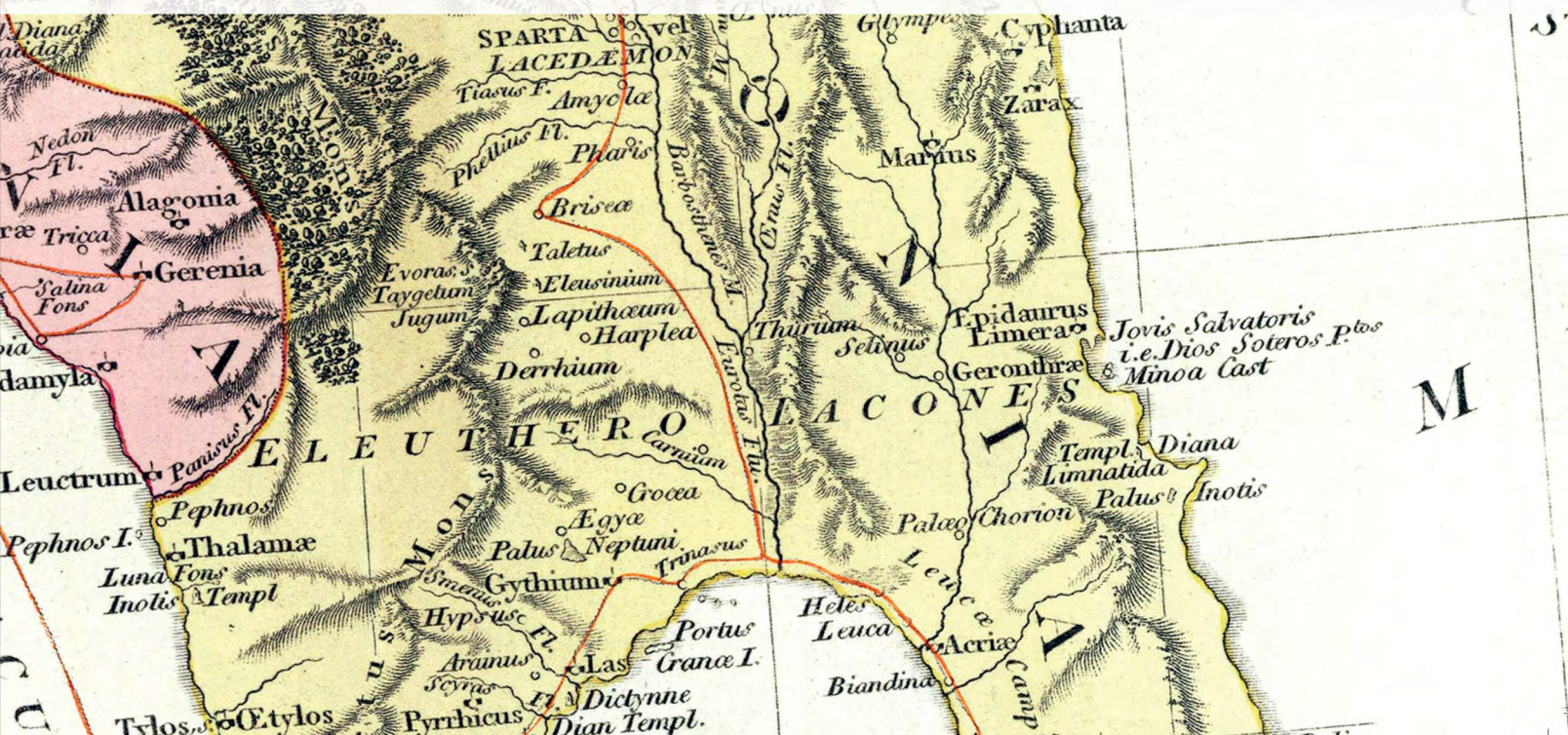




# THE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

BATTLEFIELDS, ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY  
2025-2027 TOURS





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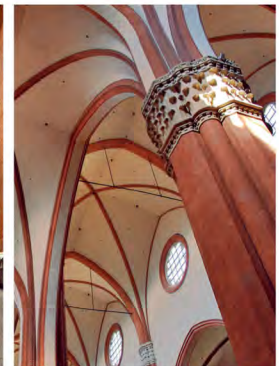
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# WELCOME



Welcome to our summer brochure. Inside you will find tours for the second half of 2025, all of 2026, and even a few that are ready for the 2027 programme.

This is our most ambitious year to date, with over 80 tours and new destinations including The Vikings, Sharpe's Rifles, Corfu and the Dalmatian coast.

Full details and prices will be found on our website and there are plenty of links throughout the brochure to take you to the right place. You will always obtain the best prices for our 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 as hotels and airlines. So, the sooner you book, the better value you get.

We continue to experience an increasing demand for our well-designed holidays, many of which sell-out in record time. We are constantly researching new destinations to create innovative itineraries driven by our inspired ethos.

If you have any questions you are welcome to email us at [info@theculturalexperience.com](mailto:info@theculturalexperience.com) or telephone us on one of our numbers which you will find at the bottom of every page.

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.

Dr Stephen Miles, History Tours Curator

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## 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.

## 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 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.

# ADDED VALUES

At The Cultural Experience we can offer many additional extras (subject to availability) to your holiday to enhance the overall experience, please ask us for further details and 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 is a British Airways Appointed Operator. In most instances and where it is practical, we fly out of London Heathrow for our overseas tours. We have access to the majority of the world's airlines.

## REGIONAL 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. Subject to availability.

## FLIGHT UPGRADES

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

## TRAINS

Our tours to Europe by train include Eurostar Plus, where you will enjoy comfortable, spacious seats and a light meal with hot and cold drinks. If you prefer to travel in even more comfort, and enjoy a three-course gourmet meal and drinks served at your

seat, together with complimentary newspapers and magazines, then why not upgrade to Eurostar Premier – the ultimate Eurostar Experience.

## ROOM UPGRADE

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

## HOLIDAY EXTRAS

We work 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

Please read and ensure you understand this section before booking.

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 porterage 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. 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.



# 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). However, in certain countries where alcohol is not freely available this may be limited to soft drinks only. 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 value 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, although there may be occasions where there is no alternative to low-cost airlines. Train inclusive prices provide return Eurostar rail travel from London St Pancras in Eurostar Plus 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.



# OUR HISTORIANS

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

**Dr David Appleby** Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Nottingham

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

**Grenville Bird** Author & historian

**Dr Filip Budić** Assistant Lecturer in History at the University of Zagreb

**Dr Prit Buttar** Author & military historian

**David Buttery** Author & military historian

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

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

**Ian Colvin** Archaeologist, author and lecturer

**Major (Retd) Gordon Corrigan** Retired Major, historian and author, TV personality

**Imogen Corrigan** Medieval historian

**Dr Simon Elliott** Archaeologist, author and broadcaster

**Dr Andy Fear** Lecturer at Manchester University and classical historian

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

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

**Oliver Gilkes** Consulting archaeologist, writer and educator

**Dr David Hall** Author & historian

**Col (Retd) David Harrison** Former soldier and a diplomat

**Nick Jackson** Archaeologist and Tour Guide

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

**Dan Kaszeta** Historian and author, Fellow of the Royal Historical Society

**Colonel (Retd) Bob Kershaw** Military historian, author

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

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

**Dr Gregory Lippiatt** Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Exeter

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

**Farès K Moussa** Anthropologist, archaeologist and consultant in heritage and arts/culture management

**Tony O'Connor** Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London

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

**Dr Alasdair Richardson** Reader in Holocaust Education at the University of Winchester

**Jon Rooke** Retired RAF Squadron-Leader and military historian

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Major-General (Retd) Ashley Truluck** Historian, former Chairman of the Army Society for Historical Research

**Alan Wakefield** Head of First World War & Early 20th Century Conflict at the IWM

**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







Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# THE ROMANS IN PROVENCE

## PROVINCIA NOSTRA

**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.



### 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 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.



- 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 10-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.



### 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.

### 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. Hotel in Istanbul - 2 nights (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, Termessus. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 .....** Fly back to London from Antalya via Istanbul or perhaps extend your stay in Turkey. (B)



# IN THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS

## POMPEII AND THE PERISHED CITIES OF THE BAY OF NAPLES



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25–31 October 2025**

**Expert Historian: Tony Wilmott**

**8–14 April 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Andy Fear**

**6–12 May 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Simon Elliott**

**9–15 September 2026**

**Expert Historian: Tony Wilmott**

**7–13 October 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Simon Elliott**

**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.



### 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 Naples or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Drive to Pompeii. Welcome drink and dinner. (6 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, San Lorenzo Maggiore Catacombs (Roman forum and macellum) in Naples. (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)





Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# CLASSICAL ALGERIA

## NUMIDIANS AND ROMANS IN NORTH AFRICAN SANDS

**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 Timgad. Walk the streets of the vast ruins of Djémila and see the startling mosaics from across the country, showcasing everyday Roman life in all its intimacy.

Explore the ancient cities of Constantine, the Roman capital Cirta, Anabba once home to St Augustine, and the modern vibrant capital of Algiers. Through a combination of museum visits, city walks and talks by our expert guide we get close to this fascinating past, with its wealth of Classical heritage, set against the backdrop of a bold and rapidly changing country.

Take your time to truly immerse yourself in the rich and intriguing history and culture of North Africa's largest country. There has never been a better time to immerse yourself in the rich and complicated history and culture of North Africa's largest country. Algeria is waiting to be discovered - this is a tour not to be missed!

### Historical Background

Algeria, like most of North Africa, suffered a violent early period with Numidian turncoats and uprisings, betraying first their Carthaginian allies to the Romans, then the Roman Empire itself in 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, soft 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)



# IMMORTAL EGYPT

## BRINGING AN ANCIENT CIVILISATION TO LIFE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**31 January–  
9 February 2026**

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

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

## 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.



## ESSENTIALS

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

- 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, 'old' Egyptian Museum in central Cairo. (B,L,D)
- Day 3..... National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation. Fly Cairo to Luxor. Hotel in Luxor – 3 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 4..... Luxor Museum, Luxor Temple, Temple of Karnak. (B,L,D)
- Day 5..... Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, Temple of Hatshepsut. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... By coach to Aswan via Edfu and Kom Ombo. Hotel in Aswan – 3 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Elephantine Island, Island of Philae, Aswan Dam, Column Quarry (unfinished obelisk). (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... By coach to and from Abu Simbel. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Fly Aswan to Cairo. Giza Pyramids. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 .... Grand Egyptian Museum, Khan el-Khalili Bazaar, Cairo. (B)  
Fly Cairo to London early evening or perhaps extend your stay in Egypt.



# THE LOST CITIES OF LUSITANIA

## THE ROMANS IN PORTUGAL & EXTREMADURA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**29 March–5 April 2026**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Andy Fear**

**8 days**

**Activity Level: 2**

Set amidst the backdrop of Holy Week during which we will enjoy a rich heritage of sumptuous, dramatic religious street processions, this tour visits a range of magnificent monuments left for us to admire across the province. Their variety allows us to see not just the richness of city life, but also the source of the riches and the infrastructure which allowed that life to flourish. This novel archaeological tour takes us through the Portuguese regions of Extremadura, Beiras and Alentejo and the Spanish region of Extremadura. Whilst we will visit many important Roman sites such as Conimbriga and Emerita Augusta, we will also learn how they generally settled in this western extremity of their empire at remote villas, infrastructure sites and even extant factories. We explore some of the region's great cities such as Coimbra, Caceres, Evora and, of course, Lisbon.



### 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 conquest of Lusitania, the most westerly of Rome's possessions, began in the 180s BC after raids by the Lusitani tribe into Rome's province of Further Spain. Lusitani were a fierce tribe, the Roman writer Pliny derives their name from the wild rites (lusus) of the wine god Pan. Long wars of expansion followed with the Lusitani at times giving as good as they got. One chieftain, Viriathus, remains a Portuguese national hero to this day. The area was eventually tamed by Caesar in the 60s BC. It was made a separate province in around 25 BC by the Emperor Augustus and given a new, purpose-built capital at Merida whose Roman name means "The Emperor's City for veterans". Two famous governors who would have known Merida were the short-lived emperor Otho and the brother of the Emperor Severus, Geta. The province was a peaceful one, but never quite forgot its military roots. Units of Lusitanians are found in the Roman army and legionary veterans from Merida are even found buried at Chester. As well as these Celtiberian tribesmen, the area also contained pure Celts as town names like Mirobriga and Conimbriga show, and some Phoenician traders had also ventured here. In prehistory the region was an important outpost of the Tartessic culture.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Lisbon (or join tour at hotel). Tour historic quarter, Roman theatre. Pre-dinner drinks and introductory talk. Hotel in Lisbon – 1 night. (B)
- Day 2 ..... Drive to Conimbriga – view Roman town. Continue to Coimbra – hotel 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Coimbra, incl. Macheda Museum and Roman cryptoporticus, Alcantara Roman Bridge. Continue to Caceres – hotel 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Caceres Museum of Roman Art. Merida, incl. theatre, amphitheatre, circus, bridges and water management systems, temple, Museum of Roman Art. Merida - hotel for 2 nights. (B)
- Day 5 ..... Medellin castle, Quintana de la Serana watchtower. Return to Merida - continue visiting Roman sites. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Proserpina Dam, Badajoz and Troia, Alcacer do Sal - Roman cult site. Alcacer do Sal – hotel 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Santiago do Cacem, Mirobriga (baths and forum) and Sao Cucufate (Roman Villa). Evora hotel – 1 night. (B)
- Day 8 ..... Evora – tour Roman sites. Drive to Lisbon Airport for return flight to London (or perhaps extend your stay in Portugal). (B)

# ECHOES OF EMPIRE

## EXPLORING TUNISIA'S CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**31 March–7 April 2026**

**9 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. 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 but 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.



### 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.

### 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 London to Tunis. Hotel in Tunis – 4 nights. (D)
- Day 2..... Carthage, Bardo Museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 3..... Utica, walking tour of Tunis. (B,L,D)
- Day 4..... Cape Bon peninsula, Kerkouane, Nabeul. (B,L,D)
- Day 5..... Kairouan - Museum of Islamic Art, walking tour of centre. Hotel in Kairouan – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Sousse Archaeological Museum, El Jem. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Full day at Dougga. Hotel in Dougga – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Drive to Tunis via Thurbabo Majis and Uthina. Fly Tunis to London. (B,L)



# THE GRANDEUR OF ANCIENT ROME

BUILT OF BRICKS, CLOTHED IN MARBLE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**22–28 April 2026**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Harry Sidebottom**

**Activity Level: 2**

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

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

## Historical Background

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



## 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 to Rome and transfer to our hotel for 6 nights. Welcome drinks and introductory talk before dinner. (D)

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MACEDON

## THE KINGDOM OF PHILIP II AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**7–14 May 2026**

**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

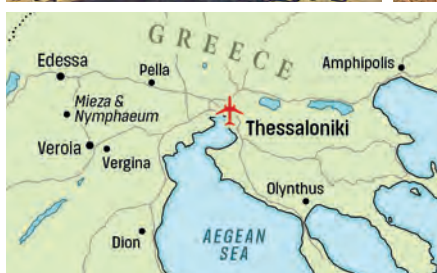
Macedon was a land of gold and timber, of wide plains and rugged uplands, of hard drinking noble horsemen, who lived by the heroic values of the poetry of Homer and loved the plays of Euripides. Their kings, emerged in blood feud and treachery, lived and died by the sword. Although in the eyes of the 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.



### 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 to Thessaloniki or join group at hotel.  
Hotel in Thessaloniki - 7 nights). (D)

**Day 2.....** Pella. (B,D)

**Day 3.....** Verola, Mieza & Nymphaeum. (B,D)

**Day 4.....** Dion, National Museum of Thessaloniki. (B, D)

**Day 5.....** Olynthus. (B, L)

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

**Day 7 .....** Vergina (B,D)

**Day 8 .....** Flights home. (B)



# THE LOST LEGIONS

## THE ROAD TO THE TEUTOBURG FOREST



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**3–8 June 2026**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Tony Wilmott**

**Activity Level: 2**

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



### 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.

### Historical Background

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



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

# GUARDIANS OF EMPIRE

## THE ROMAN ARMY ON HADRIAN'S WALL AND THE ANTONINE WALL



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**27 June–2 July 2026**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Andy Fear**

**Activity Level: 2 /3**

Hadrian's Wall is the most important site in Roman Britain, with forts, civilian settlements and temples as well as fortifications, and the largest surviving monument to the Roman army. But the Antonine Wall is also a highly significant, if overlooked, feat of engineering.

In a series of visits and walks we examine the role and organisation of the largest professional army until the modern era, placing it in context as we visit the altars and tombstones of its soldiers and their families and explore the remains and reconstructions of fortifications, houses and barrack blocks. We also get the chance to examine some of the most awe-inspiring inscriptions and other remains from those living on the wall in the region's superb museums.

Walks will follow marked paths, at times over challenging terrain, but nothing that a person of average fitness could not achieve, although there will be the option to travel by coach. Notwithstanding, everybody will enjoy this hospitable tour set amongst the dramatic scenery of Northern England.



### 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.

### Historical Background

In 122 AD the Emperor Hadrian visited Britain and ordered a wall to be built for 80 miles between the Solway and the Tyne. Twenty years later Hadrian's Wall was abandoned under the Emperor Antoninus Pius and a new wall further north was constructed between the Clyde and the Forth. Within a few decades the Antonine Wall was also abandoned and the frontier moved back to Hadrian's previous structure. Whilst this is the story of the frontier of an empire and the threats it faced, it is also the story of both the flourish and decline of Rome's British province and the experience of the locals living on either side of the barrier. Occupied for two and half centuries, both walls were heavily garrisoned, yet much about them is a mystery. Mentioned a handful of times in ancient literature, the changing design and function of Hadrian's Wall has to be deduced from excavation and many puzzles remain for us to discuss and unravel as we travel along it.



- Day 1 .....** Assemble at Newcastle hotel at midday for sandwich lunch and introductory talk. Segedunum Roman Fortress, Great North Museum. Hotel in Newcastle – 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 2.....** Chesters, Carrawburgh Mithraeum, Housesteads, walk Housesteads to Steel Rigg via Sycamore Gap (4½ km - level 3). Hotel in Carlisle – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Vindolanda, Gilsland, Roman Army Museum, Birdoswald. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Glasgow: Hunterian Museum, Bearsden Bathhouse. Hotel in Glasgow – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Bar Hill, Rough Castle, Watling Lodge and Kinneil forts. Hotel in Edinburgh – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** The National Museum of Scotland, transfer Edinburgh to Newcastle Railway Station to arrive around 15.30. (B)



# SONG FOR A DARK QUEEN

## BOUDICA'S REBELLION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**4–8 July 2026**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr John Sadler**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 5-night and 6-day tour traces the dramatic events of the Boudican Revolt (60/61 AD) when the native Celtic Iceni tribe revolted against the occupying Roman Empire under their formidable queen Boudica. From the Iceni heartlands in what is modern Norfolk through to the fascinating Roman cities of Colchester, St Albans and London, the tour explores the remains of towns, forts, temples and an amphitheatre to illuminate these shady events. This is augmented by visits to some of the UK's best regional museums where we admire artefacts from the period to gain a clearer understanding of the background to the revolt. The tour culminates in a visit to the site of what is thought to have been the final battle between Queen Boudica and the Romans, her tragic demise cementing her place in the nation's psyche as brave freedom fighter, warrior against oppression, and modern-day female icon.



### 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.

### Historical Background

Boudica, or to give her the Victorian variant Boudicea, has long been seen as a pivotal character in British history. When she raised her rebellious standard in 61 AD the Queen of the Iceni unleashed a torrent of violence that exceeded anything seen in these islands until William the Conqueror's 'harrying of the north'. Her vast army of native tribesmen and women utterly destroyed the provincial capital at Colchester (Camulodunum), annihilated a vexillation from Legion IX Hispana, marched upon London (Londinium), which was also given to the flames, and finally blitzed what is now St. Albans (Verulamium). Very possibly it was just outside the wrecked town that her host faced a disciplined Roman army, led by Gaius Suetonius Paulinus. This was to be the decisive battle, though not as she'd hoped. Outclassed and outfought, her native forces were cut to shreds and the rebellion crushed. What became of the rebel queen we cannot say but her final glory was to cheat the Roman general of his triumph. The brave Iceni leader remains lodged in our national psyche to this day.



- Day 1 .....** Meet at our London hotel midday for sandwich lunch and introductory talk. Walking tour (approx. 4km) of Roman London incl. Guildhall amphitheatre, temple of Mithras, Embankment Boudica statue, Museum of London. Hotel in London – 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 2.....** Drive to Peterborough, Longthorpe Vexillation Fort, Peterborough Museum, Stonea camp. Hotel in Norwich – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Venta Icenorum, Norwich Museum, drive to Colchester. Castle Museum. Hotel in Colchester – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Tour of Colchester Roman town incl. Roman Walls. Drive to St Albans and suggested site of final battle. Hotel in St Albans – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Tour of Roman St Albans. Departure after lunch. (B)

# WHERE EMPIRES COLLIDE

## A JOURNEY THROUGH NORTH-EAST TURKEY FROM LAKE VAN TO THE BLACK SEA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**2–9 September 2026**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian: Ian Colvin**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 7-night and 8-day tour explores the history, archaeology and culture of the fascinating region of north-east Turkey. From gorgeous Lake Van we journey through magnificent mountain scenery to the Eastern Anatolian plain passing by Mount Ararat, Turkey's highest peak, to finish at the Black Sea coast at Trabzon. On the way we admire atmospheric Byzantine monasteries and churches, Ottoman mosques, madrassas and palaces, and Urartian citadels, the remote Georgian churches of Tao-Klarjeti and the remarkable lost Armenian city of Ani, all set within the vibrant modern culture of the modern Turkish nation.

This is a region of incredible diversity with traces of intriguing cultures, both past and present, including Urartians, Byzantines, Ottomans, Zazas, Kurds, Armenians and Georgians. Set within the breathtaking scenery of Turkey's most spectacular region this is a tour of contrast and discovery.



### 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.

### Historical Background

The history of northeast Turkey is marked by a host of differing kingdoms which move on and off the stage like actors. The first organised historically attestable kingdom in the region is the Hayasa-Azzi who came into conflict with the Hittite Empire to the west in the 14th century BC. Within a century the kingdom had been absorbed by the Hittites. In the southern part of the region the Kingdom of Urartu flourished between the 9th century BC and 585 BC with its capital at Tushpa (Van). The kingdom is known for its formidable fortresses and cuneiform writing. Urartu gradually succumbed to the growing power of Assyria and then the Iranian Medes who eventually extended their hegemony over most of the area. By the 6th century BC a new regional superpower, the Achaemenid Empire, had extended its control over the whole of Anatolia. Between 334 and 331 BC the Empire was decisively conquered by Alexander the Great ushering in the westward expansion of the Kingdom of Armenia which ruled the area up to the Euphrates by the 1st century AD. In 387 AD the western part of the Kingdom became part of the Roman Empire which ruled – in the guise of its Byzantine successor – until its conquest by the Seljuk Turks in the 13th century. The dominant religion of north-east Turkey has been Islam ever since. A rump Byzantine court ruled from Trabzon until 1461 when the Ottomans conquered the area. Ottoman rule continued until the modern Republic of Turkey was created in 1923 ending warfare between Russian, Armenian and Turkish armies over the region.



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



# THE ETERNAL PELOPONNESE

## CRADLE OF MYTH AND EMPIRE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**21 September–  
1 October 2026**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Dr Harry Sidebottom**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 10-night and 11-day tour of the Greek Peloponnese takes in the best Classical sites in this area in the company of an expert historian who will provide a cutting-edge insight into this fascinating region. On this wide-ranging tour you will deepen your knowledge of the archaeology, history, language and culture of the many peoples who have inhabited the Peloponnese from the amazing Bronze Age Mycenaean civilisation through to the city states of the Classical era and Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Starting in Athens we explore the amazing Classical heritage of the ancient world's foremost city including the Acropolis and Agora. Moving to our base in Nauplion we visit the remarkable Mycenaean cites of Tiryns and Mycenae with their huge cyclopean masonry and sophisticated palace culture. At Epidaurus we marvel over the Greek world's best-preserved theatre and at Corinth enjoy the picturesque ruins beneath the rock of Acrocorinth. We also pay attention to smaller yet still significant sites such as Arsine and Bassae. The tour moves through stunning landscapes to Pylos then to Olympia where we explore the origins of the Olympic Games. At Delphi we visit the site of the famous oracle, consulted over important decisions throughout the ancient world. The tour returns to Athens and the National Archaeology Museum whose rich collections provide a fitting finale to the tour.

### 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.

### Historical Background

The Peloponnese has been inhabited since prehistory but it was only during the Bronze Age (1750–1050 BC) that a distinctively Greek civilisation emerged in the form of the Mycenaeans. Noted for their sturdy cyclopean walls, advanced palace culture, works of art and writing systems the Mycenaeans dominated the Argolid from their bases at Mycenae and Tiryns. By the 14th century BC they controlled the entire Peloponnese, much of mainland Greece and its islands, and Crete. The civilisation mysteriously collapsed in the 12th century BC and a plethora of theories exist to explain this sudden demise. By the next millennium Corinth emerged as the dominant city in the peninsula and in the 5th century BC the region became embroiled in the Peloponnesian Wars. The ensuing centuries were marked by further inter-city rivalries and conflicts and the formation of the Achaean League of 12 peninsula cities. The League stood up against Sparta and even Macedon but in the 2nd century BC signed a treaty with the growing power of Rome. Tired of the region's recalcitrance Rome invaded the peninsula destroying Corinth (146 BC) and creating the province of Achaia. The latter stages of the Classical period are dominated by Rome until the Peloponnese was overrun by Germanic and Gothic tribes in the 2nd century AD.



- Day 1 .....** Fly from London Heathrow and/or assemble at Athens. Hotel in Athens - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** Classical Athens - Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, Kerameikos Cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Classical Athens - ancient Agora, incl. Temple of Hephaistos, Stoa of Attalos, museum. Drive to Nauplion - Palamidi Fort. Hotel in Nauplion - 4 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 4.....** Heraion of Argos, Mycenae, incl. Treasury of Atreus and Lion Gate. Nemea. (B,L,D)
- Day 5.....** Nauplion Archaeological Museum, Acrocorinth, Corinth. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 .....** Tiryns, Asine, Epidaurus. (B,L,D)
- Day 7.....** Messene, Pylos, Pylos Archaeological Museum and Niokastro Fortress. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 .....** Palace of Nestor, Bassae. Drive to Olympia. Hotel in Olympia - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 .....** Olympia site. Drive to Delphi. Hotel in Delphi - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ....** Delphi site. Drive to Athens. Hotel in Athens - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 11 .....** National Archaeological Museum. Fly Athens to London Heathrow or perhaps extend your stay in Greece). (B)

# ANCIENT EGYPT'S HIDDEN TREASURES

## THROUGH THE DELTA AND MIDDLE EGYPT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25 October–  
5 November 2026**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Professor Joann Fletcher**

**Activity Level: 2**

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

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

This is an ideal tour for those who already know the more familiar sites of ancient Egypt and is a perfect sequel to our *Immortal Egypt: Bringing an ancient civilisation to life* tour.



### 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.

### Historical Background

The distinct regions of Upper and Lower Egypt - so named because of the south-north direction in which the Nile flows - were first brought together around 3100 BC and this pivotal moment created the 'world's first nation state'.

Although the Old Kingdom (c.2686–2181 BC) is best known for its pyramid tombs located around the north, temples were also created throughout the Nile Valley and Delta into the Middle Kingdom (c.1985–1650 BC). During the political upheaval of the 'Amarna Period' the traditional temples were closed down and the royal capital relocated to Amarna; Egypt's infrastructure fell apart as its empire began to fragment.

Despite the best efforts of later New Kingdom pharaohs, a combination of regicide, corruption and inflation allowed a succession of Libyans, Nubians and Persians to gain control of Egypt for much of the first millennium BC. Only in 332 BC did the arrival of Greek king Alexander the Great reverse Egypt's fortunes, for he not only created a new capital Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast but initiated the Ptolemaic dynasty. Issuing their edicts in both Greek and Egyptian, the Ptolemies rebuilt temples throughout Egypt, in which they were portrayed as traditional pharaohs, as were the Romans who invaded in 30 BC.



For 1,400 years Egypt's ancient past lay silent until the discovery of the Ptolemies' Rosetta Stone, whose Greek and Egyptian text allowed hieroglyphs to be deciphered in 1822 when this immortal civilization could finally begin to re-emerge into the modern world.

- Day 1 ..... Fly London to Cairo (or join tour at hotel). Hotel in Cairo – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Full day in Cairo: Coptic Museum, Old Cairo Museum (Tanis collection), Grand Egyptian Museum (Tutankhamun treasures). (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Drive into Nile Delta, Bubastis (Tel Basta), Tanis (San-al-Hagar). Hotel in Ras El Bar – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Fort Julian, Rosetta Museum, citadel of Quait bay in Alexandria. Hotel in Alexandria – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Full day in Alexandria: Kom el Shoqafa Catacombs, Serapeum, Graeco-Roman Museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Drive to Dahshur (Red and Bent Pyramids). Cairo - 1 night. Free time. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Drive to Meidum (pyramid of Snefru), Fayum oasis, Tunis Pottery Village. Hotel at Qurun Lake – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Tuna El Gabal necropolis, Beni Hassan. Hotel in Minya for one night. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Tell El-Amarna. Hotel in Abydos (Sohag) - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 .... Abydos (incl. Temple of Seti I), Dendera (incl. Hathor Temple). Hotel in Luxor – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 ..... Medinet Habu (incl. Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III), Valley of the Nobles, Deir el-Medina and Ramesseum. Free time in Luxor. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 .... Fly Luxor to London via Cairo (or extend stay in Egypt). (B)



# CLASSICAL ALBANIA

## IN ILLYRIAN LANDS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**26 May–3 June 2027**

**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 a thousand windows", both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Throughout our stay we are hosted by the wonderful Albanian people, proud of their origins in the 2,500-year-old tribes of Illyria, and eager to share their fine cuisine, 3000-year-old tradition of 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.



## 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 from London to Tirana or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Explore Tirana; welcome drinks and introductory talk. Hotel in Tirana – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2** ..... Tirana: walking tour to include National Museum and Ethem Bey Mosque. (B,D)
- Day 3** ..... Apollonia; continue to Gjirokastra. Hotel in Gjirokastra – 4 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Full day at Butrint. (B,L,D)
- Day 5** ..... full day at Gjirokastra, incl. museum, castle and konaks (residences). (B,D)
- Day 6** ..... Antigoneia, Labova i Kryqit, Hadrianopolis. (B,L,D)
- Day 7** ..... leave Gjirokastra, drive to 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 Durres – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9** ..... Drive to Tirana airport for flight to London or extend your stay in Albania. (B)

# IN TRAJAN'S FOOTSTEPS

## SERBIA TO ROMANIA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25 June–3 July 2027**

**9 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.

### Historical Background

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



### 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** ..... 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, Costesti and Alba Julia. Sibiu - hotel for 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7** ..... Arutel Roman fort. Drive to Brasov. Free time. Hotel in Brasov - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 8** ..... Drive to Bucharest. Visit Bucharest National Museum, replica of Trajan's Column, Avenue of Socialist Victory. Hotel in Bucharest – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9** ..... Further explore Bucharest – optional visit to Palace of the Parliament. Transfer to Bucharest airport for our flight to London or perhaps extend stay in Romania. (B)





Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# JACOBITES AND BRAVEHEARTS

## THE FIGHT FOR SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

**21–28 September 2025**

**8 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 breathtaking journey through Highland and Glen that will immerse you in Gaelic culture, custom and history.



### ESSENTIALS

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

### 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, Glenfinnan, 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. Disperse or extend stay in Scotland (extra night accommodation at Edinburgh hotel available upon request). (B,D)

Optional one day Edinburgh extension (self-guided). Holyrood Palace, National Museum, Scott Monument, Edinburgh Castle. Overnight Edinburgh.

# THE ALBIGENSIAN CRUSADE

## DESTRUCTION OF THE CATHARS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**31 May–06 June 2026**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Dr Gregory Lippiatt**

**Activity Level: 2**

On this 6-night and 7-day tour we journey through the 'Land of the Cathars' to trace the events of the Albigensian Crusade (1209–29) and the attempt to extinguish the perceived heresy of Catharism in southern France. Travelling by coach from our bases in Carcassonne and near Couiza we visit the main castles and villages which had Cathar connections and learn about the nature of this heresy, its causes, consequences and eventual violent destruction.

From the city of Carcassonne we gain a fine appreciation of France in the medieval period and the evocative cityscape, although heavily restored, is a rare glimpse into the urban world of medieval Europe. We travel to Lastours where we explore the remarkable Four Castles, a significant Cathar centre, and at the castles of Minerve, Saissac, Termes, Arques and Puivert we admire ruins steeped in the desperate plight of the Cathar sect. Some of these castles surrendered without a fight but for those that stubbornly refused retribution came swiftly in the form of siege after which Cathars who refused to recant were usually burned to death. The most ruthless and well-known example of this was at Montségur. Our tour also visits villages where important events in the Cathar story took place such as Fanjeaux which hosted the Great Assembly of 1204.

The tour does involve some uphill walking including the 40-minute ascent on a path to Montségur.

### Historical Background

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

The Albigensian Crusade (1209–29) was savage and unrelenting in its pursuit of Cathars. It has been estimated that half a million men, women and children were massacred, Catholics as well as heretics. So indiscriminate was this slaughter that when the town of Béziers was captured the Abbott-Commander, Arnaud Amaury, gave the dreadful command: "Kill them all! - the Lord will recognise His own". The Cathars retreated to the many castles and fortifications that today make this area so absorbing. This led to a series of sieges many of which were conducted by the English knight Simon de Montfort, father of the more famous personage. By 1244 a renewed Crusade expunged the last vestiges of Catharism at Montségur where around 220 victims were burned alive.



### ESSENTIALS

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

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



# THE LORDS OF THE NORTH

## VIKINGS, SAXONS AND SAINTS IN ENGLAND'S NORTH-EAST



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**22–26 June 2026**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Professor Ryan Lavelle**

**Activity Level: 2**

Encountering the rugged landscapes of Britain's North-east, this tour ranges across four centuries of Northumbria's history, from the times of the Venerable Bede and England's first Christian kings to the Viking conquests and their consequences. This tour allows us to explore some of the places inspiring Bernard Cornwell's 'Lords of the North'. We go to the real Bebbanburg, Bamburgh Castle, family seat of the 11th-century Northumbrian Earl Uhtred and the fortress city of Durham, home to a cathedral steeped in the heritage of St Cuthbert and our home for the four days of the tour. Taking in Yeaveering, site of one of Northumbria's earliest palaces and the island monastery of Lindisfarne, which suffered Britain's earliest recorded Viking raid, our journey goes as far as the present Anglo-Scottish border at Carham on the River Tweed. Here the Northumbrian earl was defeated by an invading Scottish army in 1018. South of Durham, the tour takes us to York, which as Jórvik became the Viking heart of Northumbria, leaving the city with a rich archaeological legacy to be explored.



### ESSENTIALS

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

### Historical Background

The kingdom of Northumbria had its origins in the union of a northern house focused on the North Sea fortress of Bamburgh and a southern dynasty whose territorial heartland lay in York. As the kingdom which was home to the "father of English History", the Venerable Bede, the trials and tribulations of the conversions to Christianity by Northumbria's rulers were well recorded in Bede's Ecclesiastical History (completed in 731). Amongst these was the foundation of the island monastery of Lindisfarne, whose assault by Vikings in 793 sent shockwaves across Europe. As one of the four great Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 9th century, Northumbria fell to Vikings following the conquest of York in 866. Here, a line of Norse-speaking kings with links across the North Sea and Irish Sea made Jórvik their powerbase until the death of Erik Bloodaxe in 954. Although there no more kings were based in Bamburgh during the Viking Age, an Anglo-Saxon dynasty maintained power by balancing a precarious position between the rulers of York and emergent Scottish and English kingdoms, aided by a partnership with the powerful bishops of Durham. Though shaken by defeat by the Scottish King Malcolm III at Carham in 1018, the legacy of the Lords of the North lived on through the Middle Ages and beyond.



- Day 1 .....** Assemble at Durham hotel midday; buffet lunch and introductory talk; Durham Cathedral; Cathedral Museum; Archaeology Museum. Hotel in Durham – 4 nights. (L,D)
- Day 2 .....** Bamburgh and Lindisfarne. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Ad Gefrin Visitor Centre, Yeaveering and Carham. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** York (by train) - Yorvik Centre, walking tour of Viking York, Yorkshire Museum. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Jarrow - Monastery of St Paul, Bede Museum, return to Durham, disperse early afternoon. (B,D)

# VIKINGS!

## DENMARK, NORWAY AND SWEDEN: THREE LANDS, ONE SAGA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**5–13 July 2026**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Ben Raffield**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour explores some of the best Viking sites in Denmark, Norway and Sweden in a journey worthy of these indefatigable northern adventurers. At Jelling we admire the remarkable runestones, commissioned by the colourfully named King Harald Bluetooth. At Trelleborg we visit a remarkable fortress demonstrating the turbulent world of the Vikings. At Roskilde and Tønsberg we learn about Viking ship building and trade and at Ladby walk into the only Viking ship grave discovered in Denmark. At Birka we visit what was a consummate Viking trading town with links to the Islamic world. The Viking way of death and burial is demonstrated superbly at Anundshög and Gamla Uppsala where we explore prominent burial mounds. Throughout the tour we will visit some of the finest museums in Europe where the Viking story is illuminated by startling collections of artefacts.



### ESSENTIALS

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

### Historical Background

Violent, ruthless, horn-helmeted warriors - the Vikings have never escaped their unruly image. But they were also farmers, skilled craftsmen, artists and traders. Their accomplished seafaring skills allowed them to roam far and wide - raiding, pirating and trading - and this prowess is reflected in one theory for the origins of the name from the Old Norse vika, 'sea mile', originally referring to the distance between two shifts of rowers. Between the 8th and 11th centuries AD they established settlements in Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Brittany, the Baltic Coast and Russia. Various reasons have been given for this expansion including the lure of wealth, overpopulation and lack of farmland. Nevertheless the Viking homelands remained in the three areas of what we now call Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Their legacy lives on in the traces of towns, fortresses, burial mounds, runestones, carvings, place names, and the incredible longboats which have so captured the imagination.

The Viking Age was a turbulent time with transformations in religious beliefs, economic systems and the organisation of society. By the 11th century pagan beliefs gave way to Christianity and this is regarded by some as the end of the Viking Age.



- Day 1 .....** Arrival - Denmark: fly from London Heathrow to Copenhagen or join tour at airport. Hotel near Odense – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Denmark: Jelling runestones, Kongernes Visitor Centre, Ladby. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Denmark: Trelleborg, Roskilde Viking Ship Museum. Copenhagen - hotel for 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Denmark: National Museum of Denmark. Overnight ferry to Oslo. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Norway: Oslo. Tønsberg (Slottsfjell Museum and Klåstad ship), Midgard Viking Centre and Borre. Hotel in Oslo – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Norway: Historical Museum, Medieval Archaeological Park. Evening flight Oslo to Stockholm. Hotel in Stockholm – 3 nights. (B)
- Day 7 .....** Sweden: boat trip to Birka. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Sweden: Anundshög, Gamla Uppsala. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Depart: fly Stockholm Arlanda airport to London Heathrow (or extend your stay in Sweden). (B)



# PLANTAGENET FRANCE: INTRIGUE, WAR, COLLAPSE

FEATURING ELEANOR OF AQUITAINE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

10–18 June 2026

9 days

Expert Historian:  
Aurzelle da Silva

Activity Level: 2

The Plantagenet dynasty dominated what we now call France from its origins in Anjou in the twelfth century to its demise in the fifteenth and left its mark on English history after Henry II's accession to the throne in 1154. Through a series of visits to castles, abbeys, cathedrals, palaces, museums, and towns, this superb tour provides a highly enjoyable journey through the places where France's history was made. We will explore some of the most evocative medieval sites in Europe including the castles of Saumur, Chinon, Langeais and Loches. The religious life of the times will be illuminated at the fantastic abbeys of Épau and Fontevraud, the latter the burial place of Eleanor of Aquitaine, her husband Henry II and their son Richard the 'Lionheart'.



## ESSENTIALS

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

## Historical Background

The Plantagenet dynasty was founded by Geoffrey (1113–51), Count of Anjou whose son Henry ruled lands in both Anjou and Normandy. He added Aquitaine after his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152 and succeeded to the throne of England in 1154.

The Angevin Empire soon ruled half of French territory and eventually antagonised the Capetian kings of France to whom they owed loyalty. The rivalry between the dynasties resulted in a series of wars and the gradual reconquest of Angevin territory by the Capetians. The large number of castles in the region meant that sieges were common and the evocative sites at Chinon, Montsoreau and Château-Gaillard are powerful reminders of this era.

Under John (r. 1199–1216) England lost most of its French possessions resulting in the demise of the Angevin Empire and the rise of the Capetian. In the Hundred Years War (1337–1453) Plantagenet England won back most of its continental possessions but soon lost them again.



- Day 1 .....** Assemble London's St Pancras station. Eurostar to Paris Gare to Nord then by train to Tours. Hotel in Tours – 6 nights. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Angers - Palace of the Counts of Anjou, Apocalypse Tapestry, Collegiate Church, Cathedral. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Castles of Saumur and Montsoreau (exterior only), Abbey of Fontevraud, castle of Langeais. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Le Mans – Cathedral, Plantagenêt Museum, Royal Abbey of Epau. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Castle of Chinon, Royal City of Loches. (B)
- Day 6 .....** Poitiers - Baptistery of St John, Grand Palace of the Dukes of Aquitaine, Saint-Pierre Cathedral. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Train from Tours to Paris. Île de la Cité - Conciergerie, Sainte-Chapelle, Notre-Dame Cathedral (reopens December 2024), Louvre Palace (exterior only). Hotel in Paris – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Rouen and cathedral, Château-Gaillard, Gisors castle. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Cathedral of St Denis. Eurostar Paris Gare du Nord to London St Pancras. (B)

# THE LAST WELSH REBELLION

## OWEN GLYNDWR AND THE CASTLES OF EDWARD I



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**13–21 September 2026**

**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, and 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.



### ESSENTIALS

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

### 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 - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** The Iron Ring. Criccieth and Harlech castles.
- Day 5.....** Mt Snowdon and Pennal. Return rail journey to the summit of Mt Snowdon, Cymer, Llanelltyd Bridge, Pennal, Heritage Garden of St Peter ad Vincula, Machynlleth - 2 nights (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Mynedd Hyddgen and Aberystwyth. Owain Glyndŵr Centre, Aberystwyth, Afon Hyddgen. (B)
- Day 7 .....** Bryn Glas & Shrewsbury. Pilleth, Bryn Glas, Shrewsbury battle site, Hereford - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** The End. Woodbury Hill, Campston Hill, Monmouth, Grosmont Castle, Monnington Churchyard. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Farewell. Disperse after breakfast. (B)





Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# THE MONMOUTH REBELLION

11–14 July 2026

4 days

**Expert Historian:**  
**Dr John Sadler**

**Activity Level: 2**

This four-day tour amongst the gently undulating landscapes of southwest England follows the would-be usurper the 1st Duke of Monmouth, from his landing at the picturesque harbour of Lyme Regis, through the golden walled Dorset villages from where unfortunate peasantry rallied to his standard to fight skirmishes at Bridport, Axminster and Ashill and through Somerset as they marched on Bridgwater and Taunton. Following a seemingly aimless figure of eight route to the outskirts of Bristol and Bath in search of further support the tour culminates amidst the confusing dykes of the Somerset Levels at the decisive battlefield of Sedgemoor.



## ESSENTIALS

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

## Historical Background

In July 1685, near Bridgwater in Somerset, the Duke of Monmouth's rebels were defeated by the Royal army under Lord Feversham at the Battle of Sedgemoor. It was the last pitched battle to be fought in England. Almost 1000 rebel soldiers were killed and many survivors, including the wounded, were imprisoned in nearby Westonzoyland church before being tried for their treason. Although Monmouth narrowly escaped the battlefield, three days later he too was captured after having been found cowering in a ditch during his abortive attempt to flee to the Dorset coast. Pleas for his life to his uncle, James II, and promises to betray his supporters fell on deaf ears and ten-days after his defeat he was beheaded at the Tower of London. He would not be alone: three hundred of his supporters would be executed following the Bloody Assizes of Judge Jeffries and many more would die of disease after transportation to the West Indies.



- Day 1 .....** Raising the standard: Midday arrival Taunton hotel; sandwich lunch and briefing; Lyme Regis, Bridport, Axminster, Ashill. Hotel Taunton – 3 nights. (L, D)
- Day 1 .....** Cat and Mouse: Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Frome, Wells, Keynsham, Phillips Norton. (B, D)
- Day 1 .....** Battle: Bridgewater and Blake Museum, Sedgemoor battlefield tour, Chedzoy, Middlezoy, Othery, Westonzoyland. (B, D)
- Day 1 .....** Taunton. Market Cross, Taunton castle, Somerset Military History Museum. Return to hotel - disperse. (B)



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# WELLINGTON IN SPAIN

## A CLASSIC PENINSULAR WAR TOUR

**11–18 September 2025**

**Expert Historian:**

**Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck**

**3–10 September 2026**

**Expert Historian:**

**Mark Crawthorne**

**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.



### 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.

### 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.



- Day 1 .....** Fly from London to Madrid and/or start tour at Madrid. Hotel in Toledo – 1 night. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Talavera, Almaraz, Trujillo. Hotel in Trujillo – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Albuera, Badajoz, Elvas. Hotel in Elvas – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Elvas, Alcántara. Hotel in Ciudad Rodrigo – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Puerto Seguro, Almeida, River Coa. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Fuentes de Oñoro, Nave de Haver, Ciudad Rodrigo. Hotel in Salamanca – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Salamanca battlefield incl. Miranda de Azan and Greater Arapile; free time in Salamanca. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Avila. Fly Madrid to London or extend stay in Spain. (B)



# WALKING WATERLOO

## THE CAMPAIGN ON FOOT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

10–13 October 2025

2–5 October 2026

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. These will be a series of country walks, not a route march, during which we cover about 5 or 6 miles a day, with stops for lunch and beverages. There is nothing here that any reasonably fit weekend walker couldn't cope with but what this tour really offers is fresh air, a fresh perspective, and a chance to enjoy the surprisingly peaceful and pretty Belgian countryside in the convivial company of fellow walkers.



### 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.

### 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 Blücher 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.



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

# WELLINGTON IN INDIA

## THE MASTER LEARNS HIS TRADE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**24 October–  
03 November 2025**

**11 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.

This 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, unspoiled 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 220<sup>TH</sup> 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 Schöngrabern, lunch at the atmospheric Post House where Napoleon devised his strategy, an evening reenactment and fireworks at Austerlitz Chateau, where the Emperors Francis II and Alexander I spent the night before the battle, and of course the fabulous battle reenactment 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.



### 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 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, Schöngrabern, 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)

# NAPOLEON'S PARIS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**19–23 March 2026**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**David Buttery**

**Activity Level: 2**

Paris, the romantic heart of Europe, and a city inextricably linked with the glories of the Napoleonic era, provides the centrepiece of this most appealing of tours. Using many of its streets, monuments, chateaux and museums as backdrops to Napoleon's life, our expert historian will discuss, amongst many other topics, the impact of the French Revolution on his early career, his usurping of power, the control of his empire, his loves, prominent personalities and his final downfall. A full itinerary includes visits to the Arc de Triomphe, Les Invalides, Père-Lachaise cemetery, the tomb of Napoleon, Fontainebleau and Malmaison. Our hotel is based in the heart of Paris allowing us to enjoy a selection of local restaurants for dinner. Travel to/from Paris is by Eurostar.

## Historical Background

Napoleon is a controversial figure but, whether you love or loathe him, his influence upon history is immensely important. Among the world's greatest generals, his military achievements are almost eclipsed by what he did for France, being more at home in the office than on the battlefield. This is especially evident in Paris, which he employed as an ideal model throughout his Empire. He rose during the French Revolution (1789-1799) rising swiftly from the rank of second lieutenant to become Emperor of the French aged only thirty-five. While a ruthless defender of the Republic during the 'Whiff of Grapeshot' (1795), he softened the negative impacts of the Revolution as First Consul (1799-1804) and proved to be a great builder, reformer, law giver and administrator. He intended to make Paris pleasant to live in by constructing or modifying palaces, monuments, museums and parks but also introduced practical improvements like better roads, pavements, markets, quaysides, cemeteries, sewers, bridges and canals. His Civil Code was his greatest achievement introducing sweeping cultural, political and legal reforms that was so well designed that it remains the basis of French law today. This tour provides an insight into this enigmatic figure and his close association with one of the world's greatest cities.



## 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 .....** Eurostar to Paris from London St Pancras. Guided walk around Place de la Concorde, Tuileries and St Roche. Check in to hotel - 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** Église Saint-Pierre et Saint-Paul, Bois Préau Palace, Château de Malmaison, Musée de la Légion d'honneur. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Chateau of Fontainebleau, guided walk through Napoleonic sites around Luxembourg Gardens, Pantheon and Isle de la Cite. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Arc de Triomphe, Musée de la Marine, Champs de Mars, Musée de l'Armée, Les Invalides, Eglise du Dome and Napoleon's tomb. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Pere Lachaise cemetery, free time in Paris, afternoon train to London. (B)



# NAPOLEON IN ITALY

## THE RISE OF GENERAL BONAPARTE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

13–20 May 2026

8 days

Expert Historian:

Col John H. Gill

Activity Level: 2

The varied terrain of Northern Italy, and the military challenges that it presented, provide a magnificent backdrop for this wonderful tour: the confused fighting amidst the wooded, mountainous terrain between the Riviera and Turin; the challenges and manoeuvre opportunities provided by the flat land of the Po valley and its numerous watercourses; the exploitation of the bridges at Piacenza and Lodi; the beautiful fortress city of Mantua which endured numerous sieges; the mighty Alps reflected beautifully on the shimmering surface of the stunning Lake Garda, witness to at least three battles in 1796. We will find ourselves in fascinating historic towns and cities along the way: Turin, Milan, Verona and Mantua, and enjoy some great hotels and appetizing Italian cuisine.



### 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.

### Historical Background

When Napoleon took command of the Army of Italy in March 1796, he inherited a force that was underfed, ill-equipped, unpaid, and demoralised. Yet it was this battered army that he transformed into a formidable fighting machine, capable of outmanoeuvring and defeating one Austrian force after another. In a matter of days, he crushed the Piedmontese, forcing them out of the war and opening a path through the Po Valley. A key victory at Lodi followed, compelling the Austrians to abandon Milan and the line of the River Adda. Napoleon then laid siege to Mantua, drawing repeated Austrian attempts to relieve it. Over the summer and into winter, four successive Austrian relief armies were dispatched—each decisively defeated at Castiglione, Bassano, Arcole, and finally Rivoli. These victories secured French control (or “liberation”) of northern Italy. This, Napoleon’s first campaign as commander, is often hailed as his most brilliant. It also marked the beginning of the loyal circle that would follow him throughout his rise, many of whom would become his future marshals. Iconic moments like “the Little Corporal” directing the cannons at Lodi or the Republican general crossing the bridge at Arcole became instrumental to the Napoleonic legend.



- Day 1 .....** Turin. Flight from London Heathrow to Milan Linate. Drive to Turin for two nights. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Opening Battles, April 1796. Montenotte, Millesimo, Dego. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** The Po & Lodi, May 1796. Lodi and the Po 'manoeuvre sur les derrières'. Verona for five nights. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** 1st Austrian Offensive, August 1796. Lonato, Castiglione, Peschiera and Mantua. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** 2nd Austrian Offensive, September 1796. Rovereto, Trento, Primolano, and Bassano. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** 3rd Austrian Offensive, November 1796. Caldiero, Arcole and Mantua. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** 4th Austrian Offensive, January 1797. Rivoli. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Milan & Departure. Transfer to Milan, Museum of the Risorgimento, return flight from Milan Linate to London Heathrow. (B)

# WELLINGTON IN PORTUGAL

## THE FRENCH INVASIONS THWARTED



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**11–18 June 2026**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Mark Crawthorne**

**Activity Level: 2**

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



### 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.

### Historical Background

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



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



# A NEAR RUN THING

## THE WATERLOO ANNIVERSARY TOUR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**19–22 June 2026**

**4 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck**

**Activity Level: 2**

Our ever-popular Classic Waterloo Anniversary tour covers the battles of Ligny, Quatre Bras and especially Waterloo itself – and takes place over the annual anniversary weekend when there will likely be re-enactors dressed in period uniform on the battlefields. We will be staying in historic Waterloo town, home to Wellington's Headquarters.

### Historical Background

The Waterloo Campaign in June 1815 ensured relative peace in Western Europe for the next fifty years. It was the first time that the two greatest commanders of the era, Napoleon and Wellington, met each other in battle and it was to be the last campaign for both of them. It was also the last campaign for grand old Marshal Blucher whose Prussian Army, having been trounced at Ligny, nevertheless arrived in the nick of time to tip the scales in the Allies' favour as Wellington's 'infamous army', already tested at Quatre Bras, hung on grimly to the ridge at Waterloo.



### 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 .....** Train from London and/or start at Brussels. Grand Place Town Hall. Waterloo - 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2 .....** Ligny, Quatre Bras. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Waterloo Battlefield. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** The Museums: Waterloo Visitor Centre, Waterloo Panorama. Brussels, leave tour/train to London. (B)



# SHARPE'S RIFLES

## THE REAL STORY OF THE 95<sup>TH</sup> RIFLES IN THE PENINSULAR WAR



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

12–17 October 2026

6 days

Expert Historian:

Maj-Gen Ashley Truluck

Activity Level: 2

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

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



### 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.

### Historical Background

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

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

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



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Madrid or meet group at Madrid airport. Drive to Ciudad Rodrigo – hotel for 3 nights. (D).
- Day 2 .....** Barba del Puerco, Almeida, Battle of the Côa, free time Ciudad Rodrigo. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Moura, Bussaco (incl. museum), Luso. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Fuentes de Oñoro, Nave de Haver, Freneda (Wellington's HQ), siege of Ciudad Rodrigo (incl. Little Teson, Aguada Bridge). Drive to Salamanca – hotel for 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Battle of Salamanca: Calvarrasa de Arriba, Lesser Arapile, Aldea Tejada, Miranda de Azan, Greater Arapile. Conducted walk in Salamanca centre. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Alba de Tormes, García Hernández, Ávila. Fly Madrid to London or extend your stay in Spain. (B)



# WELLINGTON OVER THE PYRENEES

## THE INVASION OF FRANCE

**21–29 April 2027**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:  
TBC**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour is a natural progression from our popular 'Wellington in Spain' tour. Moving from Pamplona to San Sebastian then Biarritz we trace the course of the final stages of the war in the Peninsular including the battles of Vitoria, Sorauren and Orthez, the last pitched battle of the war, and the great French border fortress of Bayonne. 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.

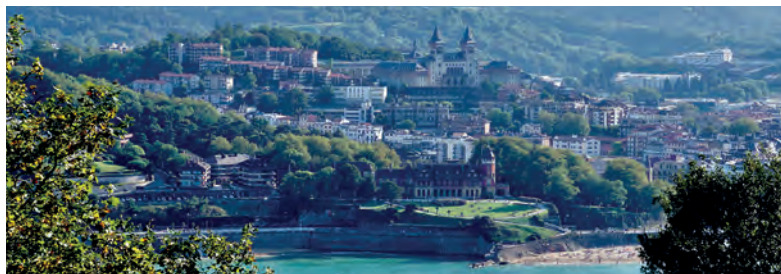


### ESSENTIALS

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.

### 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 London Gatwick to Bilbao or meet at Arrivals Hall of Bilbao Airport. To Pamplona for 3 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** Vitoria (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Maya, St. Jean Pied de Port, Roncesvalles. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Sorauren, Pasaia, San Sebastian for 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** San Marcial, The Bidassoa, Vera, Bayonet Ridge. Bayonne for 4 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 .....** The Nivelle: Santa Barbara, La Rhune, Amotz. Dinner at own expense. (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 to London Gatwick. (B)



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary



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itinerary

# THE ZULU WAR

## THE WASHING OF THE SPEARS

**15–28 November 2025**

**14–27 November 2026**

**14 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.*

*Also, due to the unpredictable nature of organisational arrangements in South Africa the itinerary may be subject to change. Despite our best endeavours to deliver services to the highest standard, occasionally our suppliers are unable to meet those expectations due to circumstances beyond their control, so we ask you approach this tour with an open mind when travelling in this beautiful but challenging destination.*

### 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.

### 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.
- Day 1 .....** Assemble Arrivals Hall, Johannesburg Airport. Fly to Durban. Fort Pearson, site of the 'Ultimatum Tree'. Overnight in Prince's Grant. (L,D)
- Day 2 .....** Gingindlovu, Nyezane, Eshowe mission, cemetery, Fort Nongqayi historical museum and complex. Two nights in Eshowe. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 .....** Drive deep into Zulu country to visit the grave of King Cetshwayo. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 .....** Ulundi battlefield and museum, homestead of King Cetshwayo at oNdini. 2 nights at Hluhluwe Game Reserve. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 .....** Hluhluwe Game Drive: Full day open game drive in search of the 'big five': lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant and buffalo. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ....** Hlobane Mountain, graves of Campbell and Lloyd. 2 nights at Vryheid. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 .....** Ntombe Spruit. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ....** Khambula, Blood River & Prince Imperial monument. 4 nights in Isandlwana area. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ....** Isandlwana 1: Ngwebeni valley, Zulu knoll, battlefield monuments, British lines, Durnford's Donga. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ...** Isandlwana 2. Walk 'fugitives' trail, Melville and Coghill's graves, Chelmsford's route. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 ....** Rorke's Drift. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 ...** Drive to Johannesburg for overnight return flight to London or perhaps extend stay in South Africa. (B,L)
- Day 13 ...** Arrive London.



# THE ANGLO-BOER WARS

## NO END OF A LESSON



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**5–15 March 2026**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Ian Knight**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour is a study of the two conflicts between the Afrikaners seeking independence and the freedom to maintain their unique way of life, and the imperial Forces of the British Empire during the height of the 'scramble for Africa'. Travelling through this wonderful country you will get a feeling for its vastness gaining an insight into the problems this caused and how the Boers could use it to their advantage. There is also a chance to spot some of Africa's unbeatable wildlife whilst venturing through impressive landscapes and staying in fine accommodation in serene and natural surroundings. As we have learnt from our Zulu tours, the local hospitality in South Africa is always warm and welcoming.



### 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.

### Historical Background

In the first half of the 19th Century, a desire for freedom from the British government drove large numbers of Afrikaners away from the settled areas into the hinterland. Conditions on the 'Great Trek' were harsh and dangerous, and progress was contested by African groups along the way, but it achieved its aim of independence for the Transvaal (1852) and the Orange Free State (1854). This, however, was the age of empire and Britain was pursuing the wealth and prosperity of this rich and fertile country, and in 1877 annexed the Transvaal republic. In 1881 the Boer population rebelled, and the fighting began. We look at the events which led to that war, the opposing forces and



the humiliating defeat of the 'Rooineks' at Majuba Hill in February 1881. The life of the new republic was short. With the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, the Boer way of life was again threatened by an influx of foreign miners, 'Uitlanders'. In October 1899 the conflict was reignited. This was a war of sieges, of huge distances and guerrilla warfare and we look at the commanders, strategy tactics and the fighting men of both sides whilst exploring the most important battle areas.



- Day 1 ..... Fly overnight from London.
- Day 2 ..... and/or start tour at Johannesburg. Pretoria, State Model School, Melrose House, Voortrekker Monument, Schanskop Fort. Hotel in Heidelberg – 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Transvaal Rebellion: Laing's Nek, Majuba Hill. Hotel in Dundee – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Talana, Elandsplaagte, Ladysmith. Hotel in Ladysmith – 2 nights (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... The Relief Column: Ladysmith, Colenso, Thukela Heigh. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Spion Kop, Drakensburg, Golden Gate National Park, Ladybrand. Hotel – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Bloemfontein: Sannah's Post, Emily Hobhouse Museum, Kimberley. Hotel in Kimberley – 3 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Kimberley Relief Column: Kimberley, Magersfontein, Modder River. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... The Relief of Kimberley, Diamond Mine, free afternoon. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ..... Johannesburg: Visit South African Museum of Military History. Leave tour/overnight flight to London. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 ..... Arrival to London.

# CUSTER AND THE INDIAN WARS

## YELLOWSTONE & LITTLE BIGHORN ANNIVERSARY AND REENACTMENT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**20–29 June 2026**

**10 days**

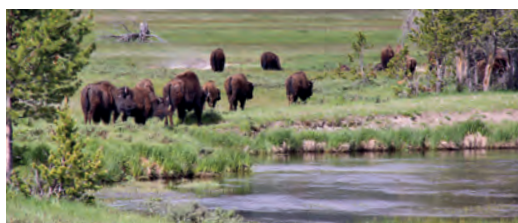
**Expert Historian:**

**Col Bob Kershaw**

**Activity Level: 2**

Travel through the 'Big Sky Country' of Montana, the vast plains and Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming and the imposing Yellowstone National Park to discover spectacular geological structures, gaze at awe-inspiring natural wonders, and watch majestic wildlife roaming in their natural habitat. Follow in the footsteps of George Armstrong Custer, one of America's most iconic and controversial characters, on his approach march to the battlefield of the Little Bighorn where he made his legendary 'last stand' (no other tour follows this route so closely). Immerse in 'wild-west' traditions, experience native American culture and witness the remarkable re-enactment of the battle which, amongst other things, features the descendants of the Sioux, Cheyenne and Crow, many riding bareback splashing through the river and emulating the war-cries of their ancestors.

Your expert historian will be Bob Kershaw, author of 'Red Sabbath', a definitive history of Custer's ill-fated campaign, and who knows the ground intimately and will dispel a number of Custer myths and examine how the native Americans were able to check the vastly superior US Army in the West after a hard-fought Civil War.



### 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 years following the Civil War and up to the end of the century saw a resumption of the 'white man's' expansion into the American West, unsettling the Native Americans who were not prepared to let their hunting grounds and way of life be destroyed and they proved to be particularly worthy foes. The Sioux nation inflicted a series of unexpected reverses on the United States Army, culminating in the massacre of Custer's 7th Cavalry Regiment at Little Bighorn in 1876. In 1867 the Sioux wiped out an entire company of US Cavalry in the Fetterman Massacre and fought the iconic Wagon-Box action against overwhelming odds the following year. In 1871 the discovery of gold in the Black Hills accelerated the clash of cultures so that when the US Army attempted to force Indian 'roamers' onto government reservations, war ensued. The

campaign was a debacle, Crook's column was worsted at the Rosebud on 17th June 1876 and nine days later Custer's 7th Cavalry command was massacred at Little Bighorn. Revenge was finally exacted at the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890.



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Billings, Montana or join tour at the hotel. Check in to hotel for 1 night.
- Day 2 .....** Cody - Buffalo Bill Historical Centre and Old Trail Town. Hotel - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Yellowstone National Park - incl. West Thumb Geyser Basin, Old Faithful, Morning Glory Pool, Grand Prismatic Spring. Hotel in Yellowstone National Park area - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Yellowstone National Park: incl. Mammoth Hot Springs Tower Fall waterfall, Dunraven Pass, Grand Canyon of Yellowstone River, Artist Point, Hayden Valley, Yellowstone Lake. Hotel in Cody - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Drive through Bighorn Mountains to Sheridan. Fetterman Massacre and Wagon Box Fight sites, Fort Phil Kearney. Hotel in Sheridan - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Rosebud battlefield. Hotel in Billings - 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Little Bighorn - full day exploring Custer's Last Stand at Battle of the Little Bighorn, incl. Reno-Benteen fight, museum and National Cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** The Little Bighorn Re-enactment. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Fly Billings to London or leave tour. (B)
- Day 10 .....** Arrive London.



# THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR 1870

## THE GERMAN INVASION OF FRANCE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**21–28 July 2026**

**8 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Grenville Bird**

**Activity Level: 2**

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

### Historical Background

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



### 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 ..... Strasbourg. Eurostar London to Paris, TGV to Strasbourg (2 nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... Opening Battles. Wissembourg, Worth. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Opening Battles. Worth (continued), Spicheren, Metz (3 nights). (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Mars la Tour. (B)
- Day 5 ..... Gravelotte-St Privat. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Advance on Sedan. Nouart, Beaumont, Bazeilles. Sedan (2 nights). (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Sedan. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... St Quentin. Eurostar Lille to London. (B)

# THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: EASTERN THEATER TOUR

## THE CLASSIC CIVIL WAR TOUR

**13–25 September 2026**

**13 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Fred Hawthorne**

**Activity Level: 2**

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



### 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.

### Historical Background

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

forces were engaged in a fight against the inevitable which was to finally end at a small courthouse in Appomattox in April 1865.



- Day 1 .....** Fly from London to Washington Dulles (optional). Rooms available from 16:00. No dinner included due to late flight arrival.
- Day 2 .....** Manassas. Tour begins with a briefing and visit to the First and Second Manassas battlefields. Continue to Fredericksburg for two nights. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Fredericksburg & Chancellorsville. Explore Chatham Plantation, the Sunken Road and Stone Wall, followed by a tour of Chancellorsville battlefield including Hazel Grove and the Lee-Jackson bivouac. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** The Overland Campaign. Visit key sites from the Wilderness to Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, with stops at famous locations such as the Bloody Angle and Mule Shoe. Continue to Richmond for four nights. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** The Peninsula Campaign. Visit Fort Monroe and the Mariners' Museum, home to the USS *Monitor* Centre. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Richmond & Seven Days' Battles. Follow the Seven Days' Battles, ending at Malvern Hill. Visit the Confederate White House and the American Civil War Museum. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Petersburg. Explore siege sites including Grant's HQ, Fort Stedman, the Crater, and Pamplin Historical Park. (B)
- Day 8 .....** Appomattox. Trace the final Confederate retreat through Sailor's Creek to Appomattox Court House. Overnight in Charlottesville. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Shenandoah Valley. Drive through the Shenandoah Valley to New Market, Cedar Creek and Stonewall Jackson's HQ in Winchester. Overnight Winchester. (B,D)
- Day 10 ...** Antietam. Explore the Maryland Campaign with visits to South Mountain and Antietam battlefield, including Dunker Church, the Cornfields, and Burnside's Bridge. (B,D)
- Day 11 .....** Gettysburg. Full day exploring the pivotal battlefield, including Pickett's Charge and the Gettysburg Cyclorama. (B,D)
- Day 12 ...** Farewell & Return. Visit Shriver House and Gettysburg National Cemetery before transferring to Washington Dulles for return flights (optional). (B)
- Day 13 ...** Arrive London



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itinerary





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# THE FIRST SIKH WAR 1845–46 AND INDIAN HILL STATIONS

## THE CAST OF A DIE

**19 November–  
1 December 2026**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Major Gordon Corrigan**

**Activity Level: 2**

Embark on 12 unforgettable days exploring India's vibrant heartland and the serene, pine-scented foothills of the Himalaya. In Delhi, witness the precision and pageantry of the Changing of the Guard before venturing into rural Punjab to stand on the very fields where the First Sikh War was fought. In Amritsar, marvel at the shimmering Golden Temple — spiritual centre of the Sikh faith — and pause in quiet reflection at Jallianwala Bagh, a moving memorial to India's struggle for independence. Just beyond the city, feel the charged atmosphere of the Wagah border parade, a theatrical daily ritual of rivalry and pride. Journey on through the emerald valleys and terraced hillsides of Himachal Pradesh, where the air is crisp and the pace of life gentler. In McLeod Ganj, seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile, encounter the rich cultural blend of India and Tibet, before continuing to Shimla, former summer capital of the British Raj, boasting graceful colonial architecture, bustling bazaars, and panoramic mountain vistas. Throughout, stay in carefully selected hotels chosen for their quality, character, and location: five-star elegance in Delhi and Shimla, comfortable four-star stays in Ludhiana and McLeod Ganj, a boutique heritage gem in Amritsar, and a welcoming local property in Ferozepur, the best in the area. Distances are not vast, but India's roads invite a more leisurely pace providing time to savour every scene, sound, and flavour along the way.

## 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.

## Historical Background

In 1842 the disastrous campaign in which the British "were thrashed out of Afghanistan" ended, but it had severely damaged their reputation for invincibility in India and beyond. Smarting from indignation, Lord Ellenborough despatched a small army into the Sind to quell a perceived resurrection against British hegemony. Victory at Miani and the subsequent sequestration of the province caused outrage both in India and in Britain resulting in the recall of the Governor-General. His replacement was the forward-thinking Sir Henry Hardinge, whose aspirations to develop India's infrastructure were thwarted by the growing unrest in the Punjab. For years this province had been robustly ruled by 'The Lion of Lahore', the pro-British Ranjit Singh, who had created one of the most formidable fighting forces in the sub-continent: the Khalsa. But his passing in 1839 had led to a power-vacuum in the Khalsa's leadership, increasingly directed against British interests and when it crossed the River Sutlej in 1845, Hardinge felt obliged to declare war against the

Punjab. In the words of historian Lawrence James, "the British were about to fight the first and only 'modern' war in India against an army of 60,000 who matched them in discipline, training and weaponry".



- Day 0 ....** Outward travel. Fly London to Delhi or make your own way and book optional extra night.
- Day 1 .....** Delhi. Morning London flight arrival. Tour starts at airport. Tour of New Delhi, Coronation Park. hotel for 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 2 .....** Changing of the Guard. Rashtrapati Bhawan Changing of the Guard. Afternoon Shatadbi Express to Ludhiana. Hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 .....** Ludhiana and Aliwal. Ranjit Singh War Museum, Aliwal battlefield. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 .....** Mudki and Ferozeshah. Mudkhi, Ferozeshah, memorial. Hotel in Ferozepur one night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 .....** Sobraon. incl. Sikh defensive lines. Hotel in Amritsar two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ....** Amritsar. Jallianwala Bagh, Hari Mandir temple, Wagah border crossing. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 .....** To Dharamshala/McLeodganj. Scenic drive to Dharamshala. Hotel for two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ....** McLeod Ganj and the Dali Lama. Tsuglagkhang temple, Tibet Museum. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ....** The Kangra Valley. Drive to Shimla through Kangra Valley. Hotel in Shimla for two nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ...** Shimla: full day in Shimla incl. Scandal Point, the Ridge and Christchurch, tea at Wildflower Hall. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 .....** Shimla to Delhi. Scenic Mountain railway to Kalka. Shatadbi Express to Delhi. Airport hotel for the night. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 ...** Homeward Bound. Fly Delhi to London or travel under your own arrangements. (B)



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itinerary

# MONS AND LE CATEAU

## OPENING SHOTS AND LEADERSHIP CRISIS

**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.



### 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

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 .....** Eurostar from London to Lille or make your own arrangements to join the tour at Lille Europe. Coach Mons Memorial Museum. 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 Etreu. Lunch in a restaurant. (B,L,D)
- Day 4.....** Cerizy, Nery, Villers Cotterets, Guards Grave Cemetery. Continue to Paris Gare de Nord - return Eurostar to London or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B)



# LAWRENCE OF ARABIA

## JORDAN AND THE ARAB REVOLT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**28 October–  
7 November 2025**

**6–16 October 2026**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Professor Nick Saunders**

**Activity Level: 2**

In our opinion this is probably the finest historical tour of Jordan. The central subject is Thomas Edward Lawrence - a beguiling 26-year-old Oxford archaeologist, sent to Arabia in late 1916, where he became a liaison officer to Prince Feisal. Alongside tracing the remains of the famous Hejaz Railway we also get the chance to explore the country's rich trove of classical history and archaeology. The exotic mix of golden-red desert, dramatic wind-carved formations, massive sand-dunes and a night in the desert in a luxury tent will make this a trip you will never forget.



### 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

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 .....** 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 Disi, 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', Qasr al-Bint and the Temple of the Winged Lion. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 .....** The Railway War. Wadi Rutm station, Batn el-Ghoul, climb 'Hill of Birds', landscape around Ma'an station. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 .....** Little Petra, Crusader castles and Tafleeh: Nabataean site at Siq al-Barid (Little Petra), Crusader castle of Shobek, battle site of Tafleeh, 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. (B)

# THE SALONIKA CAMPAIGN

## WALKING THE BIRDCAGE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25–30 April 2026**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Alan Wakefield**

**Activity Level: 2 / 3**

This fabulous tour to the quiet and untouched area of northern Greece and North Macedonia takes us to the battlefields of one of the least visited and much overlooked campaigns of the First World War. The scenic backdrop will never be forgotten: spectacular hills and mountains, the picturesque Lake Doiran, wonderful springtime flowers, verdant vegetation and rustic villages. The battlefields on the Salonika front are some of the best preserved from the First World War and offer a great insight into the conditions which the men on both sides withstood. This necessarily means considerable walking (of up to 9 miles on one day) on occasionally awkward terrain, although at times local farmers with tractors will be at hand to provide all terrain transport. We will be staying in comfortable hotels in Thessaloniki, Serres and Star Dojran, almost on the battlefields themselves, offering the chance to sit on the terrace with a cold drink in the evening reflecting on the day's explorations.

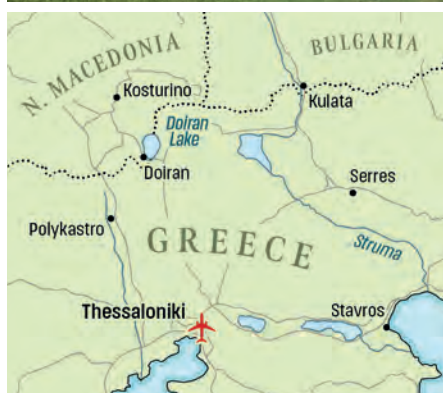


### ESSENTIALS

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 Salonika (or Macedonian) front was established in 1915 by the allies as an attempt to protect Serbia against a combined German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian attack. Due to the late arrival of the mixed allied army and the sudden political upheaval in Greece, which resulted in them remaining neutral, they failed to stop the fall of Serbia. A stable frontline was established near what is now the Greek/North Macedonian border, which saw various actions until a big, allied advance in the September of 1918 led to the collapse of Bulgaria and Serbia's liberation. The Salonika front is characterised by the huge mix of nationalities and armies that took part in the actions and also the terrible conditions endured by the soldiers. Weather extremes and disease were rife on the front line, the biggest problem being malaria which inflicted many more casualties than the fighting itself. There were around 160,000 admissions to British hospitals due to malaria over three years, which is almost equal to the fighting force.



- Day 1 .....** Arrival: Fly London to Thessaloniki. Drive to Dojran. Check in to hotel – 4 nights. Welcome drink and introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2.....** Doiran: La Tortue; two-hour circular walk to Hill 340 via Petit Couronne (3 miles/level 3). (B,L,D)
- Day 3.....** Doiran: Doiran battlefield - uphill walk (1 miles/45 minutes) to Bulgarian bunkers; optional ascent to Grand Couronne and Devil's Eye bunker, Hill 340, The Hilt (round trip 9 miles/level 3 walk); boat trip on Lake Doiran. (B,L,D)
- Day 4.....** Kosturino: battlefield incl. memorial (7 miles on foot and using tractors). (B,L,D)
- Day 5.....** Struma Valley: cross border to Greece. Doiran - old station, British monument, CWGC cemetery; drive to River Struma to explore battlefield. Hotel near Serres - 1 night. (D)
- Day 6 .....** Return: Visit the Birdcage defences, Lembet Road cemetery. Drive to Thessaloniki airport for flight back to London. (B)



# THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

## DAMN THE DARDANELLES: THIS WILL BE OUR GRAVE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

29 April–7 May 2026

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.



### 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 ..... Arrival. Fly London to Istanbul or join tour in Istanbul. Central Istanbul hotel – 2 nights. Pre-dinner drinks and introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Sultanahmet. Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar. (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. View Turkish coastal defences from Kilitbahir, Turkish memorial, French-held sector, 25th April landing points – S, V, W, X and Y Beaches, SS Clyde landings at V Beach, “six VCs before breakfast”, Helles Memorial for the Missing. (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. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Helles Peninsula. Gully Ravine, the ‘Vineyard’, Bigali and Atatürk museum, Ephez museum and Turkish gun positions. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Suvla Bay, Nibrunesi Point, Lala Baba or Kiretch Tepe, follow break out at Hill 10, Chocolate Hill and Green Hill, and Scimitar Hill and Hill 60. Büyükanafarta museum, Suvla Bay evacuation (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Drive to Istanbul for flight to London or perhaps extend stay in Turkey. (B)

# JOURNEY'S END

## A SWEEPING TOUR OF THE WESTERN FRONT FROM VERDUN TO YPRES



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**13–24 August 2026**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Dr Bruce Cherry**

**Activity Level: 2**

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



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



- Day 1** ..... Eurostar London St Pancras to Brussels (or join tour at Brussels South/Midi Station). Drive to Namur - overview of 1914 siege. Hotel in Verdun - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2** ..... Battle of Verdun incl. Les Éparges, Herméville Canon, Spinacourt, Douzey, Mangiennes German Cemetery, Douaumont Ossuary, Fort Douaumont. (B, D)
- Day 3** ..... Explore Meuse-Argonne offensive incl. Montfaucon, American Cemetery and Memorial, Butte de Vauquois, Navarin Monument. Hotel in Château-Thierry - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Explore Battle of the Marne and Belleau Wood. (B,D)
- Day 5** ..... Château-Thierry Monument, Compiègne Armistice Glade, Saint Quentin (Kaiser offensive), Manchester Hill. Hotel in Saint Quentin - 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6** .... Casteau, Mons, Mons-Condé Canal, Le Quesnoy, Ors Forester's Cottage, Wilfred Owen grave, discussion of Hindenburg Line, Riqueval bridge. (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... The Somme incl. Villers-Bretonneux, Le Hamel, Mont St Quentin, Péronne. (B,D)
- Day 8** .... The Somme incl. Delville Wood, Mametz, Lochnagar Crater, Pozieres, Thiepval. Hotel in Arras - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 9** .... Arras, Carrière Wellington, Vimy Ridge, Canadian National Memorial. (B,D)
- Day 10** ... Ypres Salient (north) incl. Menin Road, Hooghte, Polygon Wood, Pilkem Ridge, Passchendaele, Langemark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial. Hotel in Ypres -2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 11** .... Ypres Salient (south) incl. Poperinge, Toc H, Lijssenthoek, Messines Ridge, Ploegsteert, Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony. (B,D)
- Day 12** ... Free time in Ypres. Eurostar Brussels to London St Pancras (or perhaps extend your stay in Belgium). (B)



# ITALY DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

## BATTLES IN THE MOUNTAINS AND CLOUDS



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**16–21 September 2026**

**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.



### 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

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.



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Venice or join tour at Venice airport. Drive to Gorizia – hotel for 1 night. Welcome drinks and evening lecture. (D)
- Day 2.....** Isonzo. Monte San Michele, Redipuglia, Kobarid. Hotel in Kobarid – 2 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. Hotel in Asiago – 2 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 .....** 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 .....** The Piave. Battle of Nervessa, British crossing of the River Piave. Drive to Venice for flight home to London or extend stay in the region. (B)



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# THE HOLOCAUST

## POLAND AND THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS

**2–9 September 2025**

**Expert Historian: Professor Tim Cole**

**5–12 October 2025**

**Expert Historian: Martin Winstone**

**15–22 April 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Isabel Wollaston**

**20–27 May 2026**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Alasdair Richardson**

**2–9 September 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Waitman Beorn**

**7–14 October 2026**

**Expert Historian: Dr Isabel Wollaston**

**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 two purpose-built death camps (Treblinka, Belzec), and two multifunctional camps that were both concentration camps and death camps (Majdanek, Auschwitz). We look at the struggle of both the Jews and non-Jewish Poles against their oppressors, visiting the scenes of Ghetto Uprising in 1943 and the memorial to the Warsaw Rising in 1944. You will see the shift from complete physical destruction of ghetto and camp to the actual remnants due to the rapid advance of the Soviets. However, the tour is not limited to the serious and emotive history of the Holocaust, with its clear message for future generations. We also enjoy expert guided tours of the historic cities of Warsaw and Krakow. We sample much of the local culture and visit the world famous salt mine at Wieliczka. Each evening we will dine in a different local restaurant to enjoy a wealth of 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 non-Jewish Poles and 3 million Polish Jews. Those Polish Jews were murdered in ghettos, forests in the east of the country, or purpose-built death camps set up after the German occupation of Poland. By far the largest of these was Auschwitz II-Birkenau, which was the site of over one million deaths, mainly Jews brought here from all over Europe. The smaller, purpose-built 'killing' camp of Treblinka, where Warsaw's Jews were taken, was said by its commandant SS-Obersturmführer Franz Stangl to be able to murder over 1000 people per hour at its peak. With the positioning of the Majdanek camp on the outskirts of Lublin, the Germans made no effort to disguise the killings, its slave labour, brutality, shootings and crematorium being plainly visible to passers-by. The overarching narrative of the tour is about the shift from Polish Jews to European Jews and the evolution of policy from concentration camps to death camps.



- 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, POLIN Museum, the Umschlagplatz, Warsaw Jewish cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Treblinka, Lublin. Hotel in Lublin (1 night). (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Belzec, Majdanek, Rzeszów. Hotel in Rzeszów (1 night). (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... Krakow: guided walk of Krakow's Old Town. Hotel in Krakow (3 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)



# ANZIO & CASSINO 1944

## BREACHING THE GUSTAV LINE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**15–21 September 2025**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Col David Harrison**

**Activity Level: 2**

The narrative of the Anzio and Cassino campaigns is studded with personal stories and 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.



### ESSENTIALS

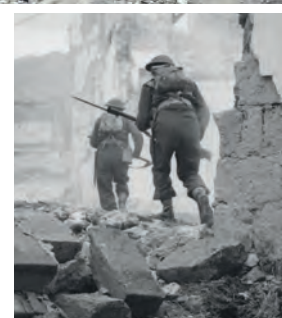
4-star hotels, meals as indicated, drinks with dinner, all entrance fees, tour manager and expert historian throughout, all internal travel, optional travel from UK.

### Historical Background

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, and 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)

# 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 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 Gigo Pass and Mount Ceco were matched by the British 8th army at Gemmano and Coriano Ridge, before the Germans began to crumble and finally fall back.

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 Bologna or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. 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 Besanigo, 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..... Gigo Pass, 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)





Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# A RAIN OF RUIN FROM THE AIR

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

**29 September–  
12 October 2025**

**28 September –  
11 October 2026**

**13 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. Travel to Nagasaki for 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 6** ..... Nagasaki. Atomic Bomb Museum, 'Ground Zero'. Travel 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)

# D-DAY: OPERATION OVERLORD

## BREACHING THE ATLANTIC WALL



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**15–19 October 2025**

**2–6 July 2026**

**15–19 October 2026**

**5 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Simon Trew**

**Activity Level: 2**

Our 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'.

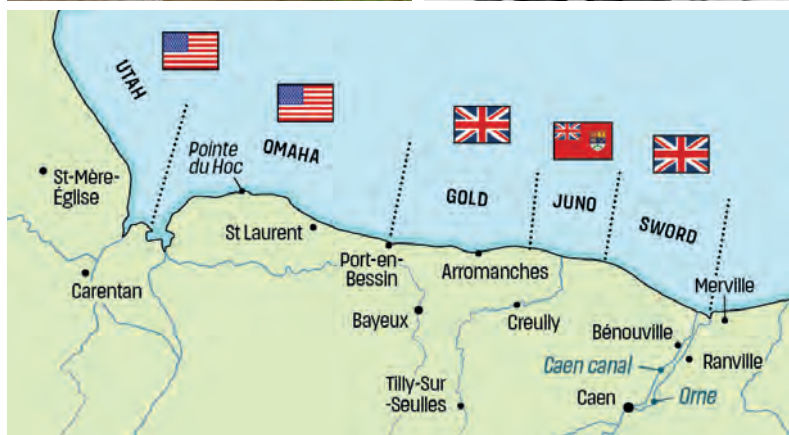


### ESSENTIALS

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

### Historical Background

On 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 (Ashford International Station in 2026) to Bayeux via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the hotel. Bayeux. (4 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 (Ashford International Station in 2026) via the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle or perhaps extend your stay in France. (B,L)





Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# MACARTHUR AND THE BATTLE FOR THE PHILIPPINES

## HELL AND HIGH WATER

24 January–7 February 2026

Expert Historian:

**James M Scott**

15 days

Activity Level: 2

This tour explores the defence and recovery of the Philippines and Douglas MacArthur's relationship with those islands. We visit Manila, with its haunts of a colonial past; trace the heroic resistance on the Bataan peninsula; explore the lynchpin of its defence on the rocky island of Corregidor; and follow the route of the cruel Bataan Death March. At Red Beach we follow the breakout to Breakneck Ridge before returning to Luzon where we stroll along the Lingayen Gulf beaches and drive into the mountainous jungle tenaciously defended by the Japanese. Our visit ends with an approach to Manila, stopping at the scene of the audacious liberation of POWs at Cabanatuan, and at the Manila internment camp at Santo Tomas.



## 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 July 1944 General Douglas MacArthur planned his 'return' to the Philippines some three years after he had escaped them. In March 1942 Roosevelt had instructed him to direct the defence of Australia and build a Southwest Pacific Army with which to take the fight to the Japanese. Through a series of skilful amphibious assaults, feints and leapfrogging strongpoints he had wrested control of New Guinea by the middle of 1944. Combining ULTRA intelligence, his own prescience and meticulous



planning, he then embarked on a masterly campaign of manoeuvre to liberate The Philippines. In the face of an overwhelming Japanese army of occupation he would conduct seaborne landings which were comparable in scale to that of D-Day in Normandy. By March 1945 he was back in Manila, although a suicidal defence by Japanese sailors would ensure that the city was no longer the one that he had once known.

- Day 0 ..... Overnight flight London to Manila (or make own arrangements to join tour at Manila airport hotel on Day 1).
- Day 1 ..... Arrive Manila - transfer to airport hotel for 1 night. Introductory talk and drinks. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Bataan - Calumpit bridge; Baliuag, Plaridel, Pampanga River; Battle of the Pockets of Orion-Bagac Line; Mt Samat; walk Bagac from KMO to KM1 to Friendship Tower. Hotel in Mariveles - 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... Corregidor - traditional banca boat to and from island; incl. Malinta Tunnel, Memorial Museum, Mile Long Barracks. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 ..... Death March - walk first kilometre from Mariveles; Balanga museum; San Fernando; Clark Veterans' Cemetery; Fort Stotsenburg. Hotel at Clark Field - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 ..... Capas National Shrine; Lingayen Beach; Veterans Memorial Park. Hotel in Cabanatuan - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ..... Pangatian POW camp Memorial; Bataan tunnels. Manila Airport hotel - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 ..... Fly Manila to Tacloban. A-Day landing beaches incl. Red Beach; climb Hill 522. Hotel near Red Beach - 3 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ..... Price Mansion; Old Capitol Building; Alejandro Hotel; San Juanico Straits; free time. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ..... Dulag; Hill 120. Battle of the Ridges incl. Shoestring Ridge; Ipsil; Veteran's Park and museum; Olmuc Valley; Breakneck Ridge. (B,L,D)
- Day 10 ..... Fly Tacloban to Manila. Los Banos; Yamashita's execution site; Tagaytay Ridge. Hotel overlooking Taal Volcano - 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 11 ..... Santo Tomas and De la Salle universities; US Embassy and ballroom (subject to permission). The Manila Hotel - 2 nights. (B,L)
- Day 12 ..... Intramuros; Fort Santiago; 1945 memorial; Manila American Cemetery. (B,L,D)
- Day 13 ..... Overnight flights home or perhaps extend stay in The Philippines. (B)

# THE RISE & FALL OF NAZI GERMANY

**DARKNESS VISIBLE**



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**7–15 June 2026**

**8–16 August 2026**

**9 days**

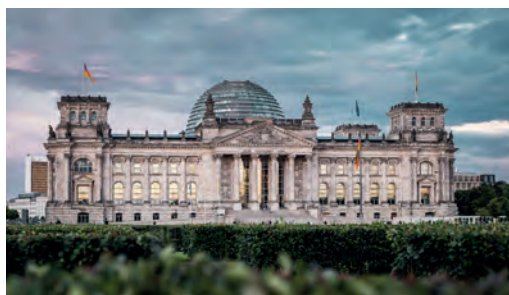
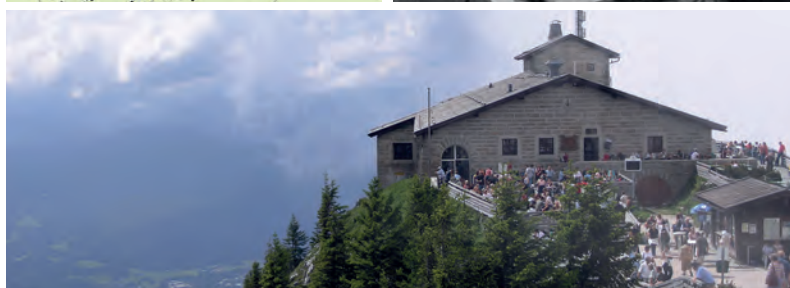
**Expert Historian:**  
**Dr David Hall**

**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.



## 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 and/or start tour in Munich. Hotel in Munich - 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2..... Munich: tour on foot and public transport, incl. Sternecker beer hall, 1923 Beerhall putsch route, Odeonsplatz, Hofbräuhaus, Brown House, Munich conference site (exterior only). (B,D)
- Day 3..... Dachau, Surberg, Berchtesgaden. Hotel in Berchtesgaden - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4..... Kehlstein (Eagle's Nest), Obersalzberg Documentation Centre, Berghof. (B,D)
- Day 5..... Nuremberg: Nuremberg Congress Hall, Rally Grounds. Hotel in Nuremberg - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... Nuremberg: Courtroom 600 and documentation centre. Drive to Weimar, House of the Weimar Republic. Hotel in Weimar - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Wannsee, Platform 17 Memorial. Hotel in Berlin - 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 8 ..... Berlin. tour on foot and U-Bahn: incl. Brandenburg Gate, Führer bunker, Holocaust memorial, Topography of Terror Museum, German Resistance Memorial Centre. (B,D)
- Day 9 ..... Reichstag, Olympic Stadium, Tempelhof Airport. Continue to Brandenburg airport for flight home or perhaps extend your stay in Germany. (B)



# ARNHEM, OPERATION MARKET GARDEN AND THE RHINE CROSSINGS

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR AND A BRIDGE INTACT



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**8–13 June 2026**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Sqn Ldr (retd)**

**Jonathan (Jon) Rooke**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour follows the Market Garden Corridor - 'Hell's Highway' to Arnhem. It relates what it was like to experience a German tank ambush on the road to Eindhoven at Valkenswaard, and the American parachute coup de main parachute assault on the Grave Bridge. The brutal fight for the massive road bridge across the Waal at Nijmegen is brought to life from the perspective of the SS defenders of the Nijmegen citadel. Hear of the nail-biting river crossing by American paratroopers, under intense fire, with only plywood and canvas boats and of Sgt Robinson's daring Sherman tank rush at the bridge, despite its obvious preparation for demolition. We also hear the heroic story of British Paratroopers at Arnhem and learn why it became a 'bridge too far'.

Finally we move on to the Rhine where we explore about the dramatic yet decisive Allied crossings of the river under Operations Plunder and Lumberjack before finishing at Remagen where we learn about the capture of the intact Ludendorff Bridge.



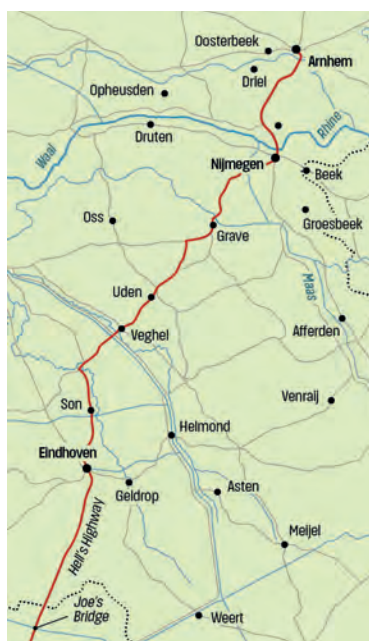
### ESSENTIALS

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 August 1944 Paris was liberated, symbolising a significant milestone in ending the war. However there was no time to rest on laurels and the allies planned another huge airborne offensive into the heart of Holland. The ultimate aim was to secure bridges over the Meuse and Ruhr rivers which would allow armour to cross into the territory in preparation for the advance deep into Germany itself. On 17th September 1944 the 1st and 82nd US Airborne Divisions and the 1st British Airborne Division landed by parachute and glider and succeeded in capturing the target bridges under Operation Market Garden (Market – airborne forces; Garden – land forces). But the advance stalled at Arnhem which meant the Ruhr couldn't be secured and ended any hopes of finishing the war by Christmas.

In 1945 a concerted attempt to cross the Rhine was made and under Operation Lumberjack (1 – 25 March) the Allies managed to capture the strategic Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen intact and establish a firm bridgehead. This was followed by Operation Plunder (23–27 March) when over a million soldiers from three nations succeeded in establishing further bridgeheads. With Allied forces on German soil the days of the Reich were numbered.



- Day 1 ..... Eurostar London St Pancras to Brussels (or join tour at Brussels South/ Midi Station). Drive to Joe's bridge (on Meuse-Escaut Canal) then to Eindhoven. Eindhoven hotel - 1 night. (D)
- Day 2..... Follow 'Hell's Highway' from Son Bridge to Grave; Nijmegen Waal Bridge and citadel; Diel. Arnhem - hotel for - 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 3..... Landings west of Arnhem, Airborne at the Bridge Museum, Grinkel Heath. Walking examination of Arnhem bridge. (B,D)
- Day 4..... Oosterbeek Heights, Hartenstein Airborne Museum, Oude Kerk, Oosterbeek War Cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 5..... Operation Plunder - Bienen, Rees, Hamminkeln, Wesel; Operation Lumberjack - Elsdorf, Meckenheim. Remagen. Hotel in/near Remagen - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ..... The Battle of Remagen – walking tour, Peace Museum. Drive to Brussels - evening Eurostar Brussels to London St Pancras (or perhaps extend your stay). (B)

# THE ANNE FRANK STORY

## THE HOLOCAUST IN THE LOW COUNTRIES AND WESTERN GERMANY



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**30 June–8 July 2026**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Professor Tim Cole**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 8-night and 9-day tour follows the story of the Frank family from their hiding place in Amsterdam, through the transit camp of Westerbork, to the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen where Anne and her sister Margot died in February 1945. We also visit the concentration camp of Neuengamme where Anne's roommate in the secret annex - Fritz Pfeffer - died in December 1944. The story of one Jewish family hiding with others in wartime Amsterdam is set within the wider context of the holocaust in the Low Countries, with visits to other sites across the Netherlands and Belgium that were central to the Nazi persecution of Jews and other victims.

### Historical Background

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

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

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



### 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 London to Amsterdam or join tour at the Amsterdam hotel. Walking tour of Amsterdam incl. Holocaust Memorial and Memorial to Auschwitz Victims. Hotel in Amsterdam – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** National Holocaust Museum, Dutch Theatre, Jewish Museum, Anne Frank House. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Camp Vught, Dossin Barracks Museum. Hotel in Mechelen – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Fort Breendonk. Drive to Aachen and hotel for one night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Vogelsang Documentation Centre. Drive to Hannover (4 hours 30 mins) - hotel for one night. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Bergen-Belsen. Drive to Hamburg and hotel for 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7.....** Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. Return to Hamburg – free afternoon. (B)
- Day 8 .....** Westerbork Transit Camp. Hotel in Westerbork area – 1 night. (B)
- Day 9 .....** Drive to Amsterdam Schiphol airport via Naarden. Fly Amsterdam to London or extend your stay in The Netherlands. (B)



# POLAND IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

## THE UNBOWED EAGLE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**13–22 July 2026**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr Brit Buttar**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 10-day tour explores Poland's WWII history, tracing the nation's tragic fate between the pounding forces of Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia. Starting in Gdańsk, where the war began, we visit Westerplatte and the Museum of the Second World War. We continue to Malbork Castle and Hitler's Eastern Front HQ, the Wolf's Lair. In Warsaw, we explore the 1944 Uprising, the Jewish Ghetto, and Modlin Fortress. Heading south, we uncover the vast underground Nazi complexes at Włodarz and Osówka. The tour ends in the beautiful city of Wrocław where we enjoy the spectacular culture, architecture and gastronomy of Silesia. This journey honours the victims of war and resistance, offering powerful insights into Poland's resilience and suffering during one of history's darkest chapters.



### 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 1918 the independence of Poland was restored after 123 years of foreign dominance. But trapped between the growing menace of a resurgent Germany and a meddling Soviet regime the country faced an uncertain future. The signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact in 1939 spelled disaster for Poland and Germany invaded on 1st September followed by the Soviets on 17th. German forces pushed Polish armies back to successive defensive lines but after the repulsion of a brave Polish counterattack at the Bzura and defeat at the Battle of Kock the Second Polish Republic ceased to exist.

Under dual occupation Poles suffered immeasurably and on the German side Jews started to be annihilated en masse. The failed Warsaw Ghetto (1943) and Warsaw (1944) risings, as well as a determined resistance movement, failed to throw off the shackles of occupation. On 22nd June 1941 Hitler turned on his erstwhile ally and ordered the invasion of the Soviet Union under Operation Barbarossa. Poland in its entirety became part of the Nazi Empire until a massive Soviet counterattack under Operation Bagration (June-August 1944) expelled German forces from Soviet territory and eventually liberated Poland. The war was over but Poland had suffered enormous physical and material destruction and the loss of an estimated 17% of its population.



- Day 1 .....** Fly London to Gdańsk (via Warsaw) or meet at hotel. Westerplatte. Hotel in Gdańsk – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2.....** Gdańsk Post Office building, Museum of the Second World War, Stutthof concentration and extermination camp. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Malbork Castle. Drive to the Masurian Lakes and hotel near Mamerki – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Wolf's Lair, Mamerki Bunkers complex. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Drive to Warsaw. Free time. Hotel in Warsaw – 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Warsaw Rising Museum, walking tour of Ghetto area – incl. Ghetto wall, Umschlagplatz (Ghetto Rising Museum if open). (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Katyn Museum, Palmiry Memorial Site, Modlin Fortress. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** By coach from Warsaw to Wrocław via Wieluń (first bombing of the war). Hotel in Wrocław – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** Tunnel complexes at Włodarz and Osówka. (B,D)
- Day 10 ....** Free time. Fly (via Warsaw) to London (or extend time in Poland). (B)

# THE BATTLE FOR BERLIN

## FROM THE ODER TO THE REICHSTAG



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**17–23 August 2026**

**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 in Frankfurt an der Oder from which we will visit the formidable Ostwall and destroyed city of Kustrin. The remaining nights are spent in Berlin, a city that has arguably been through more change than any other in Europe over the last 50 years. Despite being virtually flattened during the Second World War and divided 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.



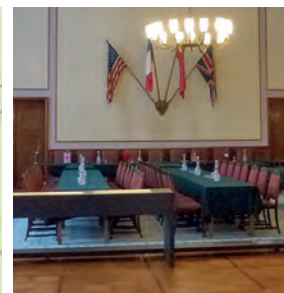
### ESSENTIALS

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

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.



- Day 1 .....** Arrival: Fly from London and/or start tour at Berlin. Drive to Frankfurt an der Oder and hotel for 2 nights. (B)
- Day 2 .....** Russians approach the Oder: Ostwall bunkers, Kostryn. (B,D)
- Day 3 .....** Battle of Seelow Heights: Klessin, Schukow Bunker, Seelow Heights. Hotel in Berlin - 4 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4 .....** Battle for Berlin: Moltke Bridge, Reichstag, Tiergarten, Brandenburg Gate, Holocaust Memorial, Führer Bunker site, German Resistance Museum. (B,D)
- Day 5 .....** Surrender: Ploetzensee Prison, Humboldthain Flak tower and bunker, Koenigsplatz, Treptow Park, German Russian Museum. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** Potsdam: Grunewald station, Wannsee Conference Villa, Glienicke Bridge, Olympic Park, Templehof Airport. (B)
- Day 7 .....** Command: Wunsdorf. Drive to airport for return flight (or extend stay in Germany). (B)



# THE EASTERN FRONT: BALTIC STATES

## OPERATIONS BARBAROSSA AND BAGRATION



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**25 August–  
2 September 2026**

**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 Hills. 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.



### 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

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. Check in to hotel – 2 nights. (D)
- Day 2 ..... Tour of Vilnius incl. Gediminas Castle Tower, Bernardinų Titas bridge and Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fights. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Vingis Park, Vilnius. Drive to Auce (Latvia). Hotel in Riga – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Tukums. Tour of Riga incl. Latvian War Museum, Museum of the Occupation of Latvia, KGB Building. (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-Jõesuu area – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... T-34 tank memorial, Narva German war cemetery, Narva city, Narva castle, Udria memorial. Hotel in Tallinn – 2 nights. (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)

# THE BATTLES FOR DUNKIRK

## SPIRIT, MYTHS AND MIRACLES



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**4–10 September 2026**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Col (retd) Bob Kershaw**

**Activity Level: 2**

This insightful tour explores events surrounding both the fighting retreat and the 'Miracle of Dunkirk': the evacuation of the BEF. It will explain how, utilising fresh research, the Germans failed to grasp the opportunity and allowed their foe to escape their clutches. During this most comprehensive tour we evaluate the towns of Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk in a new light; explore the delightful rural hinterland interlaced with the myriad of inland waterways that played such an important part in the defence; walk along stunning beaches bordered between azure sea and the sand dunes that offered limited cover; and enjoy wonderfully situated French 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

When Hitler's panzers reached the French Atlantic coast at Noyelles-sur-Mer on 20th May 1940, just ten days after the launch of the Blitzkrieg in the West, it appeared that the fate of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was sealed. Yet during the last week of May and beginning of June some 338,000 British and French troops were evacuated under fire by the 'little ships' and British Royal Navy over nine days, from the beaches and harbour of Dunkirk. The epic action snatched moral victory from the jaws of a catastrophic British defeat creating an incomplete German victory. Importantly America was now convinced that Britain would continue to fight.



- Day 1 .....** Operation Dynamo. Depart Ashford International station 0930. Dynamo HQ at Dover Castle tunnels, Channel Tunnel crossing, hotel in Boulogne area (2 nights). (D)
- Day 2.....** Germans reach the sea. Attack on Boulogne. Noyelles-sur-Mer, battle for Boulogne. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** Siege of Calais. Fort de la Creche, siege of Calais, hotel in Dunkirk (4 nights). (B,D)
- Day 4.....** First attacks. Gravelines, Cassel, Wormhoudt/Esquelbecq massacre. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Attacks from the east. Nieuwpoort, Zuydcoote Military Hospital, De Panne and Bray Dunes evacuation beaches, wrecks. (B)
- Day 6 .....** Attacks from the south and the fall of Dunkirk. Bergues, Furnes Canal, Fort des Dunes, Dunkirk street fighting, Malo les Bains beach, the Eastern Mole, Princess Elizabeth. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** Last respects and home. Dunkirk Memorial to the Missing/GWGC, return Channel Tunnel crossing, Arrive Ashford International station mid-afternoon. (B)



# THE FALL OF SINGAPORE AND THE DEATH RAILWAY

## A WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**28 February–12 March 2027**

**13 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Dr 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.



### ESSENTIALS

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

### Historical Background

On 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 own arrangements.
- 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 cemetery, Jurong-Kranji Defence Line, battles at Pasir Panjang and Adam Park. (B,L,D)
- Day 5.....The Guns of Singapore: Labrador Battery, Sentosa Island, Siloso Battery. (B,LD)
- Day 6 ....Downtown Singapore: Fort Canning command bunker, the Padang memorials, Singapore Cenotaph, City Hall, St Andrew's Cathedral. Free time. (B,L)
- Day 7 ....Surrender and Occupation: Former Ford Factory, Bukit Bakot, Japanese Cemetery, Punggol 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 and farewells. (B,L,D)
- Day 12 ...Arrive home.

# OPERATION MARITA

## THE GERMAN INVASION OF GREECE 1941



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**10–17 May 2027**

**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 480 and 490 BC.

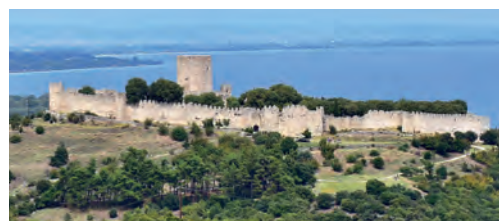


### ESSENTIALS

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

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 Heathrow via Athens and/or assemble at Thessaloniki (2 nights). (D)
- Day 2 ..... The Metaxas Line: Forts Roupel and Istabai. (B,L,D)
- Day 3 ..... The Haliacmon Line: the Varia pass, Servia, 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. (B)



# LIBERATION! FROM NORMANDY TO THE ELBE

WITH AMERICA'S GIs ACROSS EUROPE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**2027**

**11 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**TBC**

**Activity Level: 2**

During this tour we travel the length of Europe from Normandy to the Elbe following American forces as they fight alongside their allies to liberate Europe from the grip of Nazism. This is a tour that has been carefully crafted to include the most important US sites in this bitter but bravely fought advance: battle sites, fortifications, military cemeteries, memorials, liberated villages, towns and museums which illuminate the American story. We start on the beaches of Normandy where American might eventually drove German forces into retreat and ensnared large numbers of the enemy at Falaise. At Bastogne and in Luxembourg we learn about the dramatic Battle of the Bulge which caught American forces off guard but led to an Allied victory. At Aachen we tour the first city on German soil to be captured and at Remagen we stand where the Americans crossed the Rhine. Visiting Buchenwald we hear about the liberation of the camp by US forces and at Torgau we end where those forces linked up with their Soviet allies.



## ESSENTIALS

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

## Historical Background

On 6th June 1944, the Allies launched the Normandy landings, marking the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany. Over 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on D-Day, establishing a crucial foothold. U.S. forces played a decisive role: the 1st Infantry Division faced fierce resistance at Omaha Beach, while the VII Corps secured Utah Beach and the Cotentin Peninsula. By August, Allied forces had broken out of Normandy, encircling 50,000 German troops in the Falaise Pocket. The Twelfth U.S. Army Group, formed on 1st August, led the advance into central France. After stalling at the Siegfried Line, American troops endured the brutal Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. In December, Germany launched the Ardennes Offensive, creating the 'Bulge,' but U.S. forces held firm. By March 1945, the Americans crossed the Rhine at Remagen and trapped 300,000 Germans in the Ruhr. On 25 April, American and Soviet troops met at the Elbe, sealing Germany's fate.



- Day 1 .....** Assemble: Fly to or meet at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. Drive to Normandy via Pegasus Bridge. Hotel in Bayeux area – 3 nights. Welcome drinks and introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2.....** The American Sector 1: Omaha Beach, Overlord Museum, Pointe Du Hoc, St Laurent American National Cemetery and memorial. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** The American Sector 2: Ste-Mere-Eglise, Airborne Museum, La Fiere causeway, La Cambe German cemetery. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** The Falaise Pocket: Falaise, Moissy Ford, Memorial Museum Montmorel. Hotel in Reims – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Reims and Bastogne: Surrender Room in Reims, Bastogne, Bastogne War Museum, Bunker Assenois. Hotel in Bastogne – 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 6 .....** The Battle of the Bulge: Bois Jacques, Recogne-Bastogne German Cemetery, St Vith, Baugnez (Malmedy Massacre), route of 1st SS Panzer Division to La Gleize. (B,D)
- Day 7 .....** The Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg: Schumannseck, Wiltz, Ettelbruck, General Patton Memorial Museum, Patton Monument, National Museum of Military History at Dikrech. (B,D)
- Day 8 .....** Hürtgenwald and Aachen: Hürtgenwald Museum, Vossenack German cemetery, Siegfried Line, Aachen walking tour. Hotel in Aachen – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 9 .....** The bridge at Remagen: Remagen Peace Museum. Hotel in Weimar – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 10 ....** Buchenwald and Torgau: Buchenwald concentration camp, Torgau - Spirit of the Elbe Memorial. Hotel in Berlin for 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 11.....** Depart: Travel to Berlin Brandenburg Airport for flights home or perhaps extend your stay in Berlin with our suggested extension. (B)



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

# FORTRESS MALTA

## FROM THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN TO WORLD WAR TWO

**5–12 November 2025**

**4–11 November 2026**

**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. 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.



### 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

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. Arrive at Luqa airport, former RAF Bomber Command airfield or make your own arrangements to join the tour at the Valetta hotel. 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)



# THE VIETNAM WAR

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



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**28 December 2025 –  
11 January 2026**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Professor 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.



### 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 0 ....** Fly overnight London to Hanoi.

**Day 1 .....** Arrival. Free afternoon. Introductory talk. Hotel in Hanoi – 2 nights. (D)

**Day 2.....** Ho Chi Minh Trail Museum. Military History Museum. (B,L,D)

**Day 3 ....** Ho Chi Minh Complex – incl. Mausoleum, Presidential Palace, wooden stilt house; Hoa Lò Prison, General Command Headquarters. (B,L,D)

**Day 4.....** Fly Hanoi to Dien Bien Phu. Victory Monument, battlefield museum, Viet Minh cemetery. Hotel in Dien Bien Phu – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 5.....** Full day at Dien Bien Phu - Muong Phang tunnels, French trench and bunkers, Hill A1. (B,L,D)

**Day 6 ....** Dien Bien Phu: General de Castries's bunker, French Bailey Bridge, Anne-Marie defences. Fly Dien Bien Phu to Hanoi. Hanoi – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 7.....** Drive to Ha Long Bay, overnight cruise in luxury junk (1 night). (B,L,D)

**Day 8 ....** Morning cruise. Drive to Hanoi Airport – fly to Hue. Hue – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 9 ....** DMZ - Khe San, Rockpile, Ta Con, Hien Luong Bridge, Vinh Moc tunnels, Vinh Linh. (B,L,D)

**Day 10 ...** Hue Citadel, Red 2 and China beaches. Hotel in Danang – 1 night. (B,L,D)

**Day 11 ....** Fly Danang to Ho Chi Minh City. Cu Chi tunnels. Ho Chi Minh City – 2 nights. (B,L,D)

**Day 12 ...** Ap Bac, My Tho, Mekong Delta by boat. (B,L,D)

**Day 13 ...** Reunification Palace, US Embassy, War Remnants Museum. Fly Ho Chi Minh City to London. (B)

**Day 14 ...** Arrive in London

# CORFU: EXPLORING THE ISLAND'S RICH LEGACY

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF AN IONIAN TREASURE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**19–25 May 2026**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Major General**

**Ashley Truluck**

**Activity Level: 2**

This 6-night and 7-day tour explores some of the best archaeological and historic sites on the island of Corfu. Based out of a luxury hotel in Corfu Town we visit a range of sites representing every era of Corfu's rich and multilayered history: from the Greek temples of Kardaki and Artemis Gorgo through to the Byzantine Monastery of Paleokastritsa and the magnificent neoclassical palaces at Achillio and Mon Repos. The island's superb museums are a key feature of this tour where we reinforce our understanding of Corfu's fascinating story and marvel over the remarkable remains and artefacts that are the pride of the island. And acting as the tour's centrepiece is the charming Corfu Town, a consummate Venetian settlement of stately Italianate architecture and influences, hinting at the island's complex identities.

Staying in a luxury hotel and enjoying fine cuisine and wines this is a perfect opportunity to explore the island's engaging history in the company of our host historian and local guides. The tour will involve exploring the old town on foot and although most surfaces are flat there are also steps to negotiate.



### 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 Greek mythology Corfu was the utopian Scheria, home of the Phaeacians, and where Odysseus was cast up on his return to Ithaca. The island became a Corinthian colony by around 735 BC but its quarrel with its mainland overlords became a contributing factor in the outbreak of the Peloponnesian Wars (431–404 BC). Changing hands several times over the ensuing centuries Corfu became a Roman free state and in 31BC was used as a naval base by the Emperor Octavian against Mark Anthony. Under the Byzantine (Eastern) Roman Empire Corfu suffered attacks by Vandals and pirates which led to a period of depopulation and decline. The island fell to a succession of invaders – Arabs, Lombards, Saracens, Normans – and became a pawn between the kings of Sicily and the city-states of Genoa and Venice.

In 1214 Corfu came under the Greek Despotate of Epirus before falling to the Angevins by the end of the century. In 1368 it was taken by the Venetians who held it until 1797. This forms the most significant period in the island's history and the Venetians have left an indelible mark in Corfu's architecture, particularly in Corfu Town. After coming under French and even Russian control during the Napoleonic wars the island passed to Britain who occupied it for half a century. Some of the grandest buildings date from this period including the Palace of St Michael and St George and the Mon Repos estate. Corfu was ceded to Greece



in 1864. In World War One it was the terminus for the 'Great Retreat' of the Serbian Army across the Balkans when out of 400,000 who set out only 180,000 made it to the island. Occupied by Italy in World War Two it was the scene of German massacres of surrendering Italian troops. Since the war Corfu has become a favourite holiday destination and tourism is now the mainstay of the economy.

- Day 1** ..... Arrival: fly London to Corfu. Hotel in Corfu Town for 6 nights. Welcome drinks and introductory talk. (D)
- Day 2** ..... Classical & Early Christian period: incl. Tomb of Menekratis, Mon Repos and Palaeopolis Museum, Vlachernes Monastery, Pontikonissi (Mouse) Island, Sanctuary of Armitis Gorgo, Archaeological Museum. (B,D)
- Day 3** ..... Byzantine / Venetian period: walking tour of Corfu Town incl. New Castle, Old Quarter, Jewish Quarter, Cathedral, St Spyridon's Church, Town Hall. Free time. (B,D)
- Day 4** ..... Ottoman raids: Gouva (old Venetian naval base), Kassiope Castle, Old Perithia, Aghios Stephanos, Palioastritsa Monastery, Angelokastro Castle. (B)
- Day 5** ..... Colonial period: Corfu Town, incl. Old Castle, Esplanade, Palace of St Michael & St George; Reading Society, Anthon, Douglas Obelisk, British Cemetery. Free time. (B,D)
- Day 6** .... Modern period: Casa Parlante, Vido Island, Achillion Palace, Kaiser's Observatory. (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... Home: fly Corfu to London or extend stay on island. (B)



# THE OMAN EXPERIENCE

## THE JEWEL OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**Winter 2027**

**10 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**TBC**

**Activity Level: 2**

The 15th Century navigator, Ahmad Ibn al-Najdi described the populace of Oman as 'hospitable and sociable people who love strangers'. His portrayal of Oman's citizens is as accurate today as it was 500 years ago. While neighbouring oil-rich countries on the Arabian Peninsula are building skyscrapers, shopping malls and huge convention centres, Oman, the oldest independent state in the Arab world, remains firmly attached to its vivid culture and rich heritage. This 11-day tour begins in Muscat, centre for trade on the historic maritime Silk Roads since the 2nd Century AD. From here we travel by 4x4 inland, traversing the Al Hajar mountain range, gateway to Oman's interior. These isolated mountains and wadis are home to wolves, foxes, jerboas and gazelle. We explore the huge forts of the Jebel Akhdar and the communities built around Oman's ancient falaj system.

We then fly to the southern city of Salalah, where coconut and banana palms replace the ubiquitous date trees of the north. Before flying back to Muscat we will be able to dip our toes in the great sand sea, the Rub al Khali, otherwise known as 'the Empty Quarter', where there are vast reddish-brown sand dunes up to 250 metres (820 ft) in height.



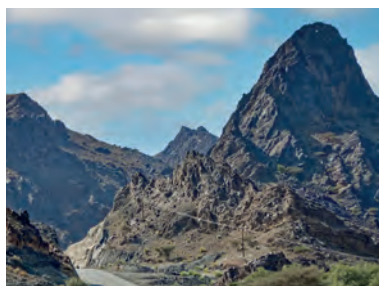
### ESSENTIALS

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 recent years, Oman has seldom been in the public eye but the country has played an important part in world history for many centuries occupying as it does a crucial strategic and geographical corner to Arabia and the Indian Ocean. Between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, Oman built one of the most notable non-European empires, spanning both the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. The southern coast was famous in the ancient world as the source of frankincense. The northern coast was one of the most celebrated seafaring areas of the ancient and medieval world. Its

contacts with the Middle East, east Africa, the Indian Ocean islands, India and Sri Lanka, even South-East Asia and China, provides a key to an understanding of Asian and African history far beyond its borders.



- Day 1 .....** Fly overnight from London to Muscat.
- Day 2 .....** Arrive Muscat early morning and transfer to hotel. Visit National Museum or Muttrah Souq. Hotel in Muscat – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3 ....** Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Nakal Fort, Al Hamrah Bait Safah Museum. Hotel TBC – 1 night. (B,L,D)
- Day 4 .....** Wadi An Nakhur, Bahla Fort, Jabreen Fort Tanuf, Nizwa. Hotel in Nizwa – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 5 .....** Nizwa Goat Market, Birkat al Mouz, Jabal al Akhdar, Diana's Point, Manah - Oman Through The Ages Museum, Nizwa. (B,L,D)
- Day 6 ....** Salut archaeological site and visitor centre. Drive to Muscat airport for flight to Salalah. Hotel in Salalah – 2 nights. (B,L,D)
- Day 7 .....** A day exploring the Salalah area. Could include Tarqah, Tawi Atair, Wadi Darbat and Sumharam. (B,L,D)
- Day 8 ....** Al Baleed Archaeological Park, Museum of Frankincense. Drive to Empty Quarter. Overnight in luxury tented camp. (B,L,D)
- Day 9 ....** Morning at desert camp. Drive to Salalah airport – fly to Muscat. Hotel in Muscat – 1 night. (B)
- Day 10 ...** Fly Muscat to London.

# HISTORIC DALMATIA

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF COASTAL CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

14–22 May 2026

9 days

Expert Historian:

Dr Filip Budić

Activity Level: 2

On this 8-night and 9-day tour we explore the rich archaeology and history of Dalmatia in an exciting journey from the historic town of Split in Croatia to Bar in Montenegro. Along the way we enjoy visits to sites representing a smörgåsbord of periods including a Greco-Roman city, Roman mosaics, medieval churches, monasteries and castles, elaborately carved medieval stećci (gravestones), Venetian and Ottoman walled towns, stately 19th century palaces and relics from the region's bitter wars of the 1990s. We enjoy the stunningly beautiful cities of Split and Dubrovnik and learn about the brief but culturally efflorescent period of Montenegrin independence in the 19th century at the former Royal capital of Cetinje. Dalmatia is a region better known for its gorgeous coast – which we fully enjoy on this tour – but its intriguing history is relatively unknown in Europe. This is a tour to learn more about this fascinating area in the company of our expert historian.



### 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

From the 6th century BC a group of tribes known to the Greeks as the Illyrians inhabited the Western Balkans. In 181 BC one of these, the Dalmatae, broke away from their Illyrian overlords and soon attracted the attention of the growing power of Rome. By 33 BC the Dalmatae had been defeated by the Romans who soon extended their rule over the area we now know as Dalmatia (named after the tribe). The Roman province of Dalmatia, with its capital at Salona, covered the coast and part of the interior of modern Croatia, and flourished until the 5th century AD when it came under the Ostrogothic Kingdom. The region became part of the Eastern Roman Empire in 545 AD but growing Slav incursions soon reduced this territory to a narrow coastal sliver. The Slavs formed the Kingdom of Croatia and other Slavic principalities and the area has remained Slavic in culture and language ever since. During the Middle Ages the area was fought over by Byzantium, Hungary, Venice and the Ottoman Empire before becoming part of Hapsburg domains in 1527. Apart from a brief resurgence of nationalism in the 19th century – such as the independent Kingdom of Montenegro (1878–1914) – the region remained

under Austro-Hungarian influence until 1918 when it became part of the Kingdom of the Slovenes, Croats and Serbs, then the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. Its existence as communist Yugoslavia came to an end when Croatia declared independence in 1991 triggering a bitter war for survival. Montenegro declared its independence in 2006.



- Day 1 ..... Fly London Heathrow to Split or join tour at hotel. Pre-dinner drinks and introductory talk. Hotel in Split – 3 nights (D)
- Day 2 ..... Split: walking tour incl. Diocletian's Palace, Subterranean Passages, St Domnius Cathedral, Archaeology Museum. (B,D)
- Day 3 ..... Šibenik – incl. Cathedral of St. James, trogir, Salona. (B,D)
- Day 4 ..... Klis, Crljivica stećci. Drive to Dubrovnik. Hotel in Dubrovnik – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 5 ..... walking tour of Dubrovnik incl. Sponza and Rector's Palaces, Archaeological Museum. Lokrum Island. (B,D)
- Day 6 .... drive across border into Montenegro. Bay of Kotor, Herceg Novi and Kotor. Hotel near Budva – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7 ..... Stari Bar, Lake Skadar - Beška Island churches. (B,D)
- Day 8 .... Cetinje, Risan Roman mosaics. Return to Dubrovnik and hotel for the night. (B, D)
- Day 9 .... Cable car to Srđ Hill. Transfer to Dubrovnik airport for flight back to London Heathrow (or extend stay in region). (B)



# TREASURES IN STONE

## THE CATHEDRALS OF NORTHERN ENGLAND



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**18–23 July 2026**

**6 days**

**Expert Historian:**  
**Imogen Corrigan**

**Activity Level: 2**

This superb tour explores northern England's cathedrals – the region's most magnificent treasures. Starting at the World Heritage-listed Durham Cathedral we visit some of the most beautiful and spectacular ecclesiastical buildings in the country – Ripon, York, Lincoln, Coventry, Chester and Liverpool among them. On our journey we learn about this rich heritage – both spiritual and temporal – as well as the remarkable human story behind these buildings. We will learn about skilled masons, carpenters, stained glass artists, quarrymen, architects and the wealthy patrons who supported these projects. And at Bishop Auckland Palace we encounter Durham's Prince Bishops, the powerful 'kings of the north'.

In the company of our expert historian, staying in comfortable hotels, enjoying first-class food and travelling by luxury coach we have the added bonus of enjoying some of England's most beautiful countryside.



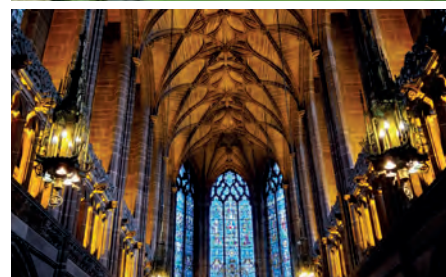
### ESSENTIALS

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

Northern England's cathedrals are a rich panoply of architectural styles and influences, from the solid Norman bastions of Durham, and the lofty Gothic towers of York and Lincoln, through to the bold modernist designs at Coventry and Liverpool. The first cathedral in England is thought to have been built in the late 4th century but the great age of the cathedral was between the 11th and 16th centuries.

The word 'cathedral' doesn't just imply a very large church. It must specifically have a cathedra, the bishop's chair that marks authority within the Church. This is manifested in sheer size (although not all cathedrals are huge) and craftsmanship. The cathedral builders were ordinary people, skilled craftsmen and businessmen alike. On this tour we examine how they set about the task, the logistics of setting up the site, finding materials and workers and how they lived. We will try to glimpse them at table and leisure, educating their children and reacting to disasters such as the Black Death. These people were like us, with all our stresses, sense of humour and intellect but they danced to a different beat, that of the Church.



- Day 1 .....** Assemble at Durham hotel midday for buffet lunch and introductory talk. Durham Cathedral, Cathedral Museum and Sanctuary! Exhibition. Hotel in Durham – 1 night. (L,D)
- Day 2.....** Auckland Palace, Fountains Abbey, Ripon Cathedral. Hotel in York – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** York Cathedral. Hotel in Lincoln - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 4.....** Lincoln Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral. Hotel in Warwick - 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Chester Cathedral. Hotel in Chester – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ....** Liverpool Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral, Anglican Liverpool Cathedral. Transfer to Liverpool Lime Street station at around 14.30 (rail connections to London and other parts of UK). (B)

# IRELAND: FROM THE EASTER RISING TO THE TROUBLES

## THE MYTHS AND REALITIES OF CONFLICT AND PEACE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**21 July–29 July 2026**

**9 days**

**Expert Historian:  
Professor Gary Sheffield**

**Activity Level: 2**

This tour traces the bitter events of the twentieth century on the island of Ireland from the fight for independence from the British state to the tragic consequences of partition in 1921 and the development of the 'Troubles' in the late twentieth century. It is a tour that will furnish you with a balanced, sensitive and considered appreciation of the origins and development of a conflict that has divided communities. Yet at the same time the tour provides an insight into the efforts of ordinary people and their striving for peace so that, although tensions in the north remain, the Troubles are now in the past. In the company of our expert historian this is a unique tour that will bring new perspectives on the conflict based upon the latest cutting-edge historical research.

### Historical Background

Resistance to British rule in Ireland spanned centuries, intensifying with the settlement of Protestant colonists in Catholic regions, especially in Ulster, from the seventeenth century. In 1916, the Easter Rising marked a violent push for independence, leading to the 1919–1921 War of Independence. The subsequent Anglo-Irish Treaty created the Irish Free State, while six Ulster counties remained in the UK as Northern Ireland. Sectarian tensions persisted, with many Catholics seeking unification with Ireland. Discrimination against Catholics sparked civil rights protests, culminating in the 1969 Battle of the Bogside and the deployment of British troops. Violence escalated, and in 1972, British soldiers killed 13 unarmed protesters on Bloody Sunday. Decades of conflict, known as the Troubles, followed, involving paramilitary violence and deep political divisions. The 1998 Good Friday Agreement finally brought peace, ending a conflict that claimed over 3,700 lives and left lasting scars on both communities.



### 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 .....** The lead up to the Civil War: Fly London Heathrow to Dublin or meet at hotel. Sandwich lunch and introductory talk. Walking tour of Dublin incl. General Post Office, Royal College of Surgeons. Hotel in Dublin – 2 nights. (B,D)
- Day 2.....** The Civil War starts in Dublin: The Four Courts (exterior only), National Museum of Ireland (Collins Barracks), Kilmainham Gaol. (B,D)
- Day 3.....** The Munster Republic: Killmallock battle sites, Cork. Hotel in Cork – 1 night. Dinner at own expense. (B)
- Day 4.....** The Leaders: Michael Collins and Liam Lynch: Béal na Bláth, Clonmel, Knockmealdown mountains. Hotel in Tipperary – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 5.....** Towards the Free State, Éire and Republic of Ireland: Return to Dublin. Free time. Hotel in Dublin – 1 night. (B,D)
- Day 6 ....** To the North: Battle of the Boyne (Oldbridge Estate). Continue to Belfast. Orientation tour of city on foot. Hotel in Belfast – 3 nights. (B,D)
- Day 7.....** The Troubles: Derry – Bogside, city walls, Siege Museum. Late afternoon return to Belfast. (B,D)
- Day 8 ....** From the Troubles in Belfast to Northern Ireland today: walking tour of Troubles in West Belfast from Crumlin Gaol incl. Shankill and Falls roads, Peace Wall, murals, Bombay Street. Stormont. (B,D)
- Day 9 ....** The Titanic: Titanic Exhibition. Travel to Belfast George Best Airport for return flight to London Heathrow or to Dublin Airport. Or extend stay in Ireland. (B)



# THE KOREAN WAR

## THE FIRST CONFLICT OF THE NUCLEAR AGE



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**14–25 April 2027**

**12 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**Lt Gen (Ret'd) 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 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.



### 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

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. The Soviets 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. US reinforcements allowed for the simultaneous Inchon Landings outside Seoul and the breakout from Pusan on 15th September and US forces, now reinforced by United Nations troops, had occupied Pyongyang. 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. By the summer of 1951 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 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. 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, 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)

# THE PILLARS OF HERCULES

## THE HISTORY OF GIBRALTAR, CEUTA AND CADIZ



Scan here  
for the full  
itinerary

**Autumn 2027**

**7 days**

**Expert Historian:**

**TBC**

**Activity Level: 2**

This unique 6-night and 7-day tour explores the remarkable history of the lands on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar, site of the mythical Pillars of Hercules. Using Gibraltar as our base we trace the origins of the Rock of Gibraltar from a simple Almohad watchtower built in 1160 through to the impressive Spanish and British batteries and fortifications. Making the short crossing from Algeciras to North Africa we spend a day in Ceuta, ceded by Portugal to Spain in 1668, and today a Spanish enclave within Morocco. We spend a day in Cadiz exploring the Napoleonic history of the city as well as the battle site of Barossa (1811) when a British force failed to break the French siege of Cadiz. We also stop at Cabo Trafalgar to discuss the events of 21 October 1805, when Nelson destroyed a combined Franco-Spanish fleet 16km offshore. We return to Gibraltar to explore the remarkable 100-ton gun of Magdala Battery, Harding's Battery, the Trafalgar Cemetery and Nelson's Anchorage. This is a tour of variety and discovery where we delve into some of the most interesting sites surrounding Europe's most strategic crossing point.



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



- Day 1** ..... Fly London to Gibraltar or join tour in hotel. Hotel in Gibraltar – 6 nights. (D)
- Day 2** .... Full day in Gibraltar by foot and cable car incl. Signal Hill, Siege Tunnels, Princess Caroline's Battery, World War Two Tunnels, Moorish Castle. (B,D)
- Day 3** .... Day trip to Ceuta by ferry incl. Old Town, Royal Walls, Mount Hacho Fortress, El Desnarigado Fort. (B,D)
- Day 4** .... Day trip to Cadiz incl. tour of Old Town, Museo el Dique and Peninsular War sites. (B,D)
- Day 5** .... Full day in Gibraltar incl. Harding and Magdala Batteries, Nelson's Anchorage, Trafalgar Cemetery, Garrison Library. (B,D)
- Day 6** .... Tarifa, Barossa, Cabo Trafalgar. (B,D)
- Day 7** ..... Free time; fly Gibraltar to London or extend your stay in the region. (B)



# BOOKING FORM

OFFICE USE ONLY

Booking  
Reference

Tour  
Code

## 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 ☐

..... Telephone.....

Post/Zip Code ..... Country .....

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

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

### SECOND PARTICIPANT

Title ..... Email .....

First Name ..... Telephone.....

Surname ..... Mobile .....

Known as ..... Please include international dialling codes where applicable

Address ..... Male ☐ Female ☐

..... Single Room ☐ Twin Room ☐ Double Room ☐

Post/Zip Code .....

Country .....

#### Passport details

Nationality .....

Date of Expiry

D	D	/	M	M	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
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Passport Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	/	M	M	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

#### 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 .....

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

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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](mailto:info@theculturalexperience.com).

Please return your completed forms to:

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

These T&Cs apply to all bookings confirmed after 19 March 2024. Due to nature of variable pricing adopted by many of our suppliers our own prices are continuously reviewed but typically the lowest prices will be offered to those who book the earliest. However, once we confirm your booking, we guarantee your tour price regardless of any subsequent cost increase in travel arrangements.

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

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

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

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

## FITNESS AND HEALTH

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

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

Should the client fall ill, test positive for an infection or be injured during the holiday, the client must inform the Tour Manager and/or the Tour Guide immediately. The client is responsible for adhering to any local or self-isolation requirements and must contact their insurance company.

We recommend our clients to contact their GP or medic for the latest information on inoculations no later than 12 weeks prior departure. The prices of our tours do not include any vaccinations needed to enter a country and TCE cannot accept any liability if a client is refused entry or incurs in any fees.

## TRAVEL/TRIP INSURANCE

To participate in any of our tours you must ensure that you have adequate insurance to at least cover medical expenses and emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party be adequately insured at time of booking to cover cancellation and curtailment up to the cost of the holiday for each participant. You must provide us with details of your insurance policy at least four weeks prior to departure.

## PASSPORTS & 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 118 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
71 days or more	Deposit only
70 days to 57 days	30%
56 days to 43 days	50%
42 days to 29 days	70%
28 days to 15 days	90%
Less than 15 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. All such fees and charges are non-refundable and must be paid in full for us to confirm the change. Where we are unable to assist you and consequently you do not wish to proceed with the original booking, we will treat this as a cancellation by you.

If you are prevented from travelling it may be possible to transfer your booking to another suitable person providing we receive your request in writing. Should you make such a request less than 85 days prior to departure, our cancellation charges will be applied to the original booking. Any transfer will be subject to a £50 administration charge per person in addition to any costs incurred by TCE and/or imposed by our suppliers. All such fees and charges are non-refundable and must be paid in full for us to confirm the change..

## IF WE CHANGE OR CANCEL THE TOUR

We reserve the right to cancel a tour.

It is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your travel arrangements, but we do plan arrangements many months in advance. Occasionally, we may have to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time. Most of these changes will be minor and we will advise you of them as soon as possible. In exceptional circumstances this may include a change of guide/historian.

TCE reserves the right to cancel a tour no less than 15 days prior departure if it receives low bookings or for any unforeseen reason. Low booking is where an insufficient number of people have booked a tour to make its operation possible in the advertised form. We will make every effort to modify tours to allow them to continue with low bookings. From the time Clients have agreed such modifications, a 100% cancellation charge will apply.

If we have to make a major change or cancel a tour, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of: i) accepting the changed arrangements, ii) receiving a refund of all monies paid to us; or iii) accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). Any non-refundable accommodation or travel booked by yourself is made at your own risk and will not be compensated by TCE in the event of the tour being cancelled.

Except where expressly stated elsewhere in these booking conditions we cannot accept liability where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense as a result of force majeure. Force Majeure means unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond TCE's control, the consequences of which neither TCE nor their suppliers could avoid, including but not limited to war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, pandemics or diseases, fire, flood, adverse weather conditions or the threat of any of these.

## TRAVELLING WITH MINORS

With the prior consent of TCE, minors over the age of 11 years old may participate in our tours as long as they are accompanied by their guardian throughout the tour and accommodated in the same room. No price reduction will be offered to minors and the guardian should be aware that dinners may be served late and with alcohol.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

Any dietary requirements must be informed at the time of booking. TCE will make best efforts to accommodate such requirements and will inform hotels and restaurants. However, it is the responsibility of the client to ensure that such requirements are confirmed with the tour manager, hotel or restaurant upon arrival.

This contract and any matter arising from it are governed by the law of England and Wales and are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

## FINANCIAL PROTECTION

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under its ATOL Franchise and The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for The Cultural Experience, ABTOT number 5390, ATOL number 10153, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

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 them that you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here:

When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

The price of our ATOL-protected flight inclusive Packages includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate or holiday itinerary, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate or itinerary (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder or supplier may provide you with the services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder or supplier will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder or supplier. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder or supplier, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under ABTOT.

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate or holiday itinerary, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder, alternative supplier or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, ABTOT Limited may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under its scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to ABTOT Limited any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ABTOT ATOL Franchise scheme. For further information visit the ATOL website or the ABTOT website.

## COMPLAINTS

We make every effort to ensure that your tour arrangements run smoothly and that you are satisfied with every aspect of your holiday. If you do have a problem during your tour, please inform your Tour Manager immediately, who will endeavour to put things right. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact our office on 0345 475 1815 or 877 209 5620 or email us on [info@theculturalexperience.com](mailto: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@disputesettlementsservices.co.uk](mailto:admin@disputesettlementsservices.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](http://www.theculturalexperience.com/privacy-policy.php)



# PLANNED 2026 TOURS

We have been busy planning brand new holidays of a lifetime and we sincerely hope that one of the tours listed below whets your appetite. If you are interested in any of these tours then you can either email us at [info@theculturalexperience.com](mailto:info@theculturalexperience.com) or contact us via the website telling us which tours have piqued your interest. You will then be among the first to see the full itinerary, tour dates and prices.



June  
**FRENCH AND  
INDIAN WARS**



July  
**SHELLS EXPLODING  
AT A PICNIC**  
Norway during the  
Second World War



August  
**WALKING  
AUSTERLITZ**  
with Alan Rooney



November  
**LAWRENCE IN  
SAUDI ARABIA**  
(19 November–1 December)  
with Professor Nick Saunders



## AND IN 2027...

Puglia, The Etruscans, Morocco, Medieval Spain, The Guns of the Mediterranean: The Royal Navy's Campaign of 1793–1794, Napoleon's 1814 Campaign, The Route Napoleon: Exile to Elba, WW2 in the Pacific – with James Scott, The Falklands War (January) and much more!





# WHAT YOU SAID

"If this subject matter on this tour is your passion, then don't miss this. Could not have been any happier with the whole tour and I will have terrific memories of all that I saw and experienced during my time with The Cultural Experience."

*The Rise & Fall of Nazi Germany, June 2025 - Gary, Melbourne, Australia*

"Alan proved a great tour leader and Ross an equally effective host. All flights and hotel/restaurants bookings worked out well. The group was well looked after. Excellent organisation."

*The Napoleonic Legend, June 2025 - Geoff, Bath, UK*

"This was a first rate study tour led by a most competent and approachable archaeologist. The itinerary was well selected and, in customary Cultural Experience fashion, all travel details were well organized. The tour attracted like minded people who provided lively discussion and companionship. All in all, it couldn't have been better!"

*In Trajan's Footsteps, June 2025 - John, Ottawa, Canada*

"It was excellent. Our guide was a renowned expert on classical Albania and our tour manager was pleasant, friendly and superbly efficient, always there to assist if anyone had a problem. We have travelled with the Cultural Experience before and are very likely to do so again."

*Classical Albania, June 2025 - Moira, Herts, UK*

"An outstanding bespoke tour. The TCE team added so much value which enhanced the trip even more. I highly recommend TCE for any military or cultural history tour. The back end part of the tour was also very good. They made it easy for our group. Great service and communication throughout the process. Very courteous and professional."

*Bespoke Tour of Normandy, May 2025 - Tim, Ohio, USA*

"Fall of Singapore Tour - A Terrific Experience! The TCE service was excellent. The toll free line that TCE provides to the USA makes it so easy to call and ask questions. Trips were easy to book and all the information I needed to travel was provided prior to the start of the tour. Accommodations on the tour itself were also excellent, to include transportation, hotels, and meals. The use of Tripcast to share photos and information among the travelers is great feature of TCE and something that is unique in my travel experience. TCE also includes almost all the meals on their tours (or at least on the two that I took), which I prefer because I think it enhances the experience when travelers spend more time together (and more time with the tour historians as well)."

*The Fall of Singapore, March 2025 - Kurt, Maryland, USA*







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

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ARCHITECTURE | BATTLEFIELDS  
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