.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Naples or meet at hotel. Hotel in Naples/Salerno area - 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Bay of Salerno, Green Beach, CWGC Salerno Cemetery, Battipaglia Tobacco Factory battle, Altavilla. (B,D)

Day 3: Volturno River, Winter Line Museum at Venafrò, Mignano Gap, San Pietro Infine, Monte Trocchio. Hotel in Cassino - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 4: Monte Cassino: Upper Rapido River Valley, Cavendish Road, Castle Hill. (B,D)

Day 5: Cassino Abbey, Point 593, Amazon Bridge, CWGC Cassino Cemetery. Drive to Nettuno - hotel for 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 6: Nettuno American Cemetery, Anzio beaches, Aprilia Factory, Buonriposo Ridge, wadis/gullies, CWGC Anzio Cemetery. (B)

Day 7: Mussolini Canal, drive to Monte Maggiore al Metauro. Hotel in Rimini area - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 8: Metauro River, San Clemente, Coriano, Coriano Ridge cemetery. (B,D)

Day 9: Forlì, Faenza, Senio River Alfonsine. Hotel in Ravenna area - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 10: Lake Comacchio, Argenta Gap, Po River. (B,D)

Day 11: Fly Bologna to London or extend stay in Italy. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

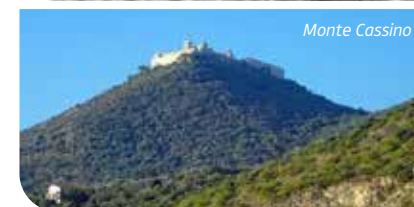
- Stand where Allied armies landed at the beaches of Salerno and Anzio
- Visit some of Italy's best military collections at the Winterline and Alfonsine museums
- Explore the battle of Monte Cassino and the bitterly-contested Gustav Line
- Visit the Amazon Bridge, site of heavy Royal Engineers casualties
- Examine Operation SHINGLE and the actions around Aprilia and Buonriposo
- Explore the battles for the Gothic Line including those around Coriano and San Clemente
- Trace the events of Operation BUCKLAND including around Lake Comacchio and the final offensive through the Argenta Gap

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



Landings at Salerno, September 1943



Monte Cassino



British landings
at Gold Beach

Highlights

- Told from the soldier's perspective
- The fight for the Merville Battery
- The site of the US airborne landing at Ste-Mère-Eglise
- La Fière causeway, scene of a desperate four-day battle
- Utah Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach & Omaha Beach
- The German battery with its extant guns at Longues sur Mer
- Pegasus Bridge, the site of the British glider-borne assault
- The American National Cemetery and memorial at St Laurent
- The new British Normandy Memorial at Ver-Sur-Mer
- The superb Overlord Museum

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Pegasus Bridge

Omaha Beach
memorial

Sainte-Mère-Eglise

D-Day: Operation Overlord Breaching the Atlantic Wall

- 📅 5 Days: 15–19 October 2026 🧑🏫 Dr Simon Trew
 📅 5 Days: 14–18 October 2027 🧑🏫 Dr Simon Trew
 🧳 2 📦 Starting from £2,595 (2027 price TBC)

Our five-day tour examines carefully selected events from 6–9 June 1944, appreciating the plight of the common soldier as he scrambled ashore amidst murderous German fire, his generation fighting to ensure the freedom that we enjoy today. What was it like to parachute into the night skies above Normandy or land by glider next to Pegasus Bridge at Ranville a few minutes after midnight? How did Colonel Rudder's Rangers scale the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc? What was the experience of American soldiers struggling through the surf at Omaha Beach, alongside renowned war photographer Robert Capa, or British assault troops faced with devastating enemy fire at the eastern end of Gold Beach? At the surviving German coastal battery position at Longues Sur Mer, we hear how terrified German gunners duelled with fearsome warships from their emplacements in the 'Atlantic Wall'.

Historical Background

On the morning of Tuesday 6th June, the largest amphibious invasion in history breached the defences of the Atlantic Wall, opening the way for the Second Front and contributing to the final defeat of Hitler's Third Reich. The flanks of 'Operation Overlord' were secured by audacious airborne landings: in the west by the Americans around Sainte-Mère-Église, to the east by the British near the River Orne. Between them, Allied troops landed on five beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword, with varying degrees of success. Some forces were able to thrust inland immediately, others found themselves having to contend with withering German fire, a rising tide and an increasingly crowded beach.

The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Itinerary

Day 1: Outward travel. Coach from Ashford International Station to Bayeux via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or make own arrangements to join the tour at hotel. Hotel in Bayeux – 4 nights. Welcome drinks before dinner. (L,D)

Day 2: The British Sector: Pegasus Bridge, Merville, Gold Beach. (B,D)

Day 3: The British and American Sectors: Ste-Mère-Eglise, La Fière causeway, River Merderet crossing, Utah Beach, Port-en-Bessin, Longues-sur-Mer German battery. (B,D)

Day 4: The American Sector: various sites at Omaha Beach, American National Cemetery and memorial at St Laurent. (B,D)

Day 5: Bayeux: Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, British Normandy Memorial Ver-Sur-Mer. Coach to Ashford International Station via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B,L)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Kanchanaburi Bridge
over the River Kwai

The Fall of Singapore and the Death Railway

A World Turned Upside Down

- 📅 13 Days: 28 February–12 March 2027 🧑🏫 Robert Lyman
 🧳 2 📦 Starting from £6,245

On 8 December 1941 Japanese forces invaded the Malay Peninsula. At the southern tip stood the fortress island of Singapore, a major naval base from which Britain projected and defended power in the Far East. In anticipation of attack from the Japanese navy, extensive coastal batteries were constructed to defeat an expected assault from the sea. That assault never came as General Yamashita's forces advanced south meeting limited resistance. A flawed defence plan and weak command meant that Singapore resisted for little more than a week. Deprived of food and water, Lieutenant General Percival, Allied Commander, concluded that no alternative remained but unconditional surrender creating what Winston Churchill described as the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history. Following initial imprisonment on Singapore, many Allied soldiers were transported to Thailand to construct the Burma Siam railway under brutal conditions.

Historical Background

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Itinerary

Day 0: Flights to Kuala Lumpur from LHR or own arrangements.

Day 1: Late afternoon arrival. Assemble and overnight at airport hotel. Introductory talk (D)

Day 2: Slim River and Kuala Lumpur: bridges over Slim River, Kuala Lumpur National Museum and GWGC.

Day 3: The Battle of Gemas: Gemencheh Bridge. Bukit Kepong Malayan Emergency ambush. Overnight Muar. (B,L,D)

Day 4: The Battle of Muar: Muar town, Bakri, Parit Sulong massacre site. Johore Straits. Cross border into Singapore for 5 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Assault on Singapore: Japanese landings, the Causeway, Kranji CWGC cemetery, Jurong-Kranji Defence Line, Pasir Panjang and Adam Park. (B,L,D)

Day 6: The Guns of Singapore: Labrador Battery, cable car to Sentosa Island, Siloso Battery. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Downtown Singapore: Fort Canning bunker, the Padang memorials, Singapore Cenotaph, City Hall, St Andrew's Cathedral. Free afternoon and evening. (B,L)

Highlights

- Examine Japanese conquest of Malaya and Singapore
- Trace Slim River and fighting withdrawal
- Analyse Singapore defence plan and surrender
- Explore coastal batteries and landing beaches
- Reflect at massacre sites and POW camps
- Visit Ford Factory surrender location
- Experience Thailand Burma Death Railway
- Walk Hellfire Pass and cemeteries

Holiday Essentials

Expert historian, four star or best available Hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager throughout, optional travel from UK.



Hellfire Pass



Day 8: Surrender and Occupation: Ford Factory, Bukit Bakot, Japanese Cemetery, Ponggol and Changi beach massacres, Changi prison, chapel and museum. Johore Battery and Straits. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Travel to Thailand: Morning flight to Bangkok. Nong Pladuk station. Kanchanaburi for 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Death Railway: Kanchanaburi CWGC cemetery, Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, train over Kwai bridge to Than Krasae, trestle viaduct and cave. Elephant sanctuary. Jungle walk to Tham Chaloei POW Cave. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Hellfire Pass: interpretation centre, walk railway to Konyu Cutting. Optional walk to Hintok Cutting. Afternoon at leisure. (B,L,D)

Day 12: River Kwai and home: Chong Kai CWGC cemetery, Curve Mountain viewpoint, boat ride, Kanchanaburi's WW2 museums. Bangkok airport -evening return flights. (B,L)

Day 13: Arrive home.

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



General Douglas MacArthur wades ashore during the landings at Leyte, Philippines

MacArthur and the Battle for The Philippines

Hell and High Water

 15 Days: 4–18 March 2027  James M Scott  2  Starting from £6,295

Highlights

- A study of the brutal fighting for Manila
- The Manila Massacre sites in Intramuros
- A day on the island fortress of Corregidor
- Follow the route of the Bataan 'Death March'
- MacArthur's Landing beaches at Leyte and Lingayen gulfs
- The battle for Leyte
- The sites of Yamashita's defence and execution
- The magnificent vistas from Tagaytay Ridge
- Visit the internment sites of Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Santo Tomas and Los Banos

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels (Haneda airport hotel 3-star), 4 internal Shinkansen ('Bullet') train journeys, flights from Tokyo to Okinawa and Okinawa to Kagoshima, modern coach travel elsewhere, all breakfasts, lunches and dinners (one night at own expense), all entrance fees, expert historian, local guides and TCE tour manager throughout.



Scan for the full itinerary

"The days of frontal assault are over". So said Douglas MacArthur on 26th July 1944 as he assiduously planned for his 'return' to the Philippines some three years after he had escaped them. He had anticipated ending his life in the forlorn defence of Bataan, the last bastion of his beloved islands, but instead in March 1942 Roosevelt instructed him to direct the defence of Australia and build a Southwest Pacific Army with which to take the fight to the Japanese. Initial blunders aside, through a series of skilful amphibious assaults, feints and leapfrogging strongpoints that would "wither on the vine" he had wrested control of New Guinea and its outlying islands by the middle of 1944. Combining ULTRA intelligence, his own prescience and meticulous planning, he then embarked on a masterly six-month campaign of manoeuvre reminiscent of that of Napoleon which would fulfil his promise to "return" and liberate the Philippines, one that contrasted sharply with the direct approach of Nimitz's Marines in the Central Pacific. In the face of an overwhelming Japanese army of occupation he would conduct seaborne landings which were comparable in scale to that of D-Day in Normandy: first on Leyte and then three months later at Lingayen Gulf. While the fighting on Luzon would continue until the end of the war, by March 1945 he was back in Manila, although a suicidal defence by Japanese sailors would ensure that the city was no longer the one that he had once known.

Historical Background

In the spring of 1942, Japan reached its zenith—an empire that stretched across twenty million square miles and seven time zones. But this behemoth would not survive. By 1945, the American forces, having battled across the Pacific, closed in on the Japanese homeland. In April, American troops landed on Okinawa in what would prove to be one of the most hellacious fights of the Pacific War, an 82-day slugfest that would claim the lives of as many as 150,000 civilians. To counter this threat, Japan unleashed storms of kamikazes, monsoons of metal and flesh that rained down on American warships. Nightly raids by the America's awesome new B-29 Superfortresses meanwhile incinerated Tokyo and dozens of other cities. All of this paled, however, from the war-ending attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ushered the world into the nuclear age. The culmination of these catastrophic final months of war would ravage the Japanese homeland and lead Emperor Hirohito to announce his nation's surrender at noon on August 15, 1945.



US troops on Leyte Island



General MacArthur ashore with his troops on Leyte, fulfilling his promise to return to the Philippines

Itinerary

Day 0: Outward Travel: overnight flight London to Manila (or make own arrangements to join tour at Manila airport hotel on Day 1).

Day 1: Arrival: arrive Manila and transfer to airport hotel for 1 night. Introductory talk and drinks before dinner. (D)

Day 2: Bataan: War Plan Orange: Calumpit bridge; Baliuag, Plaridel, Pampanga River; First Line of Defence memorial; Battle of the Pockets of Orion-Bagac Line; Mt Samat; walk Bagac from KM0 to KM1 to Friendship Tower. Hotel in Mariveles for 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Corregidor: traditional banca boat to and from island; tour incl. Malinta Tunnel, Memorial Museum, Mile Long Barracks; memorials and fortifications. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Death March: walk first kilometre of march from Mariveles; Balanga surrender site and museum; San Fernando station; Clark Veterans Cemetery; Fort Stotsenburg. Quest Hotel, Clark Field for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 5: S-Day Lingayen Gulf: Capas National Shrine, drive to Lingayen Gulf; Lingayen Beach; Veterans Memorial Park. Hotel in Cabanatuan for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Japanese at Bay: Pangatian POW camp Memorial (The Great Raid); Bamban Japanese Navy tunnels. Manila Airport hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 7: The Return: fly Manila to Tacloban. Drive to A-Day landing beaches incl. Red Beach; climb Hill 522 at Palo. Hotel near Red Beach - 3 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tacloban: Price Mansion (MacArthur's HQ); Old Capitol Building; Alejandro Hotel; San Juanico Straits; free time. (B,L,D)

Day 9: The Battle for Leyte: Dulag; Hill 120. Drive to west coast following Battle of the Ridges incl. Shoestring Ridge; Ipsil; Veteran's Park and museum; Ormoc residence; Ormoc Valley; Breakneck Ridge. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Los Banos and Tagatay Ridge: fly Tacloban to Manila. Drive to Los Banos; Yamashita's execution site; Tagaytay Ridge. Hotel overlooking Taal Volcano- 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Liberation: Santo Tomas University; De la Salle university; US Embassy and ballroom site of Yamashita trial (subject to permission). The Manila Hotel for 2 nights. (B,L)

Day 12: Battle for Manila: Intramuros, Fort Santiago, 1945 memorial and cathedral; Manila American Cemetery. (B,L,D).

Day 13: Home: overnight flights home or perhaps extend stay in The Philippines.



Japanese artillery, Manila



American Cemetery, Manila



The lavish interior of Villa Torlonia - Mussolini's Roman residence

Dictator Mussolini & Italian Fascism

 8 Days: 3-10 May 2027  Professor John Foot

 2  Starting from £3,695

This tour tells the complete story of Benito Mussolini and Italian Fascism from its violent beginnings to its ignominious end. Beginning in Rome, where 'Il Duce' held power for two tumultuous decades, we visit his private homes, his grandiose official residences and explore his home town, Predappio, including his birthplace and the family burial vault. During this tour we see all the significant sites of Fascism's rise and fall – the Duce's sumptuous office and private air-raid shelter; the Palace from where Mussolini spoke to adoring crowds; the regime's modernist architecture in Rome's EUR quarter; the mountaintop hotel from where Mussolini was rescued by crack German airborne troops; and the scenes of his final downfall and death among the gorgeous lakes of northern Italy and Milan. Fascism, despite the wartime suffering it brought to Italy, still has its adherents today, and this tour explores and explains both Mussolini the man and the dark creed he created.

Historical Background

Benito Mussolini invented Fascism in 1919 in the chaos that followed WW1. Soon after, he and his blackshirted followers marched on Rome (1922) and he was in power as Italy's dictator, or 'Duce'. At first, the regime was admired by many – including Churchill – for its achievements and dynamism. But, as Mussolini fell under Hitler's sinister power, and his aggressive attempts to build a new Roman Empire floundered, he led the country to defeat and disaster in WW2 and his own life ended as violently as his career had begun.



Benito Mussolini, 1938

Itinerary

Day 1: Roman Holiday: fly to Rome or make own arrangements to join tour at hotel. Introductory talk. Hotel in Rome – 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Fascist City: Palazzo Venezia, EUR quarter, Villa Torlonia. (B,D)

Day 3: Mountain Rescue: Foro Italico stadium, Ardeatine caves (SS massacre site), Hotel Campo Imperatore. Overnight in a mountain hotel. (B,D)

Day 4: Duce's Hometown: Predappio - Casa Natale, Family Crypt. Hotel in Forli area – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 5: To The Lakes: Villa Carpena, Lake Garda, Vittoriale degli Italiani incl. mausoleum and theatre. Hotel in Lake Garda area – 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 6: Salò: Salò museum, villa and boathouse used by Mussolini. Free time. (B,D)

Day 7: Como: Lake Como, Dongo, Partisan Museum, visit the spot where Mussolini and Claretta Petacci were executed. Hotel near Lake Como – 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 8: Milan. Incl. Piazza San Sepolcro, Piazzale Loreto (where Mussolini's corpse was displayed). Fly Milan to London or extend your stay in Italy. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Travel with an expert guide and leading historian of Fascist Italy
- Visit major sites associated with the life of Mussolini including his birthplace and tomb at his hometown of Predappio
- Visit the Palazzo Venezia where Mussolini had his offices and the Villa Torlonia, Mussolini's family home, to see his private anti-air raid bunker
- Wonder at monolithic Fascist architecture at Rome's EUR quarter
- Visit the Hotel Campo Imperatore where Mussolini was freed by German airborne forces
- Wander through the extraordinary Vittoriale degli Italiani, the palatial home of the prophet of Fascism, Gabriele D'Annunzio
- Stay on beautiful Lake Garda and visit the place where Mussolini was captured and executed

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



Predappio: Mussolini's birthplace



Lake Garda



Normandy American Cemetery

Liberation! From Normandy to the Rhine

With America's GIs across North-West Europe

 10 Days: 3-12 May 2027  Dr Kyle Sinisi

 2  Starting from £5,345

During this 9 night, 10 day tour we follow American forces from the beaches of Normandy through northern France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany as they fight with their allies to liberate western Europe from Nazi rule. The itinerary includes the most important U.S. sites of this hard fought campaign: battlefields, fortifications, cemeteries, memorials, liberated towns and leading military museums that illuminate the American story. We begin on the Normandy beaches, where U.S. forces fought ashore before helping close the Falaise Pocket. The journey continues through the Armistice site at Compiègne, the American cemetery at Henri Chapelle, Aachen and the Hürtgen Forest, then into the Battle of the Bulge from Malmedy and La Gleize to Bastogne and Luxembourg. At Remagen we stand where the Americans crossed the Rhine, and conclude at Reims, where Germany signed its surrender. The tour also traces the experiences of the 2 million U.S. servicemen, from GIs to generals, including the famed George S. Patton

Historical Background

The Normandy landings of 6 June 1944 delivered the long awaited Allied strike against Nazi Europe. More than 160,000 troops crossed the Channel on the first day, securing a foothold that rapidly expanded. By late August over 2 million Allied soldiers were in France, driving German forces into retreat. U.S. forces played a decisive role. The 1st U.S. Infantry Division fought through fierce resistance at Omaha Beach, while the U.S. VII Corps advanced from Utah Beach to seize the Cotentin Peninsula. Allied breakthroughs in August trapped German troops in the Falaise Pocket and opened the way across France, past symbolic sites such as Compiègne. By autumn the Allies reached Germany's frontier. Aachen became the first German city captured by U.S. forces, and the First Army endured the brutal Hürtgen Forest battle. Germany's Ardennes Offensive in December created the "bulge," but determined American defence halted the attack. By early 1945 Germany was collapsing. The U.S. First Army crossed the Rhine at Remagen, and in May German commanders signed unconditional surrender at Reims, completing the American campaign from Normandy to victory.

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to or meet at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. Drive to Normandy. Hotel in Bayeux area – 3 nights. Welcome drinks and introductory talk. (D)

Day 2: Omaha Beach, Overlord Museum, Pointe du Hoc, St Laurent American National Cemetery/memorial. (B,D)

Day 3: Ste-Mere-Eglise, Airborne Museum, La Fiere causeway, Utah Beach, La Cambe German cemetery. (B,D)

Day 4: Falaise, Moissy Ford, Memorial Museum Montormel, Compiègne Armistice site. Hotel in Compiègne area – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 5: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, walking tour of Aachen. Hotel in Aachen – 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 6: Westwall sites, Hürtgenwald Museum, Vossenack German cemetery, Remagen Peace Museum. Return to Aachen. (B,D)

Day 7: Malmedy/Baugnez, Stavelot, Trois-Ponts, La Gleize, St Vith. Hotel in Bastogne – 3 nights. (B,D)

Day 8: Bastogne War Museum, battlefield touring north of Bastogne (may include Bois Jacques), Recogne-Bastogne German Military Cemetery, Foy. (B,D)

Day 9: Schumannseck, Wiltz, Ettelbruck, General Patton Memorial Museum, Patton Monument, Sherman tank, National Museum of Military History at Diekirch. Return to Bastogne. (B,D)

Day 10: Reims Surrender Museum. Return to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. (B)

Highlights

- Explore Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc battlefield of D-Day
- Discover airborne landings at Sainte-Mère-Eglise and La Fière causeway
- Examine Falaise Pocket and destruction of German forces in Normandy
- Follow Battle of the Bulge across Bastogne, St Vith and La Gleize
- Experience Hürtgen Forest and challenges of prolonged American combat operations
- Visit Remagen Bridge and the Allied crossing of the Rhine
- Conclude at Reims where German surrender ended war in Europe

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, all internal travel, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



Railway tunnel at Remagen Bridge



Bastogne War Museum



Pointe du Hoc



Glade of the Armistice



Operation Marita

The German Invasion of Greece 1941

8 Days: 10–17 May 2027 Col Bob Kershaw

2 Starting from £3,575

During this eight-day tour of Greece, as we journey south from the mountainous Bulgarian borderlands, we marvel at the dramatic scenery where every turn seemingly reveals a captivating aspect of that country's momentous history and well-loved mythology: the imposing forts of the Metaxas Line in Northern Greece that still dominate the surrounding countryside; Mount Olympus, home to the Greek gods, and the magical Vale of Tempe both of which formed the backbone of the Allied first line of defence; the pass at Thermopylae held by the Spartan 300 in 480 BC and New Zealand warriors some 2,400 years later; Athens, home to democracy and headquarters of the German occupying forces; and the Corinth isthmus which has witnessed the march of armies throughout time. Whilst our main focus is on the campaign of April 1941, we take a considerable interest in the Persian invasions of 480 and 490 BC.



Historical Background

The Metaxas Line was constructed only a few years before the outbreak of WW2, its purpose being to prevent or delay any attack from Bulgaria. But like the Maginot Line, it was compromised when the Germans outflanked it by invading Greece through Yugoslavia: after a determined defence, its forts were compelled to surrender following the capitulation of Thessaloniki. To delay German southwards exploitation, the newly and hastily arrived Commonwealth soldiers, known as 'W' Force, had to quickly form a defensive line anchored upon the River Haliacmon which offered a few days' resistance before it was itself outflanked following the Greek surrender in the northwest. Thereafter, 'W' force commenced a desperate but effective fighting withdrawal through central Greece towards the port of Piraeus from where they expected to be evacuated. All the time they were harassed by an imaginative and aggressive German pursuit, culminating in the twin pronged airborne and motorcycle assaults on the Corinth Isthmus.

Highlights

- Remote Metaxas Line forts
- The defence of the Haliacmon Line
- The ancient battles of Thermopylae and Marathon
- 'W' Force's fighting withdrawal
- The German airborne landings at Corinth
- Athens during occupation and revolt
- The naval heritage park at Piraeus

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels (except one night at Flix, 3 star), meals and drinks as indicated, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, rail travel as indicated, optional travel from UK.



Itinerary

Day 1: Thessaloniki: Fly from London Heathrow via Athens and/or assemble at Thessaloniki. Hotel - 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: The Metaxas Line: Fort Roupel. (B,L,D)

Day 3: The Haliacmon Line: the Varia pass, Servia, Platamon Ridge and Castle, Tempe Gorge. Hotel in Larissa - 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Withdrawal: Thermopylae (480 BC & 1941), Brallos. Hotel in Loutraki - 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Airborne assault: Corinth Canal, Acrocorinth. (B,D)

Day 6: Piraeus and Athens: Salamis (480 BC), Hellenic Maritime Heritage Park, Greek War Museum. Hotel in Athens - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 7: Athens: civil war, occupation, Acropolis. Rooftop farewell dinner at Hotel Grand Bretagne. (B,D)

Day 8: Evacuation: Marathon (490 BC), Porto Rafti, return flights to London Heathrow/leave the tour. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



The Spanish Civil War

For Whom the Bell Tolls: Conflict, Conviction, and the Fight for Spain

8 Days: 13–20 May 2027 Col Ray Wilkinson

2 Starting from £3,845

Starting in Madrid this tour explores the main battles that took place on the city's periphery, in particular the exploits of the British and American volunteers, as the Republicans tenaciously held on to the capital city throughout the war. Admiring civil war inspired art such as Picasso's Cubist painting Guernica and reflecting on Franco's former resting place at the Valle de los Caídos we discuss the war's sensitive legacy to modern Spain. We also visit Toledo with its enormous Alcázar, scene of the dramatic siege, and now a fantastic military history museum, before travelling north to Aragon where we visit the remarkable Cave Hospital at La Bisbal de Falset. We then move to the Ebro valley and stand where opposing sides fought a bloody battle of attrition on the Ebro Front. We also explore the exploits of British and American volunteers who fought determinedly in the International Brigades. The tour culminates in the graceful city of Barcelona where we walk the streets learning about the Civil War in the city.

Historical Background

The Spanish Civil War was a particularly bloody conflict that led to the deaths of half a million people, and over 30 years of a dictatorship under Franco, the social and political impact of which is still being felt in Spain today. Starting as what was seen as a purely internal affair, the conflict soon became used by some countries as a 'dress rehearsal' for the Second World War. Commentators have gone so far as to say the Second World War started in 1936 not 1939. Yet at the time that was not the prevailing attitude amongst the majority. This view is typical of many governments of the day: "With France and Spain menaced by Bolshevism, it is not inconceivable that before long it may pay us to throw in our lot with Germany and Italy, and the greater our detachment from European entanglements the better." Sir Maurice Hankey, Cabinet Secretary, 20 June 1936. Despite the non-interventionist policy towards Spain adopted by most western governments (apart from Italy, Germany, and Russia), some 40,000 individuals from around 50 countries volunteered to fight in Spain on the Republican side, and 1,500 foreign nationals, mainly from Britain, Ireland, and Portugal, volunteered to fight for the Nationalists. Amongst their ranks were left-wing writers such as George Orwell and John Cornford, Winston Churchill's anti-fascist nephews Giles and Esmond Romilly, and passionate anti-communists like Peter Kemp.

Itinerary

Day 1: Flight from London to Madrid or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Madrid - 5 nights. (D)

Day 2: travel by high-speed train to Toledo – visit Alcázar and Spanish Army Museum. Walking tour of Toledo in Civil War. Return to Madrid. (B,D)

Day 3: Madrid - Ciudad Universitaria, Parque del Oeste, Casa de Campo. (B,D)

Day 4: Brunete battle sites, Valle de los Caídos. (B,D)

Day 5: Jarama battle sites – incl. International Brigades memorial, Morata de Tajuna - museum of the Battle of Jarama. Return to Madrid to the Reina Sofia Gallery – view Picasso's Guernica. (B,D)

Day 6: high-speed train Madrid to Lleida (2 hours). Coach Lleida - Hospital Cave at La Bisbal de Falset, continue to Ascó. Hotel in area – 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Ebro Campaign battle sites, Exposició Guerra Civil La Trinxera, Corbera d'Ebre. Drive to Barcelona. Check in to hotel for one night. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Civil War in Barcelona walking tour. Midday travel to the airport for flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Spain. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore key Madrid battlefields: Jarama, Brunete, and Ciudad Universitaria.
- Visit Toledo's Alcázar, site of a dramatic Civil War siege.
- Learn about International Brigades and British and American volunteers.
- See Valle de los Caídos and Picasso's Guernica in Madrid.
- Discover the Cave Hospital and Ebro Campaign battlefields.
- Conclude in Barcelona with a Civil War walking tour.

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels (except one night at Flix, 3 star), meals and drinks as indicated, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, rail travel as indicated, optional travel from UK.





Ninth Fort Memorial, Kaunas

The Holocaust in the Baltic States

6 Days: 2-7 June 2027 Martin Winstone
 2 Price TBC

This unique 6-day tour takes visitors to important memorial sites of death and resistance during the Holocaust but also exposes participants to the vibrant history of Jewish life in Latvia and Lithuania. We learn about the plight of Jews in these countries, the atrocities in Riga, Kaunas and Vilnius, the suffering in the ghettos and the mass shootings at Paneriai and Rumbula Forest. We also learn about armed Jewish resistance groups and the Japanese vice-consul who saved over 6,000 Jewish lives. Travelling through these thickly forested lands we visit some of the most poignant sites of death and resistance of the Holocaust.

Historical Background

For centuries leading up to World War Two the Baltic states possessed a rich Jewish culture located in hundreds of rural and urban communities with their own traditional ways of living. But the invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany in June 1941 spelt disaster for this ancient culture as the murderous antisemitic ideology of the Nazis spread through the region. Special Action Groups or Einsatzgruppen, aided in many cases by other military units and local people, rounded up thousands of Jewish victims as well as Communists, Roma and Soviet officials. After being stripped of their clothes and valuables these people were then put to death.

The scale of this industrial slaughter in the Baltic states is staggering: between July 1941 to 1944 more than 70,000 people were murdered at Paneriai outside Vilnius and between November 30th and December 7th 1941, 25,000 Jews were murdered in the Rumbula forest in Latvia. Many of these victims had been herded into ghettos which were then 'liquidated'. Major ghettos were established at Vilna, Kovno, Siauliai and Swieciai as well as work camps. At the end of October 1941 over 32,000 Jews were confined to ghettos in Riga.

Many of Estonia's Jews managed to avoid the Nazi terror by escaping to the Soviet Union and by January 1942 the country was declared 'Judenfrei'. The bloodletting in the other states was of a different order: of the 220,000 Jews at the time of the Nazi invasion in Lithuania, an estimated 190,000 to 195,000 were killed

during the war; and from a pre-war Jewish population of 93,000 in Latvia around 70,000 were murdered.

The Holocaust is a shocking chapter in European history but the memorials and sites continue to keep alive the memory of the victims and stand as a constant reminder to future generations. .

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Vilnius or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Check in to Vilnius hotel - 2 nights.

Day 2: walking tour of Vilnius Old Town and its Jewish heritage; Gaon Jewish State Museum; Holocaust Exhibition (Green House Museum); free time in Vilnius. (B,D)

Day 3: Paneriai and Varnikai massacre sites; Trakai; drive to Kaunas, walking tour - incl. Lietūkis Garage Massacre Memorial; Sugihara House Museum; 9th Fort of Kaunas Fortress. Hotel in Kaunas - 1 night. (B,D)

Day 4: drive to Šiauliai - site of ghetto; Kužiai Forest Memorial. Hotel in Riga - 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 5: walking tour of Holocaust in Riga (approx. 4km): Old Jewish Cemetery, remains of the Choral Synagogue, ghetto site, Holocaust Museum, memorial wall; by coach to Kaiserwald Concentration camp memorial, Bikernieki memorial, Rumbula Forest Memorial and Salaspils Concentration camp Memorial. (B,D)

Day 6: Fly Riga to London or perhaps extend your stay in the region. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- In the company of a leading Holocaust scholar and author
- Visit deeply moving Holocaust sites in the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas and Riga
- Visit the terrible massacre sites at Bikernieki and the Rumbula Forest near Riga and the 9th Fort outside Kaunas
- Visit the Kaiserwald and Salaspils Concentration camp memorials near Riga
- Learn from excellent museums devoted to the events such as the Gaon Museum in Vilnius and Riga Holocaust Museum

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, optional travel from UK.



Old Jewish Cemetery, Riga



Rumbula Forest Memorial



The Battle of Britain

The RAF's Finest Hour

6 Days: 10-15 September 2027 Sqn Ldr (ret'd) Jonathan Rooke
 2 Price TBC

This tour of Southeast England visits many of the front-line airfields and bases that would have been familiar to the men of No. 11 Group RAF during the Battle of Britain. Overlooking the English Channel, we will hear of the heroic deeds of the likes of Billy Fiske and Arthur Clowes and imagine their desperate aerial duels in the skies above. We will enjoy exclusive access and special guided tours of superb collections of Spitfires, Hurricanes, ME 109s and a host of other aircraft and relevant artefacts: you will even get to sit in a Spitfire cockpit where you will have the controls explained to you (agility required).



Capel-le-Ferne

Historical Background

In the early summer of 1940, RAF Fighter Command was faced with the dilemma of bolstering the crumbling defence of France or withholding its resources in order to defend the United Kingdom. Fortunately, under the leadership of Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, those precious resources were husbanded, developed and refined into what became known as the 'Dowding System'. This 'system' was to prove its worth later that summer when the German Luftwaffe sent sortie after sortie across the English Channel with objective of destroying the RAF and thus clearing the skies in preparation of a full-scale invasion of Southern England. Vastly outnumbered during those frenzied months, nearly 3000 young men flew multiple daily sorties against the mighty Luftwaffe but despite horrendous casualties they ultimately prevailed through inspirational leadership, professionalism, technological innovation and the dedication of a myriad of supporting ground crew. As Sir Winston Churchill famously said, "never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few".

Itinerary

Day 1: Introduction and Bentley Priory: Meet at Harrow hotel for sandwich lunch and introductory talk; Bentley Priory. Hotel in Harrow - 2 nights. (L, D)

Day 2: Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show. (B,D)

Day 3: Sit in a Spit and RAF Command: RAF Hendon, sit in a Spitfire cockpit, Polish War Memorial, RAF Uxbridge. Continue to Chichester - hotel 1 night. (B,D)

Day 4: Dogfight: RAF Westhampnett, Tangmere, Boxgrove Priory, Seven Sisters, Cuckmere Haven. Continue to Eastbourne - hotel for 1 night. (B,D)

Day 5: Scramble: Through Romney Marsh to RAF Hawkinge, lunch at The Jackdaw Inn, Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. Continue to Folkestone - hotel for 1 night. (B,D)

Day 6: Biggin Hill and Kenley: Biggin Hill - guided tour of the Spitfires, Memorial Museum and chapel; continue to RAF Kenley. Return to Harrow hotel - depart or extend your stay. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



Bentley Priory

Highlights

- Guided throughout by leading WW2 Aviation expert Jon Rooke
- The fantastic IWM Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show showcasing a wealth of WW2 aviation history in the air
- Dowding's office and explore the exhibitions dedicated to the Dowding System
- The Operations Rooms of No. 1 Group
- Explore Cuckmere Haven and the south coast for a realistic account of the duels that took place over England's south coast
- Lunch at the evocative Jackdaw Inn
- the famous Biggin Hill airfield
- Sit in a Spitfire and experience the cockpit first-hand

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Spitfires of 19 Sqn RAF





The Anne Frank Story

The Holocaust in the Low Countries and western Germany

📅 9 Days: 13–21 July 2027 🧑🏫 Dr Isabel Wollaston 🍽️ 2 🏠 Price TBC



Scan for the full itinerary

Highlights

- Visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam to see the Secret Annex where the Franks hid and Anne wrote her diary
- Explore the camps at Vught, Bergen-Belsen, Neuengamme and Fort Breendonk
- Visit the National Holocaust Museum of The Netherlands and Dossin Barracks
- Learn about how the Nazis indoctrinated their cadres at the Vogelsang Documentation Centre near Aachen

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.

Historical Background

On 10 May 1940 German forces rolled into The Netherlands and Belgium and overwhelmed the nations' armies; rapid surrender followed. The oppressive Nazi regime which took hold of these countries was a disaster for Jewish communities, many of which had lived in the region for centuries. Fiercely anti-Semitic policies forced Jews into social isolation, seizure or destruction of property became prevalent, and violence against them was soon commonplace. In 1942 a systematic deportation of Jews to concentration and extermination camps began.

Amongst the myriad human tragedies of the Holocaust one has stood out: the story of a young German-born Jewish girl who hid in an Amsterdam house with her family until tragically discovered by the Nazis. The experience of Anne Frank (1929–45) has become emblematic of the tense lives lived by those forced underground and the fear that discovery meant almost certain death.

All over the Low Countries Jews and other perceived 'undesirables' were being rounded up and sent via the Westerbork and Dossin transit locations to their terrible fate. Bergen Belsen was one of these but many Jews perished within their own countries at sites such as Fort Breendonk and Camp Vught. About three-quarters of the Jewish population of The Netherlands were killed – the highest percentage in Western Europe – and in Belgium of about 66,000 Jews in the country around 28,000 were murdered during the Holocaust.



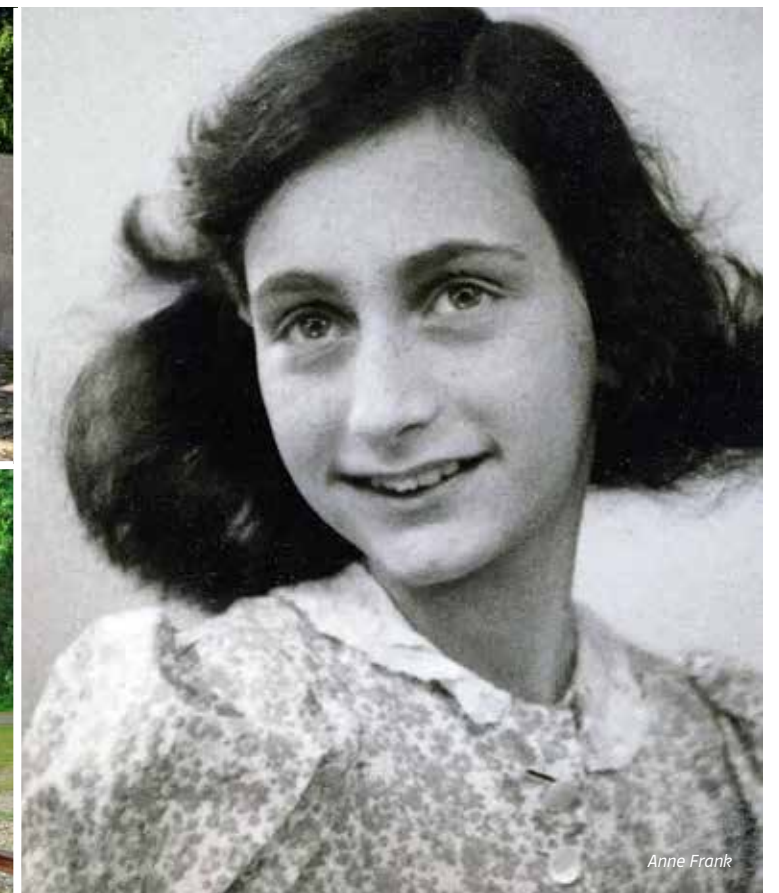
Jewish ghetto, Amsterdam



Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp memorial



Camp Westerbork monument



Anne Frank



Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Amsterdam or join tour at Amsterdam hotel. Walking tour of Amsterdam incl. Dutch Theatre, Holocaust Memorial and Auschwitz Memorial. Hotel in Amsterdam – 2 nights. (D)

Day 2: Jewish Museum, Anne Frank House, National Holocaust Museum. (B,D)

Day 3: Camp Vught, Dossin Barracks Museum. Hotel in Mechelen – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 4: Fort Breendonk. Drive to Aachen and hotel for 1 night. (B,D)

Day 5: Vogelsang Documentation Centre. Drive to Hannover (4 hours 30 mins) - hotel for 1 night. (B,D)

Day 6: Bergen-Belsen. Drive to Hamburg and hotel for 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 7: Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. Return to Hamburg. (B)

Day 8: Westerbork Transit Camp. Hotel in Westerbork area – 1 night. (B,D)

Day 9: Drive to Amsterdam Schiphol airport via Naarden. Fly Amsterdam to London (or extend stay in The Netherlands). (B)



Jewish prisoners arrive at Camp Vught



Anne Frank House, Amsterdam

"I wish to go on living even after my death"

Anne Frank, *The Diary of a Young Girl*



A Rain of Ruin from the Air

The Defeat of Japan: The Tokyo firebombing, Okinawa and the atomic bomb

13 Days: 26 September–08 October 2027

James M Scott 2 Starting from £7,695



Highlights

- Told from the soldier's perspective
- The fight for the Merville Battery
- The site of the US airborne landing at Ste-Mere-Eglise
- La Fiere causeway, scene of a desperate four-day battle
- Utah Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach & Omaha Beach
- The German battery with its extant guns at Longues sur Mer
- Pegasus Bridge, the site of the British glider-borne assault
- The American National Cemetery and memorial at St Laurent
- The new British Normandy Memorial at Ver-Sur-Mer
- The superb Overlord Museum

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels (Haneda airport hotel 3 star), 4 internal Shinkansen ('Bullet') train journeys, flights from Tokyo to Okinawa and Okinawa to Kagoshima, modern coach travel elsewhere, all breakfasts, lunches and dinners (one night at own expense), all entrance fees, expert historian, local guides and TCE tour manager throughout.

During this 12-night, 13-day tour we travel the length of Japan from the sub-tropical islands of Okinawa and Kyushu, through mainland Japan to Tokyo with stays en-route at Naha, Kagoshima, Nagasaki, Hiroshima and Kyoto. The itinerary has been carefully designed to provide in-situ expert narrative and analysis to stimulate conversation and debate on the decisions, motivations, controversies, and consequences of pivotal and dramatic events. And whilst the focus of our tour is predominantly the closing months of World War Two, we will absorb plenty of Japanese culture and cuisine as we explore magnificent shrines, stroll through awe-inspiring gardens, dine at local restaurants, travel aboard Japan's legendary Shinkansen 'Bullet' trains and enjoy well-positioned four-star hotels.



Itsukushima Shrine

Historical Background

In the spring of 1942, Japan reached its zenith—an empire that stretched across twenty million square miles and seven time zones. But this behemoth would not survive. By 1945, the American forces, having battled across the Pacific, closed in on the Japanese homeland. In April, American troops landed on Okinawa in what would prove to be one of the most hellacious fights of the Pacific War, an 82-day slugfest that would claim the lives of as many as 150,000 civilians. To counter this threat, Japan unleashed storms of kamikazes, monsoons of metal and flesh that rained down on American warships. Nightly raids by the America's awesome new B-29 Superfortresses meanwhile incinerated Tokyo and dozens of other cities. All of this paled, however, from the war-ending attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that ushered the world into the nuclear age. The culmination of these catastrophic final months of war would ravage the Japanese homeland and lead Emperor Hirohito to announce his nation's surrender at noon on August 15, 1945.



Scan for the full itinerary

"Let all the souls here rest in peace for we shall not repeat the evil"

Inscription on the Hiroshima Cenotaph



Hiroshima Peace Memorial

Itinerary

Day 0: Fly London-Tokyo or own arrangements to Haneda airport hotel.

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo Haneda. Introductory talk and drinks. (D)

Day 2: Okinawa Landing Beaches. Fly Tokyo-Okinawa. Hagushi beaches, Chibichiri and Simuku Gama Caves. Hotel in Naha for 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 3: The Shuri Defence Line. Kazuku Ridge, Maeda escarpment/Hacksaw Ridge, Japanese HQ at Shuri Castle, underground complex and museum in the former Japanese Naval headquarters. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Final Moves. Buckner Monument, Peace Memorial and museum, Himeyuri Museum. Fly to Kagoshima and hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Kamikaze airbase Chiran, Kyushu. Train to Nagasaki. Hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Nagasaki. Atomic Bomb Museum, 'Ground Zero'. Train to Hiroshima. Hotel for 2 nights. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Hiroshima. Peace Memorial Park, Peace Memorial Museum, Atomic Bomb Dome. Return ferry to Miyajima Island and Itsukushima Shrine/ Torii Gate. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Kure. Self Defence Force and Maritime museums. Train to Kyoto. Hotel for 2 nights. Walking tour of historic centre. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Kyoto. Rokuon-ji temple complex including Kinkaku-ji/ Temple of the Golden Pavilion'. Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Nijo Castle. (B,D)

Day 10: Firebombing. Train to Tokyo. Hotel for 3 nights. The Centre of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Japan at War. Yushukan War Memorial, Yasukuni Shrine, Showa Museum in Tokyo. Battleship Mikasa in Yokosuka. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Tokyo. Great Kanto Earthquake Museum, The Imperial Palace Gardens, NHK broadcast museum, General MacArthur's office. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Departures. Return flights home. (B)



Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial



Higashiyama District, Kyoto



Temple of the Golden Pavilion



Imperial Palace Gardens, Tokyo



Hiroshima Victims Memorial Cenotaph



Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment board UH-1 helicopters in the Filhol Rubber Plantation area in 1966

The Vietnam War

From Defeat at Dien Bien Phu to the Fall of Saigon

15 Days: 27 December 2026–10 January 2027 Bill Allison

2 Starting from £5,195

Highlights

- Visit the Site of the Battle of Dien Bien Phu
- Explore Hanoi & Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)
- Luxury Junk cruise in Ha Long Bay
- Epic sightseeing in the DMZ and Cu Chi tunnels
- Khe Sanh Marine Base
- Visit the fascinating Ho Chi Minh Trail Museum
- Vietnam Military History Museum
- Explore Hoa Lò Prison, better known as the Hanoi Hilton
- The Muong Phang tunnels and bunker system
- The recently rebuilt Dien Bien Phu Victory Museum
- Examine the 1968 Tet Offensive
- Explore the site of the US Embassy and visit the War Remnants Museum.

Holiday Essentials

4-star or best available hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.

Appealing to history and culture enthusiasts alike, this tour combines the key locations of the Vietnam war, with the stunning highlights of that country. Vietnam offers a rich culture and history, combined with delicious local cuisine with a French twist. Hanoi, with its leafy tree lined avenues, plays host to fascinating, thought-provoking museums and military sites. Further north we explore the battlefield of Dien Bien Phu, which signalled the end of French Colonial rule and savour the breath-taking vistas of Ha Long Bay. We continue our journey south to the former DMZ, visiting the Citadel in Hue where some of the fiercest fighting took place during the 1968 Tet Offensive. Enjoy some 'R&R' at China beach, cruise the Mekong Delta in the wake of the U.S. Brown Water Navy and explore the incredible Cu Chi tunnels, all in the company of our expert historian. Finally, relax with a drink in the rooftop bar at the Rex Hotel in Saigon, famous hangout of war correspondents and senior US military officials.



Scan for the full itinerary

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Hanoi



Hue Citadel



The infamous Hanoi Hilton today



Reunification Palace, Ho Chi Minh City



Ha Long Bay

Historical Background

On the 7th of May 1954, the Viet Minh were victorious at the battle of Dien Bien Phu, thus ending French involvement in Indochina. The ensuing Geneva Conference in November of that year divided the country in two along the 17th parallel. North Vietnam continued the fight as an extension of their desire for independence against colonial rule, supported by China and the Soviet Union. The United States and her allies, who feared the rise of communism in Southeast Asia, sided with the South and thus ushered in a new war. American involvement began in earnest in the spring of 1965 when 3,500 US Marines landed near Da Nang; the number of US ground troops then rose rapidly to 200,000 by December of the same year. By this time the North Vietnamese Army and insurgent National Liberation Front (otherwise known as the Viet Cong) controlled large portions of the rural South. The Tet Offensive of 1968 saw the beginnings of a shift to fighting in more urban areas, with the major cities of Hue and Saigon enduring fierce fighting with regiment-sized forces opposing each other. Urban areas increasingly became the focus of later operations conducted by the North, such as the Easter Offensive of 1972 and their final Spring Offensive of 1975. Numerous atrocities were committed by both sides, including the use of chemical and biological weapons such as Napalm and Agent Orange. By the end of the war on 30th April 1975, more than 58,000 Americans and an estimated 1.5 million Vietnamese soldiers and civilians had lost their lives.

Itinerary

- Day 0:** Fly overnight London to Hanoi.
- Day 1:** Arrival. Free afternoon. Introductory talk. Hotel in Hanoi – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** Ho Chi Minh Trail Museum. Military History Museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 3:** Hanoi: Ho Chi Minh Complex – incl. Mausoleum, Presidential Palace, wooden stilt house; Hoa Lò Prison, General Command Headquarters. (B,L,D)
- Day 4:** Fly Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu. Victory Monument, battlefield museum, Viet Minh cemetery. Hotel in Dien Bien Phu – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5:** Full day at Dien Bien Phu - Muong Phang tunnels, French trench and bunkers, Hill A1. (B,L,D)
- Day 6:** Dien Bien Phu: General de Castries's bunker, French Bailey Bridge, Anne-Marie defences. Fly Dien Bien Phu to Hanoi. Hotel in Hanoi – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7:** Drive to Ha Long Bay, overnight cruise in luxury junk (one night onboard). (B,L,D)
- Day 8:** Morning cruise. Drive to Hanoi Airport – fly to Hue. Hotel in Hue – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 9:** DMZ - Khe Sanh, Rockpile, Ta Con, Hien Luong Bridge, Vinh Moc tunnels, Vinh Linh. (B,L,D)
- Day 10:** Hue Citadel, Red 2 and China beaches. Hotel in Danang – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 11:** Fly Danang to Ho Chi Minh City. Cu Chi tunnels. Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 12:** Ap Bac, My Tho, Mekong Delta by boat. (B,L,D)
- Day 13:** Reunification Palace, US Embassy, War Remnants Museum. Fly Ho Chi Minh City to London. (B)
- Day 14:** Arrive in London



French troops under fire at Dien Bien Phu, 1954





Château Gaillard

Normandy: Conquerors, Liberators and Artists

9 Days: 11–19 April 2027 Julian Humphrys

2 Starting from £4,495

Normandy is a distinctive region of France, shaped by its Viking origins and the legacy of William, Conqueror of England. From Normandy's rich panoply of treasures we explore Rouen's medieval streets, where Gothic architecture and the story of Joan of Arc define the city, the Mont Saint-Michel, a tidal island crowned by a soaring abbey, and Dol de Bretagne, birthplace of Scotland's Stewart dynasty. At the dramatic ruins of Château Gaillard overlooking the Seine we marvel over Richard the Lionheart's formidable fortifications and on Normandy's vast beaches, reflect on the dramatic 1944 Allied landings that began Europe's liberation from Nazi rule.

The region's softer beauty appears in the landscapes that inspired the Impressionists. At Giverny we visit Claude Monet's home, and in Honfleur admire the pastel harbour that influenced his work. The tour blends military history, remembrance and artistic inspiration across Normandy's most compelling sites.

Historical Background

In September 1066, a great Norman fleet crossed the Channel, launching William of Normandy's conquest of Anglo Saxon England. Nearly nine centuries later, in 1944, their descendants would return across the same waters to begin Operation Overlord – not a campaign of conquest, but one of liberation. This tour explores key locations linked to both eras and the people who shaped them. From the medieval period, we visit some of Normandy's most remarkable buildings: the abbeys and cathedrals of Caen, Bayeux, and Dol; the castles of Creully and Château Gaillard; and the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont Saint Michel. Turning to 1944, we explore the landing zones where British and American airborne troops secured the invasion flanks, walk in the footsteps of those who fought their way ashore on D Day, and visit outstanding military museums and moving war cemeteries that tell the story of the campaign. Normandy is also a landscape long loved by artists. Corot, Boudin, Dufy, and Monet all found inspiration in its light, coastline, and countryside. With visits to Monet's gardens at Giverny, the bustling port of Honfleur, and the regional capital Rouen – with its magnificent cathedral and atmospheric medieval streets – we also enjoy the cultural richness that has made Normandy a centre of artistic heritage.

Itinerary

Day 1: Assemble Ashford International Station – meet coach. Drive to Caen via Le Shuttle. Stop at Pegasus Bridge. Hotel in Caen – 6 nights. (D)

Day 2: Ste-Mere-Eglise, Airborne Museum, La Fiere causeway, Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Overlord Museum, American National Cemetery. (B,D)

Day 3: Gold Beach, Crepons, Creully, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Juno Beach. (B,D)

Day 4: Longues-sur-Mer, Bayeux Cathedral, Baron Gérard Museum of Art, Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy, Bayeux War Cemetery. Dinner at customers' own expense. (B)

Day 5: Caen: Abbaye aux Dames and Abbaye Aux Hommes, Mémorial de Caen. (B,D)

Day 6: Mont Saint Michel, Dol-de-Bretagne. (B,D)

Day 7: Rouen: Cathedral, Castle, Le Gros-Horloge, Church of St Joan of Arc. Hotel in Rouen – 2 nights. (B,D)

Day 8: Château Gaillard, Giverny – Monet house, Museum of Impressionism. (B,D)

Day 9: Honfleur, Le Shuttle from Calais, tour ends at Ashford International Station. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



Highlights

- Explore the varied sites and treasures of Normandy from its dramatic military history through to the art of the Impressionists
- Stand on the very beaches where Allied forces landed on 6 June 1944
- Visit Dol de Bretagne, from where Scotland's Stewart dynasty originated
- Enjoy spectacular medieval architecture at the Mont Saint Michel, Caen and Bayeux
- Walk on the ramparts of Château Gaillard, Richard the Lionheart's massive fortress on the Seine
- Explore the fate of Joan of Arc at the place of her demise in Rouen
- Visit Claude Monet's house at Giverny and the Impressionists' harbour town of Honfleur

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Gold Beach



Mont St Michel

The Rock of Gibraltar



The Pillars of Hercules

The History of Gibraltar, Ceuta and Cadiz

7 Days: 13-19 October 2027 Colonel Professor Matthias Strohn

2 Price TBC

This unique tour explores the remarkable history of the lands on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar, site of the mythical Pillars of Hercules. Using a Gibraltar hotel as our base throughout we trace the origins of the Rock of Gibraltar from a simple Almohad watchtower built in 1160 through to the impressive Spanish and British batteries and fortifications, prepared to control the sea lanes below. Making the short crossing from Algeciras to North Africa we spend a day in Ceuta, ceded by Portugal to Spain in 1668, and today a Spanish enclave within Morocco. We wander the formidable walls of the Old Town and drive to Mount Hacho Fortress, commanding the straits below. We spend a day in Cadiz exploring the Napoleonic history of the city as well as the battle site of Barossa (1811) when a British force failed to break the French siege of Cadiz. We also stop at Cabo Trafalgar to discuss the events of 21 October 1805, when Nelson destroyed a combined Franco-Spanish fleet 16km offshore, in Britain's most celebrated naval victory. Our tour returns to Gibraltar where we explore further fascinating aspects of its history including the enormous 100-ton gun of Magdala Battery, Harding's Battery, the Trafalgar Cemetery and Nelson's Anchorage.

This is a tour of variety and discovery where we delve into some of the most interesting sites at Europe's most strategic crossing point.

Historical Background

In Greek mythology the Pillars of Hercules mark the westernmost extent of the hero's travels marked by the modern summits of the Rock of Gibraltar and what may have been Monte Hacho in Ceuta. Through history the straits have served as both crossing point between Africa and Europe and portal between the tempestuous Atlantic and placid Mediterranean seas. The area was colonised by the Phoenicians from the 9th century BC onwards and their influence survives in place names such as Cadiz (Gades). In 237 BC the Carthaginians under Hamilcar crossed the straits into Roman Hispania and this was followed by a succession of movements and invasions: Romans travelling between the provinces of Hispania and Mauritania; Vandals raiding south from Germania into North Africa in the 5th century; Moors and Berbers crossing to Spain in the 8th–11th centuries; and Spain, Portugal and France seeking control over parts of Morocco from the 16th century. The vital strategic importance of the straits attracted the attention of European powers and in 1713 Gibraltar was ceded to Great Britain and became an important naval base. The Pillars of Hercules remain an area of contention with

lingering Spanish claims on 'the Rock' and illegal immigration from North Africa posing significant challenges. Nevertheless, the enthralling archaeology, history and culture of these coastal littorals reflect a rich profusion of cultures and influences waiting to be discovered.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Gibraltar or join tour in hotel. Hotel in Gibraltar – 6 nights. (D)

Day 2: full day in Gibraltar by foot and cable car incl. Signal Hill, Siege Tunnels, Princess Caroline's Battery, World War Two Tunnels, Moorish Castle. (B,D)

Day 3: day trip to Ceuta by ferry incl. Old Town, Royal Walls, Mount Hacho Fortress, El Desnarigado Fort. (B,D)

Day 4: day trip to Cadiz incl. tour of Old Town, Museo el Dique and Peninsular War sites. (B,D)

Day 5: full day in Gibraltar incl. Harding and Magdala Batteries, Nelson's Anchorage, Trafalgar Cemetery, Garrison Library. (B,D)

Day 6: Tarifa, Barossa, Cabo Trafalgar. (B,D)

Day 7: fly Gibraltar to London or extend your stay in the region. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.



Highlights

- Stay in historic Gibraltar with its imposing Rock and wealth of heritage attractions
- Take the cable car to the Rock's summit to savour the superb view of the straits
- Explore Gibraltar's historic defences including the Great Siege Tunnels, Princess Caroline's Battery and World War Two Tunnels
- Enjoy a day trip to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta to visit its defences and fortresses
- Explore the rich history of Cadiz and the Napoleonic battle site of Barossa
- Learn about the Battle of Trafalgar from the memorial at the eponymous cape
- Visit Tarifa to learn about the long siege of 1811–12

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



El Desnarigado Fort



Cadiz



Melilla



Fort St Angelo, Valletta

Fortress Malta

From The Knights of St John to World War Two

8 Days: 4–11 November 2026 Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck

8 Days: 3–10 November 2027 Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck

2 Starting from £2,725 (2027 price TBC)

This is a wonderfully varied and scenic tour of Malta – a tiny island with a warm welcome and proud military and cultural heritage. The Second World War siege will be our main focus, but we also examine the indelible marks that other cultures and events have left behind: the unspoilt ancient walled city of Mdina, the renaissance architecture of the Knights of St John, the brief occupation by Napoleon and the extant Victorian fortifications. We will enjoy coastal drives, a harbour tour, a break on the island of Gozo, visit superb palaces and fortresses, see underground shelters and secret command posts, and many other places of interest on this wonderful and friendly Mediterranean island. Throughout we will be based in historic Valletta with its heritage sites and excellent restaurants – a wonderful holiday for military, cultural and culinary enthusiasts alike.

Historical Background

Malta has stood at the strategic crossroads of the Mediterranean for centuries, its history shaped by successive incomers: ancient Phoenicians, Romans and Arabians, the Knights of St John, Napoleon and the British. It was the scene of two of the most cataclysmic sieges in military history: the Great Siege of 1565 when the Knights of St John held out against vastly superior Ottoman forces; and the Second World War siege of 1940–43 when British and Maltese forces and civilians together held out against the might of Hitler and Mussolini, making a significant contribution to the success of the land campaign in North Africa, naval operations in the Mediterranean and, indeed, the outcome of the Second World War itself. There are striking similarities between the two sieges; the spirit of The Knights' earlier struggle inspired their 20th Century successors to fight on against seemingly impossible odds.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Malta. Arrive at Luqa airport, former RAF Bomber Command airfield or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the Valletta hotel. Welcome drinks. Upper Barrakka Gardens for sunset. (D)

Day 2: The Great Siege 1565. North Valletta peninsula, audio-visual 'Malta Experience', National War Museum, St Elmo's Fort, 'Sacra Infermeria'. (B,D)

Day 3: The Development of Valletta 1565–1800. Walking tour of Valletta, Grand Master's Palace, Grand Square, Cathedral, Knights 'auberges' and city walls, tour of the Casa Rocca Piccola. (B,D)

Day 4: British Colonial Period 1800–1942. Pembroke Army Garrison; St Paul's Bay, Wignacourt Tower, the Victoria Lines and Fort Rinella. Dinner at own expense. (B)

Day 5: Gozo. Red Tower on Marfa Ridge. Ferry to Gozo, Ir-Rabat - citadel, walls and Baroque cathedral. Free time for personal exploration. (B,D)

Day 6: Second World War: The Maritime & Home Fronts. Boat trip around Valletta's harbours, Birgu wharf and old town square, Fort St Angelo, views across Grand Harbour, Second World War Museum. Ferry back to Valletta. (B,D)

Day 7: Second World War: Land & Air Fronts. Coach tour of central Malta: land defences, barracks and hospitals, Mdina, Ta'qali and Malta Aviation Museum, Dingli cliffs. (B,D)

Day 8: Second World War: Command & Control. Lascaris War Rooms. Firing of the Noon Day Gun. Drive to the airport for return flights to London or perhaps extend your stay in Malta. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Based throughout in the centre of historic Valletta
- Discover the Great Siege of 1565
- Fabulous Military, Gothic and Baroque architecture
- Learn the fascinating story of the Knights of St John
- Explore and interpret the island's extensive fortifications
- The best part of a day on Gozo
- A thorough study of Malta's heroic and epic defence during WW2
- All in the company of expert historian and retired general, Ashley Truluck

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Upper Barrakka Gardens



Grand Master's Palace



Ta' Pinu Basilica, Gozo



The Suffragettes Deeds, not Words

5 Days: 11–15 March 2027 2 Starting from £2,295

Dr Sarah Richardson & Helen Pankhurst

This 4-night and 5-day tour explores the militant Suffragette movement in Britain from its origins in a Manchester parlour room through to dramatic acts of civil disobedience in the nation's capital and beyond. From Manchester—the birthplace of the Women's Social and Political Union and home of the Pankhurst Centre—to the iconic protest sites in London of Parliament Square, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace, we explore the dramatic locations where the fight for women's voting rights turned bold and militant. Stand before Caxton Hall, once the gathering place for the famous "Women's Parliaments," and visit Epsom Racecourse, where Emily Davison's tragic and heroic act marked her as the movement's first martyr. This tour offers a compelling insight into the struggle, sacrifice and unstoppable determination that defined the Suffragette cause.

A special feature of this tour is an evening with Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of the Suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, who will talk about the movement, her family and her own work in continuing the legacy.

Due to the unpredictable nature of London traffic we will be making use of the London Underground on this tour to visit many sites as well as regional train services to get to sites outside the capital. In central London we will tour certain areas on foot, e.g. the area around the Palace of Westminster and Whitehall.

Historical Background

The Suffragettes were an active women's rights movement that emerged from the broader women's suffrage movement which had gained traction in Britain by the end of the nineteenth century. Frustrated with the slow progress of the movement in 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with a view to developing a more militant direction. While earlier suffragists had used peaceful lobbying, the WSPU adopted the motto 'Deeds, not words,' embracing direct action to draw national attention to their cause.

Suffragettes organised marches, disrupted political meetings, chained themselves to railings, and staged acts of civil disobedience. Some escalated to property damage and arson attacks on empty buildings in protest at government inaction. Their arrests often led to hunger strikes in prison and, in response, authorities force-fed many imprisoned women, prompting public outrage and increasing sympathy for the movement.

During the First World War, the WSPU suspended militant action and supported the war effort, which helped shift public perception. In 1918,

after decades of activism, Parliament granted voting rights to women over 30 who met certain property requirements. Full electoral equality came a decade later, in 1928, when women gained the vote on the same terms as men—fulfilling the Suffragettes' long-fought goal.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Manchester midday for buffet lunch and introductory talk. Pankhurst Centre. Hotel in Manchester – 1 night. (L,D)

Day 2: Manchester – Manchester Free Trade Hall, Alexandra Park. Train to London. Hotel in London – 3 nights. (B,D)

Day 3: London – Parliament Square, Houses of Parliament guided tour, National Archives visit. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Epsom Downs Racecourse, Caxton Hall (outside), Downing Street (outside), Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace (outside). (B,D)

Day 5: Brompton Cemetery – incl. tomb of Emmeline Pankhurst. Return to hotel – disperse (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- An evening with Helen Pankhurst, great-granddaughter of Emmeline, accompanied by dinner
- View original Suffragette documents in the company of professional archivists
- Explore Manchester, cradle of the Suffragette movement, and The Pankhurst Centre where the WSPU was founded
- Stand at Parliament Square, site of numerous Suffragette demonstrations and protests
- Learn about the dramatic campaigns of disruption and violence at Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace
- Visit Caxton Hall (outside only) site of the famous 'Women's Parliaments'
- Look over Epsom Racecourse to see where Emily Davison was knocked down by the King's horse, becoming the movement's first martyr

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel.



Emmeline Pankhurst



The arrest of Emmeline Pankhurst



Churchill! Walking with Destiny

5 Days: 4–8 April 2027 Allen Packwood

2 Starting from £2,645

Celebrated as the greatest Briton in history Winston Churchill has fascinated the nation for over half a century. Soldier, politician, writer, historian, artist and orator he shaped Britain in many ways in a number of fields. But it is in his role as Prime Minister during World War Two that he is best known as he guided the country to victory. This tour is a chance to get to know the great man and follow in his footsteps, from his early life at Blenheim Palace, his finest hour at the Cabinet War Rooms and his private life at his home in Chartwell.

Due to the unpredictable nature of London traffic we will be making use of the London Underground on this tour to visit many sites as well as regional train services to get to sites outside the capital. In central London we will tour certain areas on foot, e.g. the area around the Palace of Westminster and Whitehall.



Historical Background

Sir Winston Churchill (1874–1965) has become an iconic figure, feted for his wartime leadership. Born at Blenheim Palace into the highest echelons of Victorian society, Churchill made his name as a soldier and writer, before entering Parliament at the age of just 25 in 1900. From the outset his career was a roller coaster ride. He changed his party twice, told the suffragettes he would not be henpecked, fell from office over the Dardanelles campaign, served in the trenches of the First World War, dismissed Gandhi as a 'half naked fakir' and became the most vocal opponent of the British appeasement of Hitler. As Prime Minister from May 1940, he led his country through the Battle of Britain and the Blitz and on to final victory in 1945, only to lose the ensuing general election. As an elder statesman he warned of the dangers of the Soviet 'iron curtain' while preaching greater European reconciliation and promoting the 'special relationship' with the United States.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** Assemble: Meet midday at central London hotel. Buffet sandwich lunch and introductory talk. Westminster and Parliament Square, Whitehall - Downing Street, the cenotaph, Horse Guards, Admiralty Arch. (L,D)
- Day 2:** Beginnings at Blenheim: Full day at Bladon and Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. (B,D)
- Day 3:** Finest Hour: Churchill War Rooms/ Museum, tour of Houses of Parliament in the Palace of Westminster. (B,L,D)
- Day 4:** The country retreat - Chartwell: Full day at Churchill's home at Chartwell, Kent. (B,D)
- Day 5:** A rich legacy: Visit Churchill Archives in Cambridge. Lunch at Eagle Pub. Return to hotel in London by train. Disperse 16.00 approximately. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

*“Now this is not the end.
It is not even the beginning
of the end. But it is, perhaps,
the end of the beginning.”*

Winston Churchill, November 1942

Highlights

- In the company of expert historian, and Director of the Churchill Archives Centre at the University of Cambridge, Allen Packwood
- Visit the Churchill Archives in Cambridge to view documents relating to Churchill's life and time as war leader
- Visits to Blenheim Palace, Chartwell and the amazing Churchill War Rooms
- Tour of the Palace of Westminster to see where Churchill delivered many of his famous speeches
- Enjoy lunch in the opulent surroundings of the Palace of Westminster and the historic Eagle Pub in Cambridge

Holiday Essentials

4-star hotel, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Blenheim Palace



Paris in Revolt From the Three Glorious Days of 1830 to the barricades of 1968

4 Days: 20–23 May 2027 Dr Laura O'Brien

2 Price TBC

This tour uncovers the long tradition of uprising and political transformation in France's capital. Examining the major rebellions of the last two centuries we explore the dramatic events of the 'Three Glorious Days' of 1830, the 1848 revolts and the 1871 Paris Commune, the student and worker revolts of 1968, and the many moments of dissent that have shaped the modern city. Standing in the shadow of barricade-lined streets, former factories, and iconic universities, visitors learn how ordinary Parisians challenged authority and reimagined society. Our expert historian will use eyewitness accounts, historical context, and a fascinating sense of place to reveal how each era of revolt left its mark on Parisian identity. Far from a simple chronology this tour highlights the enduring spirit of resistance that continues to influence activism and public life. It's an illuminating journey through a city where rebellion has challenged authority and sparked new possibilities.

Historical Background

The French Revolution of 1789 violently abolished the old order and established a constitutional monarchy coupled with the elimination of many noble privileges. A strong radical undercurrent pervaded French society and this succeeded in challenging any threat to the rights gained at such cost in the Revolution. King Charles X's attempts to restore absolute monarchy and overturn the freedoms gained since 1789 prompted the 1830 July Revolution in Paris toppling him in the 'Three Glorious Days'. Only eighteen years later, the February Revolution of 1848 again filled the streets with dissent, dislodging King Louis-Philippe, the 'Bourgeois Monarch', and proclaiming the Second Republic (1848–52). And in 1871 the short-lived Paris Commune, forged in the trauma of war and siege, offered a radical experiment in self-government before being brutally suppressed in the 'Bloody Week'.

The radical political culture of France's capital continued into the new century and in May 1968 the city erupted again with upheavals led by students and workers who challenged not just political authority but cultural norms, leaving an enduring mark on French society.

Itinerary

- Day 1:** 1830: Eurostar London St Pancras to Paris Gare du Nord. Palais-Royal, Hôtel de Ville, Le Marais, Hôtel de Sens. Introductory talk and welcome drinks before dinner. Hotel in Paris – 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2:** 1848: Place de la Bastille, Palais Bourbon, Place de la Concorde, Tuileries Gardens, Panthéon (outside), Faubourg Saint-Antoine, Musée Carnavalet. (B,D)
- Day 3:** 1871: Montmartre, Église Notre-Dame des Otages, Belleville, Père-Lachaise Cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 4:** 1968: Musée d'Orsay, Latin Quarter/ Sorbonne area, Gay-Lussac Street/Boulevard St Michel, Place de l'Odéon. Eurostar Paris Gare du Nord to London St Pancras (or extend stay in Paris). (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore key sites of revolt and revolution from two centuries of Parisian history including the Palais-Royal, Hôtel de Ville, Le Marais, Palais Bourbon, Montmartre and Belleville
- Visit the poignant Père-Lachaise Cemetery where Communards were executed after the last bitter battle for Paris in 1871
- Tour the sites of the 1968 student-led civil unrest in the Latin Quarter and Sorbonne areas
- Examine the objects and art of the people and their movements at the Carnavalet and d'Orsay Museums

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



Père-Lachaise Cemetery





Rebellion! London in revolt

5 Days: 20–24 September 2027 Professor Jerry White

2 Price TBC

On this 4-night and 5-day tour we journey into the capital's turbulent past—where alleyways, royal palaces, prisons, squares, and parliamentary chambers have witnessed some of the most dramatic acts of defiance in British history. London has always been more than a seat of power; it has also been a crucible of challenge, conflict, and change. Across the centuries, rebels, radicals, citizens, and outsiders have risen up here to confront authority, demand rights, or reshape society—sometimes peacefully, often violently, and always with lasting consequences.

From the focal points of revolt at the Tower of London and Parliament Square, to the flash points of Cable Street and Brixton, and the secret hideouts of Cato Street, this tour explores the places where revolt and protest developed and where society struggles, and continues to struggle, to bring about change.

Historical Background

London is a city built on power—dynastic, political, and economic—but it has been equally shaped by resistance. For nearly a millennium, its streets, prisons, and neighbourhoods have witnessed uprisings, conspiracies, community defiance, and radical ideas. From medieval rebels to modern protesters, London has never submitted quietly.

In the Middle Ages, the Tower of London, built to command the capital, became a lightning rod for popular anger. During the Peasants' Revolt (1381), thousands surged towards it in a mass protest against oppression. Just decades later, Jack Cade's Rebellion (1450) briefly seized control of London, demanding fair governance and reform.

Early modern London saw dissent take new forms. At the Houses of Parliament, the Gunpowder Plot (1605) came close to destroying the government outright. In the radical climate shaped by the French Revolution the 19th century produced fresh threats as shown by the Cato Street Conspiracy (1820), a plot to bring down the government.

Working-class districts have long been centres of resistance. The Battle of Cable Street (1936) halted fascism in the East End, while the Brixton Riots (1981) exposed deep racial and social tensions. Political violence—as

with the assassination of Airey Neave (1979) and attacks on Downing Street (1991)—has frequently reached the heart of government. In recent years Parliament Square has been the focus for particularly large protests demonstrating that London is a city continually challenged and reshaped by its people.

Itinerary

Day 1: Meet midday at London hotel for light lunch and introductory talk by expert historian. Tower of London (outside only), Great Rising of 1381 Memorial. Hotel in London – 4 nights. (L,D)

Day 2: Westminster - Palace of Westminster, Old Palace Yard (incl. Gunpowder Plot, Gordon Riots), Clerkenwell (Spa Fields Riots). (B,D)

Day 3: Kennington Park (Chartism), Reform Club, Whitechapel (Cable Street). (B,D)

Day 4: Brixton guided walk incl. Ritzy Cinema, Windsor Castle Pub, Railton and Atlantic roads; Terrorism incl. Trafalgar Square, Balcombe Street Siege, the 7/7 Tavistock Square memorial, London Bridge, Borough Market. (B,D)

Day 5: Archive visit TBC. Return to hotel - disperse early afternoon. (B)

Scan the QR code at the top of the page to view the full itinerary on our website.

Highlights

- Explore the sites of London's revolts and rebellions illuminated by our expert historian
- Stand where the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 developed and failed at the Tower of London
- Learn about the tragic fate of Guy Fawkes and the great Gunpowder Plot of 1605 where it happened
- Visit Parliament Square - epicentre of protest and revolt through the ages
- Stand at the site of the Cable Street riots of 1936 and learn about the fierce opposition to Fascism in pre-war London
- Visit the sites of the Brixton Riots of 1981 in the company of a knowledgeable local guide
- Examine documents dating from the events themselves explained by professional archivists and our expert historian

Holiday Essentials

3/4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout.



What you said...

You will NOT get better value elsewhere!

Before booking this tour with TCE, I researched several other tour companies offering similar subject matter. More than once, I was told that the level of experience TCE advertised simply would not be possible at the price they were offering. I am delighted to say they were completely wrong.

This tour exceeded my expectations in every way. The experience was exceptionally well organized, thoughtfully curated, and executed flawlessly from start to finish.

Melanie, USA – The Holocaust, May 2026

Excellent experience attending In the Shadow of Vesuvius. Highly satisfactory. The staff at the UK office was courteous and responsive.

Walt, USA - In the Shadow of Vesuvius, May 2026

I have always been interested in ancient Macedon and this tour provided a very comprehensive overview of the main ancient sites. The tomb of Philip II (father of Alexander the Great) being a particular favourite. This was particularly interesting given the excellent presentations from the tour historian and it was expertly organised by the tour manager. The restaurants chosen each evening were all superb with modern Greek cuisine.

James, Belgium – Macedon, May 2026

I knew a little about the period before I went on the tour but the choice of places to see and the excellence of the narrative provided by the retired Major General who provided the history brought the whole campaign to life and stitched the events together in a coherent manner. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience.

Paul, UK – Iron and Blood, April 2026

Great service and attention to detail. Kept fully informed throughout with immediate responses to all communication.

Helpful, friendly staff who are keen to help and accommodate in any way.

Huw, UK - The Anglo Boer Wars, March 2026

This is a fantastic company using only the most knowledgeable qualified guides on tours that do not cut corners. We had a simply fantastic trip to Egypt with Prof Joann Fletcher with a fabulous tour organiser Ian.

Oliver, UK – Immortal Egypt, January 2026



General Booking Conditions

Please read these booking conditions carefully, as along with our Privacy Policy, they form the basis of the contract between you and Midas Tours Limited trading as The Cultural Experience (TCE).

Booking and payment

These T&Cs apply to all bookings confirmed after 19 March 2024.

Due to nature of variable pricing adopted by many of our suppliers our own prices are continuously reviewed but typically the lowest prices will be offered to those who book the earliest. However, once we confirm your booking, we guarantee your tour price regardless of any subsequent cost increase in travel arrangements.

All bookings must be secured by payment of the requisite non-refundable deposit or the full price of the tour if booking less than 84 days prior to departure.

Payment can be made by credit card (excluding AMEX) debit card, or bank transfer (in Sterling GBP only and the client is responsible for all bank charges). For bank transfers originating from bank accounts outside the United Kingdom an additional fee of £15 is payable. There is no charge levied against payments made by consumer EU Based consumer debit and credit cards. All other cards will incur a 3% processing fee.

Upon receipt of your payment, we will issue a booking confirmation invoice and, if applicable, an ATOL certificate. At this point, a binding contract will exist between you and TCE. Please let us know within 24 hours of its issue if any of these documents contain any errors, paying particular attention to the correct spelling of passenger names (as per passports).

The balance of the tour price is payable not less than 84 days prior to the departure date. If the balance has not been paid by 70 days prior to departure, we may cancel the booking and levy the cancellation charges set out below.

Fitness and health

All tours involve a fair amount of walking often over uneven cobbled streets, hillsides or steps. Participants on all tours should be able to walk or stand for at least sixty minutes without aid or requiring a rest. You must be able to carry your own luggage as portorage is not included. Use our Activity Level Guide to measure your ability to join a tour. If you have any concerns in this regard, please contact us for advice. We will refuse to carry anyone who has failed to notify us of any disability requiring assistance during the period from booking the tour to its departure. We reserve the right to ask for a confirmation letter from your GP certifying that you meet the activity level criteria prior to accepting you on a tour.

If for any reason the Tour Manager and/or the Tour Guide deems a client unfit to participate in any activity, the client must accept that decision as final and no compensation of refunds will be given.

Should the client fall ill, test positive for an infection or be injured during the holiday, the client must inform the Tour Manager and/or the Tour Guide immediately. The client is responsible for adhering to any local or self-isolation requirements and must contact their insurance company.

We recommend our clients to contact their GP or medic for the latest information on inoculations no later than 12 weeks prior departure. The prices of our tours do not include any vaccinations needed to enter a country and TCE cannot accept any liability if a client is refused entry or incurs in any fees.

Travel / trip insurance

To participate in any of our tours you must ensure that you have adequate insurance to at least cover medical expenses and emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party be adequately insured at time of booking to cover cancellation and curtailment up to the cost of the holiday for each participant. You must provide us with details of your insurance policy at least four weeks prior to departure.

Passports and visas

For many countries, your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your date of return. The cost of visas is not included in the prices of our tours. You are responsible for checking current entry requirements before departure, the application process (ensuring you comply with all requirements) and taking all relevant documents on your holiday. TCE will not be liable for any failure by the Client to discharge these responsibilities and the Client will have to reimburse TCE for any costs they incur as a result of such failure on the part of the Client.

Full cancellation terms will apply if you fail to secure a visa or are refused entry for any reason.

Booking terms

Your booking is with Midas Tours Limited trading as ‘The Cultural Experience’ (TCE). In these conditions “TCE” shall mean Midas Tours Limited (trading as The Cultural Experience and registered in England and Wales, company number 05819354), The Cultural Experience at 11B Mansfield Business Park, Station Approach, Medstead, Alton, GU34 5PZ, United Kingdom. (Tel 0345 475 1815 or 1-877-209-5620). The “Client” shall mean the signatory on the booking form and everyone named in the booking or added subsequently. The singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

All bookings must be secured by payment of the requisite non-refundable deposit or the full price of the tour if booking less than 84 days prior to departure. A contract will be deemed to exist between TCE and the Client 24 hours after that payment and TCE has issued a confirmation invoice. The Client accepts these conditions on behalf of themselves and all other persons named on the booking, including those substituted or added by agreed amendment. It is a condition of the contract that the Client will take out travel insurance.

The balance of the tour price is payable not less than 84 days prior to the departure date. If the balance has not been paid by 70 days prior to departure, TCE may cancel the booking and levy the cancellation charges set out below. No reminders or statements will be sent and unless requested. Balance payments will not be receipted.

Special requests should be submitted in writing. TCE will make best efforts to fulfil special request but cannot guarantee to do so unless a supplement is charged. Adding requests after booking may incur an amendment charge. Supplement payments may be non-refundable once payment has been made.

If you change or cancel

If you or any other member of your party has to cancel your confirmed booking, the following charges apply dependent upon the period of notice that you give:

Cancellation period before departure	Charge as a proportion of total invoiced cost
85 days or more	Deposit only
84 days to 64 days	30%
63 days to 43 days	50%
42 days to 29 days	70%
28 days to 15 days	90%
14 days to 0 days	100%

All non-refundable supplements or upgrades will incur in a 100% cancelation charge regardless of when they are cancelled.

Your cancellation takes effect from the date we receive your written confirmation. The balance of the tour price is due no less than 84 days prior to departure. If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges above will become payable. If you are forced to return home early or choose to do so where you have no reasonable cause for complaint, we will not refund the cost of any services you have not used or be liable for any associated costs you may incur.

If you wish to change any part of your booking arrangements after our confirmation invoice has been issued, we will do our best to assist, but cannot make any guarantees. Where we can meet a request, all changes will be subject to an administration fee of £50 per person, per change in addition to any costs incurred by TCE and/or imposed by our suppliers.

If you transfer to another tour with a lower deposit requirement, and subsequently cancel that booking, you will forfeit the full amount of the original deposit paid.

If you transfer to another tour with a higher deposit requirement, you will be required to pay the difference in order to meet the deposit applicable to the new tour. If you subsequently cancel that booking, you will forfeit the full deposit applicable to the new tour.

All such fees and charges are non-refundable and must paid in full for us to confirm the change. Where we are unable to assist you and consequently you do not wish to proceed with the original booking, we will treat this as a cancellation by you.

If you are prevented from travelling it may be possible to transfer your booking to another suitable person providing we receive your request in writing. Should you make such a request less than 85 days prior to departure, our cancellation charges will be applied to the original booking. Any transfer will be subject to a £50 administration charge per person in addition to any costs incurred by TCE and/or imposed by our suppliers. All such fees and charges are non-refundable and must paid in full for us to confirm the change.

If we change or cancel the tour

We reserve the right to cancel a tour.

It is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your travel arrangements, but we do plan arrangements many months in advance. Occasionally, we may have to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time. Most of these changes will be minor and we will advise you of them as soon as possible. In exceptional circumstances this may include a change of guide/historian.

TCE reserves the right to cancel a tour no less than 15 days prior departure if it receives low bookings or for any unforeseen reason. Low booking is where an insufficient number of people have booked a tour to make its operation possible in the advertised form. We will make every effort to modify tours to allow them to continue with low bookings. From the time Clients have agreed such modifications, a 100% cancellation charge will apply.

If we have to make a major change or cancel a tour, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of: i) accepting the changed arrangements, ii) receiving a refund of all monies paid to us; or iii) accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). Any non-refundable accommodation or travel booked by yourself is made at your own risk and will not be compensated by TCE in the event of the tour being cancelled.

Except where expressly stated elsewhere in these booking conditions we cannot accept liability where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense as a result of force majeure. Force Majeure means unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond TCE's control, the consequences of which neither TCE nor their suppliers could avoid, including but not limited to war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, pandemics or diseases, fire, flood, adverse weather conditions or the threat of any of these.

Travelling with minors

With the prior consent of TCE, minors over the age of 11 years old may participate in our tours as long as they are accompanied by their guardian throughout the tour and accommodated in the same room. No price reduction will be offered to minors and the guardian should be aware that dinners may be served late and with alcohol.

Dietary requirements

Any dietary requirements must be informed at the time of booking. TCE will make best efforts to accommodate such requirements and will inform hotels and restaurants. However, it is the responsibility of the client to ensure that such requirements are confirmed with the tour manager, hotel or restaurant upon arrival.

This contract and any matter arising from it are governed by the law of England and Wales and are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

Financial protection

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under its ATOL Franchise and The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for The Cultural Experience, ABTOT number 5390, ATOL number 10153, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

- non-flight packages;
- flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK; and
- flight inclusive packages, flight only and linked travel arrangements (LTAs) sold as a principal under the ABTOT ATOL Franchise.

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if you are abroad. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Midas Tours Limited trading as The Cultural Experience.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call ABTOT's 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise them that you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here:

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.

The price of our ATOL-protected flight inclusive Packages includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate or holiday itinerary, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate or itinerary (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder or supplier may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder or supplier will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder or supplier. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder or supplier, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under ABTOT.

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate or holiday itinerary, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder, alternative supplier or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, ABTOT Limited may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under its scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to ABTOT Limited any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ABTOT ATOL Franchise scheme.

For further information visit the ATOL website or the ABTOT website.

Complaints

We make every effort to ensure that your tour arrangements run smoothly and that you are satisfied with every aspect of your holiday. If you do have a problem during your tour, please inform your Tour Manager immediately, who will endeavour to put things right. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact our office on 0345 475 1815 or 877 209 5620 or email us on info@theculturalexperience.com. If the problem still cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must send formal written notice of your complaint to us within 28 days of the end of your stay. Ensuring that your written complaint gives all relevant information and is concise and to the point will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. If, despite our best efforts and having followed the above procedure for reporting and resolving your complaint, you feel that it has not been satisfactorily settled, we recommend that it is referred for arbitration under the ABTOT Travel Industry Arbitration Service. An Independent Arbitrator will review the documents relating to any complaint and deliver a binding decision to bring the matter to a close. A fee is payable by each party when an application for arbitration is submitted. Details of this scheme are available from The Travel Industry Arbitration Service, administered by: Dispute Settlement Services, 9 Savill Road, Lindfield, West Sussex, RH16 2NY, E-mail: admin@disputesettlementservices.co.uk

This scheme cannot however decide in cases where the sums claimed exceed £5,000 per person or £10,000 per booking form, or not solely or mainly in respect of physical injury or illness or the consequences of such injury or illness, or solely or mainly in respect of a discrimination claim or any claim under the Equality Act.

Marketing

Unless you state to the contrary, you consent to the use, for TCE marketing purposes only, of any data that you upload to our applications and of any photographs taken during the tour in which you or any member of your party appear. Further details can be found in our privacy policy at: www.theculturalexperience.com/privacy-policy.php

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