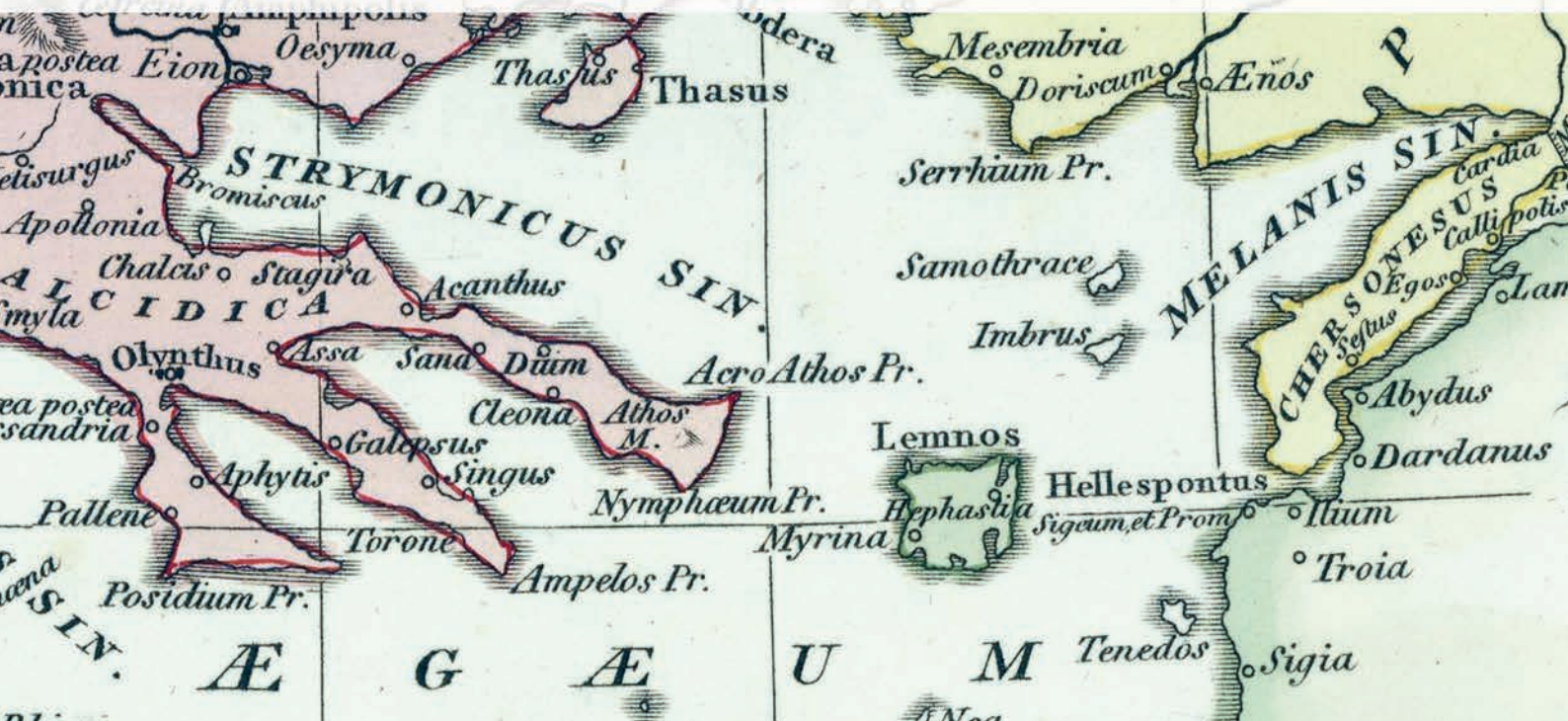




# THE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

BATTLEFIELDS, ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY  
2024 AND 2025 TOURS





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WELCOME

I am delighted to present our latest selection of escorted classical and military historical tours led by many internationally renowned historians. Over the last few months, we have been working hard developing new tours, especially a wealth of classical history ones such as Alexander the Great, Immortal Egypt, In Trajan’s Footsteps and Classical Algeria. And there are some exciting new military history tours to Japan, Singapore, India and Greece.

Because of the limitations of space we can only include abridged itineraries here, but each tour has a QR code which you can scan to take you directly to the relevant tour page or you can simply visit [www.theculturalexperience.com](http://www.theculturalexperience.com) and navigate from there. Our website is where you will find the price of the tour and any updates to the itinerary. You will always obtain the best prices for tours by booking early.

As we get closer to the departure date, we may be obliged to increase our prices to reflect the respective price increases of suppliers such hotels and airlines. So, the sooner you book, the better value your tour. Indeed some of these tours have been on sale through our website for some time: so much so that our March Zulu War tour has already sold out, necessitating a new departure in November next year.

We realise that occasionally you require more information about a tour before you decide to book it, especially if you are considering travelling with us for the first time. If you want to find out more, you are very welcome to telephone us for a chat or simply drop us an email and we will get back to you as soon as we can. You can also find some independent reviews of our tours on Feefo <https://www.feefo.com/reviews/the-cultural-experience>

Thank you for travelling or considering travelling with us. We very much appreciate your support and look forward to welcoming you onto one of our tours.

Alan Rooney, Founder and director

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. For more details see ‘What to Expect’ on the next page. We hope you enjoy perusing what is on offer on these pages and remember: if you cannot find your ideal tour here, we will devise a bespoke one for you.

OUR SERVICES

As our range of tours expand, so do our range of services. We now offer:-

- Scheduled Tours:** These are our all-inclusive pre-arranged tours – and the main subject of this brochure.
- Bespoke Tours:** These are tailor-made tours for individuals, groups and specialist organisations.
- Schools Tours:** This is a particular type of bespoke tour tailored to schools and other educational needs.
- 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.

# WHAT TO EXPECT

## YOUR GUIDES

Your Guide historians are all experts in their own field – chosen based on their ability to bring history to life in an interesting, enthusiastic and, where appropriate, humorous way. Your tour hosts (Guide historians, Tour Managers and/or Local Guides) will be available to answer your questions whilst conducting tours during the day or when socialising in the evenings. These hosts will be there to keep you both informed and to attend to your wellbeing throughout.

## GUESTS

Your Fellow Guests will typically be a refreshing and diverse group of individuals and couples from a wide range of backgrounds and professions. No special prior knowledge is assumed or required – just a general interest in the subject. Whilst respecting individual privacy, we work hard to make everyone feel welcome – and normally find the group quickly comes together in a very informal and inclusive way. For this reason, we typically restrict the size of our groups to between 6–22 people.

## FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

Most of our tours are on a half-board basis i.e., The tour price includes a good breakfast before setting out each day, and in the evenings we all get together in our hotel or local restaurant for a dinner. This dining experience will be comprised of several courses (usually based on regional specialities) and a limited amount of wine, beer and soft drinks included (2x glasses of wine or 2x small beers). On tours of more than five nights we often will allow one evening for clients to find their own restaurants and dine at their own expense. Unless the tour is on a full board basis, at lunchtimes we will find you a local town square or café where you can enjoy a light lunch and a drink. Occasionally where the tour benefits, we will provide a picnic lunch which will be detailed in the itinerary. You will be accommodated in the best affordable hotels available, and wherever possible hotels which have a historic connection to the heritage and events we are covering, and/or which are representative of the style and culture of the region. Single travellers will be accommodated in a double room for sole occupancy. Often it is possible to upgrade to superior rooms or suites. Please enquire when booking.

## TRANSPORTATION

Flight inclusive tour prices provide return scheduled international flights from London (usually Heathrow) in economy class with cabin and hold luggage allowances. Train inclusive prices provide return Eurostar rail travel from London St Pancras in Standard Premier class. Flight/train exclusive prices oblige you to arrange your own travel to the start point indicated in the itinerary. Regional or internal flights and train journeys required for the tour are provided regardless of where you start or leave the tour (unless you instruct us to the contrary) and will be in economy class with cabin and hold luggage allowances During the tours we use modern, comfortable and spacious coaches (subject to local availability and conditions, we aim to provide 1½ to 2 coach seats per person) and, depending upon its size, the coach may offer an on-board WC. We take regular comfort stops during long coach journeys.

## OTHER INCLUSIONS

All entrance fees to places listed in the itinerary, a tour booklet containing useful historical information to assist you better appreciate the places visited, access to our Tripcast social media app through which you can share pictures and comments with your fellow tour travellers and bottled water throughout.

## JOINING YOUR TOUR

The way you will join your tour will be dependent upon its destination, mode of travel required to get there and your own place of residence: details will be included in your joining instructions letter which is sent to you 2–3 weeks prior to departure. However, as a guide you can expect:

- Tours requiring international flights: you will either join at London (usually Heathrow) and/or rally at the arrivals hall of the destination airport if you are arranging your own flights.
- Tours requiring international rail: you will either join at London St Pancras station and/or rally at the arrivals hall at Lille Europe, Paris Gare du Nord or Brussels Gare du Midi.
- UK tours: this will be tour specific and may require you to make your own way to a hotel or meet at a regional rail station. We will always be able to assist you in making the requisite arrangements.
- By prior advance agreement we may be able to arrange other meeting and departure points. We can also arrange pre and post tour hotel accommodation and airport transfers.

# ADDED VALUES

At the Cultural Experience we can offer many additional extras to your holiday to enhance the overall experience, please ask us for further details and the 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 are 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 CONNECTING OR DIRECT 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.

## 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 Standard Premier Eurostar seats and 1st class TGV (where applicable). In Standard Premier you will enjoy comfortable, spacious seats and a light meal with hot and cold drinks but, 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 Business 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.

## HOLIDAY EXTRAS

We worked very closely with our partner Holiday Extras to assist with additional arrangements such as car parking, airport lounges around the world and travel insurance. For more details, please see our website.

## 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

All tours involve a fair amount of walking often over uneven cobbled streets, 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 below 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/walking involved at and around each observation point, museum, etc., the tour is generally untaxing physically.

**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 – but no more than on a country ramble at home. Distances of up to a few miles a day may be involved, occasionally up to 6 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.

**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.



# OUR HISTORIANS

**Bill Allison** Professor of History at Georgia Southern University

**Dave Andress** Professor and international expert on The French Revolution and author

**David J. Appleby** Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham

**Waitman Beorn** Assistant Professor in History at Northumbria University in Newcastle-upon-Tyne

**Stephen Brumwell** Award-winning author, journalist, former lecturer, historian, PhD

**Prit Buttar** Author & Military Historian

**Bruce Cherry** Military historian, former university lecturer, PhD

**Dr Mehreen Chida-Razvi** Research Associate at SOAS, University of London and specialist in Mughal South Asia and the Islamic world

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

**Ian Colvin** Archaeologist, author and lecturer

**Gordon Corrigan** Retired soldier, historian and author, TV personality

**John Drewienkiewicz** Maj Gen (Retd) Expert in 19th century continental warfare.

**Andy Fear** Archaeologist, expert on Roman history, DPhil

**Andrew Field** Former Army officer and author with particular expertise in the Napoleonic Wars

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

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

**Kostas Georgakopoulos** Archaeologist & Lecturer at the School of Tourist Guides of Crete

**Oliver Gilkes** International archaeologist with particular expertise in Italy and the Balkans.

**David Harrison** Former soldier and a diplomat

**Peter Hart** Author, TV personality and Imperial War Museum historian

**Simon Jones** Military historian, author and lecturer

**Bob Kershaw** Retired Colonel, military historian, author

**Ian Knight** Renowned Zulu War historian, author

**Ryan Lavelle** Professor of Early Medieval History at Winchester University

**Nick Lipscombe** Retired Colonel, historian, author, lecturer

**Robert Lyman** Former soldier, Writer, historian, historical adviser

**Farès K Moussa** Anthropologist, archaeologist, consultant

**Tony O'Connor** Roman Empire Specialist and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London

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

**Terry Richardson** Turkey specialist, historian and author

**Jonathon Riley** Lt Gen (Retd), military historian, visiting professor of War Studies

**Alan Rooney** Napoleonic historian expert, MD of The Cultural Experience

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

**Dilip Sarkar** Author and historian

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

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

**Harry Sidebottom** Best-selling author, historian, former lecturer, DPhil

**Miglena Stamberova** Curator at the National Archaeological Museum Sofia, PhD

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

**Mark S Thompson** Military historian and author, and member of the British Commission for Military History

**Simon Trew** Retired lecturer at Sandhurst, military historian, author, PhD

**Ashley Truluck** Maj Gen (Retd), chairman of the SAHR

**Ray Wilkinson** Former soldier, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of London and member of the International Brigades Memorial Trust

**Tony Wilmott** Senior Archaeologist with Historic England

**Martin Winstone** Senior Historical Advisor to the Holocaust Educational Trust

**Dr Isabel Wollaston** Senior Lecturer in Holocaust Studies University of Birmingham, PhD

# THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BAY OF NAPLES

## POMPEII, HERCULANEUM AND MORE!

21-27 October 2024

Expert Historian:  
**Oliver Gilkes**

7-13 April 2025

Expert Historian:  
**Dr Andy Fear**

7-13 September 2025

Expert Historian:  
**Tony O'Connor**

25-31 October 2025

Expert Historian:  
**Tony Wilmott**

7 days

Activity Level: 2

This comprehensive archaeological tour of the Bay of Naples and the events of AD79 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 Poppeia, 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.

## 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.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Naples or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Pompeii. Welcome drink and dinner. (six nights). (B)
- Day 2 ..... Full day at Poseidonia. Paestum Museum incl. 'Tomb of the Diver' fresco. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Full day at The Phlegraean Fields, Cumae, Baiae, Castello Aragonese (Campi Flegrei museum), Pozzuoli theatre. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Full day in Pompeii. Dinner at your own expense this evening. (B)
- Day 5 ..... Herculaneum ruins, afternoon drive up Vesuvius (final stage to the summit 200m walk). (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Ancient Stabiae, Villa San Marco, Villa Arianna and the Villa of Poppea at Oplontis. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... National Archaeological Museum. Transfer to Naples for return flights home or perhaps extend your stay in Italy. (B)



## 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.



## MEET THE OFFICE

From left to right:

Kate Charles *Office Administrator*

Dr Stephen Miles *History Tours Curator*

Jodi Waker *Tour Operations Executive*

Marta Lourido *Sales & Marketing Executive*

and seated comfortably is Managing Director Alan Rooney

Not pictured: Kat Godwin *Finance Manager*



Scan here for the full itinerary



# ANCIENT SICILY

## HERE IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

9–16 October 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:

Dr Harry Sidebottom

Activity Level: 2

Nowhere is the classical past more alive than on the beautiful island of Sicily. This wide-ranging archaeological tour will take us through a millennium of history from the early Greek colony of Naxos (734 BC) to the late Roman villa of Piazza Armerina (c.AD 320), with its world-famous mosaics. On the way we will explore the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento, the archaeological park and museum at Syracuse and the theatre at Taormina, with its breath-taking views of Mount Etna.

As Plato said, "Sicilians build things like they will live forever and eat like they will die tomorrow" which means that much of our tour requires a certain agility as we explore extensive remains often on our feet for a few hours at a time and an appetite to do justice to the local cuisine. But there will be plenty of time for recuperation as we listen to a series of in-situ talks which put each site in to its historical context.

### Historical Background

Sicilians call their island the House of the Sun. Throughout history its climate and fertile agriculture, combined with its strategic location, have drawn every major power in the Mediterranean to the island. The Greeks began their colonisation in the 8th Century BC. The wealthy and cultured cities they founded fought endlessly against each other, and against the Carthaginians who had settled in the west. The Romans arrived in the 3rd Century BC, having vanquished the Carthaginians in the Punic Wars and Sicily became the first overseas province of the Roman Empire. In the 2nd Century BC, the use of slave labour on great landed estates led to two revolts, each as cataclysmic as the more famous uprising of Spartacus. The riches of the island were a temptation to its Roman governors: Cicero, in his Verrine Orations, castigates the corruption and crimes of the most notorious. Under the rule of the emperors, Sicily settled down to become one of the wealthiest and most peaceful provinces of the Roman empire. Every step of the history of the island has left evocative archaeology for us to explore.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Palermo or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Marsala and check-in to our hotel for three nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Full day at Selinus (Selinunte). (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Segesta, Erice (Eryx), Marsala – incl. Baglio Anselmi Archaeological Museum. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Full day in Agrigento. Hotel in Agrigento – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Piazza Armerina (Villa Romana del Casale). Continue to Syracuse. Hotel in Syracuse – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Ortigia island, Syracuse incl. Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum and Neapolis Archaeological Park (incl. catacombs of Latomia del Paradiso and Orecchio di Dionisios). (B)
- Day 7 ..... Naxos, Taormina incl. Teatro Antico, Roman Odeon and Naumachia di Taormina. Hotel in Taormina – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Drive from Taormina to Catania Airport for our return flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Sicily. (B)

### 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.

# THE GOLD OF THRACE AND ROME



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL BULGARIA

15–23 August 2025

9 days

Expert Historian:

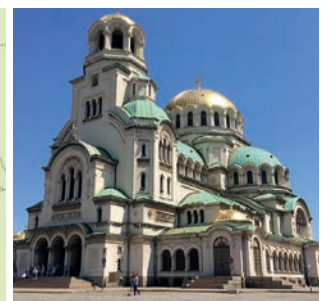
Dr Miglena Stamberova

Activity Level: 2

Bulgaria is, in archaeological terms, one of the richest countries in Europe possessing a wealth of sites with not just regional but also international importance, the finds from which have had made a dramatic impact on our understanding of pre-historic, classical, and medieval history. We will see the world-famous Chalcolithic gold, the earliest gold finds in the world, predating the development of Babylonia and Egypt, explore an 8000-year-old Neolithic settlement, enter royal and aristocratic Thracian tombs, view Roman walls, theatres and bathhouses casually exposed amidst modern towns and cities. We will walk past Roman town fortifications and visit a legionary fortress and late Roman town, stand amidst working archaeologists and become privy to the latest finds and interpretations. We will be able to admire the art and treasures of working monasteries stunningly situated atop green mountains, walk ancient and medieval cobblestone streets, traverse the verdant breathtaking Balkan Mountains and visit the restored 'museum' villages and battlefields which commemorate the modern Bulgarian struggle for independence.

### Historical Background

The Ancient Greeks referred to everywhere north of Thessaly as Thrace, an area that they recognised as being inhabited by skilled horsemen and craftsmen in precious metals and thus worthy of serious trade. Being a tribal people, it was inevitable that Thracian culture, and the country itself, would be absorbed by the economic prosperity and territorial ambitions of their southern neighbours. Early Thracian architecture was heavily influenced by the Greeks, followed by the martial expansion of the Roman and Byzantine Empires as they utilised the region as a buffer against the nomadic threat from north of the Danube. By early medieval times, the Bulgars had engineered a period of independence but, yet again, their southern neighbours, this time in the form of the Ottomans, conquered the area and it struggled under Turkish rule until the late 19th century. For the next hundred years turbulence ensued: independence, monarchy, major regional and world wars, republicanism and communism. It wasn't until 1991 that democracy was established, and the country became open to western influence.



- Day 1 ..... Outward Journey: fly London to Sofia or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Plovdiv (four nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Plovdiv: explore Roman Trimontium, agora and municipal buildings, theatre, circus, city walls. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Valley of the Thracians and Hisarya: Kazanluk tumuli, Hisayra, walk the ancient walls, Roman baths. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Neolithic and Roman: Karanovo settlement mound, Kabile archaeological excavations, Stara Zagora – visit forum, sculptures, Roman baths, house with mosaics. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Bulgarian history: drive over Shipka Pass, visit Russian monument commemorating wars against Turks, Etar, Arbanassi (frescos), timber buildings and church. Veliko Tarnovo (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Nicopolis ad Istrum and Novae: Roman Nicopolis - paved streets, inscriptions, monumental masonry and buildings, visit Nicopolis archaeological site, Novae – visit Roman hospital, principia, basilica, inscriptions. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Sofia: drive to Sofia. Ruins of Roman Serdica, St George's Rotunda, church of St Sophia and National Archaeological Museum. (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Boyana and Rila: Boyana church frescoes, National History Museum (in communist leaders' palace), drive to Rila monastery. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... A late morning check-out from our hotel: return flights from Sofia to London or perhaps extend your stay in Bulgaria. (B)



### ESSENTIALS

4-5-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.



# IMMORTAL EGYPT

BRINGING AN ANCIENT CIVILISATION TO LIFE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

1–10 February 2025

10 days

Expert Historian:  
**Professor Joann Fletcher**  
Activity Level: 2

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.

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 Ombu and Aswan. The tour culminates in an unforgettable trip to Abu Simbel.

## Historical Background

Since ancient times Egypt has been called 'the gift of the Nile', whose rich alluvial soil made possible the rise of a legendary civilization. Around 3100 BC southern leader Narmer triumphed over his opponent in Lower Egypt to unite the country. 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 the Great Pyramid of Giza. In the Middle Kingdom (c.1985-1650 BC), a time of exquisite art and literature, pharaohs expanded Egypt's empire abroad. Yet it is the New Kingdom (c.1550-1069 BC) which is best known due to its famous pharaohs who continued Egypt's foreign expansion, at least until the so-called 'Amarna Period' when Akhenaten, Nefertiti and Tutankhamun focused on religious reforms.

In the first millennium BC Egypt was taken over by a succession of Libyans, Nubians, Greeks and Romans. Yet such was the strength of Egypt's ancient culture that such invaders had themselves portrayed as pharaohs, adopted

mummification and worshipped the gods of Egypt within temples they built at places like Karnak, Edfu, Kom Ombo and Philae. Only when Rome's empire adopted Christianity did all this change, as temples became churches or were closed down, and the ancient sites gradually disappeared under drifting sands.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Cairo or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Cairo – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2..... Saqqara, Grand Egyptian Museum (or '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, Column Quarry (unfinished obelisk), Aswan Dam. (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 .... Khan el-Khalili Bazaar, Cairo. Fly Cairo to London early evening or perhaps extend your stay in Egypt. (B)

## 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.

# CLASSICAL ALGERIA

NUMIDIANS AND ROMANS IN NORTH AFRICAN SANDS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

3–13 November 2025

11 days

Expert Historian:  
**Farès K Moussa**  
Activity Level: 2

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 Timgrad. 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.

## 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 105BC 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, after which 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.



## 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.

- Day 1 ..... Fly London–Algiers or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. 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 or perhaps extend your stay in Algeria. (B)



# CLASSICAL TUNISIA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

3–13 April 2025

11 days

Expert Historian:

Farès K Moussa

Activity Level: 2

This is a superb tour for those who want to explore the remarkable legacies of Tunisia's rich Classical past. We visit a wide range of sites which powerfully convey the history and culture of the intricate civilisations that have populated this lovely semi-desert country. At Carthage we ponder the trading settlement established by Phoenicians traders, becoming a successful trading entrepot, but so decisively destroyed by the Roman military machine in 146 BC. At El Jem we marvel at Africa's most splendid Roman amphitheatre and get a real feel for what Roman entertainment in this far-flung part of her empire must have been like. At Sufetula, Makthar and Mustis we wonder at the sophistication of cities established at the bounds of what was then the known, and civilised, world. And at impressive Dougga we wander amongst the columns and pediments of this huge town, set in a spectacular landscape, and muse on Roman frontier life in this prosperous city. The tour is complemented by visits to excellent archaeological museums, including the world-renowned Bardo, where we get glimpses of everyday life through the elaborate mosaics uncovered at the sites we have visited.

## Historical Background

Caught between the clashing influences of Africa and Europe, Tunisia has been a meeting point of cultures throughout history, with a geography as varied as its culture. From the Numidian tribes in 3000 BC to the Tunisian Revolution in December 2010, sparking the so called 'Arab Spring', Tunisia is a treasure trove of ruins, ancient cities, architecture and artefacts. The country has seen times of extreme prosperity and decline under Phoenician and Roman rule, and the Arab Muslim Conquest, changing the language, customs and architectural landscape of the country from towering, clean cut pillars to the beautiful and imposing domed grand mosques found in every city. The strategic location of Tunisia has been exploited for centuries and this encouraged acute rivalry between the ancient world's most powerful peoples – Greeks, Phoenicians and Romans.



- Day 1 ..... Fly from London to Tunis or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Afternoon exploring Tunis. Hotel in Tunis – 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2..... Carthage, Bardo Museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 3..... Cape Bon peninsula, Kerkouane, Nabeul. (B,L,D)
- Day 4..... Pheradi Majus, Sousse, Sousse Archaeological Museum. Hotel Kairouan – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5..... Kairouan, EL Jem. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Museum of Islamic Art, Kairouan, Sufetula (Sbeitla). Hotel in Sufetula (Sbeitla) area – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Makthar, Mustis, Teboursouk. Hotel in Teboursouk – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Dougga. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Drive back to Tunis via Thurbabo Majis and Uthina. Hotel in Tunis – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 .... Utica, free time in Tunis. (B,D)
- Day 11 ..... Fly back to London or perhaps extend your stay in Tunisia. (B)

## 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 ANDALUCÍA

## HOME OF THE EMPERORS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

14–21 April 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:

Dr Andy Fear

Activity Level: 2

Set amidst the backdrop of Holy Week during which we will enjoy a rich heritage of sumptuous, dramatic religious street possessions, this tour travels to cities, towns and villas that were once the driving force behind Roman Hispania Ulterior. We discover magnificent buildings, mosaics and other works of art in Seville, Ecija and the provincial capital of Cordoba; we examine the new finds emerging at Torreparedones, the ancient colonia of Ituci, and see how the Romans adapted the settlement and its fortifications; visit a complete suburb built by the Emperor Hadrian for his hometown of Italica, featuring one of the largest amphitheatres in the Roman world; see the garum works which generated such fabulous wealth; and at towns like Carmona and Cadiz see how locals held on to their Carthaginian heritage despite the passing of the centuries.

## Historical Background

Modern Andalucía was the second oldest province of the Roman Empire. It was captured from Hannibal's Carthaginians in the Punic Wars after the battle of Ilipa, outside of Seville, in 206 BC and then remained a Roman possession for some six hundred years. First known as "Further Spain", Hispania Ulterior, and then as Baetica after the river Guadalquivir which runs through its heart, it became one of the wealthiest provinces of the empire, famous for its exports of Olive Oil and Garum or fish sauce. It was also the birthplace of some of Rome's most famous sons, such as the emperors Trajan and Hadrian, the epic poet Lucan, and the philosopher Seneca. The region's prosperity continued in the post-Roman period. The Visigothic bishop of Seville, Isidore, wrote an encyclopaedia, the Etymologies, which was to be the standard work of reference across Western Europe for the best part of a millennium and he has recently been made patron saint of the internet.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London–Malaga or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Singilia Barba (incl. theatre, forum, temples and villas), continue to Antequera and check-in to hotel for one night. Introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2..... Antequera (incl. Menga, Viera and El Romeral dolmens), Malaga (incl. Roman theatre and museum). Hotel in Estepona – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Cartea, Baelo Claudia and Gadir. Hotel in Cadiz - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4..... Cadiz (incl. theatre, columbarium, garum factory and museum), Italica (incl. theatre, amphitheatre, houses mosaics, temples, baths). Continue to hotel near Seville – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5..... Carmona (incl. necropolis, amphitheatre, Gate of Seville and museum), Cordoba (incl. Roman bridge, temple and museum). Hotel in Cordoba - 3 nights. (Our stay coincides with the Easter weekend, so we will likely witness religious processions over the next three evenings). (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Fuente Alamo, Puente Genil museum, Osuna and Ecija. Dinner this evening at own expense. (B)
- Day 7 ..... Torreparedones Archaeological Park, El Ruedo villa, Jaén (incl. museum and Baños Arabes). (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Depart Cordoba for Malaga and our flight home or perhaps extend your stay in Spain. (B)

## 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.



# CLASSICAL ALBANIA

## IN ILLYRIAN LANDS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

4–12 June 2025

9 days

Expert Historian:  
**Oliver Gilkes**

Activity Level: 2

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 Gjirokastër, Albania's best-kept secret, and Berat, the 2,400-year-old "City of 1000 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 wine making 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 were 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 civilization 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.



- Day 1 ..... Morning flight 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 and castle, konaks (residences). (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Antigoneia, Labova i Kryqit, Hadrianopolis. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... leave Gjirokastra, drive to Bylis 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 Kruje – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9 ..... Kruje to Tirana airport for late morning flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Albania. (B)

### 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.

# IN TRAJAN'S FOOTSTEPS

## SERBIA TO ROMANIA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

13–20 June 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:  
**Oliver Gilkes**

Activity Level: 2

This is a tour of the frontiers of the Roman Empire and the remarkable campaigns of the Emperor Trajan (r. 98–117 AD) to counter threats from tribes north of the Danube in the two Dacian Wars (101–102 and 105–106). It is a journey rich in historical and archaeological discovery as we travel across a region shaped by centuries of political, military, religious, ethnic and linguistic flux. Central to the narrative is Rome's presence on the Danube and the mighty river's place as a delineation of Empire and a barrier against the 'uncivilised' non-Roman tribes to its north. But we also learn about the way Rome crafted these conquered areas in its own image and laid the foundations for the later development of the area most clearly reflected in the name of modern Romania and the language of that country with its roots in the Latin of the conquerors.



### 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.

### Historical Background

In the late 1st century AD the Dacian tribes were reinvigorated by their leader Decebalus and became increasingly belligerent to 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 Dacian lands 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.



- 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 Petrovaradin 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 – TBC. (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 Bucharest. Hotel for 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Full day in Bucharest. Bucharest National Museum, replica of Trajan's Column, Avenue of Socialist Victory, Palace of the Parliament. Transfer to Bucharest airport for our evening flight back to London or perhaps extend your stay in Romania. (B).



# CAESAR IN FRANCE

## THE BATTLE FOR GAUL



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

5–11 July 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:  
Dr Andy Fear

Activity Level: 2

This tour explores the dramatic battle for Gaul from one of the UK's leading Roman specialists. Starting in Lyon (Roman Lugdunum) we visit the amazing theatre and museum and gain an appreciation of the cultural sophistication of the prosperous capital of Roman Gaul. We then move to the battle site of Gergovia – scene of a Roman defeat – then the beautiful city of Clermont Ferrand and the unusual temple of Mercury atop nearby Puy de Dôme. Moving north we enjoy the amazing Gallic settlement of Bibracte and learn about the lives of the post-bellum population who adapted the Roman way of life, the Gallo-Romans. Nearby is the site of an early Roman victory in the wars against the Helvetii. At Alesia we visit the site of the most dramatic and climactic battles of the wars when Caesar laid siege to the town by building an enormous dual line of fortifications to hem his opponent in. The excellent museum here describes this drama and has incredibly realistic reconstructions of these circumvallations. The nearby statue of Vercingetorix adds a special sense of poignancy to the site.

### Historical Background

I came, I saw, I conquered. There can be few campaigns conducted by Julius Caesar that reflect the sober truth of this, somewhat overused, saying. The Gallic Wars (58-50 BC) were a ferocious and bloodthirsty series of conflicts across wide tracts of France (and included the invasion of Britain in 55 BC).

Compared to the Roman Empire the tribes of Gaul were an ancient and well-established presence in what is now modern France. Conflict between Gallic tribes and Rome was nothing new but what precipitated the wars were a series of tribal migrations into the area from 58 BC which threatened the integrity of the Empire's natural border on the Rhine. Caesar resolved to conquer all of Gaul and after a Roman defeat at Gergovia Gallic resistance was eventually crushed at Alesia (52 BC). The Gallic chief Vercingetorix finally surrendered but not before tens of thousands of the population had been killed or starved to death. The tribes had put up a spirited and desperate resistance but were no match for Rome's sophisticated military discipline and steely determination. Rome had secured her natural border with the Rhine and the rich potential of Gaul's land were hers for the taking.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Lyon or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Visit Lugdunum Museum and Roman Theatres at Lyon-Fouvière. Hotel in Lyon – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Chaponost aqueducts; Gergovia Museum and battle site. Hotel in Clermont Ferrand – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Drive to Puy de Dome - Temple of Mercury (via cog railway). Hotel in Autun – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Walk to Autun Roman Theatre; drive to Bibracte and visit site and museum. Hotel in Dijon – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Drive to Alesia Museum and site (including Vercingetorix statue); drive Alesia to Châtillon-sur-Seine to view the Tomb de Vix treasure. Return to Dijon. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Visit Dijon Archaeological Museum and Les Bolards museum and site. Drive to Lyon. Hotel in Lyon – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Free time in Lyon. Fly Lyon to London or extend your stay in France. (B)

### 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.

# THE ROMANS IN PROVENCE

## PROVINCIA NOSTRA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

29 August–  
5 September 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:  
Dr Harry Sidebottom

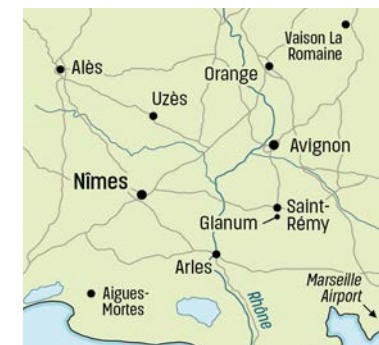
Activity Level: 2

Some of the finest remains of the Roman Empire are to be found in the beautiful landscape of Provence. During this comprehensive archaeological tour we explore Nîmes, with its amphitheatre, Gate of Augustus, enigmatic tower (the Tour Magne), and wonderfully preserved temple (the Maison Carrée), and nearby Arles, which boasts an equally impressive amphitheatre, as well as a theatre, the Baths of Constantine, and the superb museum of antiquities. We see the public face of Roman power in the triumphal Arch at Orange and the Pont-du-Gard aqueduct, and private life in the homes and funeral monuments at Glanum (St.-Remy-de-Provence) and Vaison La Romaine.

During a relaxed paced holiday based in the lovely city of Nîmes, "the Rome of France", each day we will drive to a different Roman site to explore its archaeological remains on foot with frequent stops to interpret the history and enjoy our historian's vignettes.

### Historical Background

The French region of Provence takes its name from the Latin Provincia. The Romans established their first territory north of the Alps in 125 BC. Officially it was the provincia of Gallia Narbonensis, but it became known as just the Province, hence Provence. From here Julius Caesar conquered the rest of Gaul (58-52 BC). Several colonies of veterans from the Roman legions were founded, including Arles and Nîmes. The locals rapidly adopted Roman culture and were seen as more civilised than those living in northern, or 'long-haired' Gaul. The Province produced famous writers, including the orator Favorinus, and possibly the great Latin historian Tacitus, as well as many Roman Senators and the emperors Antoninus Pius (138–161 AD) and Carus (282–283 AD). The towns of this peaceful and wealthy province flourished and have left us some of the most spectacular and evocative archaeological remains in the whole empire.



### 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.

- Day 1 ..... Fly London Heathrow to Marseille or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Travel to Nîmes. Welcome dinner. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Full day in Nîmes incl. amphitheatre, Tour Magne, Porte d'Auguste, Temple of Diana, Maison Carrée. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Vaison La Romaine (Puymin) district: theatre, shops, the Nymphaea, "Sanctuaire à Portiques", "House with the wreathed Apollo", Roman Bridge. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Arles: Amphitheatre, theatre, Baths of Constantine, archaeological museum. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Ambrussum: Pont Ambroix, Roman bridge, museum and archaeological excavations. Lunch in Aigues-Mortes, explore town. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Pont du Gard and Orange: Pont du Gard aqueduct. Orange: Triumphal Arch, Théâtre Antique d'Orange. (B)
- Day 7 ..... Les Antiques/Glanum and Saint-Remy. Glanum: Les Antiques, mausoleum, arch. Saint-Remy for lunch. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Fly Marseille to London Heathrow or extend your stay in France. (B)



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

## ARCHAEOLOGY, BATTLES AND SIEGES IN TURKEY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**7–16 September 2025**

**10 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Andy Fear**

**Activity Level: 2**

Our ten-day tour to Turkey explores the myths and reality that surround Alexander the Great as we follow in the footsteps of his army, starting at Granicus, heading south along the Ionian Coast and ending by tracing the liberation of the Lycian Valley. We explore the ruins of Alexander's metropolis of Miletus, the beautiful temples at Assos, Ephesus and Priene, the ancient harbours of Telmessos and Phaselis, and the remote, atmospheric Patara and Termessus. We will see two of the seven wonders of the ancient world as well as spending time in Istanbul and Antalya.

### Historical Background

After subduing the rebellious Greeks, Alexander embarked upon a campaign against the Persians that took him to the edges of India in search of the end of the world. In doing so he created one of the largest empires of the ancient world and earned himself a place in legend. With an uncertain claim to the throne, Alexander set out to liberate the region of Asia Minor from King Darius III and reclaim the lost Greek territories of his forefathers. The campaign of 334–333BC saw some of Alexander's most spectacular and memorable moments, from the ingenious crossing of the Hellespont to the defining and disputed battle of Granicus, from the mythical cities of Troy and Halicarnassus to the defiant cities of Aspendus and Termessus.



- Day 1 .....** Outward Travel: Fly from London to Istanbul and check in to our hotel for two nights or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Introductory talk and pre-dinner drinks. (D).
- Day 2 .....** Istanbul: visit Archaeology Museum, Hagia Sophia and Byzantine walls. (B,L,D).
- Day 3 .....** Granicus and Troy: drive to battlefield of Granicus and Troy, continue to Çanakkale. Hotel in Çanakkale – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 .....** Assos and Pergamon: drive to Assos, Pergamon, and Bergama. Hotel in Bergama – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 .....** Ephesus: full day touring Ephesus incl. Temple of Artemis and Basilica of St John, return to Selçuk. Hotel in Selçuk – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 .....** Ionian Coast: Priene, Miletus, Didyma, continue on to Bodrum. Hotel in Bodrum – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 .....** Halicarnassus and the Lycian Valley: Halicarnassus (Bodrum) incl. tomb of Mausolus, drive to Telmessos, Xanthos, Letoon and Patara. Continue to Kas. Hotel in Kas – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 .....** Limyra and Phaselis: Limyra, (Zemuri), Phaselis. Continue to Antalya. Hotel in Antalya – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 .....** Antalya: Aspendos, Sillyion, Termessos. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 .....** Fly back to London from Antalya via Istanbul or perhaps extend your stay in Turkey. (B).

### 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.

# EASTERN TURKEY

## CRADLE OF CIVILISATION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**17–26 May 2025**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Terry Richardson**

**Activity Level: 2**

The history and culture of eastern Turkey is simply staggering. For millennia a complex crossing point of armies, traders, religions and travellers the region has hosted a rollcall of ancient peoples and cultures, some only now being rediscovered by the discerning traveller: Urartians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Mitannians, Commagenians, Armenians and Ottomans to name a few. Their legacy is an extraordinarily rich trove of sites: from the world's oldest megaliths at Göbeklitepe, and the brooding stone figures of Mount Nemrut, through to the outstanding mosaics at the Zeugma Museum and beautiful medieval churches of Lake Van, the region is a compelling destination.

### Historical Background

Eastern Turkey is a rugged area comprising a mountainous north and a high arid plateau of 600m in elevation towards the south. There is evidence of habitation here from earliest times and by the Neolithic period several settlements had developed, most famously Göbekli Tepe. This is considered one of the first examples of man-made monumental architecture and is over 5,000 years older than Stonehenge. In time trade networks developed between the region and Mesopotamia to the south and by 1300 BC the Hittites, with their base in central Anatolia, had extended their hegemony over the Upper Euphrates. By the 14th century BC the rising power of Assyria, based largely in what is now northern Iraq, started to expand northwards and by the 7th century BC held sway over vast areas of eastern Turkey. Beyond Lake Van they came up against the Kingdom of Urartu. By the 4th century BC the Seleucid Empire began an expansionist policy which in time dominated the whole area before being eroded by the eastward growth of the mighty Roman Empire. The region became a buffer zone between Rome, Parthia and the Kingdom of Armenia. With the growth of Islam the region was dominated by the Umayyad Caliphate and became of zone of conflict between Arab and Byzantine armies. By the 16th century AD the region was conquered by the Ottoman Turks and since 1923 has been sovereign territory of the Turkish Republic. This is indeed an area with a rich and captivating history.



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Gaziantep via Istanbul or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Gaziantep – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Explore Gaziantep – incl. Zeugma Mosaic Museum and bazaar. Afternoon drive to Adıyaman. Lunch at own expense. Hotel in Adıyaman – 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 3 .....** Visit Karakuş Tumulus monument, Cendere Köprüsü Roman bridge and Arsameia. Then to Nemrut Dağ - walk 600 metres to summit. Drive to Şanlıurfa. Hotel in Şanlıurfa – 2 nights. (B, L, D)
- Day 4 .....** Göbeklitepe, Şanlıurfa museum. Evening at Abraham's Cave and Pools. (B, L, D)
- Day 5 .....** Karahan Tepe, Mardin – incl. citadel, mosques and madrassas. Hotel in Mardin – 2 nights. (B, L, D)
- Day 6 .....** Tur Abdin region. Midyat, Mor Gabriel monastery, Hah (Anit). Return to Mardin. (B, L, D)
- Day 7 .....** Drive to Tatvan. Ahlat Seljuk tombs. Hotel in Tatvan – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 8 .....** Akdamar island and Holy Cross Cathedral. Continue to Van – visit Urartian Museum. Hotel in Van – 2 nights. (B, L, D)
- Day 9 .....** Van – incl. Rock of Van, Urartian tombs and ruined city. Drive to Çavuştepe Kalesi fort. (B, L, D)
- Day 10 .....** Free time in Van. Fly to London via Istanbul or perhaps extend your stay in Turkey. (B)

### 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.



# THE GOLDEN JOURNEY TO SAMARKAND

## THE SILK ROADS OF UZBEKISTAN



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**19–30 September 2025**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**

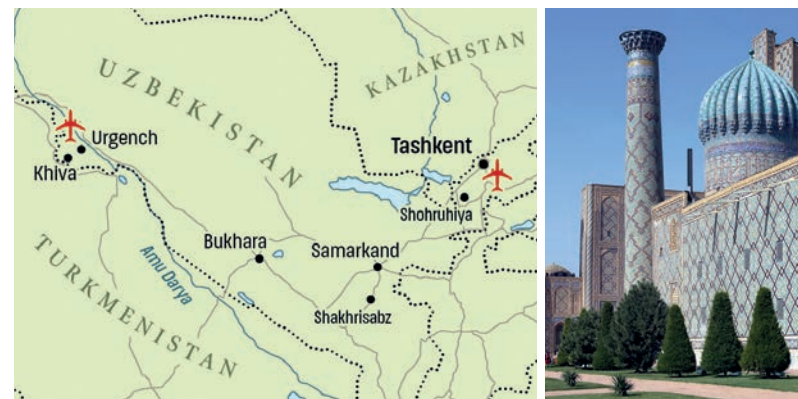
**Dr Mehreen Chida-Razvi**

**Activity Level: 2**

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.



- Day 0** .... Fly overnight to Tashkent via Istanbul or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel.
- Day 1** ..... Arrive early morning and check-in to hotel for one night. Afternoon - National Museum of History. (L,D)
- Day 2** ..... Tashkent – incl. Hast Imam Square, mosques of Tellya Sheik and Hazrati Iman. Afternoon fly to Urgench. Drive to Khiva - three nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 3** ..... Explore Khiva on foot, incl. Ichan Kala, Kunya Ark, Khan's fortress, Kalta Minor Tower, Djuma Mosque, Pakhlavan Makhmud. (B, L, D).
- Day 4** ..... Khorezm Oasis. Day trip to incl. Ayaz Kala, Kyzyl Kala, Janbas Kala and Toprak Kala. Return to Khiva - further exploration. (B,L,D)
- Day 5** ..... By vehicle across Kyzylkum Desert to Bukhara. Afternoon in Bukhara incl. Samani and Chashma Ayub mausoleums and Bolo Khauz Mosque. Bukhara hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 6** .... Full day in Bukhara incl. Po-i-Kalyan complex and Ark fortress. (B,L,D)
- Day 7** ..... Drive to the Palace of the Moon-like Stars. Late afternoon high-speed train to Samarkand. Hotel for three nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8** .... Samarkand: Ulugbek Observatory, Regional Studies museum, Tilla-Kori Madrasah, Ulugbeg Madrasah, Sher-Dor Madrasah. (B,L,D)
- Day 9** .... Samarkand: Afrosiab museum, Bibi Khoym, Gur Emir mausoleum. (B,L,D)
- Day 10** ... Shakhrisabz, Ak-Saray Palace, Dor-us-Saadat Burial Complex. Tashkent (overnight) (B,L,D)
- Day 11** .... Leave tour/flight to London. (B)
- Day 12** ... Morning return flight to London via Istanbul or perhaps extend your stay in Uzbekistan. (B)

### 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.

# MACEDON

## THE KINGDOM OF PHILIP II AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**8–15 May 2025**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Harry Sidebottom**

**Activity Level: 2**

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 (359-334BC); 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, emersed 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 359BC 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.



- Day 1** ..... Fly London to Thessaloniki or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. National Museum of Thessaloniki. Hotel Thessaloniki – 7 nights. (D)
- Day 2** ..... Pella & Edessa. (B,D)
- Day 3** ..... Verolia, Mieza & Nymphaeum. (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Dion. (B,D)
- Day 5** ..... Olynthus. (B)
- Day 6** ..... Amphipolis. (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... Vergina. (B,D)
- Day 8** ..... Fly Thessaloniki to London or perhaps extend your stay in Greece. (B)

### 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.



# CRETE & SANTORINI

## THE LOST WORLD OF THE MINOANS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

17–24 October 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:

Dr. Kostas Georgakopoulos

Activity Level: 2

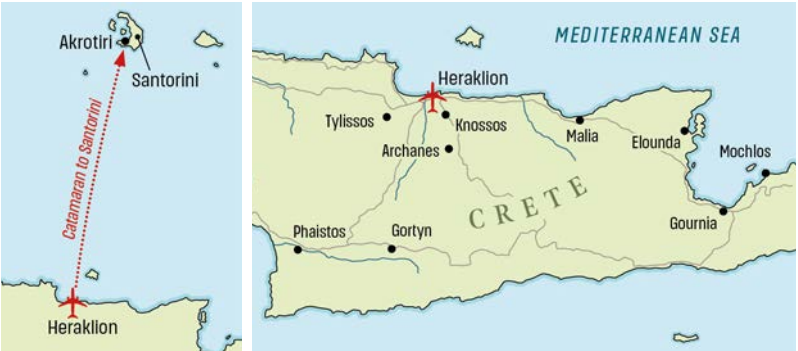
On this tour we will explore the sites and discuss the evidence which give rise to the question: what was the Minoan civilization and what led to its demise? We travel to Crete, the island at the crossroads of three continents which has held such an important role in the Mediterranean at many times, both ancient and modern. We visit the extensive heritage of this fascinating island, prized by major powers from the third millennium BC, through the cultures of Minoans, Mycenaeans, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, and Ottomans.

We also cross to the spectacular island of Thira (Santorini), with its important Bronze Age, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine sites, set in truly stunning volcanic scenery, and so central to the mystery of the Minoans.

### Historical Background

The lost world of the Minoans has intrigued people for thousands of years. Europe's first great civilisation, an advanced society of artisans and skilled civic engineers with a maritime empire so vast it rivalled that of the ancient Egyptians, was inexplicably, and at the height of its power, wiped from the pages of history.

The predominant theory regarding the destruction of the Minoan Civilization has been that it was provoked by something as violent and as sudden as the eruption of Santorini Volcano. And ever since Sir Arthur Evans discovered the lost Palace of King Minos in Crete, archaeologists and scientists have been trying to connect the two events. In the summer of 1988, however, archaeologists digging on the island of Mochlos in Crete uncovered architectural and ceramic remains indicating that the civilization continued to flourish for some 150 years after the eruption in about 1600 B.C. With the new discovery, archaeologists find themselves searching for an alternative explanation for the sudden fall of the Minoan civilization around 1450 B.C. If the Theran volcano was not to blame, what then did bring about the fall of the Minoans?



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Heraklion or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Transfer to our hotel in Heraklion for five nights.
- Day 2 ..... Messara Museum, Phaistos and Agia Traidia. Return to Heraklion. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Day trip to Santorini by catamaran. Akrotiri, Thira Prehistoric Museum. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Minoan tombs at Fourni, walking tour of Archanes, Archanes Archaeological Museum. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Knossos, Heraklion Archaeological Museum, walking tour of historic Heraklion. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Malia, boat trip to Spinalonga (weather permitting). Hotel in Elounda – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Gournia and Mochlos, incl. boat trip to Mochlos island (weather permitting). Return to Heraklion. Hotel in Heraklion - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Tyliisos, return flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Greece. (B)

### 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.

# ENIGMATIC GEORGIA

## CAUCASUS CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

19 June–02 July 2025

13 days

Expert Historian:

Ian Colvin

Activity Level: 2

Georgia is one of the great undiscovered tourist destinations of this century. See the fabulous monasteries and cathedrals that characterise the landscape, history and society of this mountainous country, from the recently finished Sameba Cathedral to the ancient Anchiskhati Basilica. Witness the steadfast forts of Nokalakevi, believed to be where Jason and the Argonauts stole the Golden Fleece and Khertvisi, destroyed by Alexander the Great and rebuilt in the 10th Century. Climb through the cave cities of Uplistsikhe and Vardzia, once the refuge of whole nations now the home of fabulous frescoes and wall carvings. Discover the isolated medieval communities of Svaneti and their curious tower houses and wander the vibrant streets of Tbilisi and Kutaisi.

Like the delicious Georgian wine this is a country to be savoured.

### Historical Background

Georgia's history has a length and breadth that many countries cannot hope to compete with. Initially the two kingdoms of Colchis and Iberia, Georgia was ravaged by Alexander the Great's armies and became the setting for countless wars between the Persians and the Byzantine Empire. The 10th – 13th centuries were the Golden Age of culture and learning under the rule of King David the Builder and his granddaughter, King Tamar. Mongol invasions and Ottoman occupation destroyed this Golden Age, making Georgia a divided nation characterised by constant wars between the Ottomans and the Persians.

Initially encouraged in the early 19th Century as a means to gain independence, Russian suzerainty developed into the steady annexation of Georgian regions from the Ottomans. After a series of brutally suppressed nationalist uprisings, Georgia briefly gained independence, but the refusal of membership to the League of Nations in 1921 helped to drive the Georgians into the hands of the Soviets. Georgia declared independence in April 1991 after the fall of the USSR, beginning a long process of protests, including the Rose Revolution of 2003.



- Day 0 ..... Fly London to Tbilisi overnight.
- Day 1 ..... Tbilisi. Rest time. Afternoon walking tour of old town, National History Museum. Hotel in Tbilisi – 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 2 ..... Mtskheta. Jvari monastery, Bagineti (Armaztsikhe), Mtskheta, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Signaghi. Hotel in Kakheti – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 3 ..... Kakheti Province. Gremi, Alaverdi Monastery, Telavi, Chavchavadze estate museum. Hotel in Tbilisi – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 4 ..... Kazbegi. Drive "Georgian Military Road" to Stepantsminda, Gergheti Sameba. Hotel in Stepantsminda – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 5 ..... Gori and Uplistsikhe. Gori, Stalin Museum, Uplistsikhe. Hotel in Kutaisi – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 6 ..... Svaneti Province. Kutaisi citadel, Bagrati Cathedral, Svaneti, Laghami. Hotel in Mestia – 2 nights. (B, L, D)
- Day 7 ..... Svaneti Province. Ushguli, Lamaria Church, Mestia Museum of History and Ethnography. (B, L, D)
- Day 8 ..... Samegrelo Province. Dadiani Palace museum, Nokalakevi fortress and archaeological site. Hotel in Kutaisi – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 9 ..... Kutaisi. Gelati Monastery, Akhaltsikhe, through Mtkvari River gorge, Atskhuri. Hotel in Akhaltsikhe – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 10 ..... Akhaltsikhe, Khertvisi and Vardzia. Akhaltsikhe. Hotel in Vardzia – 1 night. (B, L, D)
- Day 11 ..... Drive to Tbilisi through Javakheti. Hotel in Tbilisi – 2 nights. (B, L, D)
- Day 12 ..... Full day in Tbilisi. Fine Art Museum, National Gallery on Rustaveli and the Sameba Cathedral. Free time. (B, D)
- Day 13 ..... Fly Tbilisi to London. (B)

### ESSENTIALS

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 PALE HORSEMAN

## THE WESSEX OF ALFRED THE GREAT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

26-30 June 2025

5 days

Expert Historian:  
Professor Ryan Lavelle

Activity Level: 2

Travelling and walking through some of the finest English landscapes, we will learn 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.

Our expert historian will be Professor Ryan Lavelle, author of a range of publications on the lands and politics of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, including Alfred's Wars (2010). He was also historical adviser on the BBC TV adaptation The Last Kingdom.

### 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.



- Day 1 .....** Winchester: walk around historic centre, Cathedral with Kings and Scribes exhibition. Welcome drinks, dinner and introductory talk. Hotel Winchester – 2 nights. (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 - 878AD Immersive Experience, Winchester City and Westgate Museums; Salisbury - Old Sarum. Hotel in Shaftesbury – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Alfred's Tower, Ethandun, Athelney: Bratton Camp, Edington (Ethandun), Somerset Levels – Athelney. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Wareham, Shaftesbury and Badbury Rings: Return to Winchester mid-afternoon. (B)

### 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.

# THE LAST WELSH REBELLION

## OWEN GLYNDWR AND THE CASTLES OF EDWARD I



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

15–23 September 2024

9 days

Expert Historian:  
Dr John Sadler

Activity Level: 2

At leisurely pace we explore the beauty of Wales: dramatic coast lines, verdant lake filled valleys, spectacular views atop its highest mountain, the magnificent UNESCO listed castles of Edward I, traditional historical hotels. Due to the nature of castles and other sites we visit there will be a lot of uneven ground to walk over, but nothing that could be considered a challenge. The historical sources for the events we follow are scant and sometimes dubious and those which do exist are obfuscated by tradition, myth, legend, and Welsh nationalist sentiment which means that much interpretation of these momentous times is dependent upon the contextual expertise of our historian, the application of common sense and inherent military probability. Whilst some sites associated with Glyndwr can be easily identified, there are many that are open to conjecture so come prepared for some lively debates as we place you amidst some of the greatest moments of the last attempt to gain Wales its much desired independence.

Logistical notes: There is long term parking available at NCP Shrewsbury and there are regular trains between there and Hereford. There are good one-change countryside rail services to/from Shrewsbury and Hereford from UK mainline stations.

### Historical Background

Following two campaigns to put down rebellions Edward I determined to surround troublesome North Wales with a ring of castles. Whilst colossal, they were significantly under-manned, often struggling to contain their surroundings and would soon be severely tested during the war with Owain Glyndwr. But who was Glyndwr? Hero or villain? Rebel or Prince? Freedom fighter or opportunist? In 1400 an unsettled land dispute became



the catalyst for him to raise his standard. Repelling English incursions Glyndwr slowly gained control of his country. In 1404 the first Welsh synod was held at Pennal followed by the creation of the first parliament at which it is believed Glyndwr was crowned Prince of Wales. As a sovereign prince he engaged support from popes and kings. But gradually the English stranglehold tightened. At a besieged Harlech Castle in 1409, to avoid capture, he abandoned his family to English honour and fled to the mountains from where his insurrection descended into ineffective raids. And then he was gone! Disappeared.



- Day 1 .....** Ancestral Home. Sycarth, Ruthin. (two nights). (D)
- Day 2 .....** Raising the Standard. Glyndyfrdwy, Corwen, Caer Drewyn, Rhuddlan. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** The Iron Ring. Conwy, Beaumaris and Caernarfon castles. Llanberis. (two nights) (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Criccieth and Harlech castles.
- Day 5 .....** Mt Snowdon and Pennal. Return rail journey to the summit of St Peter ad Vincula, Machynlleth. (two nights) (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Mynedd Hyddgen and Aberystwyth. Owain Glyndwr Centre, Aberystwyth, Afon Hyddgen. (B)
- Day 7 .....** Bryn Glas & Shrewsbury. Pilleth, Bryn Glas, Shrewsbury battle site, Hereford (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** The End. Woodbury Hill, Campston Hill, Grosmont Castle, Monmouth, Kentchurch Court, Monnington Churchyard. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Farewell. Disperse after breakfast. (B)



### ESSENTIALS

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



# THE HUNDRED YEARS WAR

## THE DESTRUCTION OF MEDIEVAL UNITY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

12–19 July 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:  
Dr John Sadler

Activity Level: 2

The Hundred Years War still remains one of the greatest ruptures between England and her continental neighbour up until the modern period. This smouldering yet savage power struggle included Crecy (1346), Poitiers (1356), Agincourt (1415) and Castillon (1453) - some of the most enduringly resonant battles in English history. On this tour we explore the causes and development of the conflict visiting major sites connected with the period. In expert hands we learn of the tactics of the time and the place of the war in the military revolution of the time.

Enjoy the rolling Loire and Pas-de-Calais countryside and marvel at imposing Gothic architecture. The gorgeous summer sunshine allows us to combine this tour with pleasant countryside strolls, surrounded by flora and fauna and conjuring images of armour glinting in the sunlight. Travel is by coach and rail where you will enjoy comfortable Standard Premier class with Eurostar. We stay in a variety of small medieval towns and cities where we wander along cobbled streets and through open market squares to enjoy wonderful food and wine in local restaurants.

### Historical Background

The English claim to the French throne as the birth-right of King Edward III of England, the closest male relative to the last of the Capetian Kings of France, began the Hundred Years War which precipitated a revolution in military affairs. This allowed small English armies to defeat far larger French forces and laid the foundation of a British way of waging war, which continued to Waterloo and beyond. In this tour we will examine how the English feudal array of mounted knights backed by a poorly armed and trained militia was transformed into a professional army of career soldiers fighting on foot, supported by the English weapon of mass destruction – the longbow.

Much myth and legend surrounds the Hundred Years War, particularly concerning Joan of Arc: contrary to popular belief she was not a poor peasant girl but the daughter of a local government official and she had a good basic education. Whether her voices came from God, as she alleged, whether she invented them or whether they indicated some form of insanity is still debated. Whatever the truth she was certainly an inspiration for a resurgence of French zeal before being betrayed, put on trial, and burnt at the stake in Rouen.



- Day 1** ..... Amiens. Eurostar London St Pancras to Lille or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Amiens. Tour Amiens Cathedral. Hotel in Amiens - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2** ..... Crecy and Agincourt. Cr cy, Agincourt, Le Crotoy. (B,D)
- Day 3** ..... Rouen. Leave Amiens, full day in Rouen. Hotel in Rouen - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Orleans. Drive to Orleans, visit sites in Orleans. Hotel in Beaugency - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5** ..... The Loire Valley and Patay. Abbaye de Fleury, Chateau de Guedelon, battle site of Patay. (B,D)
- Day 6** ..... Poitiers. Drive to Poitiers, Poitiers Cathedral, battle site of Poitiers. Hotel in Poitiers - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... Bordeaux and Castillon. Drive to Bordeaux, Battle of Castillon. Hotel in Bordeaux - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 8** ..... Return flight from Bordeaux to London or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)

### ESSENTIALS

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

# JACOBITES AND BRAVEHEARTS

## THE FIGHT FOR SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

20–28 September 2025

9 days

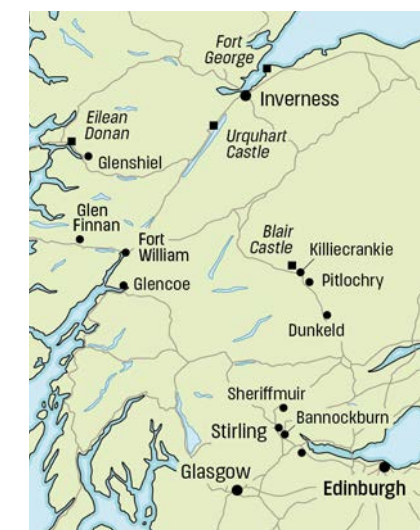
Expert Historian:  
Dr John Sadler

Activity Level: 2

During this fabulous tour we travel through magnificent Scottish scenery to encounter steep-sided verdant glens, shimmering lochs that reflect the towering mountains, thick magical woodland, romantic castle ruins, windswept pink/purple heather clad moorland dotted with silver streams, blanket bog and rocky outcrops. At carefully selected locations we will discuss the facts, fiction and myths that all contribute to Scotland's legendary quixotic history and explore the sites where those dramatic events, whether they be actual, alleged or fictional, took place. See where the English soldier made his leap at Killiecrankie, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard at Glen Finnan and where the Highland charge was blunted by the British bayonet at Culloden. Drive through the Great Glen beside the banks of Loch Ness. Explore Urquhart and Stirling Castles and see how the Scots re-asserted their independence on the fields of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn. In all an inspirational breath-taking journey through Highland and Glen that will immerse you in Gaelic culture, custom and history.

### Historical Background

Scotland's relationship with England has been turbulent since Roman times but never more so than at the turn of the 12th C and during the mid-18th C when English and British hegemony were seriously challenged. Battles such as Stirling Bridge, Bannockburn and Culloden resonate with romantic ideals of Scotland forever fighting for independence against the dastardly English led by heroes such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Rob-Roy MacGregor, Bonnie Dundee and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Such names and causes that have been dramatised and mythologised by literary giants such as Sir Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and, latterly, Dianna Gabaldon in her Outlander novels to such a degree that it is often difficult to separate fact from fiction. But the facts of the matter are clear. Towards the end of the 13th century, Edward I of England abused his invitation to arbitrate over Scottish succession by asserting authority over the kingdom, which was subsequently resisted until victory at Bannockburn ensured an independence that would last until the accession of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne in 1603, thus unifying the leadership of the two countries under Stuart rule. The next 85 years would see Britain struggle with Civil War, the Act of Union and religious strife until the Glorious Revolution of 1688 deposed King James II (VII of Scotland) in favour of the Protestant, William of Orange. The Jacobite cause was ignited and, against a backdrop of vacillating loyalties, religious change, brutality, and the erosion of autonomy, Scotland endured a series of rebellions seeking to restore the Stuart line to the throne, but which ultimately ended in the ill-fated battle of Culloden.



- Day 1** ..... Prestonpans: Assemble midday Edinburgh hotel for buffet lunch. Battlefield. Hotel in Edinburgh - 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 2** ..... Dundee Rising: Dunkeld, Killiecrankie, Blair Castle. Hotel in Pitlochry - 1 night (B,D)
- Day 3** ..... Aftermath: Ruthven Barracks, Fort George, Clava Cairns. Hotel in Inverness - 2 nights (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Culloden: Battlefield, Culloden house. Inverness Museum. (B,L)
- Day 5** ..... The Glens: Great Glen, Urquhart Castle, Glen Shiel, Eilean Donan. Hotel in Fort William - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6** ..... Rising and Massacre: Prince's Cairn, Glen Finnan, Glencoe, Rob Roy. Hotel in Stirling - 2 nights (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... Bravehearts: Sheriffmuir, Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle. (B,D)
- Day 8** ..... Last Victories: Bannockburn, Falkirk Muir, Wallacestone. Hotel in Edinburgh - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9** ..... Disperse after breakfast. (B)



### ESSENTIALS

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



# THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS

BIBLE IN ONE HAND, PISTOL IN THE OTHER



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

16–23 August 2025

8 days

**Expert Historians:**  
**Dr David Appleby**

**Activity Level: 2**

This eight-day tour of England takes us to the scenes of all the major battles: Edgehill, Marston Moor and Naseby; the King's capital of Oxford; the wonderful cities of York and Worcester; key fortresses and houses; and the sites of many other the key battles and sieges. We start in Oxford and finish in the northern city of York, both with their rich Civil War histories, and nowadays with excellent rail and air links.

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.

## 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, in his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, wrote of the English Civil War that '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 (in the guise of 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 and nothing has imprinted itself so deeply on the nation's memory as the national civil struggle of the mid-17th Century.



- 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, Donnington Castle. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 .....** Broughton Castle, Battles of Cropredy Bridge and Edgehill. Hotel in Stratford-on-Avon - 2 nights. (B,L,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; Archbishop's Palace Southwell. Hotel in York - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Battle of Marston Moor, St James' Church Bilborough; free time in York. (B,L,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)

## ESSENTIALS

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

# FREDERICK THE GREAT

PRUSSIA'S MILITARY GENIUS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

31 July–8 August 2025

9 days

**Expert Historian:**  
**Professor Matthias Strohn**

**Activity Level: 2**

This wide-ranging tour of the battles and sieges of the War of Austrian Succession and Seven Years War in Europe takes us to some of the most evocative locations in the life of Frederick the Great and what we consider the best battlefield sites in the development of this consummate military genius. The trip includes the site of Rossbach, Frederick's greatest victory, and Hochkirk, one of his greatest blunders. And at Pirna we hear about the remarkable story of defeated Saxon troops joining the great man's army. Alongside the amazing battle sites we also visit fortresses such as Kłodzko, successfully besieged and stormed by the Austrians in 1760, and Kostrzyn. The trip culminates in a visit to the Frederick's palace of Sanssouci where we see his grave.

Travelling through beautiful rolling countryside we experience warm central European hospitality and visit some less well-known, little-disturbed battlefields and fortresses to provide an almost perfect platform from which to demonstrate Frederick the Great's tactical and strategical genius.

## Historical Background

The influence of Frederick the Great in military thinking is incalculable. The Emperor Napoleon was a great student of his campaigns and applied many of the lessons learned to his own brand of military genius. His ability to turn surprise to his own tactical advantage depended not only upon his own quick thinking but upon the quality of the superbly trained Prussian Army, its able commanders and their ability to make rapid decisions. As the great man wrote in his 'instructions', 'the primary maxim for an offensive war is to formulate ambitious plans...hit the enemy hard and do not be content to harass him on his frontiers...[and] devise every conceivable means of concealing your intentions'.



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Berlin or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Osterfeld. Check into hotel – 1 night. Introductory talk before dinner. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Rossbach. Drive to Dresden – free time. Hotel in Dresden – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Hochkirk, Pirna (outside of fortress only), Königstein Fortress. Return to Dresden. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Drive to Prague via Lobositz. Free time. Hotel in Prague – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Kolin, Soor, drive to Kłodzko. Hotel – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Kłodzko (Glatz) Fortress, afternoon drive to Kostrzyn. Hotel – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Zondorf, Kostrzyn Fortress and Museum. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Drive to Potsdam – Sanssouci Palace, on to Berlin – Charlottenburg Palace, evening stroll along den Linten. Hotel in Berlin – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Free time in Berlin. Afternoon transfer to airport for flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Germany. (B)



## 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.



# RAJASTHAN

## LAND OF MAHARAJAS AND MOGHULS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**6–19 November 2025**

**13 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Major Gordon Corrigan**

**Activity Level: 2**

A tour of Rajasthan, land of kings, bards, minstrels and enchanting folklore. Through the sandy wastes of the Thar desert to the lush foliage of tiger reserves and bird sanctuaries, from the haunting beauty of its temples to its forts and palaces and its simple earthen villages. We shall look at the inheritances of the rulers, the soldiers, the priests, the merchants and the adventurers who shaped this magnificent land, travelling by coach, by train, by camel and staying in the palaces that have been sympathetically converted into excellent hotels.

On this tour we make long journeys by road and rail to see the best of this huge state. Travel in the area is an adventure and will take us to places not frequently visited by most tourists. A certain degree of patience is required with the challenges of distance but the rewards are more than worth it.

### Historical Background

Rajasthan is a rich palimpsest of historical and cultural influences having come under the sway of an astonishing number of dynasties through its long history. By the 3rd century BC it was under the rule of Ashoka, the last Mauryan emperor, and this was followed by Bactrians (Indo-Greeks), Indo-Scythians (Shakas), Guptas, Hephthalites (Hunas), and finally by the 7th century AD the Rajputs.

For the next 400 years the area was contested by rival Rajput clans which carved out independent kingdoms. In the late twelfth century Muslim armies encircled Rajput rulers in Rajasthan but never succeeded in subduing them. By the sixteenth century Rajput power was at its zenith but an invasion by the Mughal emperor Babur in the 1520s brought a new and dynamic rule to the area. After the death of the last Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 there was a brief resurgence of Rajput power but within a hundred years the area fell under the hegemony of the Marathas of west-central India and then the British who organised the Rajput states into the province of Rajputana.



Indian independence in 1947 ushered in the gradual integration of the Rajput states into a single entity and by 1950 Rajput princes relinquished their political powers under a unified state of Rajasthan.

**Day 0** ..... Fly London to New Delhi arriving in the early hours of day 1

**Day 1** ..... Guided tour of New Delhi. Evening introductory lecture. (D)

**Day 2** ..... Train from Delhi to Sawai Madhopur; safari in Ranthambore National Park. Hotel in Sawai Madhopur – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 3** ..... Tiger safari in Ranthambore National Park. Coach to Jaipur. Hotel in Jaipur – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** ..... Full day in Jaipur, incl. Amber and Jaigarh forts. Optional hot air balloon trip. (B,L,D)

**Day 5** ..... Early flight to Udaipur. City tour incl. City Palace. Evening boat trip on Lake Pichola. Hotel in Udaipur – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 6** ..... Chittorgarh Fort. (B,L,D)

**Day 7** ..... Coach Udaipur to Jawai. Leopard safari. Hotel in Jawai – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 8** ..... Coach Jawai to Jodhpur. City tour incl. Mehrangarh Fort. Hotel in Jodhpur – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 9** ..... Coach through Thar desert to Jaisalmer. Hotel in Jaisalmer – 2 nights.

**Day 10** ..... Jaisalmer fort. Camel trek in Thar Desert. (B,L,D)

**Day 11** ..... Coach to Bikaner. Junagarh Fort. Hotel in Bikaner – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 12** ..... Bikaner to Delhi by train. Hotel in Delhi – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 13** ..... Fly New Delhi to London or perhaps extend your stay in India. (B)

### 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.

# REVOLUTION! THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**FROM BOSTON TO PHILADELPHIA ON THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF BUNKER HILL**

**14–26 June 2025**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Stephen Brumwell**

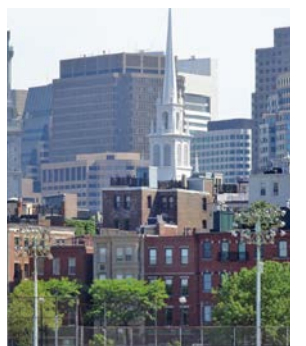
**Activity Level: 2**

This superb 13-day tour of The American War of Independence/Revolution in the north will immerse you in 18th century colonial America during its struggle for freedom from the clutches of British rule. Starting in historic Boston, the cradle of the revolution and home to the Freedom Trail, we travel through magnificent Eastern USA countryside to explore the pivotal battlefields and important sites of the war, many of which have been painstakingly and wonderfully restored. We will visit places that resonate throughout history: Lexington, Saratoga, Valley Forge, West Point, Philadelphia, Brandywine, Trenton and New York. Although a level 2 tour, we will be spending two full days on foot in Boston, Philadelphia and New York. Throughout we will be staying at 3 & 4 star hotels and dining at a wealth of local restaurants, and all this in the company of an expert historian.

A key feature of this tour will be the activities surrounding the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill when Boston pays proud tribute to this crucial event.

### Historical Background

Opposition to London's insensitive colonial policies on taxation and governance was provoked into outright rebellion when British soldiers attempted to disarm Massachusetts patriots in April 1775. British forces enjoyed initial tactical successes around Boston, but strategically these were not enough to prevent the city's encirclement by the newly formed Continental Army under George Washington and seaborne evacuation followed in the spring of 1776. For the next 18 months the revolt hung in the balance with substantial British reinforcements taking Philadelphia and New York, but an ill-conceived and poorly managed advance from Canada ended in abject failure with the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga in October 1777. The result was the abandonment of Philadelphia and the entry of a revengeful France into the conflict providing much needed naval support, military training and equipment to the patriots.



**Day 1** ..... Fly London to Boston or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Check in to Boston hotel for 4 nights. (D)

**Day 2** ..... 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill: attend events including re-enactments, exhibitions, talks, live music and the spectacular Bunker Hill Day Parade. (B,D)

**Day 3** ..... Lexington, Concord. (B)

**Day 4** ..... 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill: Boston Freedom Trail, Bunker Hill - Procession to Monument and Remembrance event. (B,D)

**Day 5** ..... Battle of Bennington, Saratoga National Historical Park. Hotel near Albany – 1 night. (B,D)

**Day 6** ..... Hudson Valley: Major-General Knox's house, Washington's Headquarters, West Point Military Academy and Museum. Hotel near Newburgh – 1 night. (B,D)

**Day 7** ..... Fort Montgomery, Stony Point, Major André Monument (Tappan), Fort Lee. Hotel near New York - 2 nights. (B,D)

**Day 8** ..... Full day – War of Independence in New York. Prospect Park (Battle of Long Island), Fort Greene Park, Battery Point in Manhattan (former Fort George), Governors' Island, Fraunces Tavern. (B,D)

**Day 9** ..... Washington Crossing, Trenton, Princeton. Hotel in King of Prussia area for 3 nights. (B,D)

**Day 10** ..... Full day in Philadelphia – incl. Museum of the American Revolution, Declaration House, Liberty Bell Centre and Independence Hall. (B,D)

**Day 11** ..... Brandywine Creek, Paoli, Valley Forge National Historical Park. (B,D)

**Day 12** ..... Battle site of Monmouth. Fly New York to London or perhaps extend your stay in the USA. (B)



### 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.



# THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

11–14 April 2025

4 days

**Expert Historian:**  
**Professor Dave Andress**

**Activity Level: 2**

This wonderful Revolutionary tour of Paris and Versailles is mostly enjoyed on foot and by metro. And whilst many of the locations will be familiar to you, many of the events and stories associated with them may not: what took place at the Champ de Mars, Jardin des Tuileries and the Palais Royal to name but a few, may permanently change your understanding of Paris. We will visit magnificent buildings such as Notre Dame, the Pantheon and Versailles to reveal a sinister side to their history; discover cafes whose cellars housed revolutionary tribunals; dine where the many of the era's luminaries and sans-culottes ate; explore some of Paris's seemingly innocent narrow streets to reveal their dark past. Paris is a must see for any traveller, a centre of art, fashion, romance and gastronomy, there's no better way to enjoy it than a long weekend exploring its most important historical period.

## Historical Background

Little did the people of Paris realise what they were unleashing when they stormed the hated royal symbol of the Bastille on 14th July 1789. The result was the creation of a new political order with marked ideological discontinuity and a process of irreversible socio-economic change. During the next four years Parisians would witness regicide, the creation of a republic, a major European war, a reign of terror and civil war. The French Revolution showed that no monarchy or central power was safe against the masses and it reshaped political thinking and European history from that point on. Paris, not for the first time and certainly not for the last, was the centre of the world.



- Day 1.....** Morning departure with Eurostar from London St Pancras to Paris or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Musée Carnavalet, walk through the Marais. Hotel for 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** Versailles including the Grand Palace, Royal Tennis Court, Hotel des Menus Plaisirs. Return to city to dine in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine. (B, D)
- Day 3.....** Walking/metro tour in central Paris Temple of Reason La Conciergerie, Hotel de Ville, Palais Royal, St Roch, Tuileries, Place de la Concorde. (B, D)
- Day 4.....** Place de la Nation, Picpus Cemetery. After lunch Eurostar from Paris to London St Pancras or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)

## 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.

# WELLINGTON IN INDIA

## THE MASTER LEARNS HIS TRADE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

24 October–  
03 November 2025

10 days

**Expert Historian:**  
**Major Gordon Corrigan**

**Activity Level: 2**

Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington) arrived in India as a colonel, and left eight years later as a major general. His campaigns in central and southern India took place in areas where tourists do not generally go.

The tour is for the more adventurous traveller who is happy with some longer journeys by road and air – so a certain amount of stamina and fitness will be required. In return, we can offer a very special tour which takes in spectacular fortresses, un-spoiled local villages and a way of life that has changed little since Wellesley's time. Although well off the standard tourist trail, we will be staying in the best available hotels.

## Historical Background

The 28-year-old Colonel Arthur Wellesley left England in command of the 33rd Foot and arrived in India in 1797. He swiftly established his innate ability and campaigned in the Mysore and Mahratta Wars, returning to England as a major general eight years later. It was in India that he learned how to deal with difficult allies, how to successfully campaign in a fourth-world country where terrain and climate conspired against him, and how to supply troops where no established logistics existed. He was the first commander to maintain an army in the field in the wet season, and he established a bullock stud farm to provide transport for rations. In an age when intelligence gathering was regarded as rather bad form, he established a network of informants who kept him aware of the enemy's movements. All these lessons would be invaluable in his later campaigns in Portugal and Spain.



## ESSENTIALS

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.

- Day 0 .....** Fly overnight from London to Bengaluru (Bangalore).
- Day 1 .....** Arrive Bengaluru or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Bengaluru – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2.....** Seringapatam. Hotel in Mysore – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 3.....** Mysore. Fly to Pune. Hotel in Pune – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4.....** Ahmednagar, Daulatabad Forts. Hotel in Aurangabad – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5.....** Assaye. Hotel in Akola – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 .....** Argaum, Chikaldara. Hotel near Chikaldara – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 7.....** Gawilghur Fortress. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 .....** Nagpur. Fly to Mumbai. Hotel in Mumbai – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 .....** Full day exploring Mumbai. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ....** Fly Mumbai to London or perhaps extend your stay in India. (B)





# AUSTERLITZ: NAPOLEON'S MASTERPIECE

## THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT TOUR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25–30 November–2025**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Alan Rooney**

**Activity Level: 2**

We spend a fascinating six days exploring the 1805 campaign from the Allied rear-guard actions in the Danube valley to the battlefield of Austerlitz itself, which has changed little over the years. A fitting culmination of this tour will be the 220th anniversary reenactment of the battle, a spectacular and colourful event with over 1000 participants, giving us a flavour of this momentous Battle of the Three Emperors. Further highlights of the tour will be spectacular views over the Danube valley, Durnstein Castle, walking the battlefield of Schongraben, lunch at the atmospheric Post House where Napoleon devised his strategy, dinner in Austerlitz Chateau, where the Emperors Francis II and Alexander I spent the night before the battle, and of course the fabulous battle re-enactment itself in VIP comfort. The tour is based out of our four-star hotels in Krems and Brno, where, at the latter we will also be able to enjoy its magical Christmas Market and sample a Glühwein or two.

### Historical Background

As a result of the capitulation of the “unfortunate General Mack” at Ulm, the 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.



- Day 1 .....** Fly from London to Vienna or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the Krems hotel. Travel to Krems – hotel for 2 nights (D)
- Day 2 .....** Kutuzov’s Retreat: Amstetten and Durnstein. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** French Pursuit: Tabor Bridges, Schongraben, Znaim, Krenowitz. Hotel in Brno for 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** The battle of Austerlitz: Slapanitz, Zuran, Blazovitz, Post House, Pratzen Heights, Sokolnitz Castle, Tellnitz, Satchan lakes. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 .....** Austerlitz Chateau, the 220th anniversary re-enactment, fireworks. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 .....** Spaleny Mill, drive to Vienna. Fly Vienna to London or perhaps extend your stay in Austria. (B)

### 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.

# WELLINGTON IN SPAIN

## A CLASSIC PENINSULAR WAR TOUR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**12–19 September 2024**

**Expert Historian:**

**Col Nick Lipscombe**

**11–18 September 2025**

**Expert Historian:**

**Mark Thompson**

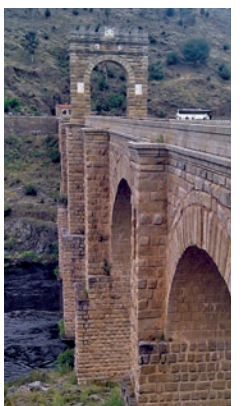
**8 days**

**Activity Level: 2**

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.



### 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.

- Day 1 .....** Fly from London to Madrid or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Madrid, Toledo (overnight). (D)
- Day 2 .....** Talavera, Almaraz, Trujillo (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Albuera, Badajoz, Elvas (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Elvas, Alcántara, Fort Concepcion (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Almeida, the Coa and Fuentes de Oñoro. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Ciudad Rodrigo, Salamanca (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Salamanca battlefield, free time in Salamanca. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Avila, leave tour/flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Spain. (B)





# WELLINGTON OVER THE PYRENEES

## THE INVASION OF FRANCE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**23 April–1 May 2025**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Col Nick Lipscombe**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour is a natural progression from our popular 'Wellington in Spain' tour. Our route roughly follows the Great North Road from Madrid towards the great French border fortress of Bayonne and thence eastwards. En route we traverse sierras and great rivers, once formidable barriers for the armies of both sides and none so much as the dominating mountains of the western Pyrenees from the top of which, we will gain stunning views over much of the campaign area. We'll travel along the often violent coast of the Bay of Biscay and visit the harbour havens so crucial to the resupply of Wellington's army. And once in France we will discover its rich lush countryside which reminded many of the soldiers of their homes in Britain.

### Historical Background

After achieving the decisive victory over the French at Salamanca in July 1812, Wellington liberated Madrid but then over-extended his army at Burgos and was forced into a harrowing retreat. The following year, determined not to make the same mistake, he drove three French armies back and defeated them in the epic encounter at Vitoria. The French withdrew and fought with their backs to the Pyrenees trying to prevent the unthinkable – the invasion of France. Wellington captured San Sebastian and fought a series of battles in the Pyrenees before judging the time right to commence the invasion. After two more battles at the end of 1813, at Nivelle and the Nive, Soult was pushed eastwards via Orthez and Tarbes towards Toulouse where the last encounter of the war was fought in April 1814.



- Day 1 .....** Fly LGW/Bilbao or meet at Arrivals Hall of Bilbao Airport. To Pamplona for 3 nights. Pamplona citadel. (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,L,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,L,D)
- Day 9 .....** Farewells at Bilbao Airport. Fly Bilbao/LGW or perhaps extend your stay in Spain. (B)

### 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.

# THE NAPOLEONIC LEGEND

## TOULON, CORSICA, ELBA AND THE ROUTE NAPOLEON



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**15–25 June 2025**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Alan Rooney**

**Activity Level: 2**

During this unique tour from Toulon in Provence, across the Mediterranean Sea to Corsica and Elba and back to Nice, capital of the French Riviera, we will visit the places and discuss the events that were influential in the creation of the Napoleonic Legend as we travel to: Ajaccio on Corsica, where Napoleon was born and raised; Toulon, where a young Captain Buonaparte exploded onto the world stage; Nice, where newly promoted Brigadier Buonaparte planned his part in the 1794 Italian campaign; Elba, where the emperor spent 9 months of exile; Golfe Juan, where he landed to commence his ill-fated 100 days in 1815; Cannes to Grenoble to follow his march, including the site of famous confrontation with the 5th Line regiment. Necessarily there will be sea travel: overnight from Toulon to Ajaccio enjoying en-suite cabins and return day trip from Bastia to Elba. Travel between Corsica and Nice is by air. Hotels throughout are four-star and centrally located. In Toulon and Nice we will use the local public transportation systems which will require walks of up to 30 minutes at a time.

### Historical Background

In the early years of the French Revolution both the young Napoleon and Great Britain were ardent supporters of Corsican Independence. But as the revolution progressed, Napoleon's enthusiasm waned, and the Buonaparte family found themselves forced to flee the island for Marseilles. Shortly afterwards, Captain Bonaparte's command of the artillery during the siege of Toulon was instrumental to the capture of that port from the allied Royalist and British. In search of a Mediterranean base, the British set their sights on Corsica, landing forces under Sir David Dundas, Colonel John Moore and Captina Horatio Nelson RN in 1794. Fast forward some 20 years, after an astounding career, the defeated emperor found himself banished to Elba in 1814. 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.

- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Marseille or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Toulon (1 night), tour Royale, introductory talk over drinks. (L,D)
- Day 2 .....** Toulon. Cable-car to Mt Faron, panoramic views of Toulon, British/Royalist defence, Mémorial du débarquement, ferry across the inner harbour to Mt Cairo/Fort Mulgrave, Musée National de la Marine. Overnight ferry to Ajaccio, Corsica. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Ajaccio. Full day exploration: La Maison Bonaparte, Salon Napoléonie, cathedral, imperial chapel, Musée Fesch, Place d'Austerlitz. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Corsica Independent. Corte, the former Bonaparte home, battle of Ponte Novu, 'Tour de la Mortella'. Biguglia (3 nights). (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Elba. Return ferry to Portoferraio. Villa dei Mulini, Villa di Dan Martino; Stella and Falcone forts. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Calvi. British siege of 1794: English landing beaches, preserved citadel and site of British batteries. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Nice. Fly Bastia to Nice (2 nights). Walk to Villa Masséna Musée. Free afternoon and evening. (B)
- Day 8 .....** The Flight of the Eagle. Fort Carré in Antibes, Golfe-Juan, Cannes, Napoleon's house in 1794. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Route Napoleon. St-Vallier, Seranon, Castellane, Barreme, Digne, Sisteron, Gap, Ponthaut, La Prairie de la Recontre, Grenoble (2 nights). (B,D)
- Day 10 .....** Grenoble. Chateau de Vizelle, museum of the French Revolution, cable car to Fort Bastille, mountain troop museum. (B,D)
- Day 11 .....** Salon en Provence and home. Valence, Musée de l'Empéri. Fly Marseilles to London or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)



### 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.



# THE WATERLOO CAMPAIGN

## Historical Background

Following the abdication of Napoleon in April 1814 and his subsequent exile to the island of Elba, the great powers met in Vienna to consider new boundaries and spheres of influence for the new world order, but it quickly became apparent that rivalries and mistrust would make any such agreement difficult. Meanwhile the restored French monarchy, recently returned from exile, having learnt nothing and forgotten nothing, failed to win the hearts of their countrymen. Sitting on his little Mediterranean island, fearing for his own future, Napoleon deemed that France was ready for his reappearance, so with European powers distracted in negotiation, on 2 March 1815 he landed on the south coast of France to commence what would become known as 'The Hundred Days', a campaign which would end ignobly for him on a Belgian field on 18 June later that year. Waterloo was the first and only time that the two greatest commanders of the era, Napoleon and Wellington, would meet each other in battle and it would be the last campaign for both of them. It would also be 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.

The 210th anniversary of the battle of Waterloo will be commemorated with staging of the first major reenactment since its bicentenary 10 years ago. Thus, we have designed two anniversary tours around the event, which, curiously, the Belgian authorities have scheduled for the weekend of 28/29 June 2025! We will also operate our usual Walking Waterloo tour in October.



## WATERLOO CAMPAIGN REENACTMENT

**24 June–1 July 2025**

**8 days**

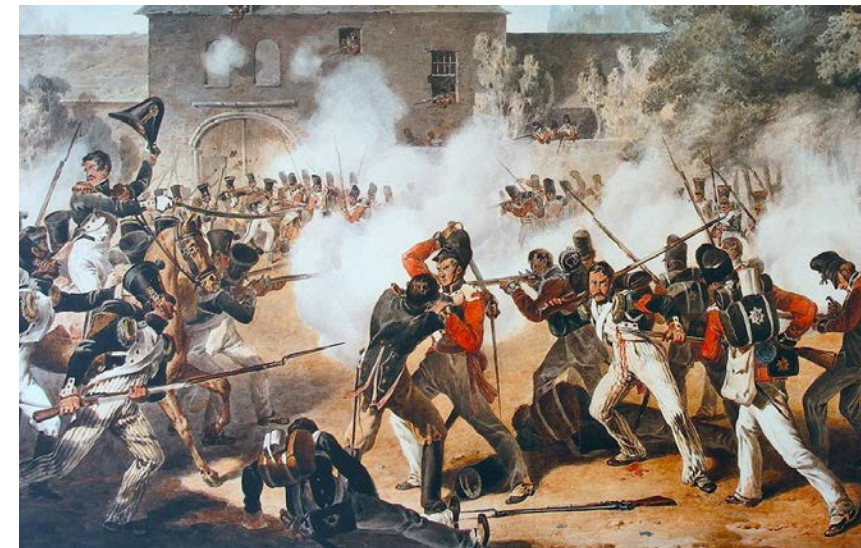
**Expert Historian:**

**Col Andrew Field**

**Activity Level: 2**

This is the ultimate campaign tour which will visit all the major battlefields and actions of the campaign. You will visit the battlefields of Quatre Bras, Ligny, Wavre and Waterloo and trace the route of the Allied armies. Enjoy the reenactments of the battle and events which are scheduled for the weekend. Throughout the eight days the tour will be based out of central Brussels with its wealth of historic architectural interest and excellent restaurants. Travel from London is by comfortable Eurostar train.

- Day 1 .....** Eurostar London St Pancras to Brussels. Hestrud. Beamont, Lobbes and Thuin. Rue Royale/Parc de Bruxelles. Central Brussels Hotel 7 nights. (L,D)
- Day 2 .....** Ligny and Quatre Bras. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 .....** Genappe, Le Caillou, Mont St Jean, Wellington's Waterloo headquarters, St Joseph church, Waterloo crypt. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 .....** Waterloo battlefield tour: defence of Hougomont, D'Erlon's opening attacks, Allied cavalry charge, La Haye Sainte, French cavalry attacks and infantry squares, Plancenoit, final attack of Imperial Guard. (B,L,D)
- Day 5/6 ..** Reenactment weekend. Order of events for today and tomorrow to be confirmed but will include: the major reenactments, parades, special exhibitions, markets, reenactor camps, battlefield museum, the Lion Mound and 360 Panorama. Lunch and dinner under your own arrangements. (B)
- Day 7 .....** Wavre, Rixensart Woods, Bois de Paris. Free afternoon in Brussels. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Royal Military Museum. Eurostar Brussels to London St Pancras. (B)



## A NEAR RUN THING THE WATERLOO ANNIVERSARY TOUR

**27–30 June 2025**

**4 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**TBC**

**Activity Level: 2**

This four-day tour enjoys travel by Eurostar from London to Brussels where we catch a glimpse of that city as Wellington and men would have known it. But our base for the tour is in the village of Waterloo itself, from where we will explore the three major battles of the campaign: Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo. We anticipate the re-enactment taking place on the Saturday evening when we will obtain grandstand seats from where you will be able to enjoy the magnificent spectacle.

- Day 1 .....** Train from London and/or start tour at Brussels. Grand Place, Town Hall. Waterloo Town (three nights). (D)
- Day 2 .....** Ligny, Quatre Bras. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Waterloo battlefield, reenactment camps, evening reenactment. (B)
- Day 4 .....** La Garde Recule! Brussels, leave tour/train to London. (B)



## WALKING WATERLOO

**10–13 October 2025**

**4 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck**

**Activity Level: 3**

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. As its title suggests, this is a walking tour graded Activity Level 3, i.e. one involving a higher level of fitness and stamina than our standard tours. We will be going well away from the standard tourist centres on walks of up to 6 or 7 miles over rough tracks in the beautiful Belgian countryside. Please satisfy yourself that you are up to it physically and come with suitable walking shoes, waterproof clothes and a daypack – as once we are off the beaten track we will have little access to the coach.

- Day 1 .....** Train from London and/or start tour at Brussels. Grand Place, Town Hall. Waterloo Town (three nights). (D)
- Day 2 .....** Ligny, Quatre Bras. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Waterloo battlefield. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** La Garde Recule! Brussels, leave tour/train to London. (B)



## ESSENTIALS

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



# THE BLOODY FIGHT FOR ITALIAN INDEPENDENCE

## THE BATTLES OF 1859 AND 1866



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

15–20 October 2024

6 days

Expert Historian:  
Major General  
John Drewienkiewicz

Activity Level: 2

During this six-day tour to northern Italy we will visit five battlefields that were pivotal in the struggle for Italian Independence: the allied victories in 1859 at Montebello, Palestro, Magenta and Solferino and the reality check at Custoza in 1866. We'll be based in the colourful Lombardy city of Magenta, and Peschiera which provides us with a fine example of a Quadrilateral fortress, perched on the banks of the incredibly beautiful Lake Garda. Throughout our travels we will truly grasp how the breath-taking mountainous terrain and rivers influenced the strategy and planning of both sides.

### Historical Background

After nearly 20 years of 'enlightened' French hegemony, the Congress of Vienna saw Northern Italy once more placed under oppressive Austro-Hungarian control as demonstrated by the ensuing development of the 'Quadrilateral Fortress' system. But the sparks of nationalism could not be extinguished and as Sardinia (Piedmont) grew in strength she provided leadership for the drive for Italian independence and unification. Encouraged by the 'five day' Milan revolt on 22 March 1848 she declared war on the Habsburg Empire only to be defeated at Custoza and Novara. But by ceding Nice and Savoy to France, Sardinia bought the support of Napoleon III and thus encouraged, once again engineered war in April 1859. The bloody and unimaginative battles of Magenta and Solferino followed but which consolidated Piedmont's dominance of Lombardy. When in June 1866, Prussia struck against Austria, the recently declared Kingdom of Italy once again took the offensive but was defeated at the second battle of Custoza.



- Day 1 ..... Milan. Fly London–Milan Linate - or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Risorgimento Museum. Travel to Magenta. Introductory talk and pre-dinner drinks. (2 nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Montebello and Palestro. Stradella Gap, Montebello, Palestro. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Magenta and Peschiera. Magenta battlefield and museum, ossuary and monuments. Peschiera Fortress, Peschiera. (three nights). (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Custoza. Full day at Custoza. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Solferino. Full day at Solferino - San Martino tower battlefield museums, the chapel and ossuary. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... The Red Cross. Red Cross Monument, climb the Spy of Italy, International Red Cross museum in Castiglione. Transfer to Milan airport for our return flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Italy. (B)

### ESSENTIALS

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 ZULU WAR

## THE WASHING OF THE SPEARS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

1st–14 March 2025 **SOLD OUT**

15–28 November 2025

12 days

Expert Historian:  
Ian Knight

Activity Level: 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 and an abundance of wildlife. 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 will 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.

Please note: there is a maximum of 12 rooms available on this tour due to the limited capacity of some accommodation.

### Historical Background

First annexed by Britain in the Napoleonic Wars, the Cape of Good Hope was a vital position on the route to the Far East, but South Africa never rivalled India in importance within the Empire. And yet the battles between Queen Victoria's red-coated battalions and the lightly armed Zulu forces have remained vibrant in the memory of both adversaries as few other imperial events have done.

In 1879, with Britain at the height of her imperial power, Lord Chelmsford's three columns marched into Zululand on a punitive expedition to teach the Zulu King Cetshwayo a lesson. Two equally professional armies with totally different fighting traditions and weapons met and fought with startling results. At Isandlwana the Zulus inflicted the most humiliating defeat of the Victorian era on the over-confident British battalions. Yet hours later the small number of determined and well-led defenders at Rorke's Drift drove off repeated Zulu attacks and captured the public's admiration. In the end the rifle inevitably triumphed over the spear. It is a story of arrogance



and determination, traditions and innovations, but above all amazing individual bravery on both sides. The old Zulu nation was destroyed – but at the cost of a significant dent to British military prestige.

- Day 0 ..... Depart on overnight flight from London to Johannesburg or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel.
- 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 at Isandlwana Lodge. (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 ..... Rorke's Drift. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 ..... Drive to Johannesburg. Farewells at Johannesburg airport or overnight return flight to London, or perhaps extend your stay in South Africa. (B,L)



### ESSENTIALS

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.



# MONS AND LE CATEAU

## OPENING SHOTS AND LEADERSHIP CRISIS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**31 August–  
3 September 2025**

**4 days**

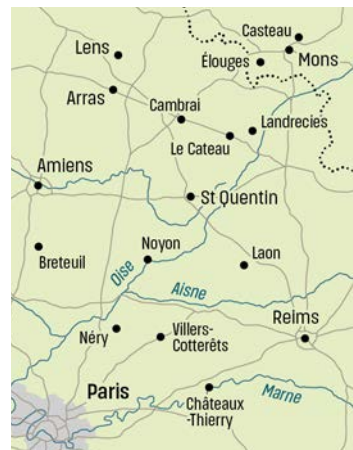
**Expert Historian:  
Simon Jones**

**Activity Level: 2**

The well-trained army regulars and reservists of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) saw their first action of the Great War on the outskirts of Mons in Belgium on August 22nd 1914. The Kaiser disparagingly referred to them as 'a contemptible little army' and by late November they had been virtually destroyed. But in so doing they had succeeded in helping foil the German 'Schlieffen Plan' keeping the enemy both out of both Ypres and Paris. During the retreat from Mons, the commander of II Corps, General Smith-Dorrien, disobeyed the direct orders of his superior, Sir John French, to make his famous stand at Le Cateau.

### Historical Background

This tour focuses on both the first fights and high-command issues involving the British in August 1914: Mons, the subsequent retreat, the stands at Le Cateau and Landrecies and the contradictory strategic options. Based out of Mons and Cambrai you will appreciate how the professionalism of the BEF in terms of tactics, training and leadership was able to stem the tide of the German advance and draw them away from their intended objectives. Under the guidance of our expert historian you will gain an insight into the politics and rationale of high-level military thinking that prevailed at the beginning of the war with particular emphasis on those surrounding British General Horace Smith-Dorrien.



- Day 1.....** Depart London St Pancras for Lille Europe with Eurostar or make your own arrangements to join the tour at Lille Europe. Coach to First Shot Memorial at Casteau. Welcome drinks and an introductory talk by our guide. Hotel in Mons – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2.....** Opening action around Mons: incl. Casteau, Obourg Station and Nimy Bridge; St Symphorien Cemetery; Elouges. Hotel in Cambrai - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Guard's Brigade rear-guard action at Landrecies, "stopping blow" at Le Cateau, Munster's stand at Etreux. Lunch in a restaurant. (B,L,D)
- Day 4.....** Cerizy, Nery, Villers Cotterets, Guards Grave Cemetery. Continue to Paris Gare de Nord - evening Eurostar back to London St Pancras or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)

### 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.

# THE BATTLES OF THE MARNE AND AISNE

## GERMANY'S MISSED OPPORTUNITY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**6–11 September 2025**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Simon Jones**

**Activity Level: 2**

On this fantastic tour we visit key battlefields of the First World War on which French, American and British troops fought, and stunning memorials, dramatic scenery and a remarkable legacy of battle. The farms and villages where the blue and scarlet-clad French defeated the German advance in the Battle of the Marne survive today as they were in September 1914. In the Chemin des Dames and Champagne sectors, bunkers, caves and ghost villages are testament of fiercely destructive battles of 1915-1918 while a recently rediscovered trench network at Massiges is an astonishing insight into life in the front line. The preserved Belleau Wood battlefield near Châteaux-Thierry commemorates the epic fight by US Marines in 1918 during the 2nd Battle of the Marne. The vast cemeteries bear witness to terrible sacrifice while the memorials are among the most dramatic on the Western Front. The American memorials honour their fallen on a breath-taking scale, while few can match the emotion of the French 'Phantoms of the Marne' depicting warriors risen from the dead above the 1918 battlefield.

### Historical Background

The German Schlieffen Plan advance was halted in September 1914 just north of Paris by a vast battle at the River Marne (the 'Miracle on the Marne'). Forced to retire, the Germans dug in on the Chemin des Dames ridge, overlooking the River Aisne. Trench lines spread north and south, with stalemate ensuing. In spring 1917 a new French commander, Nivelle, claimed he could break the deadlock but his attack collapsed in mutiny. In May 1918, the Germans unleashed a massive offensive on the now quiet Chemin des Dames, overwhelming resting British divisions. Châteaux-Thierry fell, but American forces stopped the attackers at Belleau Wood. When the Germans attacked again, the French were pre-warned and Marshal Foch's counteroffensive in July inaugurated a series of German defeats which ended in Allied victory.



- Day 1 ....** The British at the Marne 1914: Eurostar train to Paris or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to La Ferté-sous-Jouarre - British Memorial to the Missing of 1914. Mondemont - National Monument to the Victory on the Marne. Continue to Châteaux-Thierry. Hotel in Châteaux-Thierry – 5 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** The 1914 Marne battlefield: Grande Tombe de Villeroi, Charles Péguy memorial, Chambry Cemetery, Ferme de Champfleury, Musée de la Grande Guerre at Meaux. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** The Aisne 1914, the Chemin des Dames 1917 and 1918: Laffaux Mill; Fort de La Malmaison; Caverne du Dragon; Cerny-en-Laonnois and Vendresse Cemeteries; Marie-Louise Monument, Hurtebise Farm; Craonne Observatory Tower; La Ville aux Bois; Monument National des chars d'assaut. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** The Champagne Offensives: Fort de la Pompelle Museum; Russian Cemetery, St Hilaire-le-Grand; Navarin Farm Monument; Sommepey American Monument; Main de Massiges trenches. Dinner at your own expense this evening. (B)
- Day 5.....** The Marne 1918: US 3rd Division Memorial; Battles of the Marne Memorial, Dormans; Marfaux British Cemetery; Italian War Cemetery, Chambrecy; 42nd Rainbow Division American Memorial 'Croix Rouge Farm'; Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles; Les Fantômes Memorial; and Buzancy Military Cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 6 ...** The Marne Memorials: Château-Thierry - US 3rd Division Memorial; Maison de l'Amitié France-Amérique; American Monument. Belleau Wood- Memorial; Aisne-Marne American Cemetery; Musée de la Mémoire. Return to Paris and return Eurostar train to London or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)

### 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.



# THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

## DAMN THE DARDANELLES: THIS WILL BE OUR GRAVE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

30 April–8 May 2025

9 days

Expert Historian:  
**Dr Bruce Cherry**

Activity Level: 2

During this wonderful tour to Turkey we will visit and examine the main aspects of the Gallipoli campaign: the naval assault, the problems of landing against defended beaches at Cape Helles, the command, control and communication issues, the miracle that was ANZAC, the Turkish perspective, the conditions at Gallipoli, the Suvla Bay fiasco and discuss whether it was all worthwhile. All this is set against the exotic backdrop of Turkish history, culture, scenic beauty and cuisine - all of which we will have ample opportunity to explore. We will also soak up the culture with visits to the ruins of legendary Troy and a full day exploring the beguiling and bustling city of Istanbul, the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

### Historical Background

Gallipoli was the scene of one of the great Allied failures of the First World War. In attempting to take Turkey out of the war, the assault on the Dardanelles ended in disastrous failure following a campaign that lasted from April 1915 to January 1916. The campaign saw some thirteen British and Empire divisions involved in a struggle against twenty Turkish divisions, with a total cost of 500,000 casualties.



- Day 1 ..... Arrival. Fly London to Istanbul or join tour in Istanbul. Hotel in Istanbul – 2 nights. Pre-dinner drinks and introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Sultanahmet. Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar. Dinner overlooking Bosphorus. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Canakkale. Istanbul Military Museum. Afternoon drive to Canakkale. Hotel – 6 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Naval and Amphibious Operations. Kilitbahir, Turkish memorial, 25th April landing points, SS Clyde landings at V Beach, “six VCs before breakfast”, Helles Memorial. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... ANZAC. Gaba Tepe Museum, Anzac Cove, Plugge’s Plateau – view Razor Back, Shrapnel Valley and Lone Pine Ridge. Johnstone’s Jolly and Quinn’s Post. Sari Bair, Walker’s Ridge, Hill ‘Q’, the Nek. Dinner at own expense. (B,L)
- Day 6 ..... Kumkale and Troy. Kumkale, Troy site and museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Helles Peninsula. Gully Ravine, ‘Vineyard’ battles, Bigali museum, Ephez naval museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Suvla Bay. Suvla Bay, Nibrunesi Point, walk to Lala Baba or stretch of Kiretch Tepe (both weather dependent), Hill 10, Chocolate Hill, Green Hill, Scimitar Hill, Hill 60, Büyükanafarta museum. Farewell dinner. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Home. Drive to Istanbul to catch flight to London or perhaps extend stay in Turkey. (B)

### 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.

# ITALY DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

## BATTLES IN THE MOUNTAINS AND CLOUDS

18–23 September 2024

6 days

Expert Historian:  
**Major Gordon Corrigan**

Activity Level: 2

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.



### 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.

- Day 1 ..... Gorizia. Fly London to Venice or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel at Venice airport. Drive to Gorizia. Welcome drinks and evening lecture. (one night). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Isonzo. Monte San Michele, Redipuglia, Kobarid (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Caporetto. Battle Museum in Kobarid, route of Erwin Rommel, trenches and tunnels of the Italian defence line. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Asiago. Monte Cengio, optional Grenadier track walk, Asiago (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Asiago. Asiago Plateau, Tattenham Corner, San Sisto Ridge walk, Granezza cemetery, Edward Brittain’s grave, Monte Belvedere. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... The Piave. Battle of Nervessa, British crossing of the River Piave. Drive to Venice and flight home to London or extend stay in Italy. (B)



# LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

## JORDAN AND THE ARAB REVOLT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

28 October–  
7 November 2025

11 days

Expert Historian:  
Prof Nicholas Saunders

Activity Level: 2

This tour explores Jordan's remarkable classical history and archaeology focussing on Thomas Edward Lawrence better known as Lawrence of Arabia. In Amman you will climb up to the ancient citadel and gaze down on Roman and modern architecture and explore many fabulous museums. But the real adventure starts as we begin to trace the remains of the Hejaz railway that was built by the Turks. During the Arab Revolt in 1917-1918, the line was constantly under attack, and there are many extant traces of the bitter fighting and defensive positions from Amman to the border with Saudi Arabia. We'll jump on to the back of open 4x4s driven by knowledgeable Bedouins to travel deep into the desert and discover the remains of stations, trenches, fortifications, airfields and camps. We'll drive amidst the golden-red desert, admire dramatic wind-carved formations, scale massive sand-dunes and even spend a night in the desert in our own luxury tent. We explore the rock-hewn Nabataean city of Petra and atmospheric desert castles ending our tour at Lawrence's headquarters in Azraq. If you would like to see more, you can extend your stay to include the magnificent Roman ruins at Jerash, stand where Jesus was baptised and enjoy Moses' first view of the Holy Land.

### Historical Background

Initially dismissed by critics as a sideshow, the Arab Revolt was one of the most successful campaigns of the First World War. Conceived and plotted by the Arab Bureau, a branch of British Military Intelligence, from their rooms in Cairo's Savoy Hotel, Lawrence and his colleagues brought the idea of a Bedouin uprising to life. Between 1916 and 1918, the Arab Revolt wrought havoc and destruction upon Ottoman-Turkish forces, from the deserts of Arabia to the gates of Damascus. Subsequently called "the first modern



intelligence war," the Arab Revolt is the perfect example of what we might today call asymmetric warfare. Using guerrilla tactics and superior knowledge of geography and tribal alliances, the irregular Bedouin forces, supported by Lawrence, secured numerous dramatic victories – keeping tens of thousands of enemy troops tied down in static garrison duties trying to defend their supply line - until their eventual, triumphant entry into Damascus on 1 October 1918.

- Day 1** ..... Arrival: Fly London to Amman or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Amman - 3 nights.
- Day 2** ..... Amman. Welcome meeting prior to a full day exploring Jordan's capital (B,L,D)
- Day 3** ..... Arab Revolt and the Hejaz Railway: Amman's Hejaz Railway station and museum, Martyrs Memorial Museum and Royal Tank Museum (B,L,D)
- Day 4** ..... On to Aqaba! Following the Hejaz railway southward via Qatrania, Jerowf-Dawish and Qalat Aneiza stations Thence to Abu al-Lissan and Aqaba (one night) (B,L,D)
- Day 5** ..... Wadi Rum. Subject to access, Arab Revolt museums in Aqaba and explore the battle site. Wadi Rum - Lawrence Springs, Lawrence House. (one night luxury tented camp) (B,L,D)
- Day 6** ..... Deep Desert Exploration. 4x4 travel following the route from Wadi Rum, former RAF base at Disha, camp at Tooth Hill, track-bed of the railway to the Saudi border via Ottoman forts and stations at Tel Shahm, Ramleh and Mudawwara. Petra (three nights) (B,L,D)
- Day 7** ..... Petra Full day at site – the 'Treasury', the Royal Tombs, the 'Monastery', Qsar al-Bint and the Temple of the Winged Lion. (B,L,D)
- Day 8** ..... The Railway War. Batn el-Ghoul, climb 'Hill of Birds', landscape around Ma'an station. (B,L,D)
- Day 9** ..... Little Petra, Crusader castles and Tafileh: Nabataean site at Siq al-Barid (Little Petra), Crusader castle of Shobek, battle site of Tafileh, Crusader castle at Kerak. Return to Amman for last two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 10** ... Azraq and the Desert Castles. Azraq Castle and Qasr al-Kharaneh (B,L,D)
- Day 11** .... Depart: Fly Amman to London (B)

#### Extension

- Day 11** ..... Jesus and Moses. Drive to the banks of the River Jordan to Bethany, Elijah's Hill caves and baptismal pools, Mount Nebo, St George's Church in Madaba. Continue to Amman (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 12** ... Jerash. Full day at Jerash. (B,L,D)
- Day 13** ... Depart. Fly Amman to London or perhaps extend your stay in Jordan.

### 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.

# THE TANK WAR

## THE STEEL DEVILS OF THE WESTERN FRONT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

17–20 May 2025

4 days

Expert Historian:  
Simon Jones

Activity Level: 2

The use of the tank along the Western Front is often subsumed into the narrative of wider tours of the area. However this can detract from the incredible story behind the development of what was to become a potent weapon in the war of movement as the century progressed and the tank became a key component of the German Blitzkrieg strategy of WW2. On this tour we concentrate fully on the use of the tank in the war and show how it soon made frequent appearances in many battles along the Front. From the first appearance of the Mark I at the battle of Flers-Courcelette in September 1916 through to the unexpected tank on tank battle of Villers-Bretonneux in April 1918 this engaging tour explores the development and tactics of tank warfare paying attention to the rich narratives of tank development, the unreliable technology, the lessons learnt from their use, and the punishing terrain over which they were forced to move. We also learn of the men who fought and died in these unwieldy machines, the challenges of operating in confined spaces, the fear of getting stuck or incapacitated, and the amazing camaraderie that the tank war engendered.

### Historical Background

If necessity is the mother of invention, then the tank was conceived in the cloying mud of the Western Front. The First Battle of Ypres (October-November 1914) showed how the conflict was becoming a stalemate, bogged down in muddy trenches, saps and craters, with both armies settling into a bloody war of attrition and breakthroughs proving temporary and elusive. A new weapon was needed which could bring results so the idea of a 'Landship' using the newly designed 'caterpillar' track technology was developed. Initially part of the Machine Gun Corps the 'tank', as it came to be known, was brought into the war in 1916 at the battle of the Somme. Many broke down and the slow pace of movement endeared them to few. But at Cambrai (1917) British tanks succeeded in making a breakthrough, although this was not followed up. The limitations of tanks and their cumbersome nature stimulated further advances in design and tactics. The British Whippet was designed to exploit breaches in the enemy line and was faster (an eye-watering 8 mph against 3–4 mph for other models!).

Despite some limited success it is unlikely that the tank made a significant impact on the defeat of Germany. Major General Sir Louis Jackson called them 'freaks' and suggested the tasks allocated them should 'be dealt with by other means'. These hulking, cumbersome and unwieldy behemoths had made their debut; Major General Jackson could not have known that the future for the tank was only just beginning.



- Day 1** ..... 1916 Somme: Travel London St Pancras to Lille via Eurostar or make your own arrangements to join the tour at Lille Europe. Drive to Flers (first Tank attack), Pozières Tank Memorial. Drive to Arras – hotel for 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2** ..... 1917 Bullecourt & Cambrai: Battles of Bullecourt, Bullecourt Museum, Battle of Cambrai, Flesquières battlefield, Flesquières Hill British Cemetery, Cambrai Memorial at Louverval (B, L, D)
- Day 3** ..... 1918: Villers-Bretonneux, Cachy, Le Hamel, Battle of Amiens, Le Quesnel. (B, D)
- Day 4** ..... 1917 Ypres: Menin Road Tank Cemetery, Pond Farm replica Mk IV tank, 'Action at the Cockroft' site near St Julien. Drive to Lille. Travel Lille Europe to London via Eurostar or perhaps extend stay in France. (B)



### 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.



# DISCOVERING THE WESTERN FRONT

## THE BRITISH & COMMONWEALTH FORCES 1914-1918



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

4-8 August 2025

5 days

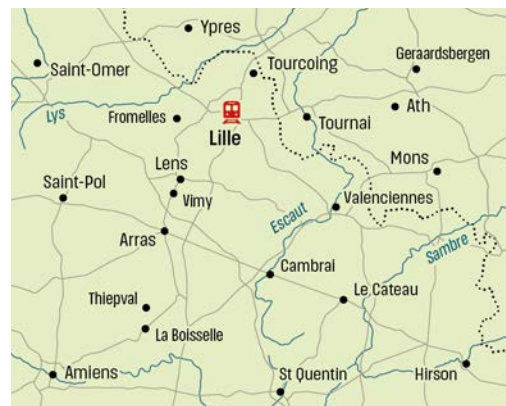
Expert Historian:  
Dr Bruce Cherry

Activity Level: 2

This five-day Western Front tour provides an overview of the major events involving British and Empire forces in Northern France and Belgium: it is both an introductory tour for the novice and an essential 'aide memoire' to those more familiar with the First World War. At selected key locations, cemeteries, monuments and memorial parks in and around Mons, Ypres, the Somme and Arras you will hear of the human experience, gain an appreciation of the ground, discuss the effectiveness of the tactics and weaponry employed, challenge the strategy and capability of the commanders and question the impact of logistics and morale. Our list of sites is not exhaustive, so if we have missed a particular place that you would like to visit, please ask us if it is possible to be included in the itinerary when you book.

### Historical Background

The battlefields of the Somme and Ypres saw the shedding of the blood of almost one million British and Commonwealth soldiers during the First World War. Their names are synonymous with the horrors and sufferings of that conflict and the size of the monuments to the Missing at Thiepval, the Menin Gate and Tyne Cot are testament to the scale of devastation of human life. But the war was not always one of continuous static stalemate. Starting as a war of manoeuvre, the fast-moving German armies inexorably swept through Belgium outflanking all before them until the battles for the Frontiers gradually brought them to a halt and trench warfare ensued as they determined to hold the ground they had won. The next 3 years saw the Allies attempt to break the deadlock through a succession of costly and indecisive battles: Ypres, Loos, Neuve Chapelle and The Somme. But during those years both sides also significantly developed their armies, weaponry and tactics to such an extent that the final months of the war saw armies once more on the move engaging tactics that would develop into the German Blitzkrieg of the Second World War.



- Day 1 ..... Mons 1914: Take morning Eurostar from London to Lille or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Lille Europe. Casteau, Mons (overnight). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Retreat from Mons/The Somme 1916: Ors, Le Cateau, La Boisselle, Mametz, Longueval, Pozieres, Amiens (two nights). (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... The Somme 1916 & 1918: Amiens, Villers-Bretonneux, Cachy, Thiepval, Beaumont-Hamel, Serre. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... The Artois 1915-1917: Vimy Ridge, Fromelles, Neuve Chapelle, Ypres (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... The Ypres Salient, Lille. Eurostar to London or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)

### 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.

# THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

## A STATE OF AFFAIRS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

3-10 April 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:  
Col Ray Wilkinson

Activity Level: 2

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 (alongside the very sizeable military contingents from Nazi Germany and Italy). 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. Why did they feel so passionately that they left their homelands, many from countries thousands of miles away, to go and fight in a foreign land?



### 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.

- 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, Cobrera 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 extend your stay in Spain. (B)



# FINLAND 1939

## THE WINTER WAR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

1–8 September 2024

8 days

Expert Historian:  
Col Bob Kershaw

Activity Level: 2

This tour follows the fortunes of the 9th Soviet Army attempting to cut Finland in two at its narrowest point in time for Stalin's 60th birthday. Our expert will explain the nature of this amazing victory against seemingly insurmountable odds. Both he and local guides help to explore numerous off-road conflict areas where Finnish ski troops cut and blocked these roads, and show evidence of old and renovated bunkers and trench networks where both sides dug in, and explain what it is like to fight and live in sub-zero conditions. All this is conducted amid the stunning scenery of the land of the 'midnight sun', where little has changed in over 75 years. You will appreciate the myriad of lakes and fast running rivers which aided the Finnish defence. This is wild Taiga land with much evidence of reindeer, elk and other wildlife.

### Historical Background

When Stalin signed the Soviet Non-Aggression Pact with Hitler's Nazi Germany in August 1939, Eastern Poland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were annexed within the Soviet sphere of influence. Finland realized she would be next and prepared. At the end of November five Soviet armies invaded Finland from north to south. Temperatures dropped to as low as -40° as road-bound Soviet mechanized troops were sliced up into isolated 'motto' segments by Finnish ski-borne detachments. These attacked like a 'white death' from the fir forests on either side of the roads and, aided by the cold, hunger and fear, the Finns harried the Russian columns to extinction. David won this particular Goliath contest and the Russian 44th, 163rd and 54th Divisions virtually ceased to exist. Although they would lose the subsequent war of attrition, the Suomussalmi and Kuhmo victories were an iconic morale as well as a physical uplift for the Finns.



- Day 1 ..... Fly from London or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Helsinki, Suomussalmi (two nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Battle of Suomussalmi: Ruhtinansalmi, Palovaara, Suomussalmi, Lake Kiantajrvi. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Battle of Raate Road: Raate, Kuhmo (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Battle of Kuhmo: Kesseli-Kalkanen. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Kuhmo, Helsinki (three nights). (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Suomenlinna Sea Fortress. (B)
- Day 7 ..... Helsinki: full day exploring Helsinki. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Helsinki: Pannssarimuseo. Leave tour/flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Finland. (B)

### 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.

# DICTATOR

## MUSSOLINI & ITALIAN FASCISM



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

For dates refer to  
website

8 days

Expert Historian:  
Professor John Foot

Activity Level: 2

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.



### 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.

- Day 1 ..... Roman Holiday: fly to Rome or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the 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, Ardeantine 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: Predappio, Carpena, Verona, Lake Garda. Hotel in Lake Garda area – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Salo: Salo museum; villa and boathouse used by Mussolini; Vittoriale degli Italiani incl. museum, mausoleum and theatre. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Como: Lake Como, Dongo, Partisan museum, visit the spot where Mussolini and Claretta Petacci were executed. Hotel near Lake Como – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Milan & Home: Piazza San Sepolcro, Piazzale Loreto (where Mussolini's corpse was displayed). Fly Milan to London or extend your stay in Italy. (B)



# THE RISE & FALL OF NAZI GERMANY

## DARKNESS VISIBLE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**16–23 June 2025**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Professor Alex Korb**

**Activity Level: 2**

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 Führer'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 Führer, 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.



- Day 1 ..... Fly from London to Munich or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Munich - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Munich: tour on foot and public transport, incl. Sternecker beerhall, 1923 Beerhall putsch route, Odeonsplatz, Hofbrauhaus, Brown House, Munich conference site (exterior only). (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Berchtesgaden/Obersalzberg: Berghof, Kehlstein, Eagle's Nest Hotel in Berchtesgaden - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Nuremberg: Congress Hall, Rally Grounds Hotel in Nuremberg - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Nuremberg: Courthouse. Bayreuth: Wahnfried, Opera House. Hotel in Weimar - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Buchenwald, Wannsee. Hotel in Berlin - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Berlin: tour on foot and U-Bahn: Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Führer bunker, Holocaust memorial, Topography of Terror Museum. (B, D)
- Day 8 ..... Platform 17 Memorial, Olympic Stadium, Tempelhof Airport. Continue to Brandenburg airport for flight home or perhaps extend your stay in Germany. (B)

## 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.

# CHURCHILL!

## WALKING WITH DESTINY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**19–23 July 2025**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Allen Packwood**

**Activity Level: 2**

This unique tour will set out to explore the complex history of the man behind the myth, visiting many of the sites associated with his long life and controversial public career.

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. We also get a chance to visit some of the lesser-known sites in Churchill's career such as his London home and the Admiralty Building.

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.



- Day 1 ..... Meet midday at central London hotel. Buffet sandwich lunch and introductory talk. Churchill's house at Hyde Park Gate, Westminster and Parliament Square, Whitehall - Downing Street, the cenotaph, Horse Guards, Admiralty Arch. (L,D)
- Day 2 ..... Full day at Bladon and Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Westminster - Churchill War Rooms/Museum, tour of Houses of Parliament in the Palace of Westminster (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Full day at Churchill's home at Chartwell, Kent (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Visit Churchill Archives in Cambridge. Return to hotel in London by train. Disperse 16.00 approximately (B,L,D)



## ESSENTIALS

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



# THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

## THE RAF'S FINEST HOUR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

14–18 July 2025

5 days

Expert Historian:

Dilip Sarkar

Activity Level: 2

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). The highlight of the tour will be the Battle of Britain air show at RAF Duxford where you will watch the aerial performance of a whole host of Spitfires, Hurricanes, Messerschmitts and other period aircraft and get up close to them on the ground.

### 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 the objective of destroying the RAF and thus clearing the skies in preparation for 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".



- Day 1 ..... Introduction and Sit in a Spit: Meet at St Albans hotel for sandwich lunch and introductory talk; RAF Museum at Hendon - sit in a Spitfire cockpit. Hotel in St Albans – 1 night. (L, D)
- Day 2 ..... Command: Bentley Priory, Polish War Memorial, RAF Uxbridge. Continue to Chichester – hotel 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 3 ..... Dogfight: RAF Westhampnett, Tangmere, Boxgrove Priory, Seven Sisters, Beachy Head. Continue to Eastbourne - hotel for 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 4 ..... 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 5 ..... Biggin Hill and Kenley: Biggin Hill - guided tour of the Spitfires, Memorial Museum and chapel; continue to RAF Kenley. Return to St Albans - hotel for 2 nights. (B, D)
- Day 6 ..... Duxford and the Battle of Britain Air Show: view airshow (we cannot forecast the exact programme but you are sure to see Spitfires, Hurricanes and ME 109s); 'Flightline Experience' (close up to the aircraft); explore museums. Return to St Albans hotel to depart or stay an optional night. (B)

### ESSENTIALS

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

# THE MIGHTY MASTERS OF THE AIR

## THE US EIGHTH AIR FORCE IN ENGLAND



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

24–29 July 2025

6 days

Expert Historian:

Dilip Sarkar

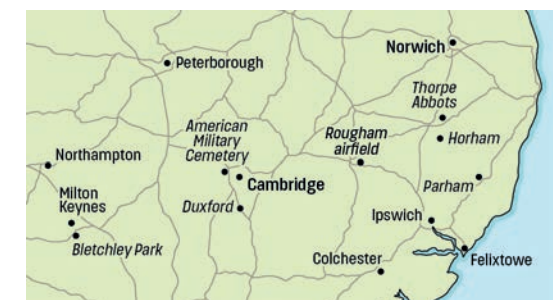
Activity Level: 2

This tour explores the major sites in the east of England connected with the Eighth, visiting airfields, cemeteries, memorials, control towers and museums small and large, including the American Air Museum at Duxford where we get up close to a B-17 Flying Fortress. Led by our expert historian this is a tour not to miss as we celebrate the achievements of these masters of the air.

### Historical Background

It is difficult to overestimate the contribution made by the US Eighth Air Force to the destruction of Nazi Germany in the Second World War. From their arrival in the UK in mid-1942 until May 1945 this massive air armada flew over 600,000 sorties to bomb occupied Europe and dropped over 670,000 tons of bombs. Led by Generals Ira Eaker – the proponent of daylight precision bombing – and Jimmy Doolittle – also known for his daring raid on Tokyo – the 'Mighty Eighth' were involved in a veritable rollcall of operations including several destructive raids on Berlin, the disruption of transport networks as a prelude to Operation Overlord and the besting of the German oil industry.

The Eighth succeeded in eroding the German Luftwaffe's capability giving the Allies air supremacy and ultimate victory in Europe. But it came with a heavy price with 6,000 Eighth airmen killed and another 28,000 made prisoners of war. The Eighth's motto "Peace Through Strength" was clearly exemplified in their outstanding war record.



- Day 1 ..... Cambridge for 5 nights. City tour, introductory talk. (L,D)
- Day 2 ..... Duxford & American Air Museum (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Horham & Thorpe Abbots airfields (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Parham & Rougham airfields. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Bletchley Park. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Cambridge American Military Cemetery. (B)

### 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.



# OPERATION MARITA

## THE GERMAN INVASION OF GREECE 1941



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

12–19 May 2025

8 days

Expert Historian:

Col Bob Kershaw

Activity Level: 2

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 480BC 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 490 and 480 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.



- Day 1 ..... Thessaloniki: Fly from London Gatwick or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Thessaloniki (2 nights) (D)
- Day 2 ..... The Metaxas Line: Forts Roupel and Istabei (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... The Haliacmon Line: the Varia pass, Serbia, Platamon Ridge and Castle, Tempe Gorge. Larissa (1 night) (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Withdrawal: Thermopylae (480BC & 1941), Bralos. Loutraki (2 nights) (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Airborne assault: Corinth Canal, Acro-Corinth (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Piraeus and Athens: Salamis (480BC), Hellenic Maritime Heritage Park, Greek War Museum. 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 (490BC), Porto Rafti, return flights to London Heathrow/leave the tour or perhaps extend your stay in Greece (B)

*Note: UK flights depart from Gatwick but return to Heathrow*

### 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.

# OPERATION MERCURY

## THE BATTLE FOR CRETE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

30 September–

6 October 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:

Col Bob Kershaw

Activity Level: 2

Operation Mercury is the fascinating story of a high-risk operation fought across a stunning Mediterranean landscape. Crete has to be one of the most beautiful Greek islands, and some would argue that there is no other place like it. To the modern mind it is known primarily as a beach holiday destination, however the landscape is wonderfully varied. From beaches and bays, to green coastal plains, imposing mountains and gorges, sleepy hillside villages to bustling, vibrant towns. Not to mention the warm, friendly, hospitable locals, a rich ancient and modern history and culture all of which we absorb as we examine the landings and hard-fought actions along the dramatic coast lines, in the towns of Chania, Rethymnon and Iraklion, in the White Mountains and down to the crystal-clear waters of Sfakia. Our hotels are situated in the centre of Chania and Heraklion, where there will be time available in the evenings to soak up the delightful atmosphere of tavernas and family restaurants. A very comfortable way to experience exciting history!

### Historical Background

Operation Mercury was the first and only time in history that a strategic objective has been taken by airborne forces alone. Despite being forewarned by 'Ultra' Luftwaffe intelligence decrypts that an attack was pending, General Freyberg's Commonwealth mix of British, Australian and New Zealand forces, recently evacuated from Greece, were overrun by Hitler's elite Fallschirmjaeger (Parachute) regiments. Landing by both parachute and glider and backed up by air-landed mountain troops, the vastly out-numbered German forces managed to seize the island in the face of crippling losses. This will be a fascinating study revealing why experienced Commonwealth troops did not live up to expectations and why, whilst the German forces were successful, this was to be their last significant airborne operation.



- Day 1 ..... Travel to Crete. Fly from London Gatwick or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel in Chania (4 nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Maleme Airfield, Prison Valley and Galatas. Tavronitis Bridge, Hill (Point) 107, Maleme airfield, German cemetery, Prison Valley, Galatas, Oassi Cretan Memorial, Lake Agia, Cemetery Hill, Allikanou Citizen Memorial. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Chania and Souda Bay: 42nd Street, Commonwealth War Memorial Cemetery, Venizelos Memorial (Freyberg's HQ). Free afternoon and evening. (B,L)
- Day 4 ..... The Allied Retreat and Evacuation. Megali Horofia, Apterra Stilos, Neo Horia, Vrysses, Askifou, Chora Sfakia. Optional walk through Imbrou Gorge. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... The battle for Rethymnon: Frangokastello/Prevalli Monastery, Stavromenos. Heraklion (2 nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... The battle for Heraklion. Historical Museum of Crete, Heraklion area, Knossos, kidnap of General Kreipe. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Return flights to London or leave tour, or perhaps extend your stay in Crete. (B)

*Note: UK flights arrive in Chania but return from Heraklion*

### 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.



# THE FALL OF SINGAPORE AND THE DEATH RAILWAY

## A WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

2–14 March 2025

11 days

Expert Historian:  
Robert Lyman

Activity Level: 2

This tour to Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand examines the personal, national and imperial humiliation that resulted from the Japanese conquest. Starting from Kuala Lumpur we examine the limited resistance offered by British Imperial Forces as they withdrew southwards to Singapore and explore Malay Jungle terrain that failed to impede an invading army. We spend five-nights in Singapore where we scrutinise the initial defence plan; inspect the coastal batteries; stand on the Japanese landing beaches; visit the British Command Centre; contemplate the POW camp experience; and reveal the Japanese massacre sites. We fly to Thailand where we spend three days at Kanchanaburi where we explore the 'Death Railway': riding and walking along the line; exploring caves in which POWs sheltered; paying our respects at cemeteries; and visiting the topical museums.

### Historical Background

On 8th December 1941, the Japanese invaded the Malay Peninsula. Standing at the southern tip sat the fortress island of Singapore, a major naval base from which Britain could project and defend its power in the Far East. In anticipation of an attack from Japan's navy, extensive coastal batteries were built to thwart an anticipated coup de main from the sea. That never came as General Yamashita's men marched southwards meeting little opposition. An ill-thought-out defence plan and poor command meant that Singapore would only resist Japanese assaults for just over a week. Devoid of food and water, Lt Gen Percival, the Allied Commander, believed he was left with no choice but to agree to an unconditional surrender of some 85,000 Allied soldiers to Yamashita's 35,000, resulting in what Sir Winston Churchill said was "worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history". But the agony was not to end there: after a relatively comfortable imprisonment, Allied soldiers' conditions worsened when many of them were shipped off to Thailand to construct the infamous 'Death Railway' under inhumane conditions.



Day 0..... Flights to Kuala Lumpur from LHR or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel.  
Day 1..... Late afternoon arrival. Overnight at airport hotel. Introductory talk (D)  
Day 2..... The Battle of Gemas: Gemencheh Bridge ambush. Bukit Kepong Malayan Emergency ambush. Overnight Muar. (B,L,D)  
Day 3..... The Battle of Muar: Muar town, destruction of Japanese tanks at Bakri, massacre at Parit Sulong. Johore Straits. Cross into Singapore 5 nights. (B,L,D)  
Day 4..... Assault on Singapore: Japanese landings, the Causeway, Kranji CWGC cemetery, Jurong-Kranji Defence Line, battles at Pasir Panjang and Adam Park. (B,L,D)  
Day 5..... The Guns of Singapore: Labrador Battery, cable car to Sentosa Island, Siloso Battery. (B,L,D)  
Day 6..... Downtown Singapore: Fort Canning command bunker, the Padang memorials, Singapore Cenotaph, City Hall, St Andrew's Cathedral. Free afternoon and evening. (B,L)

Day 7 .... Surrender and Occupation: Former Ford Factory, Bukit Bakot, Japanese Cemetery, Ponggol and Changi beach massacres, Changi prison, chapel and museum. Johore Battery, Johore Straits. (B,L,D)  
Day 8 ... Travel to Thailand: Morning flight to Bangkok. Nong Pladuk station. Kanchanaburi for 3 nights. (B,L,D)  
Day 9 ... Death Railway: Kanchanaburi CWGC cemetery, Thailand-Burma Railway Centre, train journey over the River Kwai bridge to Than Krasae, trestle viaduct and cave. Elephant sanctuary. Jungle walk to Tham Chaloei POW Cave. (B,L,D)  
Day 10 .. Hellfire Pass: interpretation centre, walk short section of railway to Konyu Cutting. Optional extended walk to Hintok Cutting. Afternoon at leisure. (B,L,D)  
Day 11 ... River Kwai and home: Chong Kai CWGC cemetery, Curve Mountain view point, boat ride, Kanchanaburi's two WW2 museums. To Bangkok airport, late evening return flights, or perhaps extend your stay in Thailand. (B,L,D)

### 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.

# OPERATION HUSKY

## THE ALLIED INVASION OF SICILY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

1–7 April 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:  
Peter Hart

Activity Level: 2

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 north east 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.



### 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.

Day 1 ..... Fly London to Catania and drive to Syracuse or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the 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)  
Day 4..... Exploitation: Primosole Bridge Durham Light Infantry memorial, Berkshire Farm. Drive to Catania. Hotel in Catania - 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 ..... The End Run: Forte Cavali, Messina, Catania - German and Commonwealth Cemeteries, Storico dello Sbarco museum. (B,D)  
Day 7 ..... Aftermath: Mount Etna (via cable car). Fly Catania to London or perhaps extend your stay in Sicily. (B)



# ANZIO & CASSINO 1944

## BREACHING THE GUSTAV LINE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

14–21 September 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:  
Col David Harrison

Activity Level: 2

The narrative of this compelling tour is studded with personal stories told on the ground where men struggled, bled and died. Indeed, the evidence in this part of Italy is all around you. Dugouts, trenches, stone sangars, bunkers and tank turrets are all there to be seen - and in your expert historian you will have someone who knows exactly where to find them, having walked and scrambled over this ground dozens of times.

Accordingly, the tour will traverse the mountains, rivers and streams of Cassino and central Italy right down to the coastal plain and dried up tributaries of the Molleta River north of Anzio - the infamous 'Wadis'. Breathtakingly, we will finish in the Alban Hills at Nemi, close to the Pope's summer palace - an idyllic spot from which German observers could see right down to the coast and Allied shipping.

### Historical Background

After the bloodbath of Salerno and then the torture of the Volturno crossings, the US and British troops of Mark Clark's 5th Army had to deal with the Axis Forces on the so-called Winter Line. At Camino and San Pietro the Tommies and Yanks battered their way through their enemies only to find Kesselring's men firmly ensconced on the Gustav Line, anchored on the looming monastery of Cassino.

The epic battles to crack through the defences that lined the Garigliano River dwarfed anything that the Allies had experienced in Italy up until then. Then, spearheaded by Free French, Canadians and Poles, the offensive still had to crack the Hitler Line before the road to Rome was clear.

Few people understand that the landings at Anzio were a daring, amphibious hook around the Gustav Line. Had they worked, had they been properly directed, the gallant German defence must have crumbled. In the event, the landings almost failed bloodily and it was only when the 8th Army was brought to support the 5th Army that victory was achieved.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Rome or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Cassino - hotel for 4 nights. Introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2 ..... San Pietro Infine and the approach to Cassino: San Pietro Infine, Winter Line Museum (Venafro), Galluccio (Monte Camino), Monte Trocchio Monument. (B, D)
- Day 3 ..... The Lower Garigliano: Lower Garigliano battles - Rocco D'Evandro, Castleforte, Damiano Ridge, Minturno CWGC Cemetery. (B, D)
- Day 4 ..... Battles for Cassino: Rocca Janula (Castle Hill), Polish cemetery, Point 593, Abbey of Cassino. Operation Diadem - Amazon Bridge, Cassino CWGC cemetery. Own arrangements for dinner. (B)
- Day 5 ..... Break out & Hitler Line: Pontecorvo and Aquino, Nettuno American Cemetery, Mussolini Canal, Anzio. Hotel in Nettuno - 2 nights. (B, D)
- Day 6 ..... Anzio: Anzio harbour, Aprilia and the Flyover, Buon Riposo ridge and the 'wadis', Anzio CWGC cemetery. (B, D)
- Day 7 ..... Overview and depart: Ariccia and Nemi viewpoints. Flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Italy. (B)

### 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.

# THE END IN ITALY

## ACTIONS ON THE GOTHIC LINE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

23–29 September 2025

7 days

Expert Historian:  
Col David Harrison

Activity Level: 2

This tour visits the neglected battlefields of Kesselring's last line of defence, the Gothic Line, and is the perfect epilogue to a study of the 'D-Day Dodgers'. The coastal plain up which the Canadians and Poles tried to thrust near Ancona soon gives way to increasingly rugged foothills, each guarded by rushing streams and rivers, all of which required assault bridges to be put in place and under fire. The Germans battled toughly but elegantly for every yard, killing and wounding Allied troops as they tried to grind northwards from Florence towards the Po Valley and the dream of a breakout.



### 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

As Rome became the first Axis capital to fall in June 1944, the Germans pulled back towards the north, first delaying the 5th and 8th Armies either side of Florence before scuttling into their bunkers and tank turrets from Pesaro to Pietrasanta. For the US 5th Army, brilliant operations on the Giogo Pass and Mount Cecina were matched by the British 8th Army at Gemmano and Coriano Ridge, before the Germans began to crumble and finally fall back towards their next outposts.

The more mobile warfare around Bologna and Faenza led to punishing combat. The courage and daring of operations near Comacchio make a grand backdrop to this often-forgotten campaign.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Perugia or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the airport. Drive to Montemaggiore al Metaura. Visit museum "Winston Churchill". Night in hotel in the area. (D)
- Day 2 ..... CWGC Montecchio, Hill 111, Hill 204, Gemmano. Night in hotel in the area. (B, D)
- Day 3 ..... San Clemente, Coriano Ridge cemetery, Sant'Andrea in Besenigo, San Fortunato. Night in hotel in the area. (B, D)
- Day 4 ..... Trace progress of US 5th Army, Bertinoro, Predappio, Impruneta American Military Cemetery. Hotel in Florence - 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 5 ..... Futa Pass, Santerno River Valley, Santerno cemetery, Castell del Rio. Hotel in Ravenna - 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 6 ..... Operation Buckland: Lake Comacchio, Major Anders VC memorial, Argenta Gap battle. Hotel in Bologna - 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 7 ..... Bologna military museum, Marzobotto. Fly Bologna to London or perhaps extend your stay in Italy. (B)



# D-DAY: OPERATION OVERLORD

## BREACHING THE ATLANTIC WALL



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**30 July–3 August 2025**

**15–20 October 2025**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**

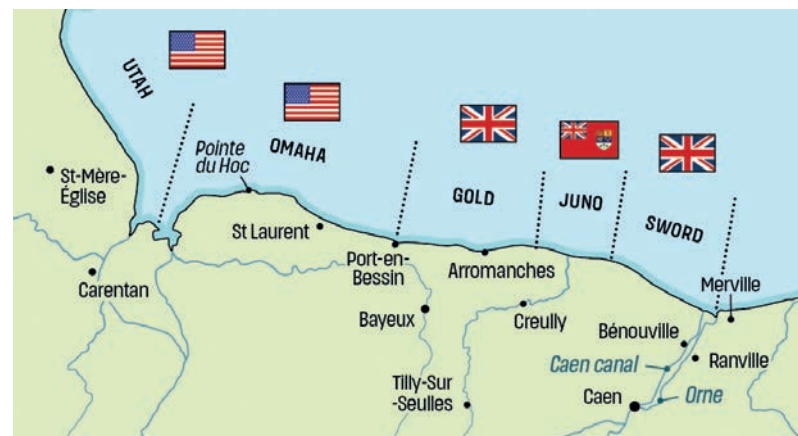
**Dr Simon Trew**

**Activity Level: 2**

This five-day tour examines carefully selected events from 6th–9th 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.



- Day 1 ..... Outward travel. Coach from Ebbsfleet International Station to Bayeux via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Bayeux. (four nights). Welcome drinks before dinner. (L,D)
- Day 2 ..... The British Sector: Pegasus Bridge, La Riviere, Gold Beach. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... The British and American Sectors: Ste-Mere-Eglise, La Fiere causeway, River Merderet crossing, Utah Beach, Port-en-Bessin, Longues-sur-Mer German battery. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... The American Sector: Pointe Du Hoc German battery, Omaha Beach, American National Cemetery and memorial at St Laurent. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Bayeux: Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, war museum. Coach to Ebbsfleet International Station via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B,L)

## 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.

# IMPHAL AND KOHIMA

## THE FORGOTTEN 14TH ARMY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**24 Jan.–4 Feb. 2025**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Robert Lyman**

**Activity Level: 2**

Nagaland and Manipur are two beautiful and remote states in northeast India, generally off the beaten path of tourism. Amidst their unspoilt beauty of lush verdant vegetation, sparkling lakes and a wealth of unfamiliar tribal culture, evidence of the hard-fought battles of 1944 abounds in Kohima and its surrounding ridges and on the open expanse around Imphal and in the neighbouring hills. Travelling out along the Imphal 'spokes' through country that has changed little, the conditions of the some of the roads are challenging and will require the use of all-terrain vehicles resulting in some long days. But the effort is rewarding as we discover little visited villages, enjoy spectacular, unspoilt views and explore extant defences from where soldiers long ago fought fiercely and bravely, where many gave their 'today' to secure our 'tomorrow': at the lovingly maintained Commonwealth cemeteries in Kohima and Imphal you may wish to pay your respects and give thanks for such sacrifice.

The tour culminates in Kolkata (Calcutta), the former capital of British India, with its wealth of colonial-era architecture and middle-class wealth juxtaposed against a modern city striving against poverty and decay. Hotels in Kohima and Imphal are comfortable and the best available, but the last days of our tour are spent in five-star luxury.

## Historical Background

Surprised, unprepared, poorly led and in the face of overwhelming Japanese superiority, in the spring of 1942 Burma Corps performed the longest retreat in the history of the British Army withdrawing 1100 miles to India. For the next 21 months there followed a series of inconclusive operations in the Arakan and on the Chindwin, but when, in February 1944, the Japanese 15th Army embarked on a desperate mission to 'liberate' India and close the supply routes into China, the, by now, superbly trained and efficiently supplied 14th Army under 'Uncle' Bill Slim was prepared to stop them in their tracks. During nine months of hard-fought battles on the ridges of Kohima, the plains around Imphal and the Kabaw Valley, Slim's troops repeatedly repelled forlorn Japanese attacks until the latter were physically, psychologically and logistically exhausted: their ragged remains, emphatically defeated, crossed back over the Chindwin River into Burma, hotly pursued by the triumphant 'Forgotten' Army.



As this may be the one and only time to visit West Bengal, you might consider joining our pre-tour extension to see where and how Lord Clive (of India) established British hegemony over India and explore two of India's famous cantonments: Dum Dum and Barrackpore, the latter where the 1857 Indian Mutiny started.

- Day 1 ..... Outward Travel. Fly from London via Doha to Kolkata or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel
- Day 2 ..... Kolkata. Midday flight to Dimapur. Dhanshiri valley, Zubza Plateau, Kohima Ridge. Kohima (three nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Kohima: Garrison Hill, Kuki Piquet, Field Supply Depot (FSD). (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Kohima: Jail Hill, Raj Bhavan. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Nagaland, Naga, Kangla Tongbi, Imphal (four nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Sangshak, Naga Hills, Nunshigum Ridge. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Shenam Saddle, Tamu-Imphal Road, Scraggy, Recce and Nippon Hills, Pallal. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Tiddim Road, Loktak Lake, Indian National Army Museum, Japanese Martyrs Temple, Imphal Peace Museum and Memorial. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Imphal: Kangla Fort. Flight to Kolkata. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ..... Maidan: Indian Museum, Fort William, Princep Ghat. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 ..... BBD Bagh/Dalhousie Square. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 ..... Return home or perhaps extend your stay in India. (B,L,D)

### Clive of India Extension (departs two days earlier than main tour)

- Day 1 ..... Fly from London and/or start tour at Kolkata (two nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Barrackpore, River Hooghly. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Plassey. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... (Day 2 Main tour) - Dum Dum Cantonment. (B,L,D)

## ESSENTIALS

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 EASTERN FRONT: BALTIC STATES

## OPERATIONS BARBAROSSA AND BAGRATION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**5–13 August 2025**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Dr Prit Buttar**

**Activity Level: 2**

Staying in the three Baltic capitals of Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn, as well as graceful Tartu, this tour explores the events of World War Two in the Baltic states. We visit many of the sites associated with the savage assault on these nations' sovereignty by firstly Soviet then German armies and the brutal occupational regime of both. This includes the dramatic Battle for Vilnius, the remarkable Courland Pocket and the ferocious battle of the Sinimäed Hill. We visit battle sites, fortifications, cemeteries and memorials in the company of our expert historian, as well as excellent museums which enhance this remarkable narrative.

### Historical Background

After World War One the Baltic States – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – enjoyed their first period of independence in history. Nevertheless their position between Germany and the Soviet Union led to occupation by the latter in June 1940. Soviet rule was changed when the Germans unleashed Operation Barbarossa against the Soviet Union in June 1941. Within weeks all three countries were occupied and brutal Nazi repression started with the murder of the Jewish population.

In late June 1944 the Soviets launched Operation Bagration which drove German forces back from the Baltics. As Soviet forces moved towards the sea at Memel in Lithuania German forces to the north were cut off in what came to be called the Courland Pocket. The taking of Vilnius (5th-13th July) by the Soviets led to over 12,000 German losses but is remarkable for the escape of 3,000 troops. In Estonia the natural barrier of Lake Peipus forced any invasion north or south and it was around the Sinimäe region that the fiercest battle took place. By 19th August most of the Baltics had been liberated from the Nazis.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Vilnius or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Gediminas Castle Tower. Check in to hotel – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Bernardinu Titas bridge, Vingis Park, Naujoji Reva Hill Fort. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights, Vilnius, Auce (Latvia). Hotel in Riga – 2 nights (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Tukums, Riga - free afternoon. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Tartu, Karavere bridge. Hotel in Tartu – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Lakes Peipus and Pskov, Kallaste memorial, Sinimäe, Sinimägede (Blue Hills) Museum Otto Carius memorial. Drive to a hotel in the Narva-Joesuu area – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... T-34 tank memorial, Narva German war cemetery, Narva city, Narva castle, Udria memorial, Narva-Joesuu. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Tallinn. Tallinn harbour - Estonian War of Independence, German conquest of Estonia, Soviet and German naval evacuations; Estonian National Memorial; free time in Tallinn. (B,D)
- Day 9 ..... Fly Tallinn to London or perhaps extend your stay in Estonia. (B)

### 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.



# THE BATTLE FOR BERLIN

## FROM THE ODER TO THE REICHSTAG



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**24–30 June 2025**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Professor Matthias Strohn**

**Activity Level: 2**

The Battle for Berlin was the decisive action that brought an end to the war in Europe. The tour will focus on the fierce and bitter action from the point when the Red Army approached the Oder River to the eventual fall of Berlin. Our first two nights will be on the edge of the destroyed city of Kustrin with the remaining nights spent in Berlin, a city that has arguably been through more change than any other in Europe over the last 50 years. Whilst both cities were virtually flattened during the Second World War, despite its division during the Cold War, Berlin has now become a vibrant, bustling and culturally rich metropolis. Eight times bigger than Paris, the city is home to endless galleries and museums, and displays a wide range of architecture, which can be explored to enrich your experience of this magnificent city. Importantly for this trip, in particular, the city doesn't hold back in memorialising and documenting its turbulent past, leaving plenty to be discovered.

### Historical Background

After crossing the Oder it took the Red Army just over three months to advance 100km and take the city. 'Fortress Berlin', as Goebbels named it, was to be defended at all costs. The first line of defence at the Seelow Heights, some 90km east of Berlin, took Zhukov's armies four days, with heavy losses, to break through. However once cleared it left the Red Army free to encircle the city and prepare the coup de grâce.

Berlin was defended by roughly 45,000 regular troops supplemented by the Police, the Hitler Youth and Volkssturm (essentially the German version of the Home Guard). The fighting began with a ferocious artillery barrage, adding to the already devastating destruction of the city. Although defended stoically, the continuous waves of Soviet attacks, the Germans' limited resources and the brutal house to house fighting meant there was only going to be one outcome and the city finally surrendered on 2nd May 1945, nine days after the Russians had entered. The War in Europe was as good as over.



### 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.

- Day 1 ..... Fly from London to Berlin or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel (five nights). (B)
- Day 2 ..... Crossing the Oder: Kleinitz, Jahnsfelde, Schlosspark, Seelow Heights. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Approach Berlin: Zossen, Tempelhof Airport. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Central Berlin: Humboldtthain Flak tower and bunker, Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Tiergarten, German Resistance Museum, Ploetzensee Prison. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Battle of Berlin: Moltke Bridge, Koenigsplatz, Treptow Park, German Russian Museum, Bell Tower. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Potsdam: Grunewald station, Wannsee Conference Villa, Glienicke Bridge, Cecilienhof Palace. Leave tour/flight to London. (B)



# A RAIN OF RUIN FROM THE AIR

THE DEFEAT OF JAPAN: THE TOKYO FIREBOMBING, OKINAWA AND THE ATOMIC BOMB

29 September–  
12 October 2025  
12 days  
Expert Historian:  
James M Scott  
Activity Level: 2

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.



## 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

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.



- 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. 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 for 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Kamikaze! Kamikaze airbase Chiran, Kyushu. Train to Nagasaki for 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Nagasaki. Atomic Bomb Museum, 'Ground Zero'. Train to Hiroshima for 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... 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 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 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, or perhaps extend your stay in Japan. (B)



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# THE HOLOCAUST IN THE BALTIC STATES

30 July–4 August 2025  
6 days  
Expert Historian:  
Dr Waitman Beorn  
Activity Level: 2

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.



## 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

The invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany in 1941 spelt disaster for the Baltic States. Thousands of helpless Jewish victims as well as Communists, Roma and Soviet officials were rounded up and, after being stripped of their clothes and valuables, were shot and their bodies buried in pits. The scale of this slaughter in the Baltics is staggering: between 1941 to 1944 more than 70,000 people, nearly all of them Jews, were murdered at Paneriai (Panary) outside Vilnius and between November and December 1941, 25,000 Jews were murdered in the Rumbula forest in Latvia. Many of Estonia's Jews managed to avoid the Nazi terror by escaping to the Soviet Union and by 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 before the end of the war; and from a pre-war Jewish population of 93,000 in Latvia around 70,000 were murdered.



- Day 1 ..... Evening flight London to Vilnius or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Check in to hotel (2 nights).
- Day 2 ..... Walking tour of Vilnius Old Town and its Jewish heritage; Gaon Jewish State Museum; Holocaust Exhibition (Green House Museum); drive to Paneriai mass murder site and Jewish Partisan Fort at Rundninkai Forest. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Drive to Kaunas, walking tour – incl. Lietūkis Garage Massacre Memorial; Sugihara House Museum; 9th Fort of Kaunas Fortress. Hotel in Kaunas (1 night).
- Day 4 ..... Drive to Šiauliai – site of ghetto; Kužiai Forest Memorial. Hotel in Riga – 2 nights.
- Day 5 ..... Walking tour of Holocaust in Riga (approximately 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.
- Day 6 ..... Free morning in Riga; afternoon flight Riga to London or perhaps extend your stay in Lithuania.



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary



# THE HOLOCAUST

## POLAND AND THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**2–9 October 2024**

**Expert Historian:** Martin Winstone

**23–30 April 2025**

**Expert Historian:** Dr Isabel Wollaston

**24 June–1 July 2025**

**Expert Historian:** TBC

**22–29 July 2025**

**Expert Historian:** Dr Isabel Wollaston

**2–9 September 2025**

**Expert Historian:** Professor Tim Cole

**All tours: 8 days**

**Activity Level: 2**

In this 8-day tour to Poland, we visit the sites of the former ghettos in Warsaw, Lublin and Krakow alongside four of the concentration and death camps - Treblinka, Majdanek, Belzec and Auschwitz-Birkenau - that played such a significant role in this genocide. We look at the struggle of both the Jews and the Poles against their oppressors, visiting the scenes of the Ghetto Uprising in 1943 and the memorial to the Warsaw Rising in 1944. You will see the shift from complete physical destruction of the 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 diverse 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.

### 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

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 ethnic 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-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 gas chambers 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.



- Day 1 ..... Fly from London to Warsaw or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel (two nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Warsaw: ghetto walls, the Umschlagplatz, POLIN Museum, Warsaw Jewish cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Treblinka, Lublin (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Belzec, Majdanek, Zamosc (overnight). (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Krakow: Krakow's Old Town (three nights). (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Auschwitz, Birkenau. (B)
- Day 7 ..... Krakow: Kazimierz, Old Synagogue Museum. Wieliczka salt mines. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Poland. (B)

# POLAND'S FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST SITES



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**7–14 August 2025**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Isabel Wollaston**

**Activity Level: 2**

In this 8-day tour we visit a number of lesser-known and, in some cases, forgotten sites of the Holocaust in Poland. Although the Holocaust is best known by the larger concentration and death camps, with their brutal industrial-scale methods, the effects of the genocide were also felt by smaller communities and individuals. Travelling between the ancient cities of Warsaw, Lodz, Tarnow and Lublin the tour visits memorials, sites of former ghettos, cemeteries, prisons, transit points and massacre sites where we gain a deeper appreciation of the scale of the genocide. But a key feature of the tour are the stories of bravery by ordinary Poles in the face of extreme danger such as Jan Żabiński, director of the Warsaw Zoo, and Józef and Wiktoria Ulma in Markowa, who protected hundreds of Jews. We also learn about Witold Pilecki who 'volunteered' to be captured to enter Auschwitz in a bid to report on Nazi atrocities. The tour culminates with a visit to Sobibor and the incredible uprising and escape by a large group of prisoners.



### 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

Łódź, prewar Poland's second largest city, became part of the Warthegau, an area of western Poland incorporated into the German Reich, and site of one of the largest, earliest and longest lasting ghettos (1940 to 1944). Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, head of the Łódź ghetto's Council of Elders, is one of the most controversial figures in the Holocaust, accused of complicity, collaboration even, because of his ruthless pursuit of a policy of 'rescue through work' to prolong the 'life' of his community. Chelmno (Kulmhof), the first deathcamp, opened on 8 December 1941, utilizing gas vans. Up to 200,000, predominantly from the Łódź ghetto and the Warthegau, were murdered there. Chelmno's first commandant, Herbert Lange, played a key role in developing techniques of mass murder, facilitating the transition from 'euthanasia' killings to the purpose-built deathcamps of Aktion Reinhardt (Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka).



- Day 1 ..... Fly from London to Warsaw or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Hotel in Warsaw – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Jewish Historical Institute, Żabiński Villa, Pawiak Prison, Warsaw Rising Museum. (B, D)
- Day 3 ..... Witold Pilecki capture site, Kulmhof museum (Ruszczy Forest). Hotel in Łódź – 2 nights. (B, D)
- Day 4 ..... Full day in Łódź: Jewish Cemetery, Radegast Station memorial, Monument to the Martyrdom of Children, Survivors Park, Marek Edelman Dialogue Centre, Historical Museum of the City of Łódź. (B, D)
- Day 5 ..... Drive to Kielce – visit pogrom site, cemetery. Continue to Tarnow: memorials marking the first deportation to Auschwitz, former Jewish Quarter. Hotel in Tarnow – 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 6 ..... Zbysłowska Góra, Ulma Family Museum (Markowa). Hotel in Lublin – 1 night. (B, D)
- Day 7 ..... Sobibor Museum and Memorial site, Czerniawy Memorial Wall. (B, D)
- Day 8 ..... Fly from Warsaw to London or perhaps extend your stay in Poland. (B)



# FORTRESS MALTA

FROM THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN TO WORLD WAR TWO



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

6–13 November 2024

8 days

Expert Historian:

Major General  
Ashley Truluck

Activity Level: 2

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. Note that there will be considerable walking amidst the pedestrianised streets of Valetta, Birgu and M'dina. Throughout we will be based in historic Valetta 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.



- Day 1 .....** Fly to Malta or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Arrive at Luqa airport, former RAF Bomber Command airfield, Valetta. Welcome drinks. Upper Barrakka Gardens for sunset. (D)
- Day 2 .....** The Great Siege 1565. North Valetta peninsula, audio-visual 'Malta Experience', National War Museum, St Elmo's Fort, 'Sacra Infermeria'. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** The Development of Valetta 1565–1800. Walking tour of Valetta, 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 Valetta's harbours, Birgu wharf and old town square, Fort St Angelo, views across Grand Harbour, Second World War Museum. Ferry back to Valetta. (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)

## 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.

# THE COLD WAR

BERLIN STATION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

1–6 July 2025

6 days

Expert Historian:

Prof Matthias Strohn

Activity Level: 2

Walking around Berlin today it is easy to forget that this was once a strictly divided city at the very forefront of the Cold War. Many of the symbols of that time have all but disappeared: the wall, watchtowers, checkpoints, the Allied bases and airstrips. But upon closer inspection and with expert interpretation there is clear evidence from those austere days of ideological and military confrontation. Our six-day tour, enjoyed largely on foot under the guidance of our expert historian, will reveal extant escape tunnels, the horrors of the East German Stasi regime, distinctive DDR architecture, spy -swap locations, Soviet army and communications centres, bunkers and underground 'ghost' stations.

## Historical Background

Prior to the surrender of Germany in May 1945, the Allies had determined that the defeated country and its capital, Berlin, would be split into three occupation zones (later four, to include the French) and administered by an Allied Control Council (ACC). Cooperation with the Russians, never good, quickly broke down with the Russians leaving the ACC 1948 to follow an independent administration of what was to become East Germany and East Berlin. In response the Allies unified the administration of their zones, the process provoking the Russians to seal the borders and blockade West Berlin. This, in turn, initiated the fifteen-month Berlin Airlift which ran until September 1949. That same month saw the establishment of West Germany as a sovereign state, with that of Soviet aligned East Germany created the following month. However, Berlin would continue to be occupied by the Four Powers and as such would become a quasi-frontline of The Cold War until German reunification in 1990.



## 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.

- Day 1 .....** Cold War Front Line: fly London to Berlin. Check into hotel. Bus/ walking tour – incl. Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Memorial of Crosses, Checkpoint Charlie. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Stasiland: east side of Berlin, HQ of the Stasi secret police, lunch on top of the Alexanderplatz TV tower, Stasi Prison Museum, East Side Gallery, Karl-Marx-Allee architecture. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 .....** Listening To The Enemy: Olympic Bell Tower, Allied Museum, free afternoon. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Airlift & Spy Swaps: Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Tempelhof Airport, Gleincke Bridge. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** The Devils Mountain: drive to Zossen-Wünsdorf ("Ranets" Soviet HQ bunker), Teufelsberg (Devil's mountain) - site of joint UK/US electronic intelligence listening post. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Wall Stories & Home: Bernauerstrasse museum, transfer to airport and flight to London or perhaps extend your stay in Germany. (B)



# THE KOREAN WAR

## THE FIRST CONFLICT OF THE NUCLEAR AGE



**16–26 April 2025**  
**11 days**  
**Expert Historian:**  
**Lieutenant-General**  
**Jonathon Riley**  
**Activity Level: 2**

Whilst the focus of our tour is clearly on the Korean War, our journey takes us through some tranquil idyllic landscapes: pine-clad hills and mountains; emerald-green rice-paddies; stunning mist-shrouded coastlines; glorious spring gardens. Experience the KTX 'bullet' train, cross vast waterways over modern awe-inspiring bridges and explore the heart of pulsating, glittering Seoul where 5000 years of tradition seamlessly intertwines with the modern. Visit magnificent palaces dating from Medieval times, see classical wooden 'hanok' homes, savour international and local cuisine and immerse yourself in Korean culture and heritage. Get close to North Korea in the Demilitarised Zone or DMZ, explore North Korean Infiltration tunnels and learn about the latest negotiations between the two countries. Whilst no plans have been confirmed presently, we anticipate attending the annual commemorations of the battle of the Imjin River.

### Historical Background

When the Japanese army in Korea surrendered at the end of WW2, the Allies agreed that those surrendering north of 38th Parallel would do so to the USSR and those below it to the USA. Capitalising on the situation, the Soviets speedily cordoned off their sphere of influence and thus Korea became a divided country. Five years of fruitless international negotiation followed, finally broken by the invasion of South Korea on 25th June 1950 by Soviet backed North Korea. Seoul quickly fell and a rapid advance by the North Koreans saw them laying siege to the perimeter of Pusan by the beginning of August, a siege that was to last for over a month. US reinforcements allowed for the simultaneous Inchon Landings outside Seoul and the breakout from Pusan on 15th September and by the end of October US forces, now reinforced by a polyglot of United Nations troops, had occupied Pyongyang and stood less than 100kms from the Chinese border. But at the end of November, a massive UN reconnaissance in force was surprised by a Chinese backed counter-offensive and by the end of 1950 both sides were facing each other across the 38th Parallel. Early 1951 saw a second



Communist invasion of the South repulsed, but a redoubled effort in the Spring produced, amongst others, the heroic stand by the Gloucestershire Regiment on the Imjin River. By the summer of that year the frontline was once again running along the 38th Parallel. For the next 2 years, whilst peace negotiations stalled, a series of small-scale battles of attrition took place with neither side gaining material advantage. Finally, on July 27th 1953, an armistice was signed and the extant front-line became the agreed border, a border that still nervously exists today.

- Day 0** ..... Overnight flight London to Incheon.
- Day 1** ..... Arrive Incheon late afternoon. Overnight Incheon Airport. Introductory talk and dinner. (D)
- Day 2**..... Osan Task Force Smith memorial and museum, defence of the Kum River at Gongju. Bullet train from Deajon to Busan (2 nights) (B,L,D)
- Day 3**..... Goeje Island UN PoW camp, 1950 perimeter defences, United Nations Memorial Cemetery. (B,L,D)
- Day 4**..... Battle of Jangsari, Bullet train to Seoul (7 nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 5**..... Seoul: Gyeongbokgung Palace, changing of the guard, Insadong, Korean War Memorial Museum (B,L,D)
- Day 6** ..... Inchon Landings: Wolmido Hill, Freedom Park, Landings Memorial Museum. Dinner at own expense. (B,L)
- Day 7** ..... Battles of Chipyeong and Kapyong, (B,L,D)
- Day 8** ..... Chulwon Peace Observatory for views towards Pork Chop Hill and Baengma, the abandoned Woljeong-ri station, Korean Workers' Party HQ. Afternoon: initial positions and withdrawal route of 29 (BR) Inf Bde on Imjin. (B,L,D)
- Day 9** ..... The Imjin River: Solma-ri, Hill 235, Yangyeon, Route 11, annual commemoration at Gloucester Valley Monument. (B,L,D)
- Day 10** .... JSA (subject to permission): Freedom House, House of Peace Conference Room, Bridge of No Return. DMZ: Memorial to Korean War Abductees, The Last Train Out, The Bridge of Freedom, Dora Observatory, 3rd Infiltration Tunnel. (B,L,D)
- Day 11** ..... Return flight to London (B)

### 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.

# THE VIETNAM WAR

## FROM DEFEAT AT DIEN BIEN PHU TO THE FALL OF SAIGON



**29 December 2024–**  
**11 January 2025**  
**12 days**  
**Expert Historian:**  
**Prof Bill Allison**  
**Activity Level: 2**

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.

### 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.



- Day 0** ..... Overnight fly to Hanoi.
- Day 1** ..... Arrive Hanoi: Ho Chi Minh Trail Museum (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 2**..... Hanoi - Ho Chi Minh Complex, Vietnam Military History Museum, Hoa Lo Prison. (B,L,D)
- Day 3** ..... Hanoi. Fly to Dien Bien Phu (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 4**..... The Battle of Dien Bien Phu 1954 - Muong Phang tunnels. (B,L,D)
- Day 5**..... Dien Bien Phu - Bailey Bridge. Fly to Hanoi. (one night) . (B,L,D)
- Day 6** ..... Hanoi - Ha Long Bay. Overnight cruise in luxury junk, Thien Canh Son cave. (one night onboard). (B,L,D)
- Day 7** ..... Ha Long Bay, morning cruise. Fly to Hue (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 8** ..... The Demilitarized Zone and Khe Sanh - The Rockpile and Ta Con Airfield, Hien Luong Bridge, Vinh Moc tunnel complex. (B,L,D)
- Day 9** ..... The Battle for Hue 1968: Hue Citadel, Red Beach 2, China Beach, Danang (one night). (B,L,D)
- Day 10** .... Fly to Saigon. The Cu Chi Tunnels. Saigon (two nights). (B,L,D)
- Day 11**..... Mekong Delta - My Tho and Ap Bac, dinner Rex Hotel. (B,L,D)
- Day 12** .... The Fall of Saigon - Reunification Palace, War Remnants Museum, Ben Than market. Leave tour/flight to London. (B)

### 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.





# IMPERIAL VIENNA AT CHRISTMAS

GRANDEUR, GLÜHWEIN AND GEMÜTLICHKEIT

23-27 December 2024  
5 days  
Activity Level: 2

What better place to spend Christmas than Imperial Vienna? Unashamedly beautiful Vienna has everything you would want for the perfect seasonal break: an incomparably rich history, opulent architecture, engaging museums, vibrant Christmas markets and a people who celebrate with vivacity and style. You can also enjoy a coffee in a historic cafe or a warming Glühwein amongst Baroque splendour. Join us for a convivial and cultured Christmas in the heart of Europe in 2024.

Vienna's long history is represented spectacularly by an outstanding cityscape and it remains a compelling destination.

## Historical Background

From its origins in the Roman camp of Vindobona, to the seat of power of the massive Austro-Hungarian Empire and capital of the modern Republic of Austria, Vienna has had a long and varied history. Benefitting from its strong trading location on the banks of the Danube and a crossing point between Europe and the Balkans, from 976 AD Vienna became the politically powerful capital of the Babenberg dynasty. In the late thirteenth century the Hapsburgs took over the lands of Austria and Vienna entered its heyday as the centre of power of one of the most powerful dynasties ever to rule Europe, and by the 1400s capital of the Holy Roman Empire. As the Ottoman Empire expanded northwards Vienna became something of a border city and succeeded in withstanding Turkish sieges in 1529 and, most famously, 1683. As the Ottoman threat waned the city grew in size and prestige with architecture befitting an Imperial capital. The renowned Baroque architects Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and Johann Lukas von Hildebrandt left their imprimatur on the capital and enormous palaces were built standing as bold statements of Hapsburg power. Despite being occupied by Napoleon's forces in 1805 and 1809 Vienna's glory continued to shine and the nineteenth century was its political and cultural apogee. A centre of art, music and literature Vienna became Europe's cultural jewel and had a population of over 2 million by 1910. The downfall of the Hapsburgs after the First World War led to the city's role as a republican city, although it was briefly dominated by the Nazis.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Vienna to arrive in the afternoon. Free time to visit Christmas markets. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Guided tour of Imperial Vienna. Evening Christmas buffet. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Kunsthistorisches Museum, Hofburg: Imperial Apartments, Sisi museum. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Oberes and Unteres Belvedere, free time. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Schönbrunn Palace. Late afternoon flight back to London. (B)

## ESSENTIALS

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



# BOOKING FORM

## TOUR INFORMATION

Tour Title: .....  
Departure Date:  /  /  Copy this form or call us on 0345 475 1815 if you would like to book multiple tours, add extra nights or upgrade your flights. Additional forms available on our web site.

## LEAD PARTICIPANT please ensure all details are exactly as shown in passport

Title ..... First Name ..... Surname .....  
Known as ..... Male ☐ Female ☐  
Address ..... Single Room ☐ Twin Room ☐ Double Room ☐  
Post/Zip Code ..... Country ..... Telephone .....  
Email ..... Mobile .....  
Please include international dialling codes where applicable

Dietary Requirements Please let us know any food allergies and intolerances along with any information you feel we should know  
☐ Tick if you would like a quote for upgraded travel (See overleaf)  
☐ Tick if you wish to travel 'land only' and exclude our flight arrangements

Passport details Nationality .....  
Number   
Date of Expiry  /  /   
Date of Birth  /  /

Travel / trip insurance Details Please see relevant passage in our Important Information for full details on insurance requirements  
Provider ..... Policy No. .... 24 hr Contact Tel. No. ....

Next of Kin Details This section is optional  
Name ..... Contact No. .... Relationship .....

Where did you hear about The Cultural Experience? .....  
☐ I consent to any photographs where I may appear to be used in promotional material for The Cultural Experience  
☐ I confirm I am aware of the tour activity level and I am of the required fitness to undertake this tour

## BOOKING AUTHORISATION

I have read, understood and agree to accept the booking conditions on behalf of myself and others included on this form.

Signature ..... Date  /  /

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

I have read, understood and agree to accept the booking conditions on behalf of myself and others included on this form.

I wish to book  place(s) and I enclose a non-refundable deposit of £  per person being a total amount of £

Please note that the full balance will be required if booking less than 70 days before the departure date of the tour

I wish to pay by: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Debit Card ☐ Cheque ☐ Bank Transfer

Please refer to our booking conditions in our brochure or on our website. Please make all cheques payable to 'The Cultural Experience'

Card Number   
Expiry Date  /  /  Security Code  This is the last 3 digits of the number on the signature strip of your card

Name as it appears on the payment card .....

I confirm the name and address of the credit/debit card holder are as for the lead participant above ☐

Signature ..... Print Name .....



# BOOKING FORM

## ADDITIONAL PASSENGER

	OFFICE USE ONLY					
Booking Reference	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please ensure details for all participants are exactly as shown in passport

### SECOND PARTICIPANT

Title .....	Email .....
First Name .....	Telephone.....
Surname .....	Mobile .....
Known as .....	<i>Please include international dialling codes where applicable</i>
Address .....	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
.....	Single Room <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Room <input type="checkbox"/> Double Room <input type="checkbox"/>
Post/Zip Code .....	
Country .....	

Passport details	
Nationality .....	Date of Expiry <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Passport Number <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	Date of Birth <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Travel / trip insurance Details <i>Please see relevant passage in our Important Information for full details on insurance requirements</i>	
Provider .....	Policy No. .... 24 hr Contact Tel. No. ....
Next of Kin Details <i>This section is optional</i>	
Name .....	Contact No. .... Relationship .....

If you would like a quote for upgraded or additional travel, tour extensions (e.g. additional hotel stays, pre or post tour) or airport accommodation please give us as much information as possible in the box below

If your party consists of more than two passengers please fill in an additional booking form or call us on **0345 475 1815** or email **info@theculturalexperience.com**.

Please return your completed forms to:  
The Cultural Experience, The Cultural Experience, 11B Mansfield Park, Four Marks, Alton, GU34 5PZ, United Kingdom



# 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). Any updates to this booking conditions can be found in our website [www.theculturalexperience.com](http://www.theculturalexperience.com)

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.

## BOOKING & PAYMENT

All itineraries are correct at time of print (August 2024) and the current price of our tours can be found on our website. 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 client is responsible for all bank charges). For bank transfers originating from bank accounts outside the United Kingdom an additional fee of £10 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.

## 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:

1. non-flight packages;
2. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK; and
3. 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 you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

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 at <https://www.caa.co.uk/atol-protection> or the ABTOT website <https://www.abtot.com/>

## 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 portage 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 10 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 & 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% cancellation 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. 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.

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; 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.

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@disputesettlementsolutions.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

WHAT YOU SAID

“Great time. Excellent tour management, both guide and leader. Would recommend. Great sites chosen. Food, excellent. Lodging, excellent.”

Michael, UK

“Everything about the tour was excellent, from the quality of the guides to the meals to the hotels. I cannot fault it at all. I would definitely book with TCE again. First rate”

Rod, UK

“The entire trip was very well organised, comprehensive and filled with detailed information. Alan and his colleagues could not have been more helpful, enthusiastic and understanding.”

Bradford, US

“Excellent! Well organised. Kept informed. Tour manager helpful, friendly, related well with us all and dealt with any problem efficiently. The expert had a world of knowledge and delivered it in an engaging way. Related well to us all. They both made the trip wonderful and memorable.”

Anne, UK

“From the earliest interaction they demonstrate excellent customer service: prompt, clear, professional, and personalized. Amazingly, they answer their phones. I did not travel from the UK with the group-- they arranged meeting guidelines for me that worked perfectly. When weather altered a planned event, they developed excellent alternatives with a minimum of disruption.”

Heather, US

“Itinerary, guide, hotel, transportation, and the group were all superb.”

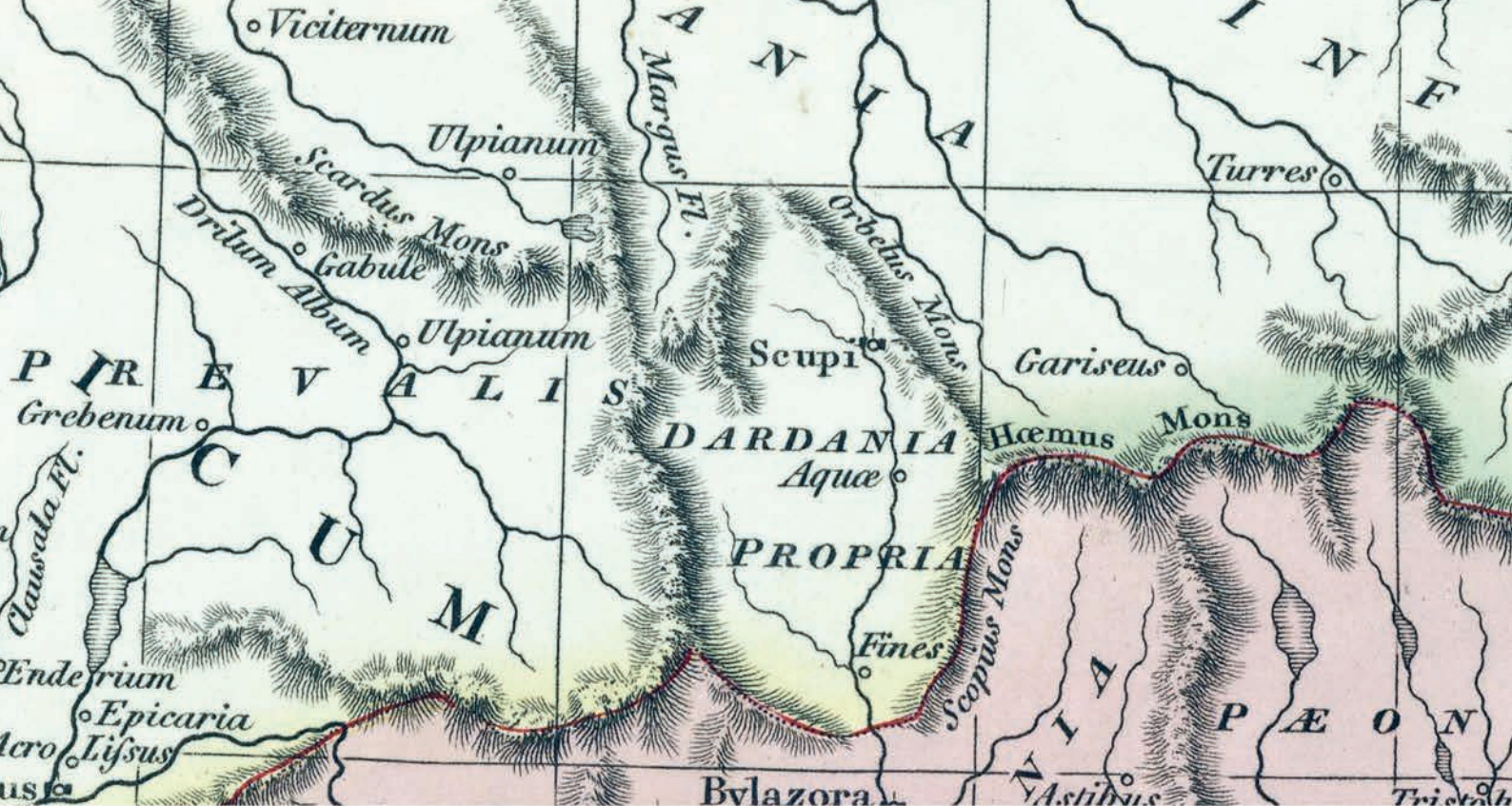
Bev, Canada

“This specialist tour was very well organised, delivering all it promised and more. Two expert guides shared their knowledge with ease and with them we travelled the length and breadth of Jordan, exploring so much of this beautiful country. The tour party was small, was made up of like-minded people whose company we really enjoyed. Many varied dining experiences enhanced the tour and we visited locations very few others will ever get to see. We were very fortunate to travel on this much anticipated tour, it was all we’d hoped and more.”

Karen, - Essex, UK







The Cultural Experience  
11B Mansfield Park,  
Medstead,  
Alton, GU34 5PZ  
United Kingdom

UK (free phone): 0345 475 1815  
International: +44 345 475 1815  
USA (toll-free): 1-877-209-5620

info@theculturalexperience.com  
www.theculturalexperience.com

🐦 @CultExp  
f /historicaltours  
🌐 thecultural\_experience

## THE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

ARCHAEOLOGY | MILITARY HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE | BATTLEFIELDS  
HISTORY | MUSIC | ART

