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**Full details inside*



ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

BRAND NEW TOURS FOR 2024

NEW TOURS IN 2024 | EXTRA DEPARTURE DATES ADDED FOR FULL TOURS

PART OF THE SPECIALIST JOURNEYS GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS



NEW FROM ANDANTE TRAVELS

It is with great pleasure we present 5 brand new tours all of which come with carefully crafted itineraries designed to stimulate, inform and entertain you, the kind only a small, dedicated company like ours can provide. We have included 5 brand new opportunities to enjoy some tremendous experiences with Andante, enjoying in-depth visits to world class monuments as well as the discovery of hidden gems and sites off the beaten track. Plus, a brand new cruise to add to our growing portfolio of archaeology and history themed sailings, making sure you get the very best out of every excursion and your time in each port.

See destinations in a new light – like Malaga's Phoenician, Roman and Arabic heritage or the treasure of Bulgaria's Thracian past, the classical sites of Portugal's interior or prehistoric finds showcased in Vienna. Each tour has been carefully designed with you and your interests at its heart. We are passionate about our kind of travel, and we know you are too.

Planned for just 18 participants, we think this number is 'just right'. Small groups which offer sociability companionship and a sense of shared experience but most importantly, don't crowd you or make you feel like part of a herd. You can expect highly personalised service from at least two tour staff 'in the field' and from our team of office staff here in the UK. We're here for you whatever you need – personal advice, ideas, insights, extra arrangements.

As usual, our prices include tips to drivers, local guides, hotel and restaurant staff, site donations, water on the coach and most, if not all, meals as standard. More often than not, we also include wine with dinner. All that is left for you to do is satisfy that souvenir craving.

Plus, where we have reached full capacity on many of our 2024 departures, we have added 6 more dates, so 6 more opportunities to enjoy some first-rate archaeology and stimulating company across Europe and North Africa (see pages 14-27).

With launch offers of up to \$490pp for the first 5 people who book, don't delay in securing your place.

Happy browsing!

The Andante Travels Team

OUR AWARDS & ACCOLADES

The past year has been a tremendous one for us here at Andante. Not only did we win a Feefo 2024 Gold Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service, but we also won a silver for the Best Travel Company to Italy/Western Mediterranean Islands. Plus of course, our very own John Shepherd won the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023. Historically, we have also seen our tours included in National Geographic's 'Trips of a Lifetime' feature. Here's to continued success throughout the year!



How to book

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

If you have already booked a place on one of our tours and require further information, please get in touch with our experienced Customer Care team.

Call today: 212-986-3055

**Or visit our website:
andantetravels.com**

Offers

LAUNCH OFFERS – SAVE UP TO \$490pp

Save up to \$350pp on NEW tours launched departing later this year, and up to \$490pp on EXTRA departure dates added to tours that have already sold out this year.

The first 5 places booked can receive these discounts, so book now to secure your saving!

Offer ends 30th April 2024.

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

We still have some places left on Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour (page 19) departures in 2024 with no single supplement to pay, but when they are gone, they are gone, so look out for this sticker on the tour pages!

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE

Terms & Conditions: we reserve the right to withdraw special offers on any tour at any time and they are not valid for any bookings on private group tours, travel agent bookings or Study Days.

LAUNCH OFFERS: The discount advertised is off the full selling price, valid on the first 5 places booked on each extra tour departure date in 2024, and on new tours launched for travel in 2024. This offer is valid until 30th April 2024.

ZERO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: There are a limited numbers of zero single supplement places on selected departures. These places are also subject to hotel availability.



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BRAND NEW TOUR

Launch Offer
Save \$350pp
on this
departure*

Roman Lusitania

The Romans in Portugal and Spain

10 DAYS

From \$6,198pp

Departing September

Rome first ventured into the Iberian Peninsula in 218 BCE, campaigning against Hannibal and the Carthaginians. By the time of the Emperor Augustus, 200 years later, all of Spain and what was later to become Portugal, was in Roman hands. The province of Lusitania included much of Portugal and western Spain, and its capital, Mérida, is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in Europe, although still surprisingly little known to mainstream tourism. We will travel through beautiful Portuguese landscapes of rolling countryside dotted with cork oak, vineyards and olive groves across to Spain's remotest region, the Extremadura, with its mountains, forests and lakes.

Tour Highlights

- Discover superb Roman monuments and extraordinary feats of engineering at the Proserpina Dam and Aqueduct Los Milagros
- Enjoy beautiful landscapes from the coast at Lisbon to the Spanish Extremadura and the heart of old Spain
- Explore Mérida, Evora and the lovely town of Cáceres, a gem of a perfectly preserved medieval town

Day One | Lisbon

Meet the group at our hotel in Lisbon.

Day Two | Conimbriga

We drive north through the bucolic landscapes of central Portugal to **Conimbriga**, one of the Iberian Peninsula's most important archaeological sites. Amongst rolling hills and olive groves this extensive site contains the remains of a forum, shops, aqueduct, baths and private homes of various impressive dimensions. The city's erstwhile wealth is palpable in the opulence of these houses which are adorned with prepossessing mosaics - particularly in the case of the House of the Skeleton, just one of the fabulous villas we see here. We also take time to study the impressive defensive wall from the late antique period which foreshadowed the invasions to come.

Day Three | Tróia & Alcacer do Sal

This morning we take the ferry from Setúbal to the Tróia peninsula, a popular holiday spot for 'Alfarchinas' (locals from Lisbon), known for its beautiful sandy beaches. Here we find the ancient

site of **Tróia** and the largest garum production centre known from the Roman world. There are some 52 factories here, accommodating around 3,000 tanks in which the layers of salt and fish rotted to produce the ubiquitous sauces of the ancient world. In the afternoon we visit **Alcacer do Sal** on the banks of the Sado River where we explore the **Archaeological Museum** housed in the castle's old crypt.

Day Four | Lisbon - Evora

Before we leave the city, we take a look at its Roman remains including the **Roman theatre** originally constructed by Emperor Augustus in 10 BCE and later expanded in 57AD to a capacity of 5,000 spectators. The excellent on-site museum beautifully recreates the theatre and displays finds from excavations there. Next, we will visit the small archaeological museum at the sacristy of the **Convento do Carmo**. Here we find an eclectic collection donated by archaeologists in the 19th century including the Roman "Sarcophagus of the Muses, the tombs of Ferdinand I and Queen Maria Anna of Austria alongside Egyptian and Peruvian

Activity Level ●●●○○



mummies. In the afternoon we make our way to Evora.

Day Five | Evora & Sao Cucufate

In the morning we explore **Evora**, a former Roman town, and now a World Heritage Site. It still has Roman remains which we will visit as well as the **Archaeological Museum** in the centre of town. In the afternoon we leave the city and drive to **Sao Cucufate** a palatial Roman villa which began as a primitive residence in the 1st century AD but expanded to the 4th century structure we see today. The villa was repurposed as a convent and later monastery which endured to the 16th century.

Day Six | Evora - Badajoz - Mérida

We drive to the border town of **Badajoz**, a town whose strategic position made it a prize in every war that waged over the peninsula from the Wars of succession to the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. The town retains a finely preserved Moorish Alcazaba, dating from the 12th century and we will visit the **Archaeological Museum** which is housed here with its major collection of warrior stelae and



various artefacts from sites around the province. We continue to Mérida (Roman Emerita Augusta) named after the veterans who were settled here by Augustus. Before we enter the city we will stop at the impressive **Roman Aqueduct at Milagros**, a masterpiece of Roman engineering.

Day Seven | Mérida

The day is dedicated to **Mérida**, a simple Spanish provincial town still dominated by the remains of its Roman past. Founded as a Roman colonia in 26 or 25 BCE when Augustus was fighting in the mountainous areas in the north of Spain, it later became the capital of Lusitania. Its importance continued throughout the Roman period and beyond, being a major town of the Visigoths and the Moors. The Roman remains are outstanding, including the bridge over the River Guadiana, a large amphitheatre, a splendid theatre, the House of the Mithraeum and the Temple of Diana.

Day Eight | Cáceres & La Proserpina

Cáceres is off the beaten track for most tourists but this UNESCO listed, walled medieval city is a delight. A World Heritage site, the town is a fusion of Roman, Moorish, Gothic and Renaissance architecture. We will visit some of the many fine

churches and view the old town walls as well as the museum in the centre of the medieval town. It is undergoing renovation, but the archaeological section is still on display and includes a good collection of pre-Roman, Roman and Visigothic artifacts. Later we will visit the Roman dam of **La Proserpina** which stored water for Roman Mérida transported by the aqueduct.

Day Nine | Mérida & Medellín

This morning, we further our exploration of Mérida with a visit to the exceptional **National Museum of Roman Art** housed in the former Convent of San Benito. The Museum is constructed over a still buried portion of the Roman town which you can view in the subterranean “crypt”. In the afternoon we visit the castle at **Medellín**, the birthplace of Conquistador and conqueror of the Aztecs, Hernan Cortés. The town is Roman in origin and although most of the remains have been covered by the modern town, some Roman stonework survives in the town walls and part of the Roman theatre which sits beneath the castle.

Day Ten | Mérida - Elvas - Lisbon

We drive to Lisbon via the fortress of town of Elvas for our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Dr Andy Fear

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

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel de Baixa, Lisbon, the M'ar de Ar Aqueduto Hotel, Evora, & the Parador de Mérida, Mérida or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- Drinks: water with all meals, wine and tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
1st - 10th Sep	\$6,198	\$1,385

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/arps



Images top to bottom: The Roman Theatre - Merida, House of the Fountains in Conimbriga & Tróia Beach

To book a tour today visit andantetravels.com or call 212-986-3055

Launch Offer
Save \$350pp
on this
departure*



Bulgaria

Thracian Treasures & Mountain Monasteries

12 DAYS

From \$5,663pp

Departing September

The forests, mountain ranges and vast plains of Bulgaria remain in places as spectacularly beautiful as when the Thracians inhabited them thousands of years ago. Following a golden age for archaeological discoveries, Bulgaria is now one of the culturally richest countries in Europe, featuring Neolithic settlements, Thracian tombs, and exuberantly painted Medieval churches. The quality and selection of sites here are outstanding: small but internationally significant sites such as the Neolithic house at Stara Zagora where the walls of wattle and daub, kitchen hearth and broken shelves still lie now as they lay a staggering 8,000 years ago. Our tour will introduce the complicated history and cultures of the mosaic of peoples who have occupied the fertile plains bordering the River Danube.

Tour Highlights

- Discover spectacularly varied history and landscapes, introduced by an archaeologist who has excavated all over this country
- Visit no fewer than six fantastic UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- From the Neolithic houses of Stara Zagora and Roman Plovdiv to the exuberantly painted churches in the Rila Mountains – we explore it all
- Spend a full day in Plovdiv, named European Capital of Culture in 2019

Day One | Sofia

Meet the group in Sofia.

Day Two | Sofia

Today we explore **Sofia**, once Thracian settlement, once Roman city favoured by Constantine who called it 'My Rome', once an important administrative centre for the Ottoman Empire and thus one of the oldest cities in Europe. We visit the **Serdica Archaeological Complex** to see the remains of the Roman city discovered during the construction of the metro station in 2010-12 and the **National Archaeological Museum** housed in a former Ottoman Mosque which contains finds from these excavations. This afternoon we admire the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**, a mint coloured meringue of architectural delight, the frescoes which decorate **St. George Rotunda** a 4th century and the **Byzantine church of St. Sofia**, which gave the city its name.

Day Three | Rila Monastery

We head into the beautiful pine clad foothills of the Rila mountains which shaped by glaciers and dotted with lakes, form the backbone of Bulgaria's largest national park. Here we visit the eponymous **Rila Monastery** (World Heritage Site) – an iconic (in the literal sense!) masterpiece and one of Bulgaria's most famous and most beautiful sites. Its vibrant frescoes which cover much of the monastic ensemble rival even most the lavish holy shrines around the world. The colours are almost audible in their intensity.

Day Four | Sofia - Plovdiv

This morning we start at the **National Museum of History** which houses one of Europe's richest collections of ancient gold and other important archaeological materials as well as medieval ecclesiastical art. Next we visit the UNESCO listed **Boyana Church** with its remarkable 13th century

Activity Level ●●○○○



frescoes. The depiction of the Last Supper is particularly charming for the artist's use of medieval Bulgarian dress. After lunch we drive south east to Plovdiv.

Day Five | Plovdiv

Situated in the lowlands of Thrace on the River Maritza (the River Hebros in antiquity), Plovdiv was once on a crucial inland route from Western Europe to Asia Minor. We enjoy a full day visiting the archaeological sites in this city, founded by Philip of Macedon. Intense Roman activity here means that little is left of the early city but a great deal of the Roman one, including the forum, stadium, fortress and amphitheatre. We also see the late Roman **Trakart mosaics** and explore the **Archaeological Museum**.

Day Six | Plovdiv – Kazanlak

We drive north to the 'Valley of the Thracian Kings' stopping en route at the sleepy village of **Hisarya**,



famed for its hot water mineral spring. Here we visit the small **History Museum** which contains excavated objects found locally, including artefacts made by the Bessi, a Thracian tribe of the 1st millennium BC. We continue to the 'Valley of the Thracian Kings' where we explore three of the 1500 burial mounds in this area including the beautiful replica of the **Kazanluk Tomb** (the original is closed to preserve its precious frescoes).

Day Seven | Plovdiv - Stara Zagora

The Thracian tomb of **Aleksandrovo** with its fine mosaics, is first on our list to visit today. Discovered relatively recently in 2000, this tomb is one of the most important archaeological discoveries ever made in Bulgaria. The frescoes in the tomb are unique and relatively well preserved. The richest decoration covers the walls of the burial chamber and depicts horsemen, foot-soldiers, one of them stark naked, wild boars, deer and hunting dogs. Later we continue to **Stara Zagora**, to see the extraordinary Neolithic houses from the 6th millennium BCE.

Day Eight | Stara Zagora - Varna

There are very few prehistoric sites in Europe as important as **Karanovo** situated on the edge of the modern village of that name. This huge settlement mound represents successive phases of occupation from the 6th to the 2nd millennium BCE and the transition from the Stone to the Bronze Age. We start our day at this fabulous site before driving east to **Nessebar** (World Heritage Site), ancient Messambria, founded by the Thracians and later a thriving Greek trading colony. The island is connected to the mainland by a narrow land-bridge, and we visit the old town to view churches, walls and some lovely 19th century timber houses. Afterwards we continue north to Varna.

Day Nine | Varna

We spend the day in Odessos, modern day Varna founded during the second quarter of the 6th century BCE. This was the time of the Great Greek Colonisation when most of the Bulgarian towns along the Black Sea coast were established. We spend the morning at the superb

Archaeological Museum in Varna, one of the oldest in Bulgaria. Its collections provide a good representation of the archaeology of North-eastern Bulgaria, and it houses all of the famous intricately worked gold from the Varna Copper Age necropolis. After lunch we have time to explore this coastal city including its **Roman bath complex**.

Day Ten | Varna – Veliko Tarnovo

This morning we visit the impressive **Madara Horseman** rock relief, another World Heritage site carved on a high sandstone cliff which rises above the village of Madara. The relief has been hewn over an area of 40 square metres, 23 metres above the ground. Dating from the 8th century AD, a larger than life horseman is shown riding triumphant with a vanquished lion under his horse's forefeet. We continue to the second UNESCO listed site of the day – the **Sveshtari Thracian Tomb**. The tomb architecture and decoration make it a rare example of Hellenistic burial practices and here multi-coloured reliefs depict surreal half human, half plant-like figures.

Day Eleven | Veliko Tarnovo

We start our day in **Veliko Tarnovo**, capital of the medieval Bulgarian Tsars, dramatically situated on a gorge over the river. The scenery and the story of this town are rather different from all the other sites we visit because the glory of Tarnovgrad comes entirely from the Middle Ages. We explore the **Tsarevets fortress**, a Medieval stronghold which houses the royal and patriarchal palaces. We also discover the Bulgarian Orthodox Church of Saints Peter and Paul. Later, we travel to the ancient site of **Nicopolis ad Istrum** once a thriving Roman colony.

Day Twelve | Veliko Tarnovo – Sofia

On the final day of our tour, we head to **Arbanasi** where we visit the Folk House and the **Nativity Church**, which is covered in stunning frescoes and feature a pantheon of saints. After lunch we return to Sofia to make our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Dr. Katya Melamed

Dr Katya Melamed is a Bulgarian archaeologist who enjoys an enviable reputation for her longstanding research and excavation work throughout the country.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Sofia, Plovdiv, Stara Zagora, Varna & Veliko Tarnovo

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 11 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	Sgl Supp.
29th Sep - 10th Oct	\$5,663	\$665
Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024		

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/abug

BRAND NEW TOUR

Launch Offer
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Activity Level ●●●○○

Cruising From Catalonia to Andalucia

Exploring Spanish delights

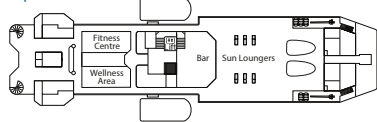
10 DAYS

From \$8,850pp

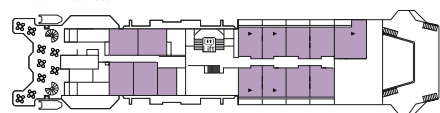
Departing October

Few parts of the world can offer the rich variety of remains than Eastern Spain. Cruising down the coast, we encounter some of the world's most famous modern artists, including Picasso in his hometown of Malaga, as well as one of the most famous expressions of modern architecture, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Underpinning these contemporary masterpieces is a rich ancient history comprised of a number of different peoples, from the Phoenicians and Iberians to Greeks and Romans. In this tour, we explore the remains of these antique populations, from the impressive Iberian remains in Ullastret, to the Greek and Phoenician artefacts in the wonderful museum of Malaga and the extensive Roman remains found in Empuries, as well as Tarragona. In addition to these ancient wonders, we have the opportunity to view such jewels as the inimitable Alhambra and the impressive Alcazaba in Malaga, which bear witness to the centuries old Muslim culture which bore fruit in Andalucia. This cruise is made all the more pleasurable by the fact that it is facilitated by the superb ship, MV La Belle des Océans with its comfortable cabins and delightful deck.

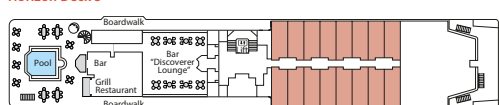
Top Deck



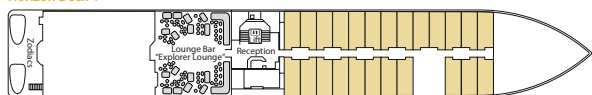
Panorama Suites



Horizon Deck 5



Horizon Deck 4



Horizon Deck 3



MV La Belle des Océans

This prestigious premium ship has seven decks and is comparable to a very good 4* hotel. There are two restaurants, one of which serves contemporary, international cuisine and the other a grill restaurant. During cocktail hours and after dinner, musicians will perform for your entertainment in the Explorer Lounge & Bar, and the Discoverer Lounge offers unlimited tea and coffee aboard your ship in a comfortable seating area with plenty of natural light. The top deck of the ship has chairs, sun loungers, a bar, small fitness centre and beauty salon. Horizon cabins are 17m² in size and Panorama suites 25m² and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 110V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, a hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.

Tour Highlights

- Wonder at the glorious site of the Alhambra, an unparalleled jewel of Andalusian architecture
- Explore the colourful city of Malaga with its rich ancient roots and Arabic history
- Examine the important ruins of the Greek city of Empuries
- Immerse yourself in the extensive Roman remains of the Tarragona

Day One | Barcelona

Meet the group at our hotel in **Barcelona**. Time permitting we'll have an orientation walk around the city before dinner. Exploring the ancient roots of this Catalan city, we will walk near the Cathedral square to admire the remnants of the ancient aqueduct which fed the Roman colony of Barcino. Built in the 1st century BC, it was in use for nearly 1,000 years. We proceed a short distance to view the remains of the wall which surrounded the city until the medieval period.

Day Two | Barcelona

This morning, we set off to the Barcelona sector of the **Archaeological Museum of Catalonia**, which has treasures dating from a wide range of ancient Catalan history, from Iberian cultures to Phoenician, Greek and Roman. Among the prized elements of the museum is the treasure from Tivissa, which comprises a series of priceless silver vessels dating to the 3rd century BC. Housed in the museum is also the unique collection of Visigothic gold and crowns from Torredonjimeno. After lunch, we visit the **El Born Centre of Culture and Memory**, an archaeological site found under the Mercat del Born, a 19th century market hall, which is like a time capsule taking us back to the city at the end of the 17th century before it was damaged in the War of the Spanish Succession in the 18th century. After our visit, we board our ship and celebrate our first evening and dinner on the wonderful MV La Belle des Océans.

Day Three | Barcelona

Our ship is moored in Barcelona, the vibrant capital of Catalonia, famed for its Gaudi architecture and modernist architecture, although its past is rooted in antiquity, founded as it were by Rome in the 1st century BC when it was bestowed the name Barcino and was established to control the vast, fertile territory which surrounds it.

Exclusive Andante Excursion We set off first thing to the celebrated **Basilica i Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia** begun in the early 1880s by Vilar and continued by Gaudi' whose breathtaking originality went beyond the modernisme popular in late 19th century Catalonia and gave rise to a church which can be said to be at once Spanish Gothic revival and Art Nouveau. Granted the status of minor basilica by Benedict XVI, the Sagrada Familia is expected to be completed in 2040, with a number of spires yet to be completed. We proceed to the **Park Guell**, a naturalistic park originally conceived by Gaudi' and his patron Eusebi Guell as a garden city and which contains a series of mosaic works by Gaudi, such as the salamander and serpentine bench, as well as the house where Gaudi lived for nearly 20 years, now the Gaudi House Museum. After lunch, we explore ancient Barcino in a series of sites coordinated by the **Museu d'Historia de Barcelona**. These include the so-called Temple of Augustus in the Gothic Quarter and the adjacent **Plaça de Sant Jaume** which lay at the heart of the ancient city. We end the day at the **Archaeological Site of Santa Caterina** where we see, among other things, the remains of a late antique necropolis.

Day Four | Roses

Our ship, having sailed through the night, arrives in Roses, a city on the Costa Brava which was founded by Phocaean Greeks from Massalia and occupied by Rome from the 2nd century BC. First fortified by the Visigoths in Late Antiquity, it was more heavily defended in the 16th century in order to defend itself from attacks from Corsair Pirates. In the evening, we set sail for Tarragona.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: Today, we offer excursions to two important archaeological sites, starting with **Empuries**, founded in the first part of the 6th century from Massilians and today one of the most important sites in Catalonia. We will stroll past remains of houses, some complete with mosaics, as well as baths and a series of temples, including one dedicated to Asclepius whose statue is now housed in the onsite museum. There are also size ruins of a Palaeochristian basilica. After lunch, we make our way to **Ullastret** near La Bisbal d'Emborda, once an island in the middle of a lake. Here we see remains left by Iberians from the pre-Roman period, including the imposing city wall, as well as a 9th century church.

Day Five | Tarragona

We wake up in Tarragona, the ancient city of Tarraco which was either of Iberian or Phoenician origins and which became hugely important in the Roman period, starting in the 3rd century BC when it was aggrandized to act as a bulwark against Carthaginians. It was a city endowed with honours, both in the republican period and by Augustus, as well as power, being the capital first of Hispania Citerior and later of Hispania Tarrconensis. In the afternoon, we sail to Cartagena.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This morning we explore the important remains of **Tarraco** in the company of our expert Guide Lecturer. These include walking around the impressive remains of its 2nd century BC walls, located near the old quarters of the modern city, as well as a well-preserved theatre and an amphitheatre, as well as a circus. There are very few cities in the Mediterranean which offer this impressive array of Roman ruins as Tarragona.

Day Six | Cartagena

This morning we will be sailing to **Cartagena**, the ancient founded by Hamilcar Barca after the Carthaginian defeat in the First Punic War, when he embarked on campaign to develop an Iberian empire. An important port since antiquity, Cartagena has a wonderfully blended history, incorporating Phoenician, Roman and Arabic remains, as well as stunning modern architecture. Today we join our fellow Croisi passengers on an excursion to visit highlights of Cartagena, including the Roman theatre from the exterior, as well as the Hill of the Conception, which began life as a Roman temple, continued as a fortification in the Arabic and evolved into a medieval stronghold.

Day Seven | Malaga

The morning is spent sailing towards Malaga, which, like so many cities of Andalucia, has a rich and variety history, beginning with its foundation as a Phoenician city and continuing to its staggering Roman period when it grew wealthy from its garum production; the city was further enriched by its cosmopolitan Muslim period. We arrive in the city in the afternoon, having partaken in lunch and sundry snacks.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This afternoon, we explore the wonderful city of **Malaga**, starting with the **archaeological museum** whose artefacts narrate its history, from its beginnings as Tyrian Malaka to the late antique period and include the so-called Dama de la Aduana, a celebrated 2nd century statue. We proceed to the Roman theatre, which is at the foot of the Alcazaba fortress, having been plundered by Arabs for its stone.

Day Eight | Malaga

We awaken in Malaga and eagerly join fellow Croisi passengers on an expedition to Granada, the capital of the Nasrid Emirate and the last bastion of Muslim culture in Spain; when Mohammed XII surrendered to the Catholic Kings in 1492, 700 years of Arabic presence on the peninsula came to an end. We begin with the extraordinary **Alhambra**, originally constructed in the 9th century and rebuilt as a royal palace in the 13th century. Described by Moorish poets as a pearl set in emeralds, the Alhambra encapsulates the faded grandeur of the last Muslim Emirs. Its magnificence bore a lasting influence on Mudejar art in Spain as it did in the Maghreb. We end the excursion with the visit to the **Generalife**, a summer palace just up the hill from the Alhambra which served both as a retreat and as a plantation. We spend our last night on the splendid MV La Belle des Océans and mark it with a celebratory dinner.

Day Nine | Malaga

We disembark from our ship in the morning and spend the rest of the day in the remarkable Malaga. We start with the famous **Alcazaba**,

a massive palatial fortification built in the 11th century and the best preserved one of its kind in Spain. It is a massive double walled Kasbah built using Roman spolia which contains a palace and a number of Andalusian gardens. We proceed to the neighbouring **Castillo de Gibralfaro** built by the Caliph of Cordoba in the 10th century in order to defend the Alcazaba, which is all the more ironic as it was besieged for three months by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1487. After lunch, we pay a visit to the **Church of Santiago Apostol**, built in the late 15th century on the place of an old mosque. The tower is of Mudejar style, reflecting the city's continued Moorish influence. It is in this church that Malaga's most famous son, Pablo Picasso, was baptised. We celebrate just this man at the end of the day, when we visit the **Picasso Museum**, which contains 285 works of his art donated by his family. The museum, which is only yards away from the Plaza de la Merced where he was born, is housed in the Buenavista Palace, which not only contains Nasrid remnants but also hosts the considerable remains of a Roman garum factory.

Day Ten | Malaga

Today, after breakfast, we might have a last walk around Malaga, time permitting, before making our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Dr Doru Bogdan

Doru is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, and has supervised an array of excavations.

Price includes

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

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 1 night at the Hotel Catalonia Sagrada Familia, Barcelona or similar, 7 nights on board the MV Belle des Océans & 1 night in the Hotel Málaga Alameda Centro, Malaga or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
 - At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
 - MV Belle des Océans: welcome cocktail and all onboard drinks*, served in the restaurant and in the bar to include tea, coffee, soft drinks, beers and a selection of wines, cocktails and long drinks
- *Premium branded drinks at own cost

Dates & prices per person

30th Oct - 8th Nov

	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
Horizon Deck 3	\$8,850	\$2,212
Horizon Deck 4	\$9,355	\$2,475
Horizon Deck 5	\$9,970	\$2,735
Panorama Suites*	£10,670	\$5,698

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*Panorama Suites are on request

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Byzantium & Ottoman Istanbul

Glittering Jewell on the Bosphorus

7 DAYS

From \$5,078pp

Departing November

Founded as Byzantium, famed as Constantinople, the city we know today as Istanbul straddles two continents and has played a pivotal role in world history. It is one of the most delightful and complex cities in the world. We explore the major monuments of the city centre but also take a boat ride on the Bosphorus, which affords views back over the unmistakable skyline of the city broken by hundreds of slender soaring minarets. The bustle, good natured hustle, scents and sounds of this city are unforgettable.

We are based in Sultanahmet, the site of old Constantinople. This historic and compact area is largely pedestrianised and is home to four of the city's major historic monuments: the Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar. Guide Lecturer Terry Richardson, author of the Rough Guide to the city, provides invaluable 'insider' knowledge of a city he knows and loves so well and travelling out of season, we enjoy this wonderful city when the summer crowds have departed.

Tour Highlights

- Explore the vast and rambling Topkapi Palace, a palace like none you will ever have seen
- Enjoy an afternoon on the waters of the Bosphorus to put the city in its geographical context
- Soak up stunning panoramic views from the viewing platform of the Galata Tower
- Discover the history behind the unforgettable skyline of graceful minarets and monuments

Day One | Istanbul

Meet the group at our hotel in the historic district of Sultanahmet.

Day Two | Hagia Sophia & Spice Bazaar

This morning we start with the great basilica of **Hagia Sophia**. Built by Justinian in the early 6th century, converted into a Mosque in the 15th century, secularised as a Museum in the 20th and repurposed as a Mosque in the 21st, this architectural marvel is not just a place of worship but a long enduring symbol of the city. We continue to the **Yerebatan Sarayı**, a cavernous Byzantine underground water cistern which once supplied the imperial palaces until they fell into ruin, and it was forgotten. Now, we can walk on wooden walkways above the water and admire its remarkable engineering. After lunch we explore the **Sulemaniye mosque complex** built by the

architect Sinan for the Sultan in the 16th century. The mosque and its courtyard are at the centre of a complex which comprised a madrasa, alms-houses, infirmaries, caravanserais, a medical school, baths, a hospital, and shops. We end the day with a visit to the **Spice Bazaar**, located at the southern end of the Galata Bridge and next to the New Mosque, Yeni Cami.

Day Three | Taksim Square & Galata

Today we begin at **Taksim Square** in the 'European Quarter' of the city. From here we walk down Istiklal Caddesi, formerly known as the Grand Rue de Pera during the Ottoman period when it attracted an intellectual crowd and became the place to stroll for French Levantines. We visit the superb **Pera Museum** which houses a private collection of historical artefacts and paintings from the Ottoman period and then continue after lunch

Activity Level ●●●○○



to Galata. Here we see the 61-metre-high **Galata Tower**, which once formed part of the fortifications of the walls protecting the Genoese colony. A lift does most of the work, but there's still a couple of staircases climbs to reach the viewing platform, which allows a stunning 360-degree panorama of the city. We will also visit the **Galata Mevlevi Museum**, the beautifully preserved semahane or dance hall, where adherents of the faith once performed a ritual, rotational dance (hence the name we in the West use for the Mevlevi, Whirling Dervishes), forms the centre piece of the museum. We conclude the day with a stroll across the architecturally undistinguished but ever fascinating **Galata Bridge**, lined with hopeful anglers and cheap and cheerful restaurant-bars, which links Europeanised Pera/Galata with the old city centred on Sultanahmet.



Day Four | Walls of Theodosius & Palace of Porphyrogenitus

Our first visit today is to the Walls of Theodosius constructed to protect the new imperial capital by Constantine, expanded and reinforced by Theodosius in the 5th century. These walls protected the city for over a 1000 years and once formed a virtually impregnable barrier. Here we visit the Ottoman Turkish fortification of **Yedikule** and the **Golden Gate** and the **Church of Zoodochus Pige**. In the afternoon we continue to the **Panorama 1453 Museum**. Painted right around the drum and shallow dome is a vivid scene showing Sultan Mehmet II's troops besieging the walls of Constantinople. It may be popular history, but it does help to bring the momentous events of the spring of 1453 into vivid focus. Our last visit of the day is to the Byzantine **Palace of Porphyrogenitus**. Not much remains of this once magnificent building but it gives some idea of what the emperor's residence might have looked like in late Byzantine times.

Day Five | Hagia Eirene & Bosphorus

This morning we visit the **Hagia Eirene** originally built in the 4th century and reconstructed in the 8th after a catastrophic fire. Used as an arsenal until the 19th century, it is one of the few churches in Istanbul that have not been converted into a mosque and is now a museum and a concert

hall. We continue to the excellent **Istanbul Archaeological Museum** built by the Sultans to house their collections from across the Ottoman Empire. This afternoon we take a **private boat trip** on the Bosphorus from Eminonou Pier up the majestic waterway that separates Europe from Asia and links the Black Sea ports to the Mediterranean.

Day Six | Topkapi Palace & Blue Mosque

Today we explore the famous **Topkapi Palace**, the rambling palace complex of the Ottoman sultans until they moved in the 19th century to a French-style building on the Bosphorus water front. Now a Museum, Topkapi is a veritable treasure house of architecture and applied arts, a palace like none you will ever have seen. After lunch we will stroll in what was the central spina of the Hippodrome. Its soaring seating accommodated tens of thousands of spectators, or, on occasions, angry citizens taking noisy part in political meetings. Whilst in this part of the city, we will also visit the **Blue Mosque** with its high dome and semi-domes, multiple minarets and beautiful interior richly blue with the finest tiles from imperial tile-makers of the time. Our site visits conclude at the **Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus**, Roman soldiers who were martyred under Emperor Maximian around 300.

Day Seven | Istanbul

We return to Istanbul airport for our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Terry Richardson

Terry Richardson has a university background in ancient history and classical civilisation. Terry is the author of numerous renowned guide books on the country, including Rough Guide Istanbul, Pocket Rough Guide Istanbul and Rough Guide Turkey.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Eresin Sultanhamet

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunch & 6 dinners
- Water, tea and coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	Sgl Supp.
4th - 10th Nov	\$5,078	\$966

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/abo1



BRAND NEW TOUR

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Vienna

Exploring Habsburg Wonders in Winter

6 DAYS

From \$4,823pp

Departing December

From its ancient origins as a castrum and canaba in the Roman period, Vienna grew to dizzying heights after becoming the capital of the Holy Roman Empire in the 15th century, developing into one of the most important imperial centres of Europe. Situated on both the Danube and the Wien rivers, the city developed enormously when it became the capital of the Habsburg empire in the end of the 17th century and particularly in the 18th century when a multiplicity of grand palaces was constructed. The city was further aggrandized in the 19th century when Franz Josef demolished the city's fortifications and developed the awe inspiring Ringstrasse which encircles the city, uniting a series of grandiose buildings, including the Rathaus and the Kunsthistorisches Museum.

This tour will guide you through this masterpiece of Baroque architecture, exploring the gems that Habsburg wealth was responsible for generating and collecting. Apart from the sumptuous palaces, we explore the city's many world class museums, starting with the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Naturhistorisches Museum but also including lesser-known jewels, such as the Secession Building and the Albertina Museum. We will also be considering the city's interesting ancient period. We will be doing all of this in the festive season as there is, perhaps, no better time to visit this city of music and culture than when it is bedecked in its traditional Christmas markets and a possible layering of snow.

Tour Highlights

- Explore the many artistic masterpieces in the Kunsthistorisches Museum
- Gaze at Klimt's Kiss and his other works of art in the stupendous Schloss Belvedere Palace
- Examine the wonderful treasures excavated in Ephesus, including the Parthian Monument
- View the fabulous collection of paintings and drawings in the Albertina Museum

Day One | Vienna

After meeting the group at our hotel in Vienna, we make our way to the Hoher markt where we explore the very foundations of the city when it was a Roman military camp called Vindobona constructed in the 1st century AD in order to protect the Roman frontier. Here we walk past the street which bears the name of Marcus Aurelius, the emperor who died unexpectedly here and make our way to the **Roman museum** which narrates the story of Vindobona. Following this, we walk to the **Rathaus Platz** to gaze at the grandeur of the neo gothic architecture of the city hall and to enter into the Christmas spirit by walking through the Christmas market.

Day Two | Vienna

Today we embark on a journey taking in two iconic museums, the **Kunsthistorisches Museum** and the **Naturhistorisches Museum**, both constructed the end of the 19th century by Gottfried Semper according to the will of the Emperor Franz Josef who ostentatiously wanted to display the formidable Habsburg art collection to his subjects. We start with the **Kunsthistorisches Museum**, in particular with the Imperial Treasury section which houses the Habsburg imperial treasures, as well as important artefacts, such as the agate bowl once thought to have been the Holy Grail, as well as King of Sicily Roger II's mantle skilfully made by Arab craftsmen. We proceed to the incredible

Activity Level ●●●○○



painting collection which contains masterpieces by Titian, Caravaggio and Raphael, whose Madonna of the Meadow is one of the highlights. We end the morning with a visit to the archaeological section which includes a stunning late antique mosaic from Salzburg. After lunch, we venture to the **Naturhistorisches Museum**, which houses excellent palaeontological and prehistoric sections. Here we will explore such treasures as the Stollhof Hoard, cave paintings, as well as the famous Upper Paleolithic figurine, the Venus of Willendorf. We end the day with a visit of the Christmas markets in Maria-Theresien-Platz.



Day Three | Vienna

This morning we venture to **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, one of the most famous and colourful buildings in Vienna. Erected on top of a Palaeochristian cemetery, the cathedral was first built in the 12th century and re-worked in the 14th century under Duke Rudolf IV, when the façade and wonderful roof tiles first came into being. The cathedral is associated with both Mozart, whose marriage and funeral were conducted here, as well as Beethoven, who realised he was stone deaf when he was made aware of the bells pealing by birds flying away rather than by their sound. We continue to the **Albertina Museum** whose collection was first amassed in the 18th century by Giacomo Durazzo and contains an impressive range of paintings from drawings by Da Vinci and Bruegel the Elder to paintings by Duerer and Monet. After lunch we visit the **Staatsoper**, the impressive opera house built by Franz Josef on the Vienna Ring Road, the grand boulevard built in the great 19th century period of expansion, and which was a reason for which the city was given World Heritage status. We continue to the **Secession Building** founded in the end of the 19th century by a group of prominent artists who backed away from traditional artistic styles. Here we see the famed Beethoven Frieze which Gustav Klimt produced on the 75th anniversary of the composer's death and which represents his vision of the 9th symphony. We end the day in Karlsplatz for the wonderful Christmas market there and for the **Karlskirche**, one of Vienna's most important baroque churches built by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach during a period of Viennese triumphalism.

Day Four | Vienna

We begin the day with a visit to the **Imperial Crypt**, which is located under a Capuchin before continuing to the **Michaelerplatz**, where we see the remains of a canaba or civilian settlement attached to Vindobona, as well as a Christmas market. We continue to the **Hofburg Palace**, the winter residence of the Habsburg dynasty then to the **National Library**. We visit the **Augustinerkirche** founded in the 14th century by Augustinian monks

and then end the day with a visit to the **Ephesus Museum** housed in the Neuen Burg Building of the Hofburg.

Day Five | Vienna

This morning we venture outside Vienna to visit the wonderful **Stift Melk**, the wonderfully set Benedictine Abbey founded in the 11th century and revived in the 15th century, as part of the Melk movement which aimed to restore rigour in Austrian monasticism. The abbey was renovated in the 18th century, gaining its baroque appearance and its fine collection of frescos in the church. After lunch, we venture to the **Schönbrunn Summer Palace**, which was the Habsburg Dynasty's summer residence. It was Maximilian II who bought the land on which the palace stands in the 16th century, although it started to take shape in the next century when Eleonora Gonzaga, the widow of Ferdinand II, built the first palace and orangery. The formidable figure of Maria Theresa largely gave the palace and gardens the shape it has today, including the magnificent gloriolite structure in the garden and the Roman ruins folly. It is here in the gardens that we explore the delightful **Christmas Market**.

Day Six | Vienna

We have saved one of Vienna's most spectacular buildings for our last morning, the **Schloss Belvedere**, which was built by the military commander par excellence, Eugene of Savoy, in the beginning of the 18th century. The chief architect for the project was Johann Lucas von Hildebrandt who was responsible for both the Upper and Lower Belvedere, employing a series of Italian painters to produce wonderfully ornate da sotto in su frescos. The famous gardens are set out in formal French tower, complete with fountains and a series of sculptures of Apollo who was associated with Eugene of Savoy. In addition to admiring the baroque splendour of the palace, we will consider the magnificent collection of art in the Upper Belvedere, which includes the largest collection of Klimts in world. Afterwards we make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Tom Abbott

An art and architecture historian whose expertise is wide ranging, from the Baroque and Rococo, to modern and contemporary.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Vienna

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Drinks: water with all meals, wine and tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
4th - 9th Dec	\$4,823	\$1,064

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

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Extra Departures

Great news! We are full to capacity on many of our 2024 departures, but our tour staff and suppliers are a great bunch and together we have been able to secure 6 more dates. 6 more opportunities to enjoy some first-rate archaeology and stimulating company across Europe and North Africa. These tried and tested tours are of our very best. Want to join us for a glass of date liqueur and a wild boar supper in the rolling hills of north Tunisia? Sail across the stunning blue waters of the Thracian sea? Scoff delicious pizza in the city that does it best? Discover one of the many islands associated with that temptress Calypso? Step this way....

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Wild Thrace

Discover ancient kingdoms across this region

9 DAYS

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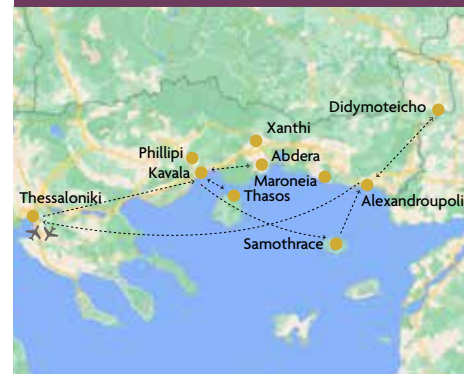
Departing September

East of Thessaloniki are the mountains and plains of Thrace. Its ancient kingdoms were alternately at war and allied to Persians, Greeks and Macedonians. Discover the strategic cities that grew up in the wake of passing conquerors Phillipi, Mesembria with its Romano-Thracian chariot burials, and catch a glimpse of the city of Amphipolis. Thrace's landmark archaeological sites and Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman monuments add to its rich cultural heritage. This wild land is notable for the peaceful coexistence of Christian and Muslim traditions.

Tour Highlights

- Discover the traces of Roman, Medieval and Ottoman history which remain across the region
- Take a short trip across the Thracian sea to the lovely unspoiled islands of Thasos and Samothrace
- Explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, built to honour fertility deities around 1000 BCE

Activity Level ●●●●○



Day One | Thessaloniki - Kavala

We meet in Thessaloniki to drive to **Kavala** visiting, en route the great Athenian colony of Amphipolis, site of a battle between Athens and Sparta during the Peloponnesian war where we explore remains of a necropolis, a gymnasium and houses dating from the Roman period.

Day Two | Kavala & Phillipi

Today we explore the **Archaeological Museum** in Kavala which houses remains from Amphipolis and other ancient sites found nearby. We proceed to an important UNESCO-listed site on the Via Egnatia, the Macedonian and Roman colony of **Phillipi**, named after Philip II, who conquered it, and which is famed for the decisive battle between Octavian, Antony and the Conspirators who killed Caesar. Here we explore the forum, heroon and well-preserved theatre, as well as impressive Byzantine monuments. We end the day with a visit to **Kavala** where we see the **Byzantine Castle**.

Day Three | Thasos

We travel by ferry to the Island of **Thasos**, the most northerly of all Greek islands surrounded by the crystal clear waters of the Aegean Sea. Here we visit

the remains of the classical city. This was originally a Parian colony, enriched by its gold and silver mines. Marble was the island's other commodity, and some of its beaches are composed of marble sand. After lunch we make a stop at the **Limenas Museum** before returning to the mainland.

Day Four | Abdera & Xanthi

We spend the day exploring the site of ancient **Abdera** which had strong links with Phoenicians and produced a number of important scholars including the Sophist Protagoras and historian Hecataeus. The city, which became prosperous in the Classical period through its trade with Thrace, has left important remains, including a number of houses from the Roman period and later Byzantine churches. We journey afterwards to **Xanthi**, a major trading town in Byzantine and Ottoman eras. The city is well known in Greece for its distinctive period architecture.

Day Five | Kavala - Samothrace

The journey this morning takes us to **Komotini**, whose history was tied to the Via Egnatia down to the late antique period when Theodosius fortified the road here. We move on to **Alexandroupolis**, which became important in the Byzantine period



because of its proximity to Constantinople and became a fishing village in Ottoman period when it was connected by rail to Constantinople. We take time to see the Byzantine and Ottoman buildings in this beautiful seaside city, which lies in the crossroads between east and west, on the borders between Bulgaria and Turkey. From here we catch a ferry to the lovely island of Samothrace.

Day Six | Samothrace - Alexandroupolis

We spend the morning exploring the famous Classical sanctuary. This was one of the most important religious complexes in Greece, set up in honour of the 'Great Gods' before the arrival of the Greek colonists. We also visit **Chora village** set high up on Mount Saos and its citadel built by the Galluzi family in the 14th century when Venice

controlled large parts of the Aegean. There are lovely views over the town, where flowers spill from window boxes and trees form canopies over restaurants and cafés. Later today we return to the mainland and our hotel in Alexandroupolis.

Day Seven | Didymoteicho & Mikri Doxipara Zoni

Today we visit the border fortress of **Didymoteicho** whose idiosyncratic name might derive from its two sets of walls built in the 6th century under Justinian. Here we visit some of the Byzantine monuments, including the castle. We proceed to the aristocratic Thracian tumulus cemetery at **Mikri Doxipara Zoni**, built in the 2nd century AD for four family members buried with a rich assortment of elite goods, including

bronze and glass goods, as well as carriages and horses buried with the deceased.

Day Eight | Mesembria & Maroneia

We explore the ruins at **Mesembria**, beautifully situated on the coast near the mouth of the stream Shabla Dere, now identified as the ancient Greek polis of Zone. Remains here include a small sanctuary of Demeter and a temple of Apollo. In the afternoon we visit the **Alexandroupolis Archaeological Museum**.

Day Nine | Thessaloniki

Our tour comes to an end today. We travel to Thessaloniki airport to make our independent onward journeys.





Guided Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Center for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- Return flights from London & all local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Kavala, Samothrace & Alexandroupolis

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	Sgl Supp.
17th - 25th Sep	\$5,305	\$540

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/athr

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Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

Exclusive access to the off-site theatre of Herculaneum

8 DAYS

From \$4,045pp

Departing May to October

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

Pompeii, a trading town equipped with many bars, shops and brothels, while neighbouring Herculaneum was an affluent and elegant town. All this came to an abrupt halt, however, one autumnal day in AD 79, when Vesuvius - which had done little more than rumble for years - erupted with incredible force.

Two thousand years later, the sites of the Bay of Naples confront the modern visitor with a vivid, haunting immediacy like nothing else in the ancient world. In some cases we even know the names, professions and personal histories of the people who owned the villas and shops we visit. The preservation of Herculaneum, Pompeii and its surrounding sites is remarkable and the archaeology beyond compare, which is why we have been leading tours here for over 30 years. And this is an exciting time for visitors as new discoveries are being made and new houses opened. Walk with us as the Romans did, from amphitheatre to baths to forum, as our Guide Lecturer conjures an evocative picture of the everyday life of these prosperous Roman towns.

Tour Highlights

- Special access to Villa Sora in Torre del Greco
- Enjoy visits to off the beaten track villas at Stabiae
- Private access to the Cave of Sejanus (Grotta di Seiano) and the adjoining Villa of Pausilypon with its dramatic coastal views
- Explore the newly excavated House of Leda in Regio V

Day One | Cava de' Tirreni

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

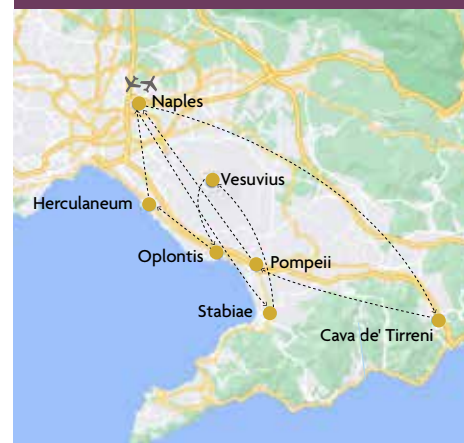
Day Two | Cava de' Tirreni - Paestum

Our day begins with a visit to the fascinating site at **Paestum**, ancient Poseidonia. Long before the Romans came, this was a thriving Greek city that was part of greater Greece from the 6th century BC. After lunch, we visit the **Paestum Museum**, famed for its archaic metopes and its painted tombs. We will also be able to visit the magnificent **Store Rooms** of Paestum after almost a two-year closure due to the pandemic.

Day Three | Pompeii

We devote the entire day to **Pompeii**. No other site compares in revealing details of daily life in a Roman town. We visit some of the most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum, bath-houses, bars and even brothels. Fountains in the street are worn from where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti can still be seen on the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid the crowds, we visit some houses that are newly reopened to the public.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Day Four | Naples - Pozzuoli

Our first visit of the day is to the fabulous **National Archaeological Museum** in Naples, home to exceptional collections of artefacts. After lunch, we move on to **Pozzuoli** and visit one of the world's most impressive amphitheatres. Later, we are granted private access to the **Cave of Sejanus**, an impressive tunnel dating to the age of Augustus, which gives access to the lovely seaside villa of **Pausilypon**. During our visit here, we can see a theatre and odeon, built at a later date.

Day Five | Stabiae

Go off the beaten track today to the villas of **Stabiae**, an exclusive Roman resort for the very wealthy. The vast **Villa San Marco**, with its swimming pool and bath complex, is one of the most opulent along this coast and it remains very impressive in its scale. Subject to renovations being completed, we hope to visit the **Villa Arianna**, with its wonderful frescoes and fabulous views over the Bay of Naples. After lunch we visit



the **Archaeological Museum of Castellammare di Stabia Libero D'Orsi** which opened in September 2020 specifically for the exhibition of the many important items found in the region of Stabia. There are a large number of finds on display, some never before exhibited in Italy, including frescoes, inlaid floors, stuccoes, sculptures and tableware.

Day Six | Herculaneum

This morning we travel to **Villa Sora in Torre del Greco**, where we have special access to a fine residence once thought to be owned by a member of the Julio Claudian Family. Later, we head to **Herculaneum**, which perfectly complements a visit to Pompeii. This seaside city was buried to a significantly greater depth than Pompeii — under 23 metres of pyroclastic to be exact — perfectly preserving every-day objects as well as houses up to their rooftops. In addition to the site, we explore the Antiquarium, newly opened after 44 years, and which houses precious articles found along Herculaneum's sea front, including a well-preserved boat.



Images top to bottom: Pozzuoli and artefacts on display at Paestum Museum

Day Seven | Vesuvius - Oplontis

Today, we ascend to the great volcanic crater of **Vesuvius**. The majority of our journey will be by bus, but the final part requires a short walk, which will be well worth the effort. The walk starts at Monte Somma, the crater of the AD 79 eruption, where we grasp the scale of it. After the ascent and peering into the crater being forged since the ancient eruption, you will see fumaroles and the layers of previous eruptions, while walking around the perimeter of the crater affords magnificent views over the Bay of Naples. On good days, you can even make out Pompeii. After lunch, we will continue on to the impressive villa at **Oplontis**, which boasts sumptuous frescoes, a bath complex, an enormous swimming pool, and interesting slave quarters. This villa was supposedly owned by Emperor Nero and was both destroyed and subsequently preserved by Vesuvius' eruption.

Day Eight | Naples

Our tour ends and we transfer to Naples airport for our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Tony O'Connor
Join Tony on our 27th May departure.



Guided by Dr Gillian Shepherd
Join Gillian on our 16th September departure.



Guided by John Shepherd
Join John on our 23rd September departure.



Guided by Diana Blumberg
Join Diana on our 30th September departure.



Guided by Dr Jamie Sewell
Join Jamie on our 28th October departure.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Scapolatiello or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
27th May - 3rd Jun	\$4,340	\$0
16th - 23rd Sep	\$4,280	\$0
23rd - 30th Sep	\$4,280	\$0
Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024		
30th Sep - 7th Oct	\$4,280	\$0
28th Oct - 4th Nov	\$4,045	\$0

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/apom

Launch Offer
Save \$490pp
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Algeria

Roman Mauretania

10 DAYS

From \$6,645pp

Departing October

Algeria is still one of the least-visited countries in the world, but access to its ruinous Classical cities is now easier than it has been for some years. The sites are a palimpsest of Numidian, Roman and Byzantine remains, and include probably the best-preserved colonia anywhere in the Empire – Tipsgad.

Tour Highlights

- Wander the perfectly preserved streets at the UNESCO-listed sites of Roman Djémila and Timgad
- In Sétif, gaze upon one of the most exquisite mosaics in all the Roman world – the fantastic 'Triumph of Dionysus'
- Explore the Roman 'City of Bridges' – Constantine – and visit the evocative ruins of Hippo Regius



Day One | Algiers

Meet the group in Algiers. This evening we'll have our first dinner together as a group.

Day Two | Cherchell & Tipasa

We spend the whole of today along Mediterranean west of Algiers. Driving west we reach **Cherchell**, Phoenician Iol and Roman Caesarea, which was once the capital of the Numidian client King Juba II and his wife Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra. Our afternoon is spent at the Roman city of **Tipasa**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site overlooking the sea, with impressive remains both of the high Roman Empire, and of the early Christian period. We also stop at the huge cylindrical tomb, variously called the 'Royal Mausoleum of Mauretania' or the 'Tomb of the Christian Woman'.

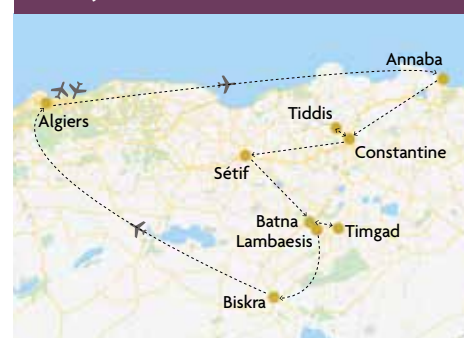
Day Three | Algiers - Annaba

This morning we have time to visit the **Bardo Museum**, housed in a neo-Moorish Villa and the **Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts**, before transferring to the airport for our flight to Annaba. We arrive in Annaba in time for a late lunch and an afternoon visit to **Hippo Regius**. The great North African churchman later known as St. Augustine ended his days here in AD430, and we visit the remains of this once splendid city a mile to the

"It was an excellent tour all round. Everything ran very smoothly thanks to our fantastic tour manager Yamina. Tony and the local guides were excellent. The sites were amazing - and a real privilege to visit."

Guest, October 2023

Activity Level ●●●○○



south of modern Annaba. It was once a port, situated on an inlet which has since silted over, leaving the ruins isolated and complete, and now dominated by the basilica of St Augustine which was built on a nearby hill during the 19th century. We visit the basilica as well as the site.

Day Four | Annaba - Constantine

We depart early this morning to visit the theatre and museum at **Guelma**. The Numidian Jugurtha won an important battle against the Romans here. We continue south to **Khemissa**, this relatively little-known or visited site was certainly a significant Numidian settlement from at least the second century AD. This huge ancient city is set in glorious surroundings, and among the ruins we find an old forum built on an artificial terrace on the north slope of the hill with shops and adjoining temples, as well as a Basilica dating probably to the second century AD. We then head west to Constantine, making one final stop to see the tomb of **Massinissa** and the site at **El Khroub**.

Day Five | Constantine & Tiddis

Our morning is spent at the beautifully situated ruined city of **Tiddis**, an authentic Berber site modified by Roman civilization. The site has been occupied at least since the Neolithic period and several circular 'bazina' burial monuments from



the pre-Roman Numidian period are visible at the site. We return to **Constantine** for lunch and later explore this extraordinary city, dramatically situated on a plateau by a deep ravine. Here we'll see its museum, kasbah, suspension bridge and the **Palace of Ahmed Bey**, one of the finest Ottoman-era buildings in the country.

Day Six | Constantine - Setif

We journey west to the site of **Djémila** situated on a narrow triangular plateau, 900m above sea level and described as 'one of the most perfect expressions of the meeting of Roman power and African beauty'. The town here is thought to have been founded by either Emperor Nerva or Trajan between AD 96 – 117 initially as a military garrison. Despite the challenging topography of the undulating landscape, its builders tried to conform, largely unsuccessfully, to Roman grid planning standards. It is partly owing to the consequent interesting layout and linear urban expansion and its good state of preservation that the site was granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 1982. In the afternoon we drive to Setif and end the day at the **Setif Archaeological Museum**, home to some unusual artefacts, but also some exceptional Roman mosaics including the 'Triumph of Dionysus'.

Day Seven | Setif - Batna/Timgad

An early start this morning as we make the long journey south to **Timgad**, the Roman city founded in AD 100 by Emperor Trajan, principally as a colony for veterans of the Legio III Augusta. This huge site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1982 and is famed for its formal orthogonal grid layout of the original town plan, measuring some 355m on each side, and for the good preservation of some of its monuments. Still visible is a rare example of a Roman Library and no less than eight bath complexes scatter the site.

Day Eight | Batna - Biskra

Continuing south, our first stop today is at **Lambaesis**. This was the main military base of the Third Legion Augusta. The Legion may have numbered up to 25,000 men, recruited initially from Gaul, but later also from other Roman provinces and North Africa. The site is now rather forlorn,

but parts of it, such as the amphitheatre and the four-sided arch in the military camp, are still quite substantial and worthy of some exploration. From here we drive through the spectacular scenery of the Aurès Mountains to the **Biskra** province which lies on the northern edge of the Sahara. We will stop on the way in the area of the gorges of Tighanimine and the breathtaking canyon of Rhouffi and we will visit the **Balconies of Ghoufi** where the cliffs cascade in naturally formed balconies and were used centuries ago to carve out cave dwellings from the sandstone.

Day Nine | Biskra - Algiers

We enjoy a relaxing morning visiting the Oasis of **Biskra** and the Palmerie at Tolga. For centuries, inhabitants of the Ziban mountain range have carefully planted and pollinated their precious date palms here – the local adage being 'give to the date palm and she will return the favour'. There are more than 100 cultivars of dates produced from four million trees in Biskra, ensuring agriculture remains the lifeblood of the region's economy. After lunch at the Palmerie, we transfer to Biskra airport for our flight to Algiers, arriving in time for dinner.

Day Ten | Algiers

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

Please note that due to the unpredictable nature of local arrangements, some elements of our itinerary may be subject to change. In these circumstances, we will ensure that the integrity of our archaeological programme is not compromised but a certain degree of flexibility is required when travelling in this challenging but stunningly beautiful country.



Guided by Farès K Moussa

Join Farès on our 13th October departure.



Guided by Tony O'Connor

Join Tony on our 27th October departure.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Lamarz Arts Hotel, Sheraton Annaba Hotel, Protea Hotel by Marriott Constantine, Novotel Setif, Hotel Messouadi - Batna, Hotel Nail Zakaria - Biskra or similar

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
13th Oct - 22nd Oct	\$6,645	\$975
Save \$490pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024		
27th Oct - 5th Nov	\$6,645	\$975

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/aalg

Launch Offer
Save \$350pp
on this
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Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio

8 DAYS

From \$4,685pp

Departing May & October

On this tour, we explore the historical wonders of Umbria and Lazio, in what is geographically and historically the heart of Italy. Based in one hotel, in the beautiful city of Viterbo, we explore famous sites, as well as those that are lesser-known and considered off the beaten track. In this epicentre of Italy, we will explore the different peoples who lived here and how they were transformed first by Etruscans and later by Romans who dominated them culturally. We will be exploring Latin and Faliscan sites, such as Sutri and Falerii Novi, which first came under the influence of Etruscans and were later transformed by Rome. Likewise, we will be exploring Etruscan sites at Vulci and Volsinii, today's Orvieto, which metamorphosed in the period of Roman dominance. At many of the sites, we will also be exploring the evolution of the cities after the Roman period, when ancient monuments were used to build medieval abbeys and churches. By mapping the historical changes which occurred in these precious archaeological sites, we are exploring the heart of what it was to be Roman or Etruscan. In asking these questions, our visits will take us to indescribably beautiful hilltop cities, such as Orvieto and Narni, with their medieval cores and Renaissance treasures.

Tour Highlights

- Explore the well-preserved site of Vulci, with its Etruscan tombs, Roman monuments and medieval abbey
- Examine Sutri with its amphitheatre, unique mithraeum and medieval Templar church, built amidst the ruins of the ancient city
- Consider the important Etruscan remains in the beautiful city of Orvieto with its precious medieval cathedral
- Visit the important National Etruscan Archaeological Museum and the Palace of Popes in the amazing city of Viterbo



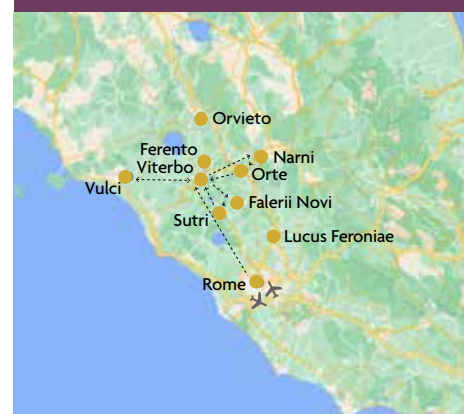
Day One | Viterbo

We meet in the lovely city of **Viterbo**, once Etruscan and transformed in the medieval period when it became the resident of popes. Time permitting, we will have an orientation walk around the city when we arrive.

Day Two | Viterbo

Today we spend the day in Viterbo, the city with Etruscan origins which became home of the popes in the 13th century when they were fleeing the hostility of the Roman populace. We start at the **National Etruscan Museum**, which is housed in the Rocca Alborno, where we see precious remains of Etruscan housing and a well-preserved cart. We proceed to the medieval **Palace of the Popes**, including the atmospheric audience hall, which held

Activity Level ●●●○○



the longest conclave in history, and the beautiful loggia of the benedictions. We end the day with a visit to the 12th century **Cathedral of Saint Laurence**, whose Romanesque character is retained in its cosmatesque floors and austere nave.

Day Three | Vulci

We set off this morning to visit the famous Etruscan city of **Vulci**, once a known leading member of the Etruscan league. We start with the **archaeological park**, which contains a wonderful Mithraeum, as well as a domus with a stunning cryptoporticus, and a good forum area. We continue to the atmospheric Etruscan tombs, which date from the 7th century onwards and include the famous Francois tomb. In the afternoon, we consider the so-called bridge of the devil, an intact 20-metre-tall Roman bridge, which leads us to the Abbey Castle, built on the site of Vulci, reusing its materials. Once a Cistercian abbey which offered accommodation to pilgrims including Knights Templar, it is today a **museum** which houses important remains from Vulci, which highlight the prosperity of the ancient city.



Day Four | Falerii Novi & Sutri

This morning we explore the site of **Falerii Novi**, so named because Rome forced the original inhabitants of this Faliscan city to move to the current site as it was more accessible and controllable. Here we see the gloriously well-preserved city walls, including the wonderful Jove Gate, which is one of the earliest arches in the regions. Here we see the remains of a theatre, houses and a temple, as well as an 11th century Benedictine abbey church, built on the site, reusing ancient materials. After lunch, we proceed to the superb archaeological site of **Sutri**, where we can see an amphitheatre cut out of the tuff rock, as well as a cavernous mithraeum which was Christianised in the 4th century AD and restructured in the 13th century into the Church of Santa Maria del Parto. On the site of Sutri, we also visit the 13th century Church of Santa Maria del Tempio, which once belonged to the Knights Templar, and which preserves frescoes from different periods.

Day Five | Narni & Orte

Today we visit two picturesque towns to explore underground excavations which offer precious glimpses into the cities' past. We start with the pretty Umbrian hill-side town of Narni, first settled by the ancient Umbri. Here we start with a visit to the **Church of Saint Francis**, built shortly after



his death in commemoration of the time he spent in Narni; the Romanesque church is noted for its rich cycle of 14th century frescoes. We proceed to explore a series of buildings only recently discovered under the ground, including a 12th church replete with frescoes, a Roman domus and parts of the Roman aqueduct. After lunch, we travel to the small town of **Orte in Lazio** to see further subterranean excavations that allow us to understand the water management systems of the ancient city from the 5th century to its Roman conquest.

Day Six | Lucus Feroniae & Ferento

The tour takes us this morning to **Lucus Feroniae**, a city which developed around a lucus, or sacred grove, dedicated to the goddess Feronia who was worshipped, above all, by freedmen. Although it was an ancient religious sanctuary important to Faliscans and Sabines, as well, perhaps, to Etruscans, the site that we visit today was developed in the Roman period, bearing all the hallmarks of a Roman city. Here we visit a forum area, an amphitheatre and an insulae of houses. After visiting the **antiquarium**, which has interesting remains of a funerary monument depicting gladiators, we walk a very short distance to the **Villa of the Volusii**, an incredibly opulent late republican elite dwelling constructed for an elite Roman family as a getaway from the city. Several rooms of the villa have been excavated, some of which have intact mosaics. After lunch, we make our way to the archaeological site of **Ferento**, which flourished in the early imperial period and was the home of both the Emperor Otho and the wife of Vespasian, Domitilla Flavia Maior. Here we will see the remains of a fine theatre, as well as a bath complex and forum area.

Day Seven | Orvieto

On our last full day, we will explore the world-renowned city of **Orvieto**, ancient Volsinii, whose Etruscan roots are evident in its wonderful musea, as well as its important sites. We start with a visit to one of the few surviving Etruscan temples and continue to the **Museo Claudio Faina**, which houses important artefacts from the Necropolis of Crocifisso del Tufo, as well as characteristic Etruscan sarcophagi and important Greek red and black

figure vessels, which were so prized by Etruscans. After an independent lunch, we have the choice of either visiting the extraordinary cathedral of Orvieto, made famous by the Signorelli frescoes in the San Brizio chapel, or visiting the adjacent National Archaeological Museum. We end the day with a visit to the spectacular **Necropolis of Crocifisso del Tufo**, which hosts Etruscan tombs that mainly date from the 6th-5th centuries BC and are arranged in orthogonal streets. Inscriptions above the lintels of some of the burials give the names of the deceased, a detail which brings these ancient Etruscans closer to us.

Day Eight | Viterbo - Rome

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



Guided by Dr Eireann Marshall

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

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Viterbo

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
20th - 27th May	\$4,685	\$495
21st - 28th Oct	\$4,685	\$495

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/auml

Launch Offer
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Prehistoric Malta & Gozo

Malta's first inhabitants

7 DAYS

From \$5,615pp

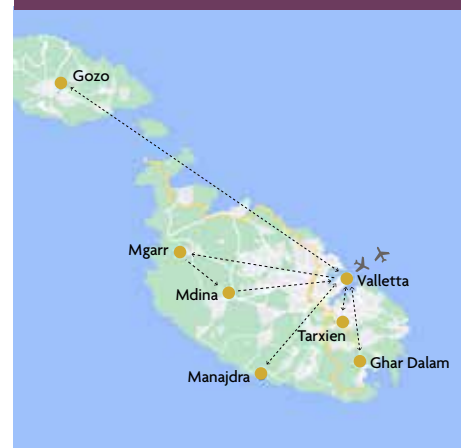
Departing November

The island of Malta might be small but it certainly packs a big punch in historical terms. In the struggle for dominion of the Mediterranean it has played a key role in centuries of sparring between the east and west. Enduring occupation from the Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Normans, Sicilians, Hospitallers, French, and British, it has a colourful and complex heritage. Our focus, however, is on its earliest and most extraordinary occupation when some 5,000 years ago this tiny archipelago was home to an astonishing culture, that created elaborate stone temples and rock-cut tombs. A thousand years before the Great Pyramid at Giza was erected, people on the tiny island of Malta were moving stones that weighed up to 50 tonnes to make huge temples. Among the oldest ritual structures in the world, the number of them is astounding and in their complexity must have required considerable planning and organisation. Join us as we explore some of the island's most extraordinary archaeology of a sophistication, character and quantity unparalleled elsewhere.

Tour Highlights

- Discover the extraordinary prehistoric culture, whose stone monuments predate the pyramids by over 1,000 years
- Explore the cave and associated museum at Ghar Dalam Cave, the lowest layers of which are over 500,000 years old
- Enjoy the timeless atmosphere of Valletta, Malta's charming UNESCO World Heritage capital city

Activity Level ●●●○○



Day One | Valletta

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

Day Two | Mgarr & Mdina

Beginning in the town of Mgarr, we visit the two conjoined temples of **Ta' Hagrat** and **Mgarr** built during the 4th millennium BC. We continue to the village site of **Skorba**, which has made a significant contribution to our understanding of early Maltese prehistory providing a stratigraphy from c5000 to 1500BC. We spend the afternoon in **Mdina** – The Silent City – which served as the island capital from antiquity through to the Medieval period and end the day seeing some of the renowned '**cart ruts**' in the hillside at Buskett – features that occur on both Malta and Gozo and are comprised of parallel grooves which have been worn into the bedrock, sometimes for long distances.

Day Three | Valletta

A day spent exploring **Valletta** on foot. Founded by the Knights Hospitallers following the Great Siege of 1565, this UNESCO World Heritage Site





occupies a commanding position over two harbours. We begin with the exceptional array of artefacts from Malta's unique prehistoric periods in the **Archaeological Museum**, from man's first arrival on the island up to the end of the Bronze Age. We also visit **St. John's Co-Cathedral** and the **Grand Master's Palace** with façades of some of the many Auberges of the Knights.

Day Four | Haġar-Qim, Mnajdra & Tarxien

Today we visit the magnificent temple sites at **Haġar-Qim** and **Mnajdra**, megalithic structures which sit clustered close together at the top of a promontory with superb views over the sea. The internal arrangement of Haġar Qim is highly complex involving what are probably many building and reconstruction phases and the lower temple at Mnajdra is astronomically aligned. Their use of as religious or ceremonial places have been determined through the on-site discoveries of animal bones, sacrificial flint, knives and rope holes, possibly used to hold sacrificial animals. In the afternoon, access permitting, we explore the **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and funerary complex, a vast subterranean complex, outstandingly presented. It seems that the monument was in use for most of the

4th millennium BC. Nearby, we will visit **Tarxien** megalithic site, one of the most elaborate of all the Megalithic temples on the island which has undergone extensive excavation and restoration.

Day Five | Ghar Dalam & Xemxija Heritage Trail

This morning we visit **Ghar Dalam**, the oldest of Malta's monuments. This water worn tunnel is approximately 15.5m above sea level and 45m deep, and is accessible for about 80m on foot. Here, large quantities of Pleistocene faunal remains (including dwarf hippos and elephants) were found, together with evidence for earliest known human activity on the island. In the afternoon we will explore **Xemxija** where we will walk along the heritage trail and seek out some of the rock-cut tombs dotted around the hillside. Here we will also see the Romano-Punic apiaries built into a natural cave recess. The honeycombs would have hung in vertical panels in their small chambers within easy reach of the bee keepers.

Day Six | Gozo

We take the short crossing by ferry to **Gozo**, associated by locals with Homer as the island home of Calypso, Odysseus' temptress and captor.

The pace of life is slower here and the landscape greener. We spend all day on the island where we see **Ggantija**, a prehistoric megalithic complex of exceptional grandeur; the **Xaghra Stone Circle**, a significant funerary complex; and the ruins **Santa Verna**, a megalithic site left to the ravages of time. We will also visit the town of Victoria and the **Archaeology Museum**, which provides a small but important window onto the earliest cultures of Gozo up to the arrival of the Knights of St. John.

Day Seven | Valletta - London

We transfer to the airport for our flight home.



Guided by Dr Jeremy Bennett

A British archaeologist, Jeremy was awarded his PhD at Magdalene College, Cambridge. His research focuses on the development of agrarian landscapes of Malta and Gozo.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Valletta

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	Sgl Supp.
4th – 10th Nov	\$5,615	\$1,080

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/amal



Images top to bottom: Xaghra & Tarxien

Launch Offer
Save \$350pp
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Tunisia - North & South

Carthage to the edge of the Sahara

15 DAYS

From \$6,190pp

Departing November

Tunisia has some of the best preserved Roman cities in the world and many retain the romance of ruins in the countryside unspoiled by mass tourism. Starting with Carthage, we travel south through ruined towns of the high Roman Empire before continuing to the landscapes of the salt chotts, palm oases and dunes of the south.

Tour Highlights

- Explore Tunisia's historical sites from Carthage and Rome to fortified Berber villages
- Traverse the vivid white landscape of the chotts, its salt structures shaped by the desert wind
- View the mosques and medinas of Kairouan's rich architectural and historical heritage
- Discover a treasure trove of Roman mosaics remarkable for the intricate beauty of their design

Day One | Tunis

Meet the group at our hotel in Tunis.

Day Two | Carthage

Today we explore what remains of that once great Phoenician city, Carthage. We start at the **Byrsa Hill** site, where Dido is said to have first founded her city, and we continue to the site of the Tophet, where the cremated remains of thousands of children were found. Later we visit the **Cothon**, the Punic harbour and the impressive **Antonine Baths**, ending our day at the amphitheatre.

Day Three | Oudna & Thuburbo Majus

Travelling south, we stop en route to examine a section of the longest aqueducts built in the Roman Empire. A short drive takes us **Oudna**, where we explore the remains of its substantial public buildings, before continuing to **Thuburbo Majus**, originally a Numidian settlement in the midst of rich farming country.

Day Four | Tunis - Dougga - Teboursouk

We journey to **Dougga** via **Testour**, a small town characterised by its unique blend of Spanish and local influences. Later, we visit the magnificent site of Dougga, perched high on the hill above olive groves. One of the oldest towns in Tunisia, Dougga

began life as a Numidian walled citadel and was built over by the Romans.

Day Five | Teboursouk - Musti - Kairouan

This morning we visit the ancient site of **Musti**. Once a town of some importance, the site has been neglected and is still largely unexcavated. We continue north to **Bulla Regia** to explore its superbly preserved, subterranean Roman houses. After our visit here we start the long journey south to Kairouan.

Day Six | Kairouan

We spend the day in **Kairouan**, the fourth holiest city of Islam. We visit the Aghlabid pools, reservoirs built on the outskirts of the city in the 9th century, the **Barber Mosque** and also the Great Mosque – one of the major monuments of Islam and an architectural masterpiece. In the afternoon we explore the **Medina** with its network of winding streets, shops and courtyard houses.

Day Seven | Kairouan - Tozeur

We depart early this morning for our long drive south to Tozeur. We will stop en route to see the extraordinary wall at **Bir Oum Ali**. Reaching **Tozeur** around lunchtime, we will take a walk through the old town in the afternoon.

Activity Level ●●●○○



Day Eight | Tozeur

A day to relax or explore. Walk among the date palms, visit the rock formation of Ong Jemal where *Star Wars* was filmed or choose to visit the oases of Chebika and Tamerza (pre-bookable, payable locally).

Day Nine | Tozeur - Douz

Today we cross the vast salt flats known as the chotts. A layer of superficial water can occasionally be seen during winter, but for most of the year the area is desiccated by the sun, leaving a residual film of salt. After lunch we visit **Tamezret**, a traditional village of the indigenous Amazigh people.

Day Ten | Douz & Matmata

During our last day on the fringes of the Sahara, we explore some of the unusual architecture of the region. We visit one of the troglodyte houses, which are scattered in and around **Matmata**, and we will also see a ksar, a form of fortified village, which is common in southern Tunisia.



Day Eleven | Douz - El Djem - Kairouan

It's an early departure this morning for our long return journey to the north. We will break our journey with a visit to **El Djem**, where we explore the massive amphitheatre – the sixth largest in the world. Afterwards we visit the museum, which houses some of the most impressive mosaics in Tunisia, and outside in the museum gardens, the foundations of some large Roman townhouses – some with mosaics still in situ.

Day Twelve | Kairouan - Sousse - Hammamet

A rather more leisurely start awaits us this morning, with time to relax before we visit Sousse and its museum, housed in part of the Kasbah. The displays here include an exceptionally fine series of mosaics. Many are arranged on the floors and walls of the patio, and in a group of rooms beyond the garden. We continue to the coast and our hotel near Hammamet.

Day Thirteen | Kerkouane & Nabeul

Today we travel along the beautiful coastline of the Cap Bon peninsula to **Kerkouane**, considered to be the best preserved Punic town in Africa. After lunch we continue to Nabeul to see its small museum before visiting the site of ancient Neapolis, a city founded by Greek immigrants in the 5th century BC.

Day Fourteen | Tunis

This morning we visit the world-famous **Bardo Museum**, which ranks alongside the Egyptian Museum in Cairo as one of the two great museums in North Africa. In the afternoon we will take a walk through the narrow streets of the 9th century medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site, before returning to our hotel in Hammamet for some free time.

Day Fifteen | Hammamet - Tunis

We transfer to Tunis airport and make our independent onward journeys.



Guided by Farès K Moussa

Specialising in religious art and artistic practice, Farès has both written and researched on Romans and Phoenicians in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sardinia, as well as on the subject of prehistoric rock art.

Price includes

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Hotel Dar Said, Hotel Thugga, Hotel Kasbah, Hotel Dar Horchani, a hotel in Douz & Hotel Sindbad or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunch & 14 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	Sgl Supp.
18th Nov - 2nd Dec	\$6,190	\$835

Save \$350pp on this departure if you book by 30th April 2024

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/anst





Late Availability tours to vacation in 2024

TOUR NAME	DEPARTS
Romans on the Bay of Naples	13 May
Archaeology in the Heart of Italy	20 May
Rock Art of Portugal & Spain	20 May
Archaeology and Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast	22 May
Anne Boleyn & the break with Rome	23 May
The Cyclades	23 May
Rimini to Rome	24 May
Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania	27 May
Latium Countryside	27 May
Armenia & Georgia	06 June
Romans & Gauls	11 June
Rock Art of Altamira	15 June
East Anglia Wildlife & Archaeology	17 June
Colchester - Capital of Britannia	21 June
North East Turkey	07 July
Highlights of Shetland	12 July
Walking Hadrian's Wall	15 July
The Wealth & Wonders of the Hanseatic Cities	24 July
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