

Worldwide Archaeology Tours Collection 2026

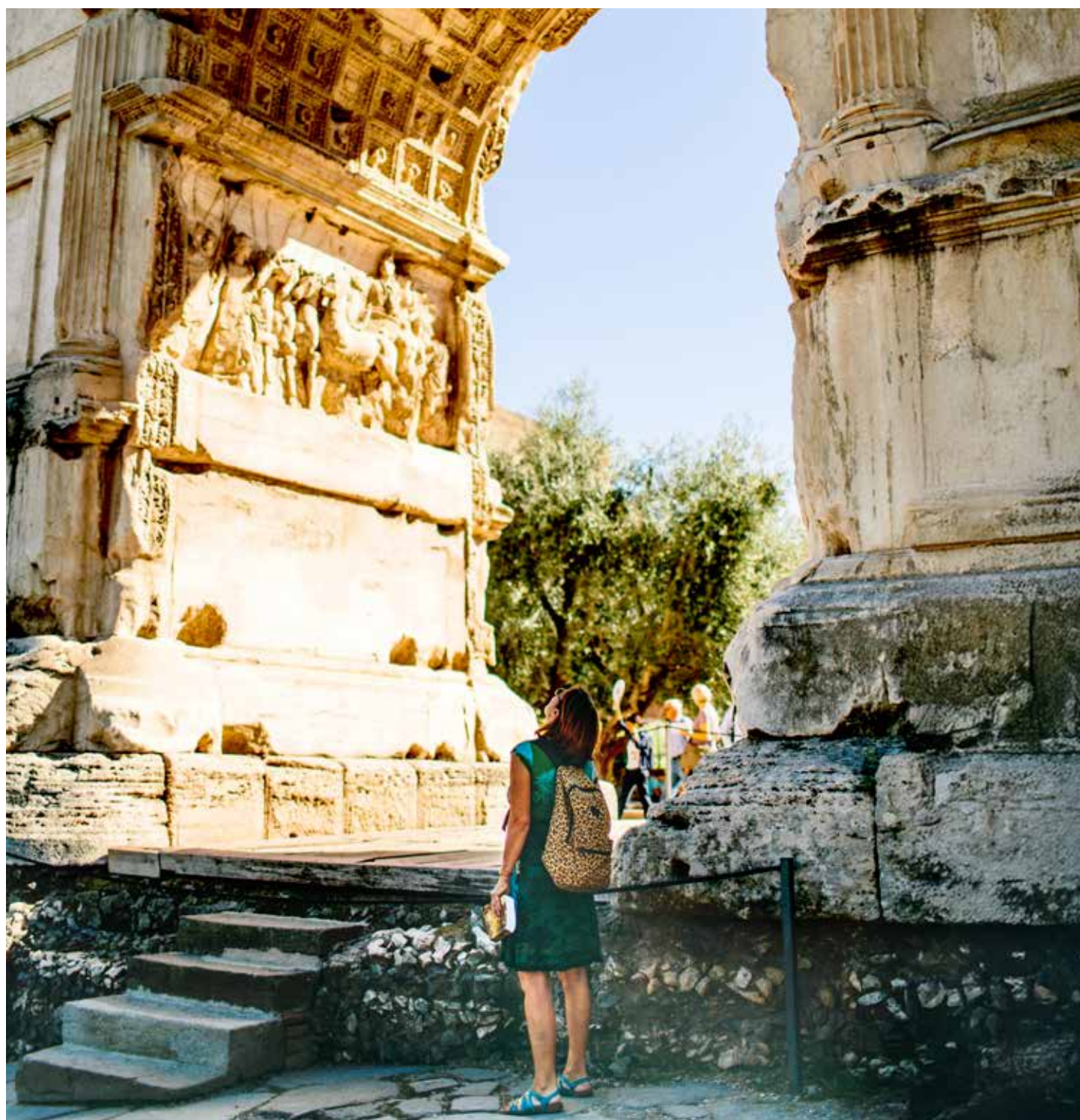
Discover Archaeology, History and Ancient Civilisations

**SAVE UP TO 15% ON
2026 TOURS**

**SELECTED 2026 TOURS
AT 2025 PRICES**

**SAVE UP TO \$3,410pp ON
SELECTED 2025 TOURS**

25 new tours | Small groups | Guided by experts | \$0 single supplement places



TRAVEL FOR LESS WITH OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

BOOK NOW AND SAVE 15% ON 2026 TOURS

Enjoy 5% discount per person when you book with a deposit, and for those paying your full balance at time of booking save an additional 10% when you book before 31st May 2025.

SAVE UP TO \$3,410pp ON SELECTED 2025 TOURS

Enjoy spectacular savings across many of our 2025 tours. Visit our website to discover our biggest savings on a hand-picked selection of 2025 tours with savings from \$140pp up to \$3,410pp!

Terms & Conditions: SAVE 15% OFFER ON 2026 TOURS - The 5% discount is applicable when paying your deposit, with a further 10% discount applicable when you pay your balance in full at time of booking. Valid on new bookings only until 31/05/2025. This discount cannot be combined with any other offers. We reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time and is not valid for bookings on private groups and partnership bookings.

SAVE UP TO \$3,410pp ON SELECTED 2025 TOURS - We reserve the right to adjust any price reductions at any time, so we encourage you to book as soon as possible to take advantage of any departures that have had their tour price reduced. Valid for new bookings only and on a limited number of places on each tour departure between May and December 2025. Any tour with a price reduction cannot be combined with any other offer except for if a tour has any \$0 single supplement places available. The price reduction of \$3,410pp applies to our Egypt Encompassed tour departing 27th September 2025.

Welcome to Andante Travels' 2026 Tours Collection

'When Lord Carnarvon, unable to stand the suspense any longer, inquired anxiously, 'Can you see anything?', it was all I could do to get out the words 'yes, wonderful things.' Of course, these are the famous words of Howard Carter, uttered at the astonishing discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, yet it is an apt description for any of Andante's treasure-filled tours.

So you can embark on your own journey of exploration, we are pleased to present our latest brochure, packed with returning favourites and brand-new captivating tours across Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas in 2026.

As the first specialist UK operator to go beyond the surface of archaeological travel, you can expect a truly unique, pioneering and informative experience that digs deeper into bygone eras and uncovers some of the world's most awe-inspiring sites. We take you to the very best of your chosen destination, all in the company of like-minded travellers, a friendly Tour Manager, a knowledgeable Guide Lecturer and, on certain tours, a local guide too. Planned for just 18 participants, these small groups mean you will receive a highly personalised service and in-depth explorations of iconic wonders and lesser-known gems as well as a sense of shared companionship.

Looking ahead to 2026, there are no less than 25 new tours to consider. Classical Greece is for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the ancient Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules, while art enthusiasts will be delighted by both the masterpieces of Amsterdam, Haarlem & The Hague and the staggering rock art of Namibia. Elsewhere, trace the history of Italy's mighty Po River, whose banks have witnessed the rise and fall of many civilisations, follow in Viking footsteps on an epic voyage through Germany, Denmark and Sweden, or discover the prehistoric sites of Ireland: there is certainly plenty of choice.

As always, our prices include everything, from the essentials to site donations, tips to drivers, local guides and hospitality staff plus most, if not all, meals as standard – with wine often included too. With everything taken care of for you, you can simply relax and make the most out of your holiday.

Whichever tour you choose, you can be assured of a memorable time away with one-of-a-kind discoveries to treasure. In the meantime, we're here for whatever you need – personal advice, ideas, insights, extra arrangements and more.

We do hope you can join us to discover stunning landscapes, exquisite architecture, prehistoric sites and shimmering mosaics, amongst many other 'wonderful things' next year.



Jackie Willis
CEO



An important milestone...

We are thrilled to celebrate our 40th anniversary, marking four decades of innovation, dedication, and growth.

Founded in 1985, Andante Travels started as a small group with a big vision. Over the years, we have expanded our horizons to deliver exceptional tours to our valued customers and create immersive experiences that uncover the rich tapestry of the ancient world. Today we are proud to be one of the foremost providers of archaeological tours.

Trust Andante Travels to deliver exceptional tours backed up by our expertise and experience.

Get in touch with an expert

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

855 496 4240
andantetravels.com

PRICES SET IN STONE

2026 tours at 2025 prices!

Book before 31st May 2025 to guarantee 2025 prices on selected 2026 tours

Secure your place early for the best availability and these fantastic prices! Trust Andante Travels to deliver exceptional tours backed up by our expertise and experience.

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Expert-led archaeological tours beyond the tourist trail delivered by experts. Because experience matters.

Unearth history's treasures with Andante Travels, the pioneering British specialist on in-depth archaeological travels. Venturing beyond mere cultural excursions, we craft extraordinary journeys, granting you access to the world's most significant historical sites. With 24-hour support from our dedicated team and meticulously planned itineraries, rely on Andante Travels for an unparalleled odyssey into antiquity.



“Spectacular. It was 12 out of 10. Fantastic hotels, extensive, immersive coverage of sites and museums, Knowledgeable Egyptologist and Tour Guide. Did not want to come home. Loved it. Great value for money”


Susan German - Feb 2025




Why choose Andante Travels?


BECAUSE EXPERTISE TRANSFORMS TRAVEL

Small groups with big insight - Travel in a group of no more than 18, giving you deeper access to sites, stories, and experts 


Experience matters - with over 40 years of curating and innovating truly exceptional tours, you can be certain your experience will be something extraordinary 


We uncover history, layer by layer - we make sure you're not rushed and have plenty of time at each site 

Led by Experts - guided by archaeologists, Egyptologists and historians, all specialists in their field 

Tour Managers accompany most tours - allowing our Guide Lecturers to concentrate on what matters most... delivering extraordinary, expert-led discovery 

Because experience matters, every itinerary tells a story - our tours are carefully curated to follow a archaeological theme, designed by experts to bring deeper meaning and context to every site you visit 

Expert travel with exceptional value - all local transport, meals, and gratuities are taken care of - even wine with dinner on most tours. Because experience should feel effortless 

Because experience matters, and so do you - we never treat you like a number. No name badges, no umbrellas in the air - just genuine connection and intelligent conversation 

Expert service - our team are on hand to support, before, during and after your tour 



TRAVEL WITH AWARD-WINNING EXPERTS!

We're proud to have been awarded the Feefo Trusted Service Award for the second year in a row, a recognition based entirely on genuine feedback from our travellers. This award reflects our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional service - from your very first enquiry to the moment you return home. Whether you're booking a tour, speaking to our travel experts or seeking answers from our Guide Lecturers during your tour, you can trust that you're in expert, caring hands every step of the way.

ACTIVITY LEVEL RATINGS EXPLAINED

We have designed a grading system to help you understand how strenuous or relaxed your tour is likely to be. The levels are determined by components that make up a tour, such as distance and terrain walked, the driving distances covered and each day's length – from the moment you leave the hotel to your return.

Level 1 - Gentle ●○○○○

A tour that is determined as gentle will have a relaxed pace, with little walking and less exertion where travel and day length are concerned.

Level 2 - Light ●●○○○

On light tours, anticipate mild walking with a mostly relaxed pace. There will be more visits and travelling than on our gentle tours, but not by much.

Level 3 - Moderate ●●●○○

A decent level of fitness is required for our moderate tours. There could be walking between sites, more standing and more travelling to encounter.

Level 4 - Active ●●●●○

If you choose an active tour, come prepared for longer days – and ones that fit more in. More walking, bigger distances covered and more energy!

Level 5 - Challenging ●●●●●

For challenging tours, you'll need to be physically fit. Days could include long drives, hikes and multiple visits, meaning they'll be lengthy and tiring.

Look out for this panel on all our tour pages

Activity Level ○○○○○

Travelling solo? Connect with like-minded explorers.

Travel takes us out of our comfort zones and inspires us to see, taste and try new things. It constantly challenges us, not only to adapt to and explore new surroundings, but also to engage with different people, to embrace adventures as they come and to share new and meaningful experiences. It can be daunting when travelling alone but with Andante Travels, you are never alone unless you choose to be.

“I have travelled with Andante as a solo traveller for many years as it's really good for solo travellers. I have always found other guests pleasant and interesting to talk to”

Rhonda Wootten



Independent minds, shared histories.



A COMPANIONABLE EXPERIENCE

Our tours are inclusive, informal and fun and Andante Travels guests are some of the most interesting people you could care to meet. Travelling in a party of people who share your interests is an enriching experience. Friendships are quickly formed - and some last for decades with guests meeting up long after their tour has returned and arranging to travel together on future adventures.

As part of an Andante Travels escorted tour, you will have the reassurance that our tour staff are very much part of the group. Unlike some guides who only engage when leading and make themselves scarce as soon as the opportunity arises, Andante Travels staff are with you every step of the way, sharing the same experiences, enjoying the same meals (or often the same tipple at the bar) and laughing at the same absurdities that can happen on tour (a tortoise holding up the bus springs to mind!). Meal times are therefore never solitary, evenings are never dull and our tours are delightfully companionable. Regardless of whether you are travelling with friends, with a partner or solo, rest assured you'll be at the heart of it all with Andante Travels.

YOUR TOUR AND YOUR EXPERIENCE

We may travel as a group but we always respect the individual. There is no badge-wearing, roll-calling, umbrella-waving or whistle-blowing on Andante Travels tours. And, wherever possible, we build time into our site visits to allow our guests the freedom to explore and make discoveries of their own. So, if you want to spend some time sketching, writing, meditating on a mosaic or settling down for a chat and a coffee with new friends, we are the travel company for you. Choose to explore incredible sites in the company of our expert guides and you'll see that our tours are well suited to solo travellers.

EXPLORE ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS SOLO – \$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON SELECTED DEPARTURES

Over half of our guests travel solo and many of them tell us that single supplements across the travel industry, including ours, are sometimes too high. They feel disadvantaged for travelling alone. We listened, and we negotiated over 250 places on a selection of our tours in 2026 with \$0 single supplement.

What's more, we offer double rooms (for sole use) as standard for our solo travellers so you will never be stuck in a room with just a single bed in a distant corner of a hotel, and our Tour Managers are experts in supporting solo travellers on the road. This is all part of our commitment to become the very best special interest travel company for solo guests. Look out for the sticker on these tour pages

**\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE**

Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

Departing: multiple dates - page 16

Rome

Departing: multiple dates - page 20

Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

Departing: multiple dates - page 22

Ravenna

Departing: 12th March & 8th October - page 28

The Samnites

Departing: 29th April - page 36

Capri & Romans on the Bay of Naples

Departing: 11th May & 21st September - page 38

Prehistoric Italy

Departing: 30th May - page 40

Athens

Departing: 19th February & 20th November - page 50

Prehistoric Ireland

Departing: 25th July - page 74

Cave Art of the Dordogne

Departing: 28th April & 8th September - page 76

Chauvet & Cosquer

Departing: 7th April - page 79

Berlin - Beyond the Wall

Departing: 20th August & 3rd December - page 88

Albania, Macedonia & Northern Greece

Departing: 11th October - page 94

Bulgaria

Departing: 21st April & 22nd September - page 96

Serbia

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Uzbekistan

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Kazakhstan

Departing: 27th September - page 160

Richard III – Hero or Villain?

Departing: 24th March & 29th September - page 184

Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast

Departing: 20th May - page 185

Cruising the Seine

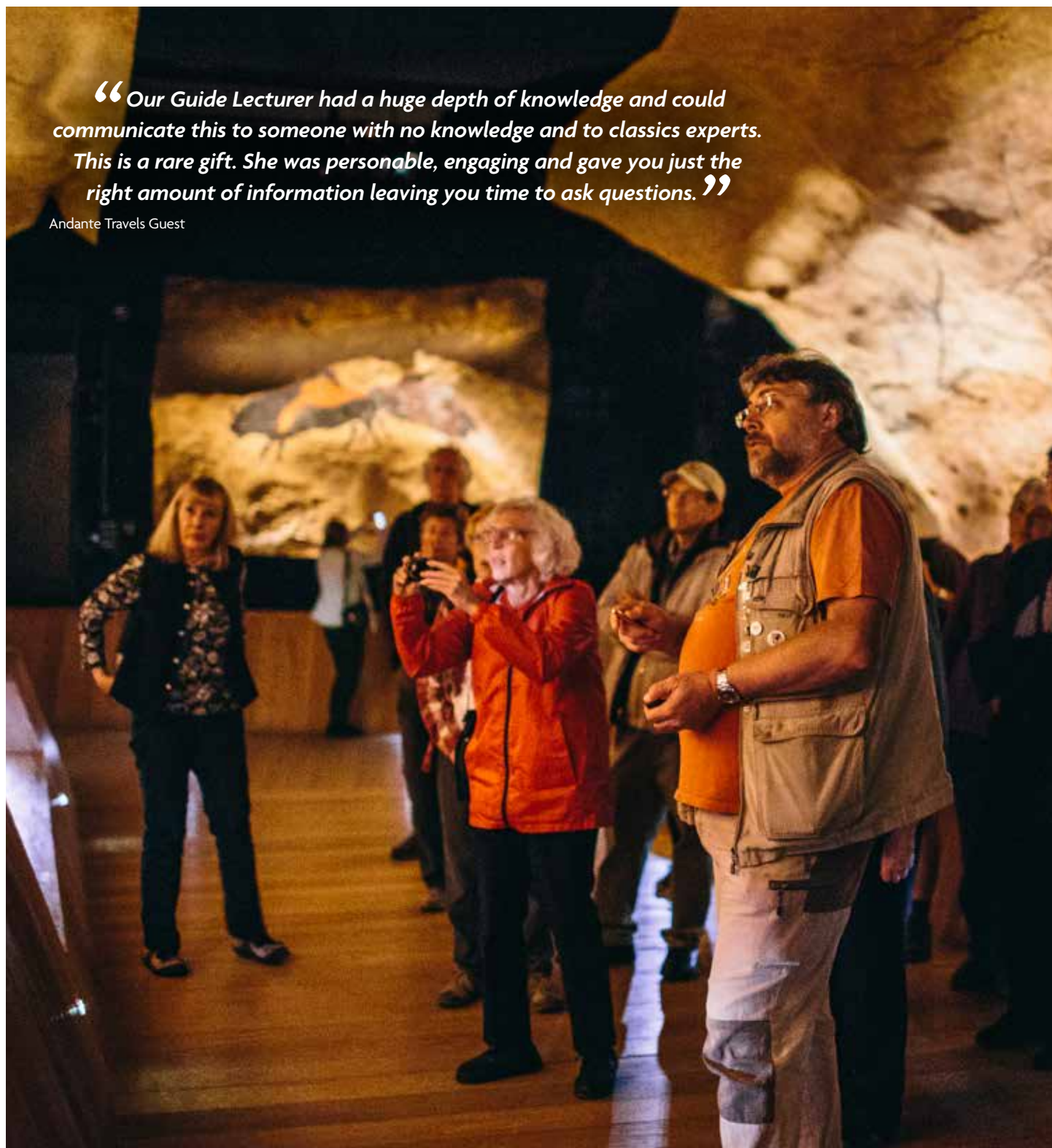
Departing: 30th March - page 195 - Book by 20th June 2025

Experience matters. Our Guides are all experienced experts in their field and pass on their knowledge from start to finish.

What makes an Andante Travels tour a cut above the rest? One of the main reasons is our expert Guide Lecturers. They are not just guest speakers who rely on local guides to point the way. Our outstanding team of engaging presenters will lead you through the sites you see, focusing on the detailed indicators of the past, explaining how things work and what a miracle of human ingenuity they represent. They are your travelling companion, part of the group, there at all times to join in the laughter and chat, as well as your on-hand expert to converse with and put those all-important questions to. Guests who travel with us frequently tell us that it is not only the high quality of guiding they receive but also the informality and ease of travelling with an Andante lecturer which keeps them coming back.

“Our Guide Lecturer had a huge depth of knowledge and could communicate this to someone with no knowledge and to classics experts. This is a rare gift. She was personable, engaging and gave you just the right amount of information leaving you time to ask questions.”

Andante Travels Guest



Oliver Gilkes



One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Join Oliver on our Rome tour pg 20, The Samnites pg 36 and our new tour, Albania, Macedonia and Northern Greece pg 94 as well as Serbia pg 106 and many more.

Lucia Gahlin



A specialist in the archaeology of ancient Egypt, Lucia has been leading tours to this country for over 20 years. You can join her on Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries pg 116, Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries pg 120 and Egypt Encompassed pg 122.

Dr Paul Bahn



Dr Paul Bahn is the leading expert on prehistoric rock art worldwide, and is certainly one of our best-known archaeologists. In 2026 you can join Paul on many of tours including Cave Art of the Dordogne on pg 76, our new Rock Art & Human Origins tour on pg 110 and Brazil - Rock Art & the Pantanal pg 164.

Dr Eireann Marshall



A previous Wanderlust World Guide Awards-winner, Eireann is set to lead many of our tours in 2026 including Archaeology in the Heart of Italy pg 32, our new Cities of the Po pg 42 and Etruscan Italy pg 44 and three of our new cruises, Cruising Istria & Islands of the Adriatic pg 192, Northern Adriatic Cruise pg 196 and Cruising Malta, Sicily & Campania pg 198.

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley



Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley is a lecturer at Cardiff University, where she teaches Greek art and archaeology. You can join her on many tours including new for 2026 tour, Ioannina, found on pg 56, Macedonia pg 58, Crete & Santorini pg 64 plus many more.

John Shepherd



Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist. Join John on our Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania tour on pg 16, Rome pg 20, Beyond Pompeii the Land of the Sibyl pg 24 and Cruising the Seine pg 194.

Terry Richardson



Terry has a background in Ancient History and Classical Civilisations, is the author of several Rough Guide publications and has also written about Turkey and Istanbul for *Wanderlust*, the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian*. Join him on our Byzantium & Ottoman Island tour pg 146 and Turkey: from Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe pg 148.

Tony O'Connor



A specialist in the Roman Empire and an archaeologist with extensive field experience, join Tony on our Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto tour pg 22, Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice pg 26 and Classical Sicily pg 30.

Luis A. Muro Ynoñán



Luis is a Peruvian anthropological archaeologist specialising in the archaeology and heritage of the Moche. He is currently Assistant Curator of the South American Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and a Lecturer in Archaeology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in Lima. Join Luis on our new for 2026 Peru tour on pg 172.

We include more, because experience has taught us what matters.

The price you pay for your Andante Travels tour offers excellent value for money. Most aspects of your tour are included, covering everything from entry to all sites mentioned in the itinerary to tips and treats. More often than not, wine is also included with dinner. Consequently, the only additional expenses you may need to budget for during your holiday are souvenirs and drinks at the bar. If you require assistance with official form-filling or advice on what to pack, our friendly team is always available to help from the office. While you are on holiday, our Tour Manager is there to assist you, whether it's a quick phone call or just a short distance away. With round-the-clock support from our operations team, we are ready to provide practical assistance at every stage of your tour.



THE ESSENTIALS TO THE EXTRAS ARE ALL INCLUDED

We make sure that we have included as much as possible in the cost of your holiday. From guides and entrance fees, tips for local staff, domestic flights where appropriate and, on most of our tours, all meals which often include wine with dinner. It's all covered so you can simply relax and enjoy your tour.



ACCOMMODATION IS CAREFULLY SELECTED AND WELL-LOCATED

All our accommodation is carefully chosen to help you get the most out of your tour. Location is key as we want to be close to the sites we visit and keep travelling between them to a minimum. Your accommodation costs are all included in the price of your holiday; however if you do fancy that extra bit of luxury, do contact us and we will be pleased to advise on room upgrades.



MAXIMUM TIME IS SPENT AT INCREDIBLE SITES

We know the destinations and sites we visit inside and out, which enables us to create the most in-depth, all-encompassing, and immersive tours possible for our guests. We know the best way to get you there, the most effective routes to travel around and how to make your time on site as memorable and worthwhile as it can be.



THE MAJORITY OF MEALS INCLUDED, OFTEN WITH WINE

We know how important a good meal is whilst you are enjoying your holiday, so we have made sure that the majority of your meals are included in the price. Dinner is often taken at a local restaurant and most evening meals include wine.



TOURS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE VERY BEST

Every tour with Andante Travels is accompanied by a Guide Lecturer and many also with a Tour Manager. Often you will be further joined by a local guide who adds an element of local flavour to the expertise from your Guide Lecturer. This means that you are never short of someone who will help you satisfy your curiosity.



NUMBERS ARE LIMITED FOR A PERSONALISED SERVICE

Most of our tours are limited to 18 guests, which means that you get the chance to get up close and personal to those things you've only ever read about or seen on TV or film.





New adventures in 2026 with Andante Travels

Even more unique experiences and exciting discoveries await in 2026, no matter your tastes and interests. As well as many returning favourites, we are pleased to introduce you to Andante's collection of new tours for next year, meticulously created to take you to the very best of your chosen destination. Whether you would like to discover awe-inspiring sites a little closer to home in Ireland and Shetland, explore the historic treasures of Germany, Serbia, Italy, Greece and more, or venture further afield to the inspirational landscapes of the Nile, the World Heritage Sites of Namibia or the Sacred Valley of Peru, there is plenty of choice.



RAVENNA

Departing: 12th March & 8th October 2026

When the Roman Imperial court fled to Ravenna in AD 42, it became the political centre of the declining Empire. The result was an astonishing flowering of art and architecture, which we discover on this tour.



AMSTERDAM, HAARLEM & THE HAGUE

Departing: 27th March 2026

Delve into the Dutch Golden Age in the Netherlands, discover some of the country's most iconic museums and get up close to famous masterpieces such as *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* and *Sunflowers*.



ATHENS IN-DEPTH

Departing: 20th April 2026

Join us for an adventure that combines history, art and breathtaking landscapes in one of the world's most captivating cities: this meticulously curated tour takes us on a journey through ancient Greece's heart.



IOANNINA

Departing: 21st April & 1st September 2026

From our base in scenic Ioannina, explore a selection of extraordinary sites, each representing a different era of Greek history, such as Dodona, Greece's oldest oracle site, and Arta, known for its Byzantine monuments.



CAPRI & ROMANS ON THE BAY OF NAPLES

Departing: 11th May & 21st September 2026

For 2026, we have added in the beautiful island of Capri to this exciting itinerary, where the Roman elite once built seaside villas. We also explore the extraordinary sites and new discoveries along the Bay of Naples.



ROCK ART & HUMAN ORIGINS

Departing: 11th May 2026

The rock art of the Pyrenees is truly fascinating and on this tour we enjoy exclusive access to key caves such as France's Niaux and Spain's Altamira, widely regarded as the Sistine Chapel of cave art.



SERBIA

Departing: 11th May 2026

The vast lands of the Danube were home to two great European peoples, the Illyrians and the Serbs, who left behind a wealth of iconic archaeological sites. Join us off the beaten track to explore them.



CITIES ON THE PO

Departing: 8th June 2026

Embark on a journey through history along the mighty Po River, Italy's longest waterway. Its banks have witnessed the rise and fall of many civilisations and therefore offers a real treasure chest of ancient relics.



TREASURES OF SAXONY

Departing: 19th June 2026

Discover the rich history and beauty of Saxony on this six-day exploration, featuring guided walking tours of Dresden and Leipzig. Visit historic churches, palaces and museums while learning about the region's role.



VIKING HOMELANDS

Departing: 14th July 2026

Following in the Viking's footsteps we voyage across Germany, Denmark and end in Sweden. We seek out trading towns, treasures, kings and longships to trace the rise of this great civilisation.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SHETLAND

Departing: 18th July 2026

Although stunning Shetland has long been famous as a mecca for birdlife enthusiasts, its rich archaeological landscape can often be overlooked. Join us to visit important sites such as Mousa, Scatness and Jarlshof.



PREHISTORIC IRELAND

Departing: 25th July 2026

Experience Ireland's fascinating prehistory. From the Neolithic monuments of the Boyne Valley, we journey to the wild landscapes of the Atlantic Coast, with the Newgrange passage tomb just one of the highlights.



WARSAW TO DANZIG

Departing: 24th August 2026

Join us on a tour across Poland, from Warsaw to Danzig (Gdansk), exploring palaces, museums and the legacy of the Teutonic Knights. A perfect blend of culture, history and architecture awaits on this journey.



PERU

Departing: 2nd September 2026

Discover some of the world's most extraordinary sites on a tour that delves into pre-Inca culture in Peru. Look forward to unique experiences too, such as Machu Picchu at daybreak and a spectacular rail journey.



CLASSICAL GREECE

Departing: 21st September 2026

Tracing the story of Ancient Greece, this odyssey is for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the ancient Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SHETLAND AND ORKNEY

Departing: 7th September 2026

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery – the Orkney and Shetland Isles. Both share a colourful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities and seafaring legends.



ETRUSCAN ITALY

Departing: 21st September 2026

This tour illuminates what we know of the fascinating Etruscans: the hill sites selected for their cities, the beautiful objects they took to their graves and the tombs which they decorated so delightfully.



ALBANIA, MACEDONIA & NORTHERN GREECE

Departing: 11th October 2026

Explore the dramatic landscapes of Albania, Macedonia and Northern Greece – a vast patchwork of cultures along the route of the Via Egnatia. Just one highlight here is the magnificent tomb of Philip of Macedon.



NAMIBIA

Departing: 17th October 2026

Scattered throughout Namibia's landscapes are sites of unquestionable beauty and isolation. We visit not only the famous World Heritage site at Twyfelfontein but also rock art in the Brandberg and Erongo Mountains.



CLASSICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF GREECE CRUISE

Departing: 4th November 2026

A wonderful introduction to the ancient highlights of Greece's mainland, with a stay in the shadow of the Acropolis and a cruise, circumnavigating the Peloponnese and closing the loop along the Corinth Canal.



CRUISING ISTRIA & THE ISLANDS OF THE ADRIATIC

Departing: 8th July 2026

Journey along the Croatian and Montenegrin coastline. After spending time in Dubrovnik, each destination in the beautiful Adriatic offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of maritime life that defines this region.



EGYPT - CRUISING THE NILE

Departing: 3rd November 2026

Led by Egyptologist Professor Paul Nicholson, our leisurely cruise glides between Cairo and Aswan aboard MS Darakum, taking us to a range of sites that most tourists to this part of the world typically miss.



Peppered with conquests, wars and empires, Italy's rich history of clashing cultures and enduring influences, tapestry of literature, art and philosophy and spectacular scenery make it one of the world's most fascinating destinations to discover. Independent-minded cities, territories and islands characterise the country's history, alongside the foreign powers who desired them, sailing across the Mediterranean Sea in search of new lands and strategic strongholds.

Archaeological findings have confirmed that Italy has been inhabited by humans, or *homo neanderthalensis*, since the Palaeolithic period. Over time, various peoples such as the Samnites, Umbri, Celts and others settled here, yet it flourished under the Greeks and Etruscans who transformed the well-located peninsula into the centre of the ancient world. In 509 BCE, Rome overthrew the Etruscan Empire, forming the Roman Republic, and in the period that followed, Rome gained control of Spain, France, Greece, Turkey and North Africa. In 27 BCE, unrest in Rome led to the toppling of the republic and the Roman Empire was officially founded, dominating Western Europe and the Mediterranean for centuries thereafter. The remnants of these periods are truly remarkable, showcasing human ingenuity amongst stunning landscapes of dramatic mountains, rolling countryside, sublime lakes and volcanic islands.

What is staggering about Italy's cultural remains is not just the sheer number of them – 53 cultural World Heritage Sites and 31 tentative World Heritage Sites – but the wonderful variety. From the snow-capped peaks of the Dolomites to the orange groves at the foot of Mount Etna, this destination offers a unique insight into our cultural past, not just because it is the homeland of the Eternal City but because it hosts such a rich collection of archaeological sites, including the world-famous, utterly breathtaking Vesuvian towns.

There is certainly plenty of choice, whether you would like to stand on the very spot where our ancestors created fascinating rock art thousands of years ago, visit the Samnite religious and political centre in the stunning mountains of Molise, admire the incredible 5th-century Riace Bronzes rescued from the Ionian Sea or re-discover Pompeii itself with its recently excavated sites and captivating stories.

Our Italy portfolio has expanded over the years, and we are proud to present our full – and possibly largest – collection of itineraries that can take you there in 2026. No matter your interest, these tours offer the fantastic chance to step into a land shaped and influenced by each of its historic periods, from the initiative of the Romans to the flourishing of art and architecture of the Renaissance and beyond.



Private access to the Cave of Sejanus (Grotta of Seiano) and the adjoining Villa of Pausilypon with its dramatic coastal views

Spend four nights on Lipari while exploring the archaeology of the UNESCO-listed Aeolian Islands

Enjoy a private visit to the 15th-century Biblioteca Marciana, famed for its collection of Byzantine manuscripts

“An excellent tour both for first-time visitors to Pompeii and surrounding areas and for return visitors like husband and me, who were seeing Pompeii for the fifth or sixth time”



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Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

Learn more about Pompeii at the recently excavated villas

8 DAYS FROM \$3,780pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

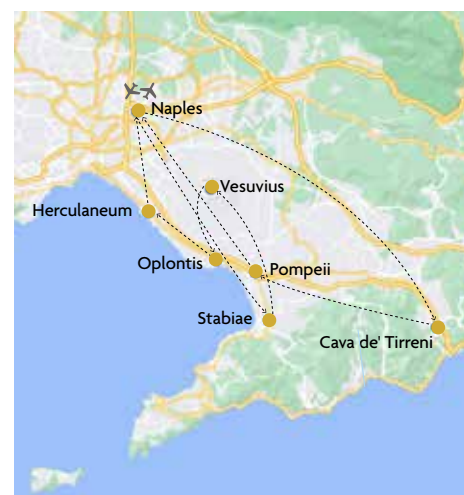
\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



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 was 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.

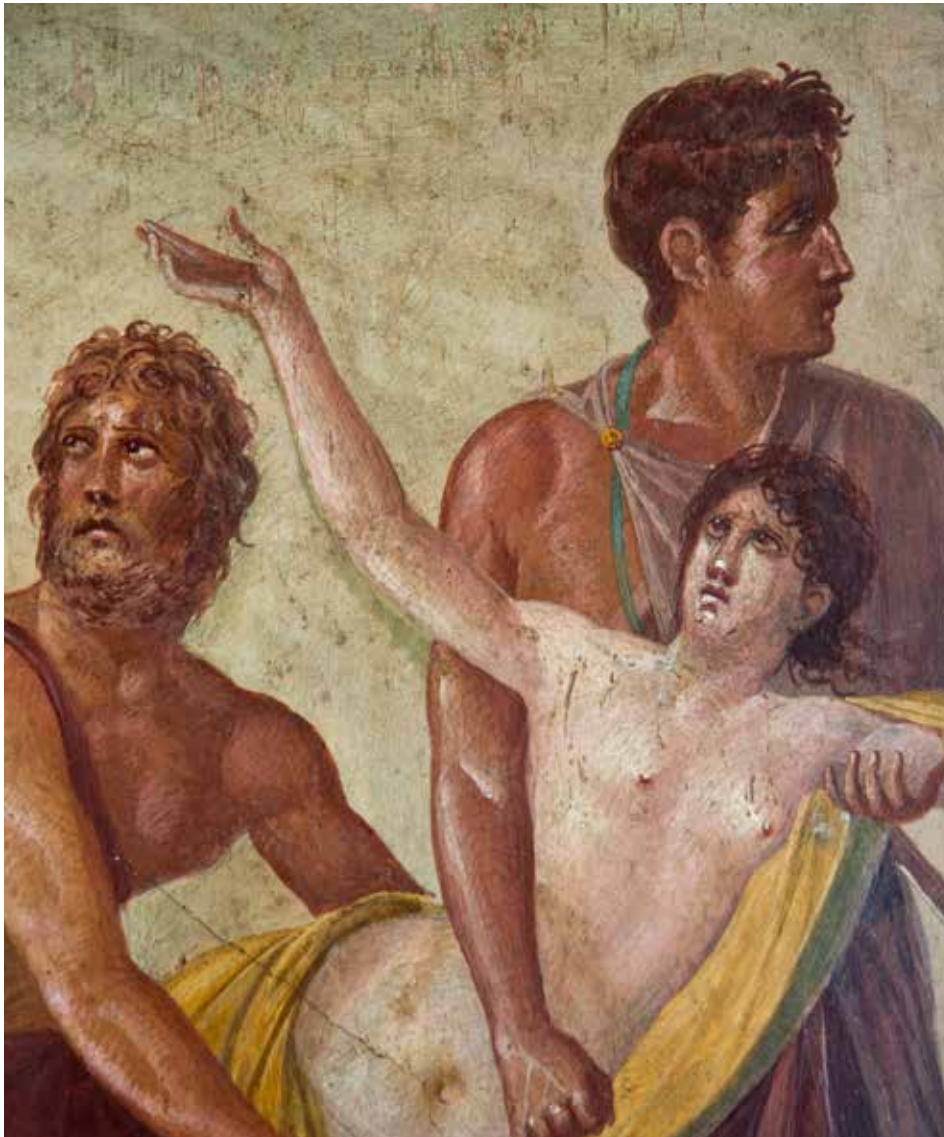




Enjoy visits to off-the-beaten-track villas at Stabiae

Private access to the Cave of Sejanus (Grotta di Seiano) and the adjoining Villa of Pausilypon with its dramatic coastal views

Visit newly excavated houses in Pompeii



Day One | Cava de' Tirreni

Meet the group at Naples Airport 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 BCE. After lunch, we visit the **Paestum Museum**, famed for its archaic metopes and its painted tombs. We also be able to visit the magnificent **Store Rooms** of Paestum.

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.

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

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Join John on our 19th January, 16th March, 27th April & 5th October departures.



Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards. Join Eireann on our 16th February departure.



Dr Simon Elliott

An award-winning and best-selling author, historian and broadcaster, Simon is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent. He is also a Trustee for the Council of British Archaeology. Join Simon on our 9th March & 26th October departures.



Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations. Join Doru on our 13th April departure.



Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 4th May departure.



Dr Gillian Shepherd

Director of the Trendall Center for Ancient Mediterranean Studies at La Trobe in Australia, Gillian specialises in the Greek colonisation of Italy and Sicily. She is especially interested in the historiography of colonisation. Join Gillian on our 7th September departure.



Diana Blumberg

Diana Blumberg is an archaeological scientist who specialises in the analysis of archaeological materials. She has worked on archaeological field schools in both Pompeii and Portus (the latter being one of the harbours of ancient Rome). Join Diana on our 28th September departure.



Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specialises in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military. Join Tony on our 19th October departure.



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.

Continued...



“This was an exceptional holiday, everything was first class - having such a knowledgeable guide was a privilege. I achieved my life ambition to visit Pompeii and Herculaneum but there was so much more in the programme to enjoy”

Rosalind Gourgey

Day Six | Herculaneum

This morning 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. After lunch we visit Boscoreale to explore **Villa Regina**, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas we have seen on other days, this is a modest small holding which provides us with evidence of how ordinary people lived. Boscoreale is a locality north of Pompeii located on the slopes of Vesuvius, identified by some with the Pagus Augustus Felix Suburbanus. With the inauguration of the Great Pompeii, in October 2023, the **Antiquarium of Boscoreale** was reopened with a room dedicated to the excavations underway in the suburban villa of Civita Giuliana, with the ceremonial chariot found there in 2021.



Regio IX Excavations in Pompeii

The Great Pompeii Project was initiated in 2012 with the intention of better conserving the archaeological site of Pompeii. A major threat to its security is the embankments of unexcavated areas that are next to those already excavated. Addressing the water damage and associated erosion of these has been identified as a priority in preserving the site and making as much of it as accessible as possible. The more usual restoration of already excavated houses, including their decoration, is included in the work of the project so that a greater number of buildings in the site of Pompeii are safe to be explored by the two million people who visit it each year. The Project's focus on Regio IX in recent years has brought to light exciting finds and at the same time shown how an interdisciplinary approach has given a new dimension to our understanding of life in Pompeii at the time of the eruption as well as of the eruption itself. Among these finds are three skeletons, whose manner of death is as gruesome as the initial evidence might suggest but in a surprising way; a domus from the Samnite period, repurposed into a bakery, which has shown us a small detail about how the Pompeian's were experts at reusing and recycling materials; seismological evidence that confirms to modern volcanologists the accuracy of the account written by the eye-witness Pliny the Younger for his friend, the historian, Tacitus.

Day Seven | Vesuvius - Oplontis

Today, we ascend to the great volcanic crater of **Vesuvius**. The majority of our journey is by bus, but the final part requires a short walk, which is 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, we 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 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 | Cava de' Tirreni - Naples

After breakfast we transfer to Naples Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Forum (Jan & Feb) & the Hotel Scapolatiello (Mar-Oct)

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	SS
19th - 26th Jan	\$3,780	\$470 \$0
16th - 23rd Feb	\$3,890	\$470 \$0
9th - 16th Mar	\$4,070	\$370 \$0
16th - 23rd Mar	\$4,070	\$370 \$0
13th - 20th Apr	\$4,100	\$370 \$0
27th Apr - 4th May	\$4,080	\$370 \$0
4th - 11th May	\$4,230	\$370 \$0
7th - 14th Sep	\$4,320	\$370 \$0
28th Sep - 5th Oct	\$4,370	\$370 \$0
5th - 12th Oct	\$4,370	\$370 \$0
19th - 26th Oct	\$4,200	\$370 \$0
26th Oct - 2nd Nov	\$4,200	\$370 \$0

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

Rome

The Eternal City

7 DAYS FROM \$5,390pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Rome is one of the most charismatic and engaging of the great cities of the world, its monuments an omnipresent testament to a past in which she controlled an Empire reaching from Scotland to Syria. Surprisingly, it is also an intimate city - the historic centre is small, and it is easy to understand based on the ancient layout. This tour is the perfect introduction to the 'Eternal City' in the company of archaeologist and historians who will illuminate the triumphs, tragedies and political intrigue that characterised the Roman Empire. We stay at the Albergo Santa Chiara in the very heart of the ancient city, situated directly behind the Pantheon, the perfect base for exploring Rome. It has been privately owned by the Corteggiani family since 1838 and consequently retains a feel of personal warmth and friendliness.



Explore the underground ruins of Nero's infamous Golden House, a revolution in architecture and luxurious design

Walk along the Appian Way, visiting the Villa of the Quintili and the Circus of Maxentius

Discover two important sites outside the city centre – the port of Ostia and Hadrian's Palace at Tivoli



Day One | Rome

Meet the group at our hotel in Rome.

Day Two | Forum & Colosseum

This morning, we shall start at the **Imperial Fora** with the famous monument of **Trajan's Column** and proceed from there through the **Forum Romanum**, the political heart of the city and empire, a site of profound historical events such as the Gracchi riots and Caesar's funeral. We continue to the **Palatine** to visit the ruins of the Imperial palaces and in the afternoon we explore the **Colosseum**, the iconic Flavian Amphitheatre – the largest of its type ever constructed. We end the day at the adjacent decorative **Arch of Constantine**.

Day Three | The Appian Way

Today we drive to the **Appian Way** and visit some of the villas of the senatorial aristocracy found there. Here we see the vast suburban estate of the **Quintili**, so sumptuous that the emperor Commodus executed its owners and confiscated it. We proceed to the equally extensive **Villa of the Emperor Maxentius**, built as a dynastic centre for his family. It includes the palace/villa, a chariot racing circus and large mausoleum. We focus on the well-preserved Circus which includes starting gates. In the afternoon we visit another huge imperial project, the **Baths of Caracalla**, capable of accommodating thousands at a time.

Day Four | Domus Aurea & Celian Hill

This morning we visit the legendary **Golden House**, which the Emperor Nero built after the great fire of Rome as a *rus in urbe*, a countryside in the city, and as such included artificial lakes, fountains and vineyards. The megalomaniac building was eventually demolished by his successors and can now only be visited at certain times, in groups, where its ongoing restoration can be viewed. We continue to the extraordinary church of **San Clemente** to discover its underground surprises and the **Domus Romane Del Celio**, Roman houses which date from the 2nd century. Later we also visit the **Parco Archeologico del Celio** which opened recently. The museum houses the remaining fragments of the *Forma Urbis Romae*, the giant marble map of ancient Rome engraved in the 3rd century during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus. The last time the remains of the ancient

map were seen by the public was a century ago when they were on display in the garden of the Palazzo dei Conservatori on the Capitoline Hill.

Day Five | Tivoli

We leave the city and make the short drive to **Tivoli** where the Emperor Hadrian chose to build his palace, **Hadrian's Villa**, which sprawls across the rolling countryside at the foot of the hills below the town of Tivoli. Beginning around AD 117, Hadrian took a small family villa owned by his wife and added on a whole series of grand pavilions, many of them modelled after places he had seen on his travels around the empire. The complex ended up larger than most Roman cities. We visit the town this afternoon and pay a visit and discover the great 16th-century **Villa D'Este**, built by Cardinal Ippolito D'Este, the son of Lucrezia Borgia and a major figure in the church politics of the era.

Day Six | Field Of Mars & Ara Pacis

This morning we take a walk through part of the **Field of Mars**, originally an open area lying just outside Rome's earliest defences. It was used first as a training area and for meetings of public assemblies, then gradually monumentalised to provide a new zone of civic buildings to serve Rome's growing population. Later we visit the **Ara Pacis**, an altar commissioned by the Roman Senate to honour the return of Augustus after his campaigns in Gaul. The afternoon is free to spend as you wish.

Day Seven | Rome

On our final day we shall leave Rome and travel to **Ostia Antica**, the ancient harbour city of Rome close to the mouth of the Tiber. Originally Rome's first colony, it became a thriving port, handling the transhipment of goods and foodstuffs from sea-going vessels to river barges in new harbours provided by Claudius and Trajan. Ostia still has the atmosphere of a seaport, with its docks, warehouses, apartment blocks, theatre and temples to a range of foreign and Roman deities. It is well-preserved, thanks to rising water levels in the late Roman period and lack of subsequent building, and it has been extensively excavated. From Ostia, we continue to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 20th February departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 20th March departure.



Dr Simon Elliott

An award-winning and best-selling author, historian and broadcaster, Simon is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent. He is also a Trustee for the Council of British Archaeology. Join Simon on our 24th April & 13th November departures.



John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe as an archaeologist, including France, Italy and Bulgaria. Join John on our 30th October departure.



Images: Ara Pacis, Palatine & Ostia Antica

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- 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 Albergo Santa Chiara

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
18th - 24th Feb	\$5,390	\$550 \$0
21st - 27th Mar	\$5,490	\$550 \$0
24th - 30th Apr	\$5,620	\$550 \$0
30th Oct - 5th Nov	\$5,540	\$550 \$0
13th - 19th Nov	\$5,470	\$550 \$0

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

Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

Romans to the Renaissance

8 DAYS FROM \$4,540pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



“Excellent combination of sites to visit, covering many periods. Well planned itinerary.”

From Roman Province to Doge Republic, the Veneto has a long and illustrious history. We take a closer look at the intriguing area around Lake Garda and explore a truly unique mix of archaeology, art and architecture. From a prehistoric cave site adjacent to a 15th-century ‘Roman’ villa, to a medieval monastery perched on the steps of an ancient Roman theatre, there is a great deal to unpick here. Visiting in the quieter months of spring and early autumn, we enjoy the undulating landscapes of vineyards and olive groves which surround the southern shores of Lake Garda and explore the pretty piazzas, medieval market places and tangled streets of Verona, Vicenza, Mantua and Padua. We’re sure this tour will hold your imagination and, to cap it all, we will journey through the region of the Valpolicella wine villas – noted for their products and histories.



Day One | Verona - Sirmione

Meet the group at Verona Airport or at our hotel in Sirmione, a picturesque medieval town perched on the tip of a narrow peninsula at the edge of Lake Garda.

Day Two | Desenzano

In the morning, we travel to the **Desenzano Roman Villa**, a once large and sumptuous property which enjoys stunning views of the lake. Here we discover a rich group of coloured figurative mosaic floors

depicting various scenes of cupids, maenads and satyrs; wild beasts and images of the four seasons. We return to Sirmione by ferry and, after lunch, we take the small train up the hill to the **Villa Catullus**, the largest and most complete Roman villa in northern Italy. The villa was constructed with long porticoes and terraces to maximise the views over the lake and at its centre was an extensive garden.

Day Three | Verona

Today is devoted to **Verona**, a city immortalised by Shakespeare and blessed with an abundance of Roman and medieval remains reflecting the evolution of this fortified town over its 2,000-year history. We shall explore the core of the Roman town, its city gate, Porta Borsari, the Arco dei Gavi, the Roman theatre and the magnificent amphitheatre, the third-largest in the Roman world, and we admire many of its medieval structures. We also pay a visit to the **Archaeological Museum** housed in an deconsecrated monastery, which was literally built on top of the Roman theatre.



Discover the extraordinary cave site of Fumane, one of the major prehistoric archaeological sites in Europe

Enjoy the picture-perfect setting and cobalt blue waters of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake

Explore the beautiful cities of Verona and Vicenza, Padua and Mantua and their plethora of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Day Four | Mantua

We spend our day today in **Mantua**, a gem of Italian art and architecture often overlooked by unenlightened visitors to the region. Once home to many literary figures of the late 1st century BCE Augustan age, it is also full of Renaissance wonders and contains the **Palazzo Ducale**, the largest residence in Italy after the Vatican. For 400 years this was the home of the Gonzaga family, the dukes of Mantua who ruled until 1707. We explore this labyrinth which includes a castle, basilica, courtyards, sumptuous galleries and gardens.

Day Five | Fumane & Villa della Torre

We take a step further back into the past this morning when we visit the cave site of **Fumane**. The cave contains traces of Neanderthal man and evidence of habitation by modern Homo sapiens, including sharpened flints, bones and decorations made from sea shells. The finds provide a crucial link in the history of human life on Earth as well as a first glimpse of the creative instinct that inspired Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo in a later age. Afterwards we visit nearby **Villa della Torre**, a beautiful villa by architect Giulio Romano, where we enjoy a wine-tasting and lunch before returning to Sirmione via San Giorgio di Valpolicella.

Day Six | Vicenza

We spend our day in **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and almost archetypal ideal of the Renaissance and Baroque era. Vicenza was a Roman settlement, which came under the sway of the Scaligeri family from Verona and was passed between Napoleon's empire, Austria and Venice several times in its history. This jewel of a place is full of galleries, palaces and churches, and is noted for the works of the great architect Andrea Palladio. We visit his amazing villa at **La Rotunda** followed

by **Teatro Olimpico**, one of only three Renaissance theatres remaining in existence.

Day Seven | Padua

Our final visit of the tour is to **Padua**, which according to tradition going back at least to Virgil's *Aeneid*, was founded in 1183 BCE by the Trojan prince, Antenor. This university town was home to some of the greatest philosophers, scientists and artists in Western culture: Dante, Galileo, Giotto, Donatello and Copernicus, and the city is one of Europe's great cultural and artistic destinations. Our visits include the **Scrovegni Chapel**, with its priceless frescoes by Giotto, the **Civic Museum**, located in the cloister of the former Eremitani monastery, the **Palazza del Bo** and the **Basilica of St. Anthony** and baptistry.

Day Eight | Sirmione - Verona

We return to the airport in Verona for our independent onward journeys.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa. Join Eireann on our 2nd March & 27th April departures.



Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 23rd March departure.



Prof. Tony King

Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Winchester, Tony has excavated both in Britain and abroad. He is also a specialist in Roman archaeology and an expert in animal bone analysis. Join Tony on our 12th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Continental Thermae and Spa, Sirmione

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	SS
2nd - 9th Mar	\$4,540	\$620 \$0
23rd - 30th Mar	\$4,680	\$620 \$0
27th Apr - 4th May	\$5,020	\$690 \$0
12th - 19th Oct	\$4,660	\$620 \$0

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

Beyond Pompeii, the Land of the Sibyl

Unmissable ancient sites in Northern Campania

8 DAYS FROM \$4,750pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Pompeii has fascinated us for centuries, but archaeological interest isn't confined to this one area. On this tour, we go beyond the sites of the regular tourist trail and discover more. We explore the hinterland of Vesuvius, a land of myth and legend and, paradoxically, a land of luxury and wealth dotted with the vast villas of senators. The city of Pozzuoli was a 'second Rome' in the summer season and the excesses of fine living here were satirised in the *Satyricon* of Petronius.

We are based for a whole week in just one comfortable hotel in Naples, the living embodiment of a classical city. Resplendent and ramshackle, Naples is bursting at the seams with life and passion.

Day One | Naples

Meet the group at our hotel in Naples.

Day Two | Capua

Today we drive a few kilometres north to **Santa Maria Capua Vetere**, an important city in antiquity and one associated with two famous historical leaders: Hannibal and Spartacus. It was also the focus of Cicero's ire on many occasions when he described the colony as treacherous to Rome. We start at the Museo **Archaeologico dell'Antica**

Capua where we see finds that retrace the history of the city. We continue with the well-preserved amphitheatre, the site of the first school of gladiators and the starting point of the third slave rebellion, led by the gladiator Spartacus. In the afternoon we visit the **Museo Campano** with its amazing display of goddesses and the **Church of Sant'Angelo in Formis**, which stands on the remains of a temple dedicated to Diana, before returning to Naples.



Images: Naples with Vesuvius & Flavian Amphitheater of Pozzuoli



Explore the playground of the Roman elite, buildings created at the height of Imperial indulgence and excess

Discover the now subterranean thermal complex at Baia by glass-bottomed boat

Descend underground into the catacombs and remnants of the ancient city below the streets of Naples

Enjoy ancient Capua and its connection to the famous Thracian gladiator and escaped slave, Spartacus

Day Three | Cumae & Pozzouli

Our first visit today is to the hillside site of **Cumae**, where one of the oldest Greek colonies was founded in 750 BCE. Here we explore the Archaeological Park, starting with the **Antro della Sibilla** the place attributed to Virgil's famous prophetess of ancient legend—the Cumaeae Sibyl. We continue to **Pozzouli**, where we spend the rest of our day discovering this important ancient port. For several centuries almost all of the grain was imported for the city of Rome itself, coming especially from Sicily, North Africa (Tunisia) and Egypt. It was also a centre for the import trade from the eastern Mediterranean. In turn, it exported a wide range of Italian products – wine, olive oil, pottery, utilitarian bronze vessels made in Capua and iron tools forged in Puteoli.

Day Four | Naples

We spend the day in **Naples**, beginning with the Duomo. There are remnants of the ancient city everywhere beneath the modern streets, including the foundations of the theatre, the Roman streets and shops beneath the **Church of San Lorenzo Maggiore**. We visit the cloister of **Santa Chiara**, covered with fabulous maiolica tiles followed by the small archaeological museum which contains items from the church but, more importantly, gives access to the site of a Roman bathhouse from the 1st century AD. Here you can see the extensive remains of hot and cold bathing areas, changing rooms and a swimming pool.

Day Five | Naples

This morning we visit the **Catacombs of St. Januarius**, named after the patron saint of Naples. The burial place of the early bishops of Naples, including Saint Agrippinus, the catacombs contain excellent examples of palaeochristian art. After we visit '**Virgil's tomb**' - ancient historians tell us that

this inscription adorned his tomb: 'Mantua bore me, Calabria snatched me away, Parthenope now possesses me: I sang of pastures, fields and heroes' - and he is known to have been buried in Naples. This tomb does not bear this inscription - but a visit makes an interesting discussion! We continue from here to **Naples Archaeological Museum**, packed with the best wall paintings and delicate artefacts from everyday life. Exquisite metalwork which would normally have been melted and recycled; marble statues which would have been broken up to make lime; wall paintings which would have been decayed or plastered over – all these would have been lost had Vesuvius not buried them all. The museum has now expanded, recently opening its western wing after a decade-long renovation project.

Day Six | Naples

Today we take a walk amongst some of Naples' most grandiose buildings including the **Palazzo Reale**, built for the King of Spain, and home to the Bourbon kings who first began to 'excavate' the site of Herculaneum – i.e. digging tunnels and removing material from the site. We continue past the **Castel Dell'Ovo** (the 'egg castle' so-called after a Virgilian legend) and the **Teatro San Carlo**, the oldest continuously active venue for public opera in Europe. Enjoy some free time today before regrouping for dinner this evening.

Day Seven | Baia & Misenum

We continue to the huge thermal bathing establishment at **Baia**, now part of a marine protected Archaeological Park. Baia's therapeutic springs and mild climate made it the most famous spa in Italy, and Sulla, Pompey, Cicero, Julius Caesar, Tiberius and Nero all had luxurious holiday villas here. Today the ancient remains of Baia can be viewed through glass-bottomed boats. In the afternoon we

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specializes in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military. Join Tony on our 2nd March departure.



John Shepherd

John Shepherd is an archaeologist who has worked extensively in Europe, for example, Italy, France and Bulgaria. Join John on our 14th September departure.



visit **Misenum**, the main Roman naval base until the end of the Empire in the west. It was here that the admiral of the fleet, the elder Pliny, was stationed when Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

Day Eight | Naples

This morning we make our way Naples Airport from where make our independent onward journeys.

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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
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Accommodation

- Accommodation in Naples

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
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Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
2nd - 9th Mar	\$4,750	\$970
14th - 21st Sep	\$4,750	\$970

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

Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice

Last bastions of the Byzantine Empire in northern Italy

8 DAYS FROM \$5,300pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The last capital of the Western Roman Empire, Ravenna was reconquered by Justinian and became the seat of an Exarchate. As an imperial city, Ravenna flourished and was adorned with churches decorated by the best Byzantine artists. The Basilica of San Vitale, built by the banker Julius Argentarius, contains some of the finest Byzantine mosaics outside of Constantinople, as well as the most famous portraits of Justinian and his colourful wife, Theodora. Venice, which was part of the Exarchate of Ravenna, grew wealthy from its connection to the east, while becoming enriched by Byzantine culture. The Basilica of San Marco, once the private chapel of the Venetian Doges, was based on the Byzantine Church of the Holy Apostles in Constantinople. Its stunning mosaics remain an unsurpassed panoply of Byzantine art. The result was an unparalleled collection of Byzantine art, with its unique domed architecture and shimmering mosaics.

Day One | Bologna - Ravenna

Meet the group at Bologna Airport or at our hotel in Ravenna, where we will have an orientation walk, time permitting.

Day Two | Ravenna

Today we start our exploration of **Ravenna** with a series of incredible monuments, including the **Arian Baptistery**, constructed by the Ostrogoth Theodoric and the **Neonian Baptistery**, the 5th-century baptistery converted from a Roman bath. We continue to the **Ravenna Cathedral**, and to the **Archbishop's Palace** with its museum and private chapel of Saint Andrew. In the afternoon we visit the 4th-century **Church of San Giovanni Evangelista**, first founded by Galla Placidia in the 4th century.

Day Three | Ravenna

We start the day with the so-called Theodoric's Palace and proceed to the adjacent **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare Nuovo**, Theodoric's palatine chapel. A short walk away, we continue to the **Basilica di San Francesco**, the parish church of Dante who is buried there. In the afternoon we explore the late antique house, the **Domus dei Tappeti di Pietra**, replete with mosaics. We end the day at the **National Museum**, with its important collection of archaeological material from Ravenna and its environs. This evening we plan to have our exclusive private visit to the **Basilica di San Vitale** and the **Mausoleum of Galla Placidia**.





Enjoy an exclusive evening visit to the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna

An exclusive private visit to the Biblioteca Marciana, famed for its collection of Byzantine manuscripts

Explore the unique Basilicas of Santa Maria Assunta in Torcello and Santa Maria e Donato in Murano

Day Four | Ravenna

We drive a little outside the city to visit the extraordinary **Mausoleum of Theodoric**, the Ostrogothic King who ruled from Ravenna after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. This is followed by an exploration of the archaeological site of Classe, Ravenna's ancient port, which was the base of Rome's fleet. In the afternoon, we continue to the **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare in Classe** with its stunning apse depicting the Transfiguration.

Day Five | Ravenna - Venice

Today we travel by coach by the lagoon city, Venice, which was immersed in Byzantine culture long after the Exarchate of Ravenna collapsed because of the special trading rights it was given by Constantinople, making it the gateway of the east. Venice also gave refuge to emigres escaping Constantinople after its fall in 1453. In the afternoon, we explore hidden gems in the extraordinary **Piazza San Marco**, dubbed the drawing room of Europe by Napoleon and is dominated by the very Eastern looking Basilica di San Marco. We end our day with a comprehensive visit to this iconic masterpiece of Byzantine architecture.

Day Six | Venice

Today we explore the beginnings of Venice in the Northern Lagoon, starting with island of **Torcello**, where the earliest settlers from the terra firma found their homes after escaping Hunnic raids in the 5th century. Here we see the **Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta** with its stunning Byzantine mosaics. After lunch, we pay a short visit to **Burano** from whence some might also choose to venture to the adjacent island of Mazzorbo. We end the day with a visit to **Murano**, famed for

its glass making and also for its Byzantine **Basilica di Santa Maria e Donato**.

Day Seven | Venice

Today we explore Venice's Byzantine past starting with an exclusive, private visit to the **Biblioteca Marciana**, established in the 15th century in order to house the Classical manuscripts collected by Cardinal Bessarion after the fall of Constantinople. We continue to the Greek Orthodox **Chiesa di San Giorgio dei Greci**, erected by emigres from Constantinople and its adjoining Icon Museum.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 11th March departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 28th October departure.



After lunch, we have a guided tour of the **Doge's Palace** followed by a private tour of the **Secret Itineraries of the Palace**.

Day Eight | Venice

This morning we make our way to Venice Airport by water taxi, bidding farewell to the lagoon and its Byzantine heritage.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Ravenna & Venice

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
11th - 18th Mar	\$5,340	\$780
28th Oct - 4th Nov	\$5,300	\$780

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Ravenna

Rome and her heirs

6 DAYS FROM \$3,390pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



In AD 42 the Roman Imperial court fled from Rome to Ravenna and for a period it was the political centre of what remained of the Western Empire. The result was an astonishing flowering of art and architecture created in the dying days of the Empire. To this day, the city's numerous churches, palaces and mausolea, resplendent with shimmering mosaics expressing the majesty and mystery of God never fail to achieve the awe-inspiring impact which their patrons, designers and makers intended.



Enjoy a special out-of-hours visit to the Basilica of San Vitale with time and space to contemplate its fabulous interior

Admire the extraordinary mosaics at the Domus dei Tappeti di Pietra (the House of the Stone Carpets)

Discover the ancient port of Classe, once the biggest naval base of the Adriatic, home to a fleet of 250 ships

Day One | Bologna - Ravenna

Meet the group at Bologna Airport or at our hotel in Ravenna

Day Two | Ravenna

Today we start our exploration of **Ravenna** with a series of incredible monuments, beginning with the **Arian Baptistery**. Inside, spread across its cupola, is the famous mosaic of the Baptism of Christ, immersed in the water of the River Jordan. The same iconographic design is featured in the nearby **Neonian Baptistery** we visit next. The mosaics here are astonishing and Carl Jung described his visit as a wonderful hallucination. We end the morning at the **Archiepiscopal Museum**, home to the pulpit of Maximian, one of the most famous ivory works made by Byzantine artists in the 6th century. After lunch, we explore **Ravenna Cathedral** and the **Archbishop's Palace** with its museum and private chapel of Saint Andrew. Our final visit of the day is to the 5th century church of **San Giovanni Evangelista** the 5th-century church, built as an **ex voto** by Galla Placidia when she escaped from a potential shipwreck.

Day Three | Ravenna

We start our visits today with **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare Nuovo**, Theodoric's palatine chapel.

Though simple on the outside, its interior evokes an atmosphere of solemnity and contemplation. A short walk away, we find the **Basilica di San Francesco**, the parish church of Dante who is buried there. Later we also visit the **National Museum** which displays important archaeological finds, such as sepulchral slabs, Byzantine sculptures and prestigious objects connected with the monuments of Ravenna plus a wide collection of applied arts. This evening is our special visit to the **Church of San Vitale** where we admire the glorious best-preserved mosaics outside of Constantinople. The journey to Ravenna would be worthwhile to see these alone. Those decorating the apse reveal the pomp and majesty of the Byzantine court. We also visit the smaller **Mausoleum of Galla Placidia**, constructed in the shape of a cross.

Day Four | Ravenna

We start with a visit to the so-called '**Palace of Theodoric**', a building associated with the Ostrogothic King who ruled from Ravenna after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. Next, we visit the extraordinary **Domus of the Stone Carpets**, located in the basement of the late-baroque Church of Sant'Eufemia. Excavations here revealed an elaborate palatial house of the 6th century, perhaps owned by a high court official.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Prof. Tony King

Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Winchester, Tony has excavated both in Britain and abroad. He is also a specialist in Roman archaeology and an expert in animal bone analysis. Join Tony on our 12th March departure.



Nick Jackson

Nick is an archaeologist with wide-ranging excavation experience. His main research interest is the late 2nd millennium BCE but he has also developed an enthusiasm for early Christian places of worship and Byzantine pilgrimage sites. Join Nick on our 8th October departure.



The entire complex is decorated with marble inlays and mosaics. This afternoon, we drive just south of Ravenna to visit Classe. The topography of the area has changed so much with the land gaining on the sea, that it is difficult to envisage that Classe was once the biggest naval base of the Adriatic, home to a fleet of 250 ships. Here we visit the **Basilica di San Apollinare** in Classe, with its stunning apse depicting the Transfiguration, and **Classe Archaeological Museum**, which explores Ravenna's ancient port and the base of Rome's fleet.

Day Five | Pomposa & Ravenna

We take a beautiful drive out this morning to the **Abbey of Pomposa**, founded in the 7th century in marshes and lagoons with an arm of the River Po running on each side. It has a fine 12th-century mosaic floor and frescoes and is claimed to be the place where modern musical notation was invented. Returning to Ravenna in the afternoon, we visit **Theodoric's Mausoleum**, situated in the north-east of the city on the old Roman road, the Via Popilia. This is one of the most impressive late Roman buildings left to us in Italy.

Day Six | Ravenna - Bologna

We return to Bologna from where make our independent onward journeys.



Images: Church of San Vitale

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Ravenna

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbil Share	SS
12th - 17th Mar	\$3,390	\$360 \$0
8th - 13th Oct	\$3,510	\$360 \$0

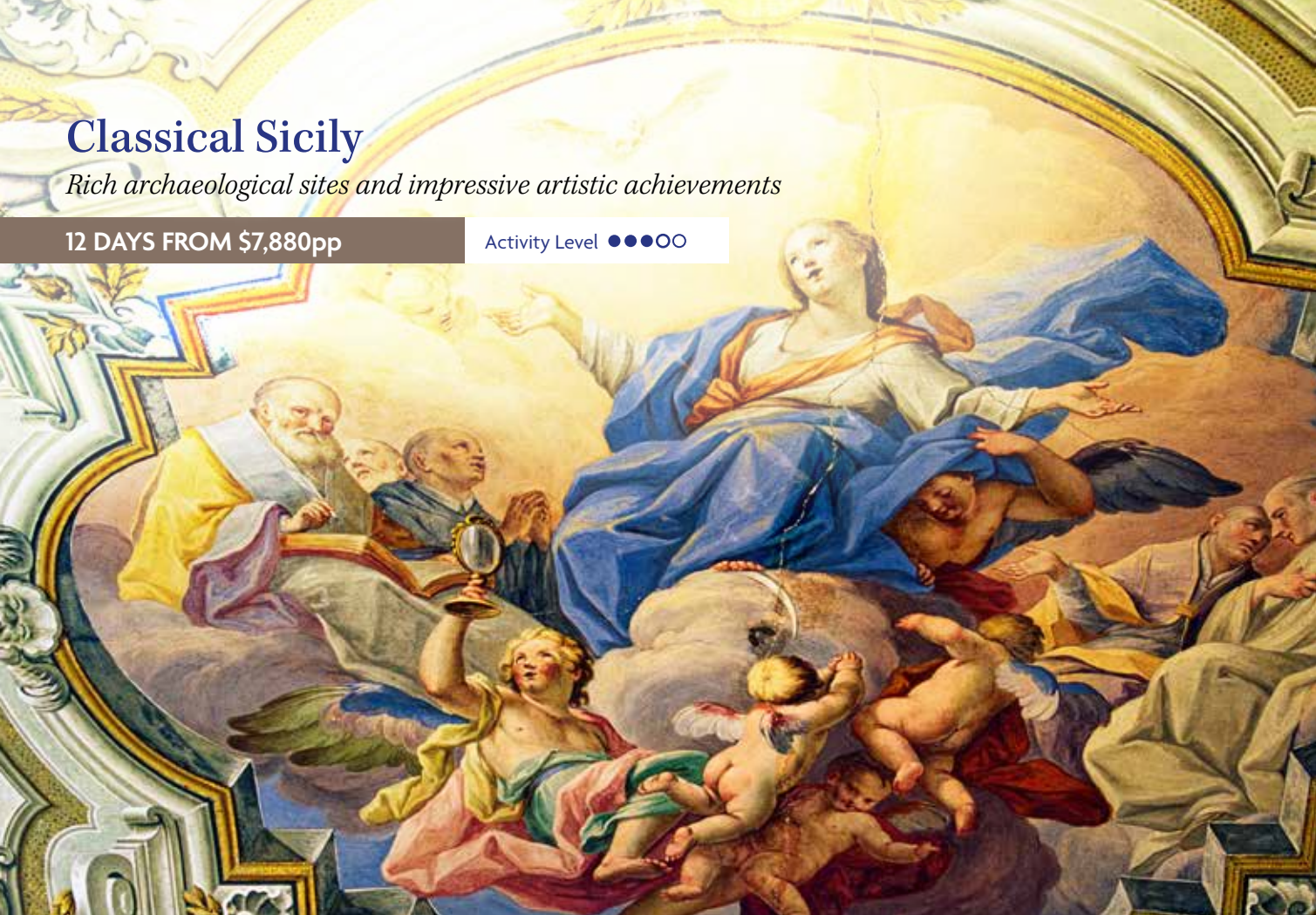
For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/arav

Classical Sicily

Rich archaeological sites and impressive artistic achievements

12 DAYS FROM \$7,880pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Some of the richest archaeological sites and the most impressive artistic achievements of European culture are to be found in Sicily, the largest island in a sea which was itself thought to lie at the centre of the ancient world, the Mediterranean. Controlling the trade routes between east and west and the pivot of power between the 'superpowers' of antiquity, Sicily was fought over and repeatedly won throughout the history of Western civilisation. As part of Magna Graecia, the city of Syracuse was second only to Athens and Carthaginians wrestled with Rome for control here during the first Punic War. This tour presents an extraordinary panorama of changing identities – Phoenician, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Arab and Norman.



Day One | Catania

Meet the group at the airport in Catania to transfer to Palermo.

Day Two | Segesta & Monreale

After breakfast, we drive out to the rolling hills, where we find the ancient Greek city of **Segesta**, home to an elegant but unfinished 5th-century BCE Doric temple and the remains of an impressive hilltop theatre. This afternoon we make our way to **Monreale**, the former hunting ground of the Norman kings of Sicily. Here, we discover an opulent Norman-Byzantine cathedral and abbey, founded by King William II in 1174. The site recently achieved UNESCO World Heritage status thanks to its stunning construction and mosaic work – a brilliant testament to the former opulence of Norman rule.

Day Three | Palermo

Today is ours to explore the wonders of Palermo. We start at the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses one of the most significant collections of Punic and Ancient Greek art in all of Italy. Here, we find famous metopes from the Selinus temples, as well as a fascinating array of artefacts discovered underwater. Later, we visit the beautifully decorated church of **La Martorana** and

the neighbouring **Chiesa di San Cataldo**. After lunch, we visit **Palermo Cathedral**, a 12th-century construction that replaced a Moorish mosque and which houses the tombs of some of the Norman Kings. This evening we enjoy a special private visit to the **Cappella Palatina**, an extravagant chapel, glittering with mosaics and gold leaf.

Day Four | Cefalù & Himara

Today we visit the charming little port of **Cefalù**. It derives its name from the Greek cephaloedion, the term used to describe the head-shaped rock which dominates the town below. In 1131 Roger II founded a cathedral here, ostensibly as a thanksgiving for refuge on Cefalù's safe beach in a storm. Inside, reused Roman columns and capitals support gothic arches and the presbytery and apse are decorated with stunning mosaics. In the afternoon we visit the archaeological park at **Himera**, site of the legendary battle between the Greeks and Carthaginians in 480 BCE. Excavations which took place in recent years have revealed an ancient necropolis with more than 12,000 almost untouched burials, an incredibly rare find in the ancient Greek world.

Day Five | Palermo – Motya - Marsala

This morning we drive to **Marsala**, Carthaginian Lilybaeum, and visit the museum with its remains

of a Carthaginian warship sank in the first Punic war, along with fascinating Punic funerary stelae. After lunch, we cross by boat to the island of Motya, a stronghold of the Phoenicians, sacked in 397 BCE by the Syracusan tyrant Dionysius the Elder. While on **Motya** we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, taking time to admire its world-renowned statue of the charioteer, a striking sculpture from the early 5th-century BCE.

Day Six | Selinus

We start the day at the quarries of the **Cave di Cusa**, used by Selinus for their titanic temples. Their heavy work was abandoned in 409 BCE when Carthaginians mercilessly sacked their city, a common refrain in the violent history of Sicily. We can still see the remnants of columns on site, sadly destined to remain both unfinished and in situ. We then travel on to **Selinus** itself to see the temples of the eastern sanctuary, including the incredible Temple G, one of the largest temples of the Greek world. We finish the day at the **Acropolis of Selinus**, dramatically positioned on plains overlooking the Mediterranean sea. Here we not only see remains of ancient temples, but of Punic housing inhabited by Carthaginians who took over the site after the sacking.

“The tour was everything that I signed up for, and accomplished all of your stated objectives in the available time. The focus on Sicily up to and including the Roman Empire was thorough but also included a surprising (and welcome) amount of what followed. Food, accommodations, and transportation were all very good or even better.”



Admire truly exceptional mosaics at the Villa Romana, Piazza Armerina

Discover the unique landscape around Marsala

Discover the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento

Enjoy a special access evening visit to view the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina

Day Seven | Agrigento

We spend a whole day exploring the magnificent remains of **Agrigento** today, the site of the ancient Greek city of Akragas. We take in the **Valley of the Temples**, a World Heritage Site of seven Doric sanctuaries, including the remarkably well-preserved Temple of Concord, with its elegant walls and columns. We also view the remains of the **Temple of Olympian Zeus**, another gigantic, Sicilian temple, with an unusual layout characterised by enormous telemons.

Day Eight | Piazza Armerina – Morgantina – Ortygia

Our journey takes us through central Sicily, stopping at the magnificent **Villa Romana del Casale in Piazza Armerina**. This late antique villa is noted for its superb collection of mosaics – the largest in the world – which can now be viewed from a newly installed network of raised walkways. Here we find the famous depiction of the “Bikini Girls”, as well as lively images of hunting and ancient games. We proceed to **Morgantina**, a city founded by the native Sikels under their leader Ducetius. The last of the Sicilian towns to succumb to Roman rule, the city was later captured by slaves in the First Servile War in the Roman period. Morgantina has been the focus of intensive excavations in recent decades, and research here is still ongoing. We find an exciting collection of remains, including a bouleuterion – an ancient Greek political chamber – a theatre, kilns and houses complete with mosaics.

Day Nine | Syracuse

Today is all about **Syracuse**, which Cicero described as “the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of them all”. We discover traces of

Syracuse’s glorious past in the exceptional **Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum**, where we explore a staggering array of vases and statues, along with a unique treasury containing a collection of jewels and coins from the area. Later, we make our way to the **Neapolis Archaeological Park**, home to the Great Theatre where Aeschylus’ tragedies were once performed in the playwright’s presence. In the afternoon we walk around **Ortygia**, the oldest part of the ancient city, and the site of the remarkable 5th-century BCE Temple of Athena, which has been converted into the Cathedral of Our Lady’s Nativity.

Day Ten | Ortygia & Noto

Enjoy some free time exploring the wonderful island of **Ortygia** this morning. Later, we proceed to **Noto**, a baroque fantasy of a city that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the city with its elaborate balconies and dramatically placed churches. This afternoon we visit the late Roman villa at **Tellaro**, which contains fine mosaics depicting scenes such as the ransom of Hector’s body, and a hunting scene reminiscent of those seen in Piazza Armerina.

Day Eleven | Ortygia – Catania – Taormina

This morning we drive to **Catania** and the Piazza del Duomo, Catania’s principal square and a UNESCO World heritage site. The Duomo itself is one of Catania’s grandest sights. The façade dates from the Baroque rebuilding of the town, although some of the earlier church did survive the earthquake of 1693. We also visit the Roman theatre and Odeon. After lunch we drive to Taormina to visit the superbly situated Roman theatre.

Day Twelve | Catania

We return to Catania for our onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations. Join Doru on our 24th March departure.



Tony O’Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 13th May departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 22nd September departure.



Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years’ worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Jamie on our 20th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Palermo, Marsala, Agrigento, Ortygia & Taormina

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
24th Mar - 4th Apr	\$7,880	\$1,230
13th - 24th May	\$8,300	\$1,250
22nd Sep - 3rd Oct	\$8,460	\$1,250
20th - 31st Oct	\$8,210	\$1,250

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

Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio

8 DAYS FROM \$5,030pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



On this tour, we explore the ancient wonders of Umbria and Lazio, in Italy's geographical and historical heart. Based in one hotel, in the beautiful city of Viterbo, we discover famous sites, as well as those which are less known and off the beaten track. In this epicentre of Italy, we examine the different peoples who lived here and how they were transformed first by Etruscans and later by Romans who dominated them culturally, taking in Latin and Faliscan sites, such as Sutri and Falerii Novii, which first came under the influence of Etruscans and were later transformed by Rome. Likewise, we uncover Etruscan sites at Vulci and Volsinii, today's Orvieto, which metamorphosed in the period of Roman dominance. In many of the sites, we also learn about 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 take us to indescribably beautiful hilltop cities, such as Orvieto and Narni, with their medieval cores and Renaissance treasures.

Day One | Rome - Viterbo

Meet the group at Fiumicino Airport to travel to 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 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 cosmopolitan 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



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

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-century 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 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 explore the world-renowned city of **Orvieto**, ancient Volsinii, whose Etruscan roots are evident in its wonderful museum, 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 BCE 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.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



Day Eight | Viterbo - Rome

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

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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/DbI Share	SS
13th - 20th Apr	\$5,030	\$700

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

The Island of Sardinia

Neolithic, Nuragic and Punic mysteries of this Mediterranean island

9 DAYS FROM \$6,620pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Far beyond my expectations . Exhilarating. Informative. Fun!”

Sardinia offers one of the richest and most fascinating standing archaeological repertoires in Europe. Known to the Greeks as Sandaliotis (“Sandal”, due to its shape), or Ichnoussa (“Stepping stone”), the island has seen Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs and Catalonians come and go. Before them, the mysterious Nuraghi people left an astonishing plethora of wonderful archaeology.

Day One | Alghero

Meet the group in the wonderful Catalan city of Alghero, colonised in antiquity by Phoenicians who grew wealthy from trade with Etruscans. In the modern period, Alghero was ruled by the Genoese before being taken over by the Aragonese. After settling down in the hotel, if there is time, we will have an orientation walk around the city before dinner.

Day Two | Monte d'Accoddi & Palmavera

This morning we make our way to one of the oldest and most interesting sites in our tour, the pyramid complex at **Monte d'Accoddi**, which was built over two millennia by people who predated the Nuragic culture. Discovered in the 1950s, the first structure, built in the 5th millennium by the Ozieri culture, appears to either have been an altar or the platform for a pyramid, while the second, built in the Copper Age in the 3rd millennium, resembles a Mesopotamian ziggurat. After lunch, we explore **Palmavera**, the first of our Nuragic sites built by a culture which thrived in the Bronze and Iron Ages. Here at **Palmavera**, we see several intertwined nuraghi, truncated towers with vaulted interiors.

Day Three | Alghero - Su Gologone

We leave Alghero this morning and head east towards Oliena, stopping during the morning at **Santu Antine**, a complex of nuraghi built from

the 19th to 15th centuries BCE. Constructed from sizeable blocks of basalt, the central tower is three storeys high and uses sophisticated, dry mortar corbelling. We proceed off the beaten track to **Romanzesu-Poddi Arvu**, another Bronze Age Nuragic site which is notable for its hundred-odd huts and public structures and includes a mysterious labyrinthine edifice and temples. For our last site of the day, we explore the little-known **National Archaeological Museum Giorgio Asprone** in Nuoro, where we look at artefacts dating from the Paleolithic to Roman periods, including items from the village of Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros, which we visit tomorrow.

Day Four | Su Gologone

Today we venture off the beaten track in 4x4s to visit breathtaking sites which shed insights into the extraordinary Sardinian Bronze Age. We start with the monumental **Giants' graves of S'Ena e Thomes**, a funerary site comprising a dolmen and a funeral hall made of enormous slabs of such scale that it was believed to be superhuman by later Sardinians. Proceeding to **Su Tempiesu**, we examine a late Bronze Age/Iron Age shrine to a sacred spring constructed with impeccable ashlar masonry and whose structure has an extraordinary double sloped roof. For our final site, we venture to the Middle Bronze settlement of **Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros**, where we see well-preserved stone huts



and workshops, as well as a circular sanctuary. After an adventurous day, we return to our picturesque hotel.

Day Five | Su Gologone - Oristano

This morning we travel west to the 4th-millennium necropolis at **Sas Concas**, where we see a cluster of twenty *Domus de janas*, or “fairies’ houses” - tombs carved out of the rock to resemble their houses, affording us glimpses into everyday life in pre-Nuragic Sardinia. We proceed to the Bronze Age Nuragic complex of **Tamuli**, an important archaeological site which comprises a nuraghe, as well as a group of huts and a necropolis which has six mysterious betyls, sacred stones, which were



Visit the highest Bronze Age structure in the Mediterranean at the Nuragic site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini

Travel in 4x4s to visit off-the-beaten-track sites such as the megalithic chamber tomb at S'Ena e Thomas and the Nuragic complex of Sa Sedda 'e Sos Carros

Examine the island's Phoenician past at Tharros and Sulcis, including mysterious tophets, children's cemeteries

seen to be imbued with life. We end the day at another tantalizing religious site, the sacred well at **Santa Cristina**, which is very well preserved with staggeringly precise ashlar masonry walls leading to a subterranean chamber with a corbelled roof which contained water, seemingly used for religious rites.

Day Six | Oristano – Baia di Nora

Traversing the enchanting Sardinian landscape, we make our way south to **Tharros**, first inhabited in the late Bronze Age and later colonised by Phoenicians in the 8th century when they had an important presence in Sardinia and Corsica, jostling for trade with Etruscans and later Phocaeans Greeks. At Tharros, we explore the Tophet and consider whether Phoenicians only included children's burials because children were seen differently, or whether children were sacrificed. This discussion continues with our visit to the **Civic Archaeological Museum "Giovanni Marongiu" of Cabras**, where we see artefacts from Tharros. We also visit the highest Bronze Age structure in the Mediterranean at the Nuragic site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini.

Day Seven | Nora

Waking up in delightful Nora, we spend the morning exploring the archaeological site of **Nora**, where we see well-preserved remains of buildings we would typically see in a town from the Roman period, including a bath complex, a theatre and *macellum*. The site also preserves the remains of a

Phoenician site, including a Tophet, demonstrating the city's Semitic roots. In the afternoon, we have free time in Nora to unwind on the beach or relax in the hotel.

Day Eight | Sulcis & Sant'Antioco

Our final full day is dedicated to Phoenician sites near Nora, starting with the ancient necropolis at **Monte Sirai**, first inhabited in the 8th century and enlarged in the 6th century, where we see another Tophet. In the afternoon, we visit the Phoenician/Roman site of Sulky or Sulcis on the beautiful island of **Sant'Antioco**, founded in the 8th century, where we explore the remains of housing and a republican Roman temple with an attractive *opus signinum* floor, as well as a series of rock-cut tombs, some of which are painted. We close the day with a visit to the **Ferruccio Barreca Archaeological Museum**, which sheds light on this important site, including its delicate jewellery and pottery.

Day Nine | Cagliari

Time permitting, we may have a final walk along the beach before we return home, setting off from Nora to Sardinia's capital, Cagliari, from where we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

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.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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

Travel & Accommodation

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Alghero, Su Gologone, Oristano & Baia di Nora

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
25th Apr - 3rd May	\$6,620	\$890
22nd - 30th Sep	\$6,740	\$890

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

The Samnites

War and peace in the ancient Apennines

7 DAYS FROM \$4,440pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



For three hundred years the hardy peoples of central Italy were Rome's bitterest enemies. Rome fought three wars against the tenacious mountaineers who had a habit of humiliating Roman generals. The Samnite Wars were fundamental for establishing Rome's control over the Italian peninsula, as well as developing Roman warfare. As an indication of this, the Via Appia was created because of the Samnite Wars, in order to facilitate troop movements. In later centuries, the homeland of the Samnites was vital for feeding the great cities of the north and south. Set amongst spectacular mountains, ancient cities, castles and abbeys, this tour reaches into the heart of Italy and considers early Italians who were so important for establishing and maintaining the might of Rome.

Day One | Rome - Venafrò

Meet the group at Rome airport to travel to the ancient site of Venafrò on the River Volturno, famous for its olive groves. Created as a Samnite sanctuary, Venafrò was refounded as an Augustan colony at the end of the civil wars to guard the road into the mountains. Here, in the centre of the town, we explore the remains of its amphitheatre, which once held 15,000 spectators but was later reused as stables and storage for agricultural equipment.

Day Two | Venafrò - Castelpetroso

The day starts with a visit to the **Santa Chiara National Archaeological Museum**, which houses finds from Venafrum, as well as other important sites, including the abbey of San Vincenzo. Here alongside imperial statues, we see the so-called Venus of Venafrum. We proceed to the **Pandone Castle**, originally built in the 10th century on the remains of earlier fortifications and redecorated in the Renaissance. We proceed along the River Volturno, where, at the headwaters of the river, we visit **San Vincenzo al Volturno**. Here we explore the excavations, partly conducted by your Guide

Lecturer, which have revealed the great 9th-century Carolingian Abbey and its painted crypt. This was a major centre of culture in the medieval period - a light in the so-called Dark Ages.

Day Three | Isernia & Saepinum

This morning we explore **Isernia**, which was a strategic Samnite city that dominated the roads across Italy. Renamed Aesernia after its seizure by Rome, the city proved its worth in the war against Hannibal. Our first visit is to the **National Museum of the Palaeolithic**, which displays the amazing Palaeolithic finds from the area; we continue to the excavations under the **Cathedral** and the **Museo Archeologico di Santa Maria della Monache**. We drive onwards to **Saepinum** where a market town was established to control the movement of flocks from the grasslands of Apulia north to Rome, as is attested in an inscription found on the site.

Day Four | Pietrabbondante & Schiavi di Abruzzo

We drive to **Agnone**, famed for its bronze casting tradition and the location of a Papal bell foundry





Visit the theatre and sanctuary at Pietrabbondante, the Samnite religious and political centre in the mountains of Molise

Explore the ancient site of Saepinum with an impressive theatre, which was developed to pasture flocks sent to Rome, something still done to this day

Admire the massive abbey at San Vincenzo al Volturno, established by Charlemagne

Examine the stunning UNESCO-listed Carolingian Oratory of San Pellegrino with its priceless frescoes

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



and has been making bells for generations. The Oscan table, found here in the 19th century, is the most important inscription in the region and gives us priceless information about Oscan, the language spoken by Samnites. We move onto **Pietrabbondante**, where we explore the excavated remains of the ritual sanctuary of the Pentri tribe. Used for major religious events, the huge temple and theatre were the seat of discussions regarding peace and war. It was destroyed by Cornelius Sulla in the Social War. In the afternoon we drive to **Schiavi di Abruzzo**, where we see another mountain sanctuary which boasts two well-preserved and reconstructed temples.

Day Five | Castelpetroso - Silvi Marina

Today we venture into the Abruzzi mountains to **Iuvavum**, a market town established for the ancient shepherds of the uplands, which includes a sizeable forum designed as an ancient market for the buying and selling of livestock, as well as temples and a small theatre. We proceed across the Sangro River to the **Rocca Scalegna**, where we visit the Angevin castle, which was built during its conflict with the Aragonese and which is dramatically set, clinging to an overhanging rock. Afterwards, we head to **Chieti** to visit the **National Museum Villa Frigerj**, whose highlights include the extraordinary Capestrano Warrior, and an inscription found in

Penna Sant'Andrea which is written in Paleosabellic, an ancient Italian language.

Day Six | Silvi Marina - L'Aquila

The days starts in the wide valley of **Sulmona** where road conditions permitting, we visit the sanctuary of **Hercules Curino**, one of the most important ancient shrines of Abruzzo, dedicated to a deity venerated by travellers and sailors. The sanctuary is laid out on a number of terraces, the oldest of which is on the highest level; on the middle level there is a shrine which preserves a polychromatic mosaic and frescoes. We proceed to the UNESCO-listed Oratory of San Pellegrino in **Bominaco**, a Benedictine Carolingian chapel that preserves priceless frescoes, as well as the Romanesque church of **Santa Maria Assunta**. After lunch we visit **Fossa**, where a unique Samnite tumulus cemetery is criss-crossed with rows of standing stones.

Day Seven | L'Aquila - Aminternum

On our last day, we pay a quick visit to **L'Aquila**. Here, we visit the famous fountain of the 99 spouts, gifted to the city by Emperor Frederick II. Then on to **Aminternum**, a substantial Roman city whose remains include a theatre and amphitheatre. After lunch we proceed to Rome airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Venafro, Castelpetroso, Silvi Marina, L'Aquila

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
29th Apr - 5th May	\$4,440	\$340 \$0

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Capri & Romans on the Bay of Naples

New discoveries and highlights in the shadow of Vesuvius

8 DAYS FROM \$4,220pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



The extraordinary Roman sites in the Bay of Naples have undergone an incredible regeneration in recent years. This beautiful stretch of coast, which was developed in the Roman era by elites and emperors in search of leisure, has witnessed exciting new archaeological activities, as well as an unprecedented number of newly opened sites. While much attention has been given to the wonderful new excavations of Pompeii, much less has been said about the opening of new sections of Herculaneum, the opening of Roman sites in Positano and Boscoreale, and the excavations taking place in Terzigno. With the addition of beautiful Capri, this tour offers a fresh take of Romans in the Bay of Naples, taking into consideration these new discoveries and sites, and offering an up-to-date examination of this prosperous and beautiful part of the ancient world. There has never been a better time to visit the towns in the shadow of Vesuvius with the advantage of it being a less crowded time of year.

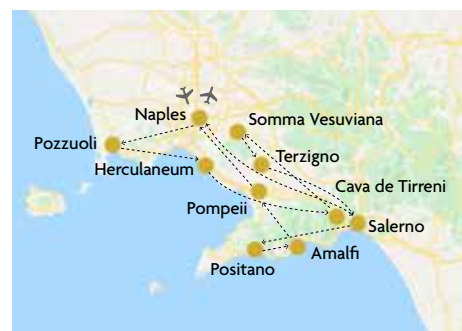
Day One | Naples - Cava de Tirreni

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

Day Two | Positano & Amalfi

This morning we drive to Positano, where we visit the **Roman Villa and museum**, with its dazzling frescoes. Discovered under the church of Santa Maria Assunta, this villa maritima, one of many opulent coastal villas built along the Bay of Naples, may have been owned by the gladiator Posides who was a slave freed by the emperor Claudius. After a period of restoration, the villa has only

recently been opened to the public. After lunch, we travel down the Amalfi Coast to Amalfi to explore the **Cathedral of St. Andrew**, first built in the 9th-century and a mixture of different styles, from its Arabic-Norman beginnings to the Renaissance and Baroque. The cathedral has magnificent bronze doors from the 11th century, the earliest in Italy after the Roman period, and a wonderful Romanesque campanile decorated with majolica tiles and interlacing arches. We proceed to the Arabic-style 13th-century **Cloister of Paradise** which has a wonderful peristyle, as well as 13th-century frescoes.



Day Three | Pompeii

We devote the entire day to **Pompeii**. No site compares in revealing the 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 brothels. Fountains in the street are worn where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti still marks the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid crowds, we visit several villas that are newly reopened to the public.



Examine newly opened houses in Pompeii

Explore the Roman Villa at Positano, with its wonderful frescoes

Visit the newly opened Museum at Terzigno, which houses incredible remains of newly excavated villas

Day Four | Naples

We start the day with a visit to the fabulous **Museum of Archaeology** in Naples, which exhibits the precious frescoes and mosaics discovered in the Vesuvian towns, including the Alexander Mosaic and the paintings of Sappho and the Pompeii riot. The western wing has recently re-opened following a decades-long renovation project and showcases hundreds of previously stored finds from key sites in Campania. After lunch we explore two fascinating sites in Naples. Our first visit is to the church of **Santa Chiara**, burial place of the Angevin kings, and Bourbon dynasty where we admire the cloisters with their magnificent 18th-century majolica tiles. Next, we visit **San Lorenzo Maggiore** founded in the late 13th-century as a Franciscan church on the site of the site of the basilica (covered hall) of the Roman Forum.

Day Five | Baia & Pozzuoli

We enjoy a morning of Roman waterworks, beginning with a visit to the amazing **Piscina Mirabilis** - a huge cistern which stored water for the fleet stationed in the harbour at **Misenum**. We continue to **Baia**, terraced into the side of an extinct volcanic crater, and developed entirely in the Roman period to cater to the desires of the super-rich who built enormous villas in order to take advantage of thermal springs. We visit the **Archaeological Park** where the imperial family built an enormous thermal and palatial complex. After lunch, we venture to the Flavian amphitheatre in **Pozzuoli**, one of the largest amphitheatres in the ancient world. Here we explore the best-preserved service rooms of any extant amphitheatre.

Day Six | Herculaneum, Boscoreale & Terzigno

Today we visit **Herculaneum**, sealed by 23 metres of pyroclastic flow from the same eruption which buried Pompeii. The nature of the eruption has meant that organic materials have survived, making this a more poignant site than Pompeii: here we see a wonderfully preserved wine shop, the stunning **House of the Stags** with its pergola

overlooking the sea and many fragments which attest to the everyday life in this upmarket city. There has never been a better time to visit the site, as two new museums have recently opened, as well as the **House of the Bicentenary** opened for the first time after decades. After an included lunch in Herculaneum, we visit Boscoreale where we visit the **Villa Regina**, discovered in the late 20th century while digging for the foundations of council housing. In contrast to the opulent villas we have seen on other days, this is a modest small holding which provides us with evidence of how ordinary people lived. We then head to the **Museum of Archaeology at Terzigno**, which houses precious remains and frescoes of 3 ancient farms destroyed by the AD 79 earthquake and excavated only recently.

Day Seven | Capri

This morning we take the ferry from Naples to **Capri**. Just 4 square miles in size, this limestone outcrop has captivated visitors for centuries. Emperors and Roman senatorial elites built seaside villas here in order to enjoy otium, or leisure, a fashion echoed by a few of the rich and famous today. Above the town sits Anacapri, a quieter village offering panoramic views from Monte Solaro, the island's highest point. We shall explore this area and the **Villa San Michele**, built by Swedish physician Axel Munthe which provides both beautiful gardens and stunning vistas. In the afternoon we will have some free time to explore this lovely island before returning to Naples by ferry.

Day Eight | Cava de Tirreni - Naples

We end our tour with one final private visit to the extraordinary archives of the **Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity at Cava de Tirreni**, which contains 15,000 parchments dating as early as the 8th century. Later, we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specializes in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military. Join Tony on our 11th May departure.



Dr Simon Elliott

An award-winning and best-selling author, historian and broadcaster, Simon is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent. He is also a Trustee for the Council of British Archaeology. Join Simon on our 21st September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
11th - 18th May	\$4,250	\$370 \$0
21st - 28th Sep	\$4,220	\$370 \$0

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

Prehistoric Italy

Ötzi and the Alpine Valleys of Val Camonica

6 DAYS FROM \$4,410pp

Activity Level ●●●○○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Throughout history, the fertile (and beautiful) Val Camonica valleys were an important route through the Italian Alps connecting northern and southern Europe. Prehistorians have theorised that the continuing movement of peoples and goods, especially during the Bronze and Iron Ages, gave rise to a dynamic prehistoric society – the history of which is packed into this ice-scoured landscape of lakes and mountains.

The Alpine valleys of Val Camonica hold one of the largest collections of Prehistoric rock art in the world - Italy's first World Heritage Site. From 6,000 years ago – from the Neolithic all the way through the Roman period – the inhabitants of Val Camonica etched pictures into the rock. Each depiction is unique, creating a varied and concentrated gallery of prehistoric life: there are animals, humans, boats, carts, huts - some strung together into narratives - an almost overwhelming profusion of detail.



Discover Ötzi, the Ice Man, the most complete ambassador from the Copper Age, with all that he was wearing and carrying

Enjoy a morning in Ledro on the scenic shores of the mountain lake as we study the well-preserved remains of a Bronze Age village

Explore the prehistoric gallery of over 100,000 rock art depictions at the rock art sites in Naquane Park

Day One | Verona - Boario Terme

Meet the group at the airport in Verona or at our hotel in Boario Terme.

Day Two | Val Camonica

We begin our survey of the extraordinary rock art with a two-day exploration of Val Camonica. Today we visit the incredible rock art sites in Naquane Park, which extends over 14 hectares. The valley is 75kms in length and contains more than 100,000 prehistoric rock art images depicting people, animals, tools and weapons. We continue with a visit to the huge Copper Age engraved boulders at Massi di Cemno. Excavations here uncovered a significant multi-period sanctuary. In the afternoon, we spend time in the National Museum of Prehistory della Val Camonica. Here, we see a marvellous collection of statue stelae and a wide range of finds from decades of excavations in the valley.

Day Three | Val Camonica

This morning, we visit the rock art sites in the archaeological park of Seradina-Bedolini showing scenes of hunting, war, magic and agriculture. After lunch, we contrast art with everyday domestic life as we view reconstructed prehistoric houses – and more rock art – at Foppe di Nadro. Here, we can see a Neolithic hut and also a Rhaetic Iron Age house, giving a good idea of how the people that made the rock art lived.

Day Four | Boario Terme - Lake Ledro - Trento

Today we make our way through the foothills of the Alps to the shores of beautiful Lake Ledro where a Bronze Age pile dwelling village (known as a palafitta) was discovered in 1929. We visit the Pile Dwelling Museum to see the finds from the site and view its reconstructed houses. Images of possible prehistoric houses carved in the rocks at Val Camonica may represent settlements such as

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Tertia Barnett

An archaeologist specialising in rock art, Tertia runs a research project exploring Scotland's Neolithic rock carvings and is also an Honorary Fellow at Edinburgh University.



these. The remarkable finds excavated from the lake village include baked bread moulded around heated stones. In the afternoon we continue to Riva del Garda and La Rocca Museum, where the exhibits include Copper Age statues.

Day Five | Bolzano & Trento

We drive further into the Alps and visit the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, home of Ötzi, the Ice Man. Scientists and archaeologists have unravelled (and continue to unravel) the tiniest details of his life during the Copper Age, 5,000 years ago. His body has yielded information on how he lived and what he ate, how his tattoos possibly indicate acupuncture points, how he survived and how he died. The original artefacts are very well displayed, along with the excellent reconstructions and are irresistibly fascinating. After lunch we return to Trento to visit the magnificent Romanesque cathedral and the excavations of a Roman street below one of its piazzas, the Bishop's Palace.

Day Six | Trento - Verona

We transfer from Trento to the airport in Verona to make our independent onward journeys.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Boario & Trento

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
30th May - 4th Jun	\$4,410	\$450 \$0

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

Cities of the Po

From the Etruscans to the Great Renaissance Families

8 DAYS FROM \$5,280pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Embark on a journey through history along the mighty Po River, Italy's longest waterway which meanders across the country from the Cottian Alps to the sparkling Adriatic. Once playing a significant role in the development of Italy's economy and culture, its banks have witnessed the rise and fall of many different civilisations and therefore offers a real treasure chest of ancient relics. Learn about cities such as Spina that went undiscovered for thousands of years, uncover stories of power, including the Este family who dominated much of the region for centuries, and admire a range of fascinating items in a range of famous museums and sites.

Day One | Bologna

Meet the group at the airport in Bologna or at our hotel.

Day Two | Bologna

The delights of **Bologna** await today, beginning with the **Archaeological Museum**. Housed in the 15th-century Palazzo Galvani, it boasts an impressive collection of artefacts, spanning from prehistoric times to the Roman age. Highlights include the Etruscan and Greek collections along with significant Egyptian items, providing a comprehensive overview of ancient civilisations as well as Bologna's own history. Next, we head to the multimedia library of **Salaborsa**, a fascinating cultural space inside Palazzo d'Accursio, the former seat of the city's government. The transparent floor allows us to admire the ancient excavations, where two main Roman streets were unearthed in the 1990s along with remnants of Etruscan and Villanovan civilisations, indicating that Bologna was a significant settlement long before Roman times. Look out for ancient wells, cisterns and parts of a Roman basilica before we have lunch in Bologna. In the afternoon we visit **Basilica San Petronio**, a majestic example of an Italian Gothic cathedral that dates back to 1390, before continuing to Santuario Santo Stefano. Known as *sette chiese* (seven churches), the complex merges multiple buildings constructed in different eras and is also home to an art museum.

Day Three | Ferrara

After breakfast we drive to pretty **Ferrara**, where we discover a whole host of treasures. First is the defining image of the city, the medieval moated fortress of **Castello Estense**. Originally built for the Este family who ruled Ferrara for centuries, it features four huge towers, drawbridges, prison cells and opulent rooms, including the Ducal Apartments, adorned with frescoes and lavish decorations. The stunning 12th-century **Cattedrale San Giorgio** is next, decorated with intricate sculptures and reliefs depicting biblical scenes and medieval life. There are also beautiful frescoes to admire inside, as well as an impressive altar and the tombs of notable figures from Ferrara's history. We continue to the **National Archaeological Museum of Ferrara**, set in Palazzo Costabili. It is renowned for its varied collection of artefacts from the Etruscan city of Spina, a significant settlement which flourished between the 6th and 3rd centuries BCE and was discovered by chance in 1922. While objects include pottery, bronzes and jewellery, the highlight of the museum is the collection of Greek vases, considered one of the most significant in the world. Following lunch, we make our last stop in Ferrara at the Renaissance **Palazzo Schifanoia**. Built for the Estes to 'escape from boredom' as the name translates to, we learn more about the powerful family here. A testament to the artistic

achievements of the Este court, the Salone dei Mesi (Hall of the Months) is a sight to behold, adorned with some of Italy's most important 15th-century frescoes that depict the activities of each month, astrological symbols and mythological figures. We explore the charming garden and several rooms showcasing Renaissance décor before making our way back to Bologna.

Day Four | Comacchio

Today we head to the pretty town of **Comacchio** in the Emilia Romagna region, known as 'Little Venice' thanks to its picturesque canals and bridges. After a **walk in the historic centre** we visit the **Museum of the Ancient Delta** to learn more about the crossroads of the ancient world. The vast collection of artefacts helps to tell the stories of the civilisations that once thrived on the Po Delta, including the **well-preserved Roman shipwreck** from the 1st century BCE, with its cargo of amphorae and other goods, along with ancient fishing tools, pottery and household items. We enjoy lunch in Comacchio and drive back to Bologna, stopping at the 9th-century **Pomposa Abbey**, a Benedictine monastery famous for its Carolingian manuscripts and stunning Romanesque architecture. You can expect a tall bell tower, intricate Biblical frescoes, beautiful mosaics and ancient relics along with the cloisters, refectory, chapter house and scriptorium.



Uncover the remnants of Spina, once the most important port of the Adriatic which went undiscovered for centuries

Glimpse into the rich history and power of the Este family at Palazzo Schifanoia, home to some of Italy's most important 15th-century frescoes

Learn more about the crossroads of the ancient world at the Museum of the Ancient Delta, featuring a well-preserved Roman shipwreck

Admire the panoramic views from Ghirlandina Tower, adjacent to the Romanesque masterpiece of Modena Cathedral

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



Day Five | Modena

The lovely city of **Modena** is the focus today, nestled on the south side of the Po Valley. Our first stop is the **impressive cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This Romanesque masterpiece, constructed in the 12th century, is famous for its stunning architecture and intricate sculptures, with the façade adorned with remarkable Biblical reliefs by Wiligelmo. Inside, the cathedral houses the relics of Saint Geminianus, the patron saint of Modena, and features a beautifully decorated crypt, impressive frescoes and a majestic rose window. The climb up to the top of **Ghirlandina Tower** is well worth it to see the panoramic views of the city and surrounding countryside. Next stop is the Baroque **Ducal Palace**, where a number of Este family members were born or died. Serving as the residence of the Este Dukes of Modena until 1859, it now houses the Military Academy of Modena. We explore the ducal apartments, decorated with exquisite frescoes, tapestries and period furniture. After lunch in Modena, we head to the **Mutina Archaeological Park**. Remarkable discoveries took place here during the construction of the underground car park, including the remnants of roads and buildings from the Roman period. As almost all of the structures are in the exact position as they were found, the ancient city layout and various exhibits provide a fascinating insight into one of the main roads which once connected the northern provinces of the Empire with Rome. Afterwards we make our way back to Bologna.

Day Six | Parma

This morning we visit **Parma**, known for its artistic masterpieces and culinary delights. We discover some of the city's highlights, including the Teatro Farnese, a spectacular wooden theatre built in the early 17th century. Originally constructed for grand ducal ceremonies, it was heavily damaged during World War II and has undergone a meticulous restoration process. We also explore the stunning **Baptistery**, one of Europe's most important medieval monuments as it marks a transition between Romanesque and Gothic styles. Made from pink Verona marble, the octagonal marvel was

completed in the 13th century and boasts intricate bas-reliefs depicting biblical scenes, historic frescoes and a magnificent dome showcasing the Last Judgment. The **adjacent cathedral** is also highly impressive, dating back to 1074 as a fire destroyed the previous early Christian basilica. Notable features include beautiful Renaissance art, a large marble pulpit, centuries-old statues of lions, the ancient Bishop's throne, the crypt and grand frescoes by Corregio, particularly the Assumption of the Virgin, which graces the dome with its dynamic and illusionistic style. After some lunch and a chance to sample Parma's local delicacies, we head to the **National Archaeological Museum**, one of Italy's oldest museums and a real treasure trove of ancient artefacts. Established in 1760 to house the items found during the excavation of Roman Veleia, the museum's extensive collection now spans several millennia, from prehistoric times to the late Roman period. Highlights include a remarkable array of Roman sculptures, mosaics and inscriptions, Etruscan and Greek items plus the Tabula Alimentaria, a large bronze tablet that details a Roman welfare programme for children.

Day Seven | Villanova - Montale

After breakfast we drive to the **Museum of Villanovan Civilisation**, located in the town of **Castenaso**, and journey back to the early Iron Age. The museum is dedicated to the Villanovan culture and influence, considered to be the earliest phase of the Etruscan civilisation. Spanning the 8th to 6th centuries BCE, the artefacts here include pottery, bronze tools, weapons and jewellery along with funerary urns and grave objects that illuminate the burial practices of the Villanovans. Outside, there is also a fascinating reconstruction of a furnished Villanovan hut. Our second stop of the day is in **Marzabotto**, known for its tragic history during the Second World War and its Etruscan site, the ancient city of Kainua. Located on this site is the **Pompeo Aria National Etruscan Museum**, and a visit here offers a captivating glimpse into the life of Etruscans through its displays of unique artefacts and burial objects found in the necropolis, as well as ruins of temples, houses and streets. We

drive to **Montale** after lunch and visit the **Bronze Age site of Terramare di Montale**. This open-air museum is a wonderful place to learn about the Terramare culture, which thrived in the Po Valley during the Middle Bronze Age. Stroll through the reconstructed village from 3,500 years ago with its defensive walls, hut and moat, based on the extensive excavations carried out in the area, and discover the tools, ornaments and other artefacts on show to further understand the technological and cultural advancements of the Terramare people. Afterwards we return to Bologna for our final evening.

Day Eight | Bologna

We transfer to Bologna Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Bologna

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	SS
8th -15th Jun	\$5,280	\$690

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Etruscan Italy

Discovering the ancient people of Etruria

8 DAYS FROM \$5,130pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



At the height of their power and prosperity during the 6th century BCE, the Etruscans possessed a civilisation to rival those of the Greeks and the Phoenicians with whom they traded extensively. This tour will connect us with what we know of these fascinating people: the hill sites selected for their cities, the beautifully objects they used in their lifetimes and took to their graves and the tombs which they decorated so delightfully. Despite the millennia, it is easy to empathise with the men and women depicted in sculpture and frescoes who seem to be enjoying their music, sport, dancing and banqueting.

Day One | Colle di Val d'Elsa

Meet the group at the airport in Pisa or at our hotel in Colle di Val d'Elsa.

Day Two | Volterra

We spend our first day in **Volterra**, one of the great northern cities of the Etruscan Dodecapolis, located on windswept, dramatic hills. Here we visit the **Guarnacci Museum**, one of Italy's oldest public museums, founded in 1761 when Monsignor Mario Guarnacci donated his extensive archaeological collection to the city. We see an exceptional collection of Etruscan artifacts, the highlight being the 'Shadow of the Evening', an elongated bronze votive statue that inspired artists like Alberto Giacometti. After lunch, we walk through the town,

viewing Etruscan temple foundations, the ancient city gate, the **Porta all' Arco** and a well-preserved Roman theatre.

Day Three | Florence

This morning, we drive to **Florence** to visit the **Archaeological Museum**, one of the oldest and most important museums in Italy. It is renowned for its significant Etruscan collection, which includes the Arezzo Chimera and the world-famous Francois Vase. After lunch, we head to **Fiesole**, home to Roman civilisations just a few miles northeast of Florence. This picturesque hilltop location offers panoramic views of Florence below. The well-preserved complex features a remarkable Roman theatre dating back to the 1st century

BCE, Roman baths and the remains of an Etruscan temple. Adjacent to the excavations, the **Museo Archeologico** houses artefacts discovered at the site, including Etruscan and Roman ceramics, bronzes and sculptures.

Day Four | Colle di Val d'Elsa - Civita Castellana - Orvieto

We start our day in Chiusi, the key inland city in northern Etruria. The excellent **Chiusi Archaeological Museum** features collections from the surrounding area, including intricately carved cinerary chests and tomb markers made from local sandstone. From here we make the short drive to Sarteano where, after lunch, we have arranged a special visit to the **Tomba della Quadriga Infernale**.



- Discover the remarkable **Banditaccia cemetery** at Cerveteri, the extraordinary city of the dead
- View the unique painted tombs of **Tarquinia**, the earliest fresco cycle in western art
- Explore the dramatic city of **Orvieto** and visit its great cathedral
- Admire incomparable collections of Etruscan artefacts in Rome's **Villa Giulia**

This tomb, discovered in 2003, is decorated with an extraordinary pictorial cycle in excellent condition. We also have a chance to explore the excellent archaeological museum, housed in the 16th-century **Palazzo Gabrelli**. Here, we see numerous artefacts from the region, dating from the 9th century to the 1st century BCE, including splendid human-shaped canopic jars.

Day Five | Orvieto

Today we explore **Orvieto**, known in ancient times as **Velzna**. The Etruscans likely established this city due to the excellent defensive opportunities provided by its stunning volcanic citadel. We have some free time to explore the town, which features two archaeological museums, 'underground Orvieto', and the magnificent Renaissance cathedral. In the afternoon, we visit the **Belvedere Temple Podium** and the small Etruscan cemetery of **Crocifisso del Tufo**, where family names are carved above the entrance to each tomb.

Day Six | Orvieto - Tarquinia - Rome

We visit **Tarquinia** to explore the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses exquisitely painted subterranean chamber tombs. The museum features an impressive collection of grave goods, including the remarkable terracotta winged horses from the **Ara della Regina Temple**. Over 6,000

tombs have been discovered at the **Monterozzi cemetery**, which we visit next, making this one of the largest burial grounds of the ancient world. We observe a selection of tombs that depict scenes of banquets and funerary games. In the afternoon, we head to the **Archaeological Park at Sutri**, where we visit the Etruscan Necropolis, Roman amphitheatre and Mithraeum before continuing to Rome.

Day Seven | Banditaccia Necropolis & Villa Giulia Museum

We spend the morning visiting the remarkable **Banditaccia cemetery** at Cerveteri, a truly extraordinary Etruscan site famed for its necropolis. This is a real 'city of the dead' with rock-cut tombs under tumuli or arranged in rows along streets. Many interiors are carved to imitate houses and temples. One tomb even has painted relief depictions of armour, household goods, furniture and the family dog. This afternoon, we drive east to visit the **Villa Giulia Museum** in Rome, which houses one of the world's best collections of Etruscan art and artefacts including the masterpiece Apollo of Veii from Portonaccio Temple.

Day 8 | Rome

We transfer to Rome Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Colle di Val d'Elsa, Orvieto & Rome

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	SS
21st - 28th Sep	\$5,130	\$830

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

Puglia & Basilicata

Discover the extraordinary Sassi di Matera

9 DAYS FROM \$5,740pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Both geographically and culturally, the southernmost 'heel' of Italy offers a diversity unmatched elsewhere in the south. This sunny, dry region, dotted with dazzling white villages, was once fought over by the Greeks, Romans, Normans, Swabians and Angevins, all of whom lives and prospered here and left the marks of their passing upon the landscape forever.



Day One | Puglia - Lecce

Meet the group at the airport in Puglia or at our hotel in Lecce. Time permitting, we will have an introductory stroll around the city.

Day Two | Lecce - Otranto

We begin our day in **Lecce**, visiting some of the churches and the amphitheatre of the Roman city of Lupiae. When Lecce became part of the Kingdom of Naples, it took on a new cultural identity, becoming the 'Apulian Athens'. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, this fostered the development of the 'Lecce Baroque' style, characterised by exuberant carving. We proceed to an off-the-beaten-track private visit to the



Discover the charming white-washed trulli of UNESCO-listed Alberobello

Tour ancient Matera, the setting for Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* and 2019's European Capital of Culture

Experience the wonderful Baroque city of Lecce and its many historic sites

Pay a visit to Castel del Monte, the most spectacular castle in all of southern Italy

Roca Vecchia Archaeological Park. We then visit the beautiful seaside city of **Otranto**, which was violently besieged by the Ottomans in 1480. Here, we visit the **cathedral** and the Byzantine **Church of San Pietro**.

Day Three | Egnatia - Alberobello

Today we drive to the ancient site of **Egnatia**, a Messapian city that was also a strategic trading centre in the Roman period. We move on to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Alberobello** before enjoying some free time to explore this city with its unique architecture at our own pace.

Day Four | Matera

We spend all day in **Matera**, the European Capital of Culture for 2019. Carlo Levi, author of *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, gave a heartbreaking account of the desperate poverty he witnessed during his years of exile in Matera in the 1940s. We begin with an exploration of the extraordinary **Sassi di Matera**, a network of rock-cut cave dwellings and frescoed Byzantine churches. In the afternoon we have some free time for independent wandering.

Day Five | Massafra - Taranto

Today we drive to **Massafra** to explore this lesser-known city, which is home to cave dwellings and wonderful Byzantine churches replete with frescoes. From here we continue to **Taranto** and explore the outstanding **National Archaeological Museum**, one of the most important in all of Italy.

Day Six | Metapontum - Gioia del Colle

This morning we head to **Metapontum**, one of the most opulent cities in Magna Graecia. We visit the **Temple of Hera** before continuing on to **Gioia del Colle** to see the wonderful castle rebuilt by Frederick II. As well as visiting the castle itself, we also explore the **National Archaeological Museum** housed within it.

Day Seven | Castel del Monte - Trani

We start with a visit to **Castel del Monte** to see the spectacular 13th-century hunting lodge of the Emperor Frederick II. We spend the afternoon in **Trani**, where we visit the exquisite **cathedral** that is located on the seafront. Afterwards, there is free time to explore at our leisure.

Day Eight | Venosa - Melfi

We travel to **Venosa** to visit the 12th-century **Abbey of the Holy Trinity**, which houses an important Norman tomb. Next, we explore the Roman site of **Venusia** before continuing to **Melfi** to visit an impressive Norman castle, which is home to the **National Archaeological Museum**. During our visit here, we find a priceless Bronze Age statuette and the Roman sarcophagus of Rapolla.

Day Nine | Trani - Puglia

We transfer to Puglia airport from where we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Lecce, Matera & Trani

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
22nd - 30th Sep	\$5,740	\$830

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



A land of sun-bleached ruins, stunning scenery, symbols of various civilisations and legendary myths, Greece is perhaps the ultimate destination for the archaeological traveller.

While it may be a familiar destination to many, Andante Travels offers unique and innovative itineraries that are often imitated but never matched. Choose one of the tours among the following pages and you will learn that this country is, to some extent, a product of its environment and geology. Throughout its vast and rich history, its vertiginous mountain ranges and mysterious landscapes were imbued with the divine, from the Vale of Tempe, associated with Apollo and the Muses, to Dodona and Delphi, dedicated to Zeus and Apollo respectively, just as Meteora became home to hermit monks who made their home in these isolated mountains to feel closer to God.

This country is also home to several famously beautiful island groups, including the Dodecanese and the Cyclades, whose importance lies far beyond their shimmering seascapes. Located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia Minor, as well as Africa and the Near East, it was through the Aegean islands that prosperity and cultural development was brought to Greece, starting with the Bronze Age Cycladic culture, as well as the staggering Minoan culture in Crete, which can justly be called the first significant culture in Europe.

The Hellenic rebirth in the Archaic period, instigated through its contact with Egypt and the Phoenicians, gave rise to a Greece which can justly be called the cradle of Europe, because so much of what defined Rome, and from then Europe, was first developed here. Surveying the magnificent Classical sites found in Athens, Olympia and Corinth becomes a kind of pilgrimage in which the pages of Herodotus and Thucydides come to life, and we arrive at an understanding of where we have come from.

As well as a variety of returning favourites, we are pleased to add some wonderful itineraries to our Greece collection. Our Ioannina tour examines different eras of the country's history from a beautifully scenic base and the meticulously curated Athens In-depth offers an immersive journey through ancient Greece's heart, while Classical Greece is an odyssey for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the ancient Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules.



- Ascend the Acropolis to the Parthenon, the universal symbol of the classical world and the quintessential classical ruin
- Wander the city of Akrotiri, the 'Pompeii of the Aegean,' and admire the fascinating frescoes on display in the museum
- Explore Aptera, the mythological setting for the battle between the Sirens and the Muses
- Sail by private charter to Delos and spend the day exploring one of the most important sites in Greece
- Marvel at the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe, the tomb of Philip II, and its extraordinary museum

“The tour was very well organised, nicely paced and the sites visited were of great interest. I thoroughly enjoyed the visit to Santorini & Crete.”



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Athens

A short break to this ancient capital, unimpeded by the usual crowds

4 DAYS FROM \$2,310pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE





Enjoy an informed, visit to this wonderful ancient capital. In winter the city belongs to the locals, the queues for the Parthenon melt away and there is space to absorb the beauty of its museum treasures. Wrap up warm and explore the city where democracy, architecture, classical art and literature germinated and flourished.



Ascend the Acropolis to the Parthenon, the universal symbol of the classical world and the quintessential classical ruin

Explore two fabulous world-class museums, housing between them some of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world

Soak up the atmosphere of ancient Athens, exploring the quieter corners and monuments which have survived here for 2,500 years

“This was an excellent tour, good hotel well situated, brilliantly chosen restaurants.”

Simon Lindley - Athens - Feb 2025

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens.

Day Two | Athens

Our first full day is dedicated to the **Acropolis** and its museum. We walk through ancient Athens and then climb to the incomparable Acropolis, which still dominates the city with a complex of religious sanctuaries, most famous of which is the Parthenon – ‘Chamber of the Maiden’. Built in the 5th century to house a colossal statue of Athena, patron goddess of the city, the views from here are simply stunning. After lunch in the Plaka, we visit the fabulous **Acropolis Museum**, which is consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world.

Day Three | Athens

We continue our exploration of Athens, visiting its ancient economic centre, the **Agora**, where a wide range of goods were shipped in from the nearby port of Piraeus and members of the elected democracy assembled to discuss affairs of state. Next, we visit **Kerameikos**, named in ancient times after the hero Keramos, son of Dionysus and Ariadne, where an extensive cemetery was excavated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. After lunch we visit the **National Museum of**

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



Athens. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older museum is still home to a great collection of antiquities.

Day Four | Athens

In the morning, we travel to **Piraeus**, which once consisted of three separate harbours - Kantharos, Zea and Munichia. All three harbours are still used today but since the sea level has risen two metres since antiquity, many of the ancient installations of Piraeus are now underwater. Excavations still continue, however, and notable finds have included several bronze statues, perhaps the most famous being of Apollo now in the **Piraeus Archaeological Museum**. Afterwards, we make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Herodian Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
19th - 22nd Feb	\$2,310	\$300 \$0
20th - 23rd Nov	\$2,400	\$300 \$0

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

Crete - Introducing the Minoans

An expert-led tour that traverses Crete from East to West

8 DAYS FROM \$5,190pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Inhabited since the Middle Palaeolithic, Crete became a dominant power in the Mediterranean in the 3rd millennium BCE when the people we refer to as Minoans constructed palaces on a scale not known in Europe at the time. There is a particular charm and elegance to the Minoan civilisation demonstrated through lively and free artistic impression and an obvious delight in realistic decoration with sea creatures, leaping dolphins and the bright colours of the Mediterranean world. Alongside the wonderful Minoan sites, much of the charm of the Crete we see today also stems from the influence of more than four centuries of Venetian rule which saw a flourishing in the island's architecture and arts. This tour which traverses Crete from East to West has it all: stunning archaeology, beautiful coastal villages and towns and dramatic landscapes accompanied by the island's wonderful cuisine.

Day One | Chania

Meet the group at our hotel in Chania.

Day Two | Chania

Today is devoted to **Chania**, starting with the **Archaeological Museum**, where we see a plethora of remains dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods. Highlights include Minoan ceramics and terracotta figures of bird-faced women, as well as a 3rd-century mosaic dating from the Roman period. In the afternoon, we take a walking tour of its pretty **Venetian quarter**, including the narrow alleys of the Kastelli region and the wider streets of the Jewish district, which dates to the 16th century when Jews, exiled from Spain and Southern Italy, made their home here.

Day Three | Chania

This morning we visit the fascinating **Maritime Museum** on the western end of the Old Venetian Harbour. It contains exhibits from Greek naval

history from Bronze Age to the Venetian and Ottoman period to the Battle of Crete. Its star exhibit is a life-size replica of a Minoan ship, the 'Minoa'. Later we explore some more of Chania including the **Kastelli Hill** where recent excavations have uncovered more of the city's 5,000 year past. We end our day with a visit to the **Agia Triada Monastery** to admire its Venetian and Cretan Renaissance style.

Day Four | Chania - Aptera - Heraklion

Leaving Chania, we visit **Aptera**, whose stunning and strategic positioning ensured it was powerful from the Minoan to the Hellenistic periods. Here we see remains of a 12th-century monastery dedicated to St. John Theologos, as well as remains of a Classical temple and an impressive Roman cistern. We continue to **Heraklion**, stopping en route to explore the excellent new **Museum of Eleutherna in Rethymnon**, which displays finds from Eleutherna, including an archaic statue, the



Lady of Eleutherna, reminiscent of the statue of Demeter known as the Lady of Auxerre in the Louvre, and grave goods from the Bronze Age.

Day Five | Knossos & Archanes

This morning, we visit the world famous site of **Knossos**, which boasted a population of 100,000 at its height in the 18th-century BCE and which was settled from as early as the 7th-millennium. The palace, controversially reconstructed by Arthur Evans, was the civic and religious centre of the settlement, as well as the residence of the King. The intricate, multi-storeyed layout of the palace has led to its connection with numerous myths and legends, including that of the Minotaur and the labyrinth. We take in the royal quarters, with their decorated Throne Room, as well as noting the axe stands within the House of the High Priest. Later today we visit two important museums, the **Archaeological Museum of Archanes**, which displays collections of Minoan pottery and



Discover the lesser-known archaeological remains of Ayia Triada and Mochlos as well as the famous Minoan Palaces

Explore Aptera, the mythological setting for the battle between the Sirens and the Muses

Delight in the lovely harbour town of Chania with its charming Venetian architecture

stone vessels found during excavations at Fourni Necropolis, Anemospilia and Archanes and the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite jewellery and brightly-coloured wall paintings. Within this peerless collection of artefacts from the Minoan age is the iconic bull's head 'rhyton', or ceremonial drinking vessel, brought here from Knossos Palace.

Day Six | Ayia Triadha & Gortyn

We start our day at the site of **Ayia Triada**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa that has yielded more examples of Linear A tablets than any other site of its kind. We proceed to **Phaistos**, inhabited from the 5th millennium BCE, it is the site of two palaces from different periods which were abandoned by the Mycenaean period. Mentioned by Homer, Phaistos is described in artefacts with Linear A inscriptions found on the site. We resume our adventures at the important Greco-Roman site of **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley, a gem of the archaeological world since its discovery in 1884. It is justly famous for being the locus of the oldest and most complete Classical law code, inscribed on stones reused in the Trajanic period and displayed on site – though parts are in the Louvre. Our time here includes a visit to the new **Archaeological Museum of Messara**, which opened in May 2023.

The museum is home to a permanent exhibition entitled 'Among the Mountains: the human presence in Messara from prehistoric to Christian times' and features artefacts from the Roman site of Gortyn and the Minoan Palace of Phaistos.

Day Seven | Gournia & Mochlos

Today we visit the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains, significant not only for its size, but also its strategic port and grand façades. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. The remains of Gournia cluster around cobbled streets on the side of a hill and are crowned by the now-ruined palace. Traces of some 50 houses are in evidence here, as well as a court and cemetery. After lunch we go by boat to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, which may have been connected to the island in the Minoan period. Here we see remains dating from the Minoan era up to the Hellenistic period and beyond. Notable are the hoards of metal found on the islands, as well as a Minoan necropolis.

Day Eight | Heraklion

We transfer to Heraklion Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Aristotle Koskinas

Aristotle studied classical archaeology at the University of Ioannina, Greece, and worked for the Greek Ministry of Culture for several years. He is an archaeologist and guide with several years of experience throughout Greece. Join Aristotle on our 31st March departure.



Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 14th April & 6th October departures.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Chania & Heraklion

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	SS
31st Mar - 7th Apr	\$5,190	\$790
14th - 21st Apr	\$5,360	\$790
6th - 13th Oct	\$5,210	\$790

For full details of this tour visit [andantetravels.com/acmi](https://www.andantetravels.com/acmi)

Athens - In-depth

Athens, Aegina and the Historic Port of Piraeus

8 DAYS FROM \$5,120pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



This meticulously curated tour takes us on an immersive journey through the heart of ancient Greece, offering an unparalleled opportunity to explore Athens's rich historical and cultural heritage and surrounding areas. From the iconic Acropolis and the bustling Agora to the serene island of Aegina and the ancient sanctuary of Eleusis, each day is filled with fascinating discoveries and unforgettable experiences. Led by Dr Rita Roussos, expert archaeologist and local Athenian, we delve deep into the stories and significance of each site, gaining a profound understanding of Greece's illustrious past. Join us for an extraordinary adventure that combines history, art and breathtaking landscapes in one of the world's most captivating cities.

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens.

Day Two | Hill of Ares - Propylaea & Acropolis Museum

We start our day with a visit to the rock of Areopagus, located northwest of the Acropolis. This rock served as the high court of appeal for criminal and civil cases in classical Athens. The Propylaea is the monumental gateway to the Acropolis in Athens, Greece. Constructed under the direction of the Athenian leader Pericles, the Propylaea was designed by the architect Mnesicles and built between 437 and 432 BCE. This grand structure is renowned for its architectural brilliance and significance in ancient Greek culture. We visit the **Parthenon**, a former temple on the Athenian Acropolis, Greece, dedicated to the goddess Athena, whom the people of Athens considered their patroness and the **Erechtheum**, dedicated to both Athena and Poseidon, notably complex and irregular in design. Located on the southern slope of the Acropolis, the **Theatre of Dionysus** is considered the first theatre in the world and the birthplace of Greek tragedy. It was dedicated to

Dionysus, the god of wine fertility, and theatre, and played a significant role in the cultural and religious life of Athens. We also discover the **Odeion of Herodes Atticus**, built in 161 AD by the Athenian magnate Herodes Atticus in memory of his wife, Aspasia Annia Regilla. The theatre was originally covered with a wooden roof made of cedar of Lebanon timber and was renowned for its exceptional acoustics. The Odeon is still in use today and serves as a venue for various performances. We stop for lunch before moving on to the **Acropolis Museum**. The museum, consistently rated as one of the best in the world, was designed by Bernard Tschumi, with local Greek architect Michael Photiadis, and houses the ancient artefacts found in and around the Acropolis including the superb Parthenon frieze – some parts original, some copies (we all know where much of it resides!). The top floor of the museum is designed on the same axis as the Parthenon so that it has an identical cardinal orientation and you can walk along the entire frieze of the temple, exactly as it would have been in ancient times. We later take a leisurely walk back to the hotel.

Day Three | National Archaeological Museum, Agora and Agora Museum

This morning, we go to the **National Museum of Athens**. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older museum is still home to one of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world. The museum was established in 1829 to protect antiquities and there are over 11,000 exhibits dating as far back as the Neolithic period through to late Antiquity. From the huge bronze statue of Poseidon (or is it Zeus?) to the golden mask of Agamemnon, the antiquities on display here provide the staple images of ancient Greece. We continue our exploration of Athens, visiting its ancient economic centre, the **Agora**, where a wide range of goods were shipped in from the nearby port of Piraeus and members of the elected democracy assembled to discuss affairs of state. Buildings of note include the city's arsenal, the Tholos and several stoas (the museum is housed in the reconstructed stoa of Attalos). Here we also find the temple of Hephaestus, one of the best-preserved of its type in Greece. Constructed



Enjoy the richest collections of artefacts from Greek antiquity ever assembled at three world-class museums

Explore the wonderful island of Aegina, situated in the Saronic Gulf

Discover two fabulous sites which are rarely visited – the Amphiaraeion of Oropos and the Sanctuary of Brauron

Visit the Sanctuary of Eleusis, one of the most important centres in antiquity

around the same time as the Parthenon, the temple was built to honour the patron of metal workers, potters and craftsmen. The **Agora Museum** is housed in the Stoa of Attalos, a reconstructed building that dates back to the 2nd century BCE and was originally built by King Attalos II of Pergamon as a gift to the city of Athens. On our way back to the hotel, we take the path up to **Philopappos Hill**, a favourite place for a promenade for Athenians with spectacular views over the city.

Day Four | Aegina Island

We journey to the island of **Aegina**, and our first stop is the **Temple of Aphaia**. Built around 500 BCE, it was dedicated to the goddess Aphaia and is one of the best-preserved examples of Doric architecture. We explore here before stopping for lunch in Aegina town. This afternoon we visit the **Aegina Archaeological Museum** to discover exhibits such as the Aphaia Temple sculptures, which date back to around 500 BCE. These sculptures are significant examples of Archaic Greek art and depict scenes from Greek mythology. The collection also includes items from the Minoan and Mycenaean periods, showcasing the island's historical connections with other ancient civilisations.

Day Five | Kerameikos, Piraeus & Eleusis

In the morning, we visit **Kerameikos**, named in ancient times after the hero Keramos, son of Dionysus and Ariadne, where an extensive cemetery was excavated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. A usually peaceful site infrequently visited by tourists, this was a major crossroads in antiquity, and you can see remains of the massive Dipylon Gate, where most roads converged, and the Sacred Gate, where participants in the Panathenaic Festival gathered before heading through the Ancient Agora and ascending to the Parthenon. It is also the spot where Pericles gave what was probably his most famous speech honouring those who had fallen in the first year of the Peloponnesian War. We explore the **Kerameikos Museum**, which houses a collection of artefacts found in the area, including the famous

funerary stelae and the impressive bull-shaped rhyton. Next, we drive to **Piraeus**, the largest port in Greece and one of the largest in the Mediterranean Sea - a significant naval and commercial centre throughout the centuries. We discover highlights at the **Piraeus Museum**, such as its collection of bronze statues, including the famous statue of Apollo, which dates back to the 6th-century BCE, and an impressive array of ancient ship models. After a pause to enjoy lunch in the Piraeus area, we head to **Eleusis** to find out more about its ancient sanctuary and the Eleusinian Mysteries, which were religious rites held annually for the cult of Demeter and Persephone. We then move on to the **Eleusis Museum**, which houses a vast collection of artefacts that date back to the Mycenaean period through to the Roman era.

Day Six | Amphiaraeion of Oropos & Cycladic Museum

Today, we explore the **Amphiaraeion of Oropos**, an ancient Greek sanctuary and an important site for healing and oracular consultations. The sanctuary featured a temple, a sacred spring, and various other buildings, including a theatre and a stoa. Pilgrims would visit the Amphiaraeion to seek cures for their ailments, often sleeping in the sacred precinct in hopes of receiving divine revelations through dreams. In the afternoon we visit the **Cycladic Museum**, established to showcase the private collection of the Gotlanders shipping family. Housed in the neo-classical dwelling of a former 19th-century ship owner, the remarkable collection focuses on ancient cultures of the Aegean, especially that of the Cyclades during the 3rd millennium BCE.

Day Seven | Sanctuary of Brauron - Thorikos & Sounion

The **Sanctuary of Brauron** is associated with the cult of Artemis Brauronia, where girls participated in rites of passage and other religious ceremonies. Archaeological excavations at Brauron have uncovered significant remains, including a temple, a stoa, and various altars. One of the twelve cities of Attica, unified by Theseus into the city-state

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



of Athens, **Thorikos** played a major role in the mining of silver and lead - crucial for the Athenian economy. We explore its well-preserved ancient theatre, which dates back to the 6th century BCE, making it one of the oldest theatres in Greece. We enjoy lunch in Lavrion before heading to **Sounion**. Located at the southernmost tip of the Attica peninsula in Greece, this area is renowned for its stunning views and historical significance. The Temple of Poseidon, perched on the edge of a cliff, offers a breathtaking panorama of the Aegean Sea. This ancient site, dating back to the 5th century BCE, was a place of worship dedicated to the god of the sea.

Day Eight | Athens

We make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Athens

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$S
20th - 27th Apr	\$5,120	\$1,040

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Ioannina

Highlights of Epirus

6 DAYS FROM \$4,290pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Positioned on the western shore of Lake Pamvotis and encircled by the impressive Pindus Mountains, we find Ioannina, capital of Epirus, and one of Greece's most scenic towns. From this most excellent of bases, we explore a selection of extraordinary archaeological sites, each representing a different era of Greek history: Dodona, Greece's oldest oracle site (predating Delphi), the 4th-century city of Kassope with its impressive theatre, as well as Nikopolis, founded by Octavian in 31 BCE, and Arta, known for its outstanding Byzantine monuments.



Delight in a beautiful area of Greece that is still largely untroubled by masses of visitors

Discover the remarkable Church of Panagia Parigoritissia, a hidden gem of Byzantine architecture

Explore the ruins of Nikopolis, a city founded by Augustus to establish Roman dominion over Greece

Enjoy the quiet beauty of Kassope, where there are spectacular views of the Ambracian Gulf

Day One | Preveza - Ioannina

Meet the group at our hotel in Ioannina.

Day Two | Ioannina & Dodona

This morning we get to know **Ioannina**, one of the loveliest towns of Greece. This was once the medieval town and the heart of the realm of the Vezir, Ali of Tepelena, whom Byron included in his poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. We take a walking tour of the Castro and visit the **Archaeological Museum**, where the finds from **Dodona** can be seen, including pilgrim's questions and the answer. In the afternoon we explore Dodona itself, the oldest oracle in Greece, to view the shrine and oracles of Zeus, where the god spoke to supplicants via the rustling of leaves in an oak tree. It was the location of huge festivals and boasts one of the largest ancient theatres in Greece.

Day Three | Nikopolis

Today is dedicated to **Nikopolis**, 'Victory City', constructed by Augustus in celebration of the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE and a means to secure Roman military control over Western Greece. Nikopolis was not only a colony of veteran Roman soldiers but also a settlement populated by the inhabitants of surrounding towns (like Kassope) who were forcibly removed from their homes. Here, we visit the **Actian sanctuary**, with its altar, theatre and stadium, the museum and parts of the ancient city centre, including its walls and basilicas. Returning to Ioannina in the afternoon, we stop at the Haigos Giorgios aqueduct, which once carried water to the Nymphaeum complex at Nikopolis.

Day Four | Arta & Orraon

We drive southwards to **Arta** on the Ambracian Gulf. The capital of Pyrrhus of Epirus was also an important Byzantine centre, and here we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, the remarkable **Church of Panagia Parigoritissia** with its unique Byzantine architecture, and cross the bridge spanning the Arachthos River, one of the finest examples of Byzantine engineering. We return to Ioannina via the small Hellenistic fortified centre of **Orraon**, an Epirote-Molossian city, with very well-preserved houses. With massive fortification walls reinforced with towers in places and a cistern for collecting water, this city-fortress was located in a strategic position, guarding the passage from the Amvrakikos Gulf to the Ioannina basin, the territory of Molossoi.

Day Five | Kassope & Nekromateion

This morning we explore the Hellenistic city of **Kassope**, finely situated high in the hills. From here we have spectacular views of the Ambracian Gulf, at the mouth of which the battle of Actium was fought. Kassope is a model city, with an agora, theatre and a regular street grid, yet it was abandoned along with other settlements to provide the population for the new city of Nikopolis. In the afternoon, we visit the **Nekromateion of the Acheron** on the Ionian coast. This is a controversial site which might be part of the oracle of the dead known from classical sources – the debate continues!

Day Six | Ioannina - Preveza

We make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 21st April departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 1st September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Ioannina

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$5
21st - 26th Apr	\$4,290	\$720
1st - 6th Sep	\$4,370	\$760

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

Macedonia

The glories of northern Greece

8 DAYS FROM \$5,170pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



This tour of Northern Greece is full of fantastic archaeological sites, marked over the centuries by a cornucopia of peoples and cultures from the Macedonians, Thracians and Slavs to the Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Ottomans. We follow in the footsteps of conquerors and travel through landscapes dotted with canyons, lakes, waterfalls and rivers in an area thick with history. We discover famous sanctuaries and monuments to victory, palaces, painted tombs and exquisite pebble mosaics which survive at the Macedonian cities of Verghina and Pella. There is much on offer, from the beautiful lakeside town of Kastoria, a town largely undiscovered by tourists, to Thessaloniki, a city whose historical importance and legacy can be said to rival that of Constantinople.

Day One | Thessaloniki – Kastoria

Meet the group at Thessaloniki airport to transfer to Kastoria, a beautiful lakeside town situated on a rocky isthmus on the shores of Lake Orestiada.

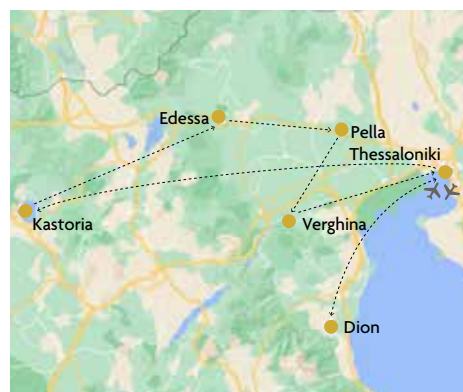
Day Two | Kastoria

Aside from its picturesque charms, extraordinarily Kastoria boasts more than 70 Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches dating from the 9th to the 16th centuries scattered around the town. Many are sadly in poor state of repair but distinguished by the frescoes which decorate them. The quality

of the artwork is astonishing, and we visit a small selection at **Agios Stephanos, Taxiarchis Oikonomou** and **Archangel Michael**, each concealing something unique behind their intricate brickwork. Later we explore **Dispilio**, the site of a large neolithic settlement that once stood on stilts in the lake.

Day Three | Kastoria - Edessa

Before we leave the region, we visit **Aigos Orestiko Archaeological Museum**, which displays important finds from excavations in the region. Afterwards



we continue to **Edessa**, a city defined by the water which flows into it from the Pindus Mountains to the west. The waterfalls of Edessa are a striking natural wonder noted from the Roman Empire to the travel writing of Edward Lear. We admire their thundering beauty before we follow the road over the Ottoman bridge that carried the Via Egnatia



Admire the remarkable frescos which decorate the Byzantine churches of Kastoria

Discover the waterfalls at Edessa, a city defined by water

Enjoy the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe – the tomb of Philip II – and its extraordinary museum

Explore ancient Pella, the capital of Macedonia and famous birthplace of Alexander the Great

across the river and explore the remnants of the ancient city. Later we continue to **Mezia** and visit the Nymphaeum where Aristotle instructed the pupils of the Macedonian elite, Alexander the Great among them, in political discourse and philosophy.

Day Four | Edessa – Aigai - Thessaloniki

Today is dedicated to **Verghina** (ancient Aigai), the capital of the Macedonian kingdom before its move to Pella in the 4th century BCE. We see the remarkable painted tombs, displayed in the excellent site **Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai** under the recreated mound which originally covered the burials. We also visit the newly opened **Palace of Aigai** once one of the largest buildings in Classical Greece as well as the new **Polycentric Museum of Aigai**. After our site visit, we continue to Thessaloniki for our first night in this fascinating city.

Day Five | Pella – Thessaloniki

Our first visit today is to **Pella**, where we explore Macedonia's administrative capital and the birthplace of both Philip II and Alexander the Great. We see the monumental agora, houses and the exceptional mosaics made from carefully selected natural pebbles, now on display in the museum. These extraordinary mosaics were made mostly of carefully selected natural pebbles with occasional use of artificial tesserae, terracotta and strips of lead; the eyes were inlaid with precious stones that have not survived. In the afternoon, we return to Thessaloniki to visit the **Archaeological Museum** with extraordinary finds from the city and its region, including the stunning Derveni bronze crater.

Day Six | Dion

We travel south following the curve of the coastline to **Dion** at the foot of Mount Olympus, the religious capital of Macedonia. An evocative site with a magical setting, surrounded by trees in which nightingales sing and crisscrossed with a labyrinth of springs and streams. It is here that both Philip II and Alexander used to celebrate their victories by holding Olympic Games and magnificent receptions and where Alexander conducted sacrifices before his campaign into Asia in 334 BCE. We also visit the small Archaeological Museum nearby.

Day Seven | Thessaloniki

Today is devoted to **Thessaloniki**, founded by King Cassander as a new capital city. We explore the city on foot, taking in the Agora and Roman forum before heading to the Late Roman palace complex of Galerius to view the Rotunda and the Triumphal Arch of the emperor. We take a short walk along the **promenade** to see the White Tower, before stopping for lunch nearby. In the afternoon we pay a visit to two of the city's oldest churches, **Aghios Dimitrios** and **Aghia Sophia**, before we head to the Byzantine, UNESCO World Heritage listed, **Walls of Thessaloniki**, or Kastras as they are known to those that live in the city. Over half of these fortifications which once protected the city, are still standing today. Afterwards, a visit to the adjacent and equally superb **Byzantine Museum** completes our survey of the archaeology of the region.

Day Eight | Thessaloniki

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

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- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Kastoria, Edessa & Thessaloniki

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	SS
28th Apr - 5th May	\$5,170	\$840
8th - 15th Sep	\$5,280	\$970

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

The Ancient Argolid

An archaeological treasure house

7 DAYS FROM \$4,280pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Join us and discover the Argolid in the eastern Peloponnese and enjoy a relaxed exploration of the lives and landscapes of Greeks, gods and heroes, in the place where myth and archaeology meet. Our fascinating tour ends in Athens at the National Museum, where we see artefacts that once furnished and graced the sites we visit across the previous days, and which belonged to the victors who once walked those hills of the Argolid.



Explore the land of Homer's heroes and the great bronze citadels from which they came

Visit the lesser known, quieter sites of the Argolid as well as the big-ticket names

Enjoy a prolonged stay in Nafplion, one of the prettiest harbour towns in Greece

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at Athens airport to transfer to our hotel in Nafplion..

Day Two | Nafplion & Asine

Our day begins at the **Archaeological Museum** in Nafplion, where we see artefacts from regional excavations that include extraordinary Mesolithic finds and objects from Bronze Age settlements, as well as later Classical and Hellenistic items. We drive to **Tiryns**, whose cyclopean walls made it one of the most notable fortresses of Mycenaean Greece, reputedly the birthplace of Heracles. We continue to the ruins at **Asine**, mentioned by Homer as part of the kingdom of Diomedes, King of Argos. We also visit the 16th century **Palmidi Fort**, perched on a crag 200ft above the Argolic Gulf.

Day Three | Prossymna & Mycenae

Today we drive to the ancient Mycenaean citadel and palace at Prossymna and walk along the original road to the citadel at **Mycenae**. This is the centre of the mighty Helladic Bronze Age civilisation of Greece, according to legend the capital of King Agamemnon. Visit the museum, the famous shaft and Tholos tombs, including the treasury of Atreus.

Day Four | Lena & Argos Museum

We explore **Lerna**, which in antiquity was a region of water springs and one of the entrances to the underworld. We round off the morning with a visit

to the **Argos Museum** with collections from the region. This afternoon will be spent at leisure.

Day Five | Midea & Nemea

Our morning starts at **Midea**, considered one the three most important Bronze Age fortresses in the region alongside Mycenae and Tiryns. We continue to **Dendera**, which appears to have been associated with the site, and we visit the cemetery and Tholos tomb here. We explore the **Argive Heraion**, an evocative site where we easily imagine the processions described by ancient authors traversing the vast tracts of surrounding countryside. We then drive to **Nemea**, where Heracles slew the Nemean lion.

Day Six | Epidaurus - Athens

We start our journey north, stopping to see the extraordinary Mycenaean road bridge at **Ligortino**. We also visit **Epidaurus**, home to the sanctuary of Asklepios – its core is formed by the finest theatre in all of Greece. We complete our visits at **Troezen**, the birthplace of Theseus, before proceeding to the Island of **Poros** for lunch. After lunch we take the fast ferry to **Pireaus** and transfer to our hotel.

Day Seven | Athens

We spend the morning at the **National Archaeological Museum** in Athens to see its fabulous collections before transferring to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome. Join Rita on our 28th April departure.



Dr Sandy MacGillivray

Sandy is an archaeologist who specialises in the Aegean Bronze Age as well as the civilisations of Crete, the Cyclades and mainland Greece during this period. Join Sandy on our 20th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Nafplion & Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	\$5
28th Apr - 4th May	\$4,280	\$760
20th - 26th Oct	\$4,370	\$800

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

The Cyclades

Explore sacred islands and sprawling ruins

11 DAYS FROM \$8,260pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Of all the Greek islands scattered over the Aegean Sea, the Cyclades have the most evocative mythology. Travelling by land and crossing by ferry, discover atmospheric archaeological sites on these fascinating islands from beautiful Delos, the legendary birthplace of Apollo, to unassuming Tinos, well off the tourist radar.



Day One | Santorini

Meet the group at our hotel in Santorini.

Day Two | Thera & Akrotiri

We visit ancient **Thera**, the classical city built after the catastrophic eruption that ended the Bronze Age prosperity of the island. Public buildings, markets, theatre, baths, temples, private residences and one complete road network with sewage system constitutes the city's picture. After lunch, we visit the **Prehistoric Museum**, where finds from the area are on display, including some vibrant Bronze Age frescoes found at Akrotiri. We end the day with a visit to **Akrotiri**, the once well-connected Minoan port town with trading links throughout the eastern Mediterranean.

Day Three | Santorini - Ios

We take the morning ferry to the hilly island of **Ios**. In antiquity, the island prospered because it lay at the junction of key trading routes that linked the Cyclades with mainland Greece, Crete and Asia Minor. Occupied since the early Cycladic period, there is archaeology here from all the major periods of this region's history – Minoan, Mycenaean, Phoenician, Roman and Byzantine. We start our exploration at the small **Archaeological Museum**, which displays artefacts found during excavations on the island over the last 30 years. After lunch we check in to our hotel for some free time to relax.

Day Four | Ios

Today we explore this rugged, hilly island, starting with a visit to **Skarkos**. Situated in Kambos, one of the most fertile areas of the island, the middle Early Bronze Age settlement is one of the oldest



Sail by private charter to Delos and spend the day exploring one of the most important sites in Greece

Visit the spectacular prehistoric settlement of Skarkos and 'Homer's' tomb on the delightful island of Ios

Admire the sleeping giants of Naxos, the Flerio Kourous, scattered throughout this beautiful Aegean landscape

and best-preserved Cycladic prehistoric sites in Greece. After lunch, we continue to the remains of the **Paleokastro**, built by the Venetians in the 15th century. Now very ruinous, this was once a substantial fort and there are spectacular views over the seas to neighbouring islands. We end the day at **Homer's tomb**, allegedly one of three grave sites on the northern edge of the island.

Day Five | Ios - Naxos

Taking to the sea once more we cross to **Naxos**, the largest island in the archipelago, where we arrive in time for lunch. In the afternoon, we drive to the **Flerio** area, where ancient marble quarries were situated. Here we see the two oversized but incomplete stone figures of young men (Kourai) dating to the early 6th century BC. Probably damaged during their creation, these marble statues, each weighing between 7 and 8 tonnes, were abandoned on the mountainside.

Day Six | Naxos

Spending the day on Naxos, we drive to the south of the island and the fertile valley of Livadi to visit the **Sanctuary of Apollo and Demeter** at Sangri to see the remains of the all-marble temple constructed in the late 6th century. After lunch, we continue to the ruins of the **Sanctuary of Iria**, dedicated to the god Dionysus. Its importance is attested not only by splendid architectural finds but also the numerous votive offerings found here. A limited sample of the movable finds can be seen in the small on-site museum.

Day Seven | Delos

Today we take our private boat to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Delos**. Now 'an isle of ghosts, uninhabited since antiquity' (John Freely), it was once one of the most sacred places of ancient Greece and one of the most robust trade centres. Its claim as the birthplace of Apollo gave Delos a

strong religious identity that lasted for hundreds of years. Excavations began in 1872 and are still in progress, having unearthed the Sanctuary and a good part of the Hellenistic town, and the findings are in the on-site museum. We explore the temples, houses and agorae of this sacred island.

Day Eight | Naxos - Tinos

We visit the **Archaeological Museum** in Naxos. Situated in the central square leading to the Kastro, it is housed in a 17th-century Venetian house, spread over several storeys. Its collection of early Cycladic marble figurines is second only to that of Athens' National Museum. In the afternoon we catch our ferry to **Tinos**. This unsophisticated, mountainous island is famous for its marble and distinctive architecture – Tinian dovecotes, a legacy of the Venetians, are scattered across the landscape.

Day Nine | Tinos

Today we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, which includes finds from the **Sanctuary of Poseidon**. Afterwards, we visit the sanctuary itself, situated opposite the beach of Kionia. Tinos was the only island in the Cyclades that dedicated an entire temple to Poseidon. Worshippers came here to cleanse and purify before travelling to the sacred island of Delos. We end the day at the **Pyrgos Museum**, which is dedicated to the local history of marble and explains the quarrying and sculpting techniques used on the island since antiquity.

Day Ten | Tinos - Athens

We take the ferry to Rafina and from there we travel to **Sounion**, where we visit the beautiful **Temple of Poseidon**. Later we transfer to Athens for our final night in Greece.

Day Eleven | Athens

We transfer to Athens airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
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- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Santorini, Ios, Naxos, Tinos & Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
7th - 17th May	\$8,260	\$1,340

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

Crete & Santorini

Rise and fall of the Minoan civilisation

8 DAYS FROM \$5,860pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The Minoans are known for their incredible labyrinthine palaces - the greatest of which is at Knossos, where Theseus defeated the Minotaur. Our journey across these two beautiful islands showcases the architectural and artistic skills of this Bronze Age civilisation, whose writing, ambition and organisation profoundly influenced ancient Greece's development.

Day One | Santorini

Meet the group at our hotel in Santorini, where we stay for the next two nights.

Day Two | Fira & Akrotiri

Our first full day begins at the **Prehistoric Museum in Fira**, home to dazzling wall paintings from the Minoan buildings at Akrotiri, as well as a large number of artefacts found in various island excavations. Don't miss the jugs depicting elegant birds, dating from the middle Cycladic period of 1800 to 2000 BCE, and the statue of the golden goat, discovered in Akrotiri in 1999. This afternoon we continue to **Akrotiri** itself. Destroyed by a catastrophic volcanic eruption in around 1500 BCE and buried in ash, the city is reminiscent of Pompeii, and it has retained some impressively well-preserved houses. The drainage systems and complex buildings indicate a once prosperous society with many successful trade links. We stop to admire the delightful 'Fresco of the Monkeys' as well as the 'House of the Ladies', with its striking central light well.

Day Three | Thera - Heraklion

After breakfast we journey up winding roads to the ancient city of **Thera**, located on a ridge of Mesa Vouno mountain, some 360 metres above sea level. The site has been under excavation since 1904, and findings from the city have contributed immensely to our understanding of Minoan culture and history. We imagine the people whose lives were centred

around Thera's 800-metre long main street, who attended performances in the city's enormous theatre and who worshipped Hermes and Heracles within the walls of the sacred grotto. This afternoon we visit **Panagia Episkopi**, a Byzantine cathedral containing many beautiful frescoes, before a ferry takes us to our next destination of historic **Heraklion**. We arrive in Crete's largest city in time for dinner.

Day Four | Palace of Knossos & Vathypetro

The fourth day of our holiday begins with a trip to the world-renowned **Palace of Knossos**, a majestic complex erected in Greece's Bronze Age, and the largest Bronze Age site in the country. The intricate, multi-storeyed layout of the palace has led to its connection with numerous myths and legends, including that of the Minotaur and the labyrinth. We take in the royal quarters, with their decorated Throne Room, as well as noting the axe stands within the House of the High Priest. We continue on to the Minoan country house and outbuildings of **Vathypetro**, the surviving remnants of a settlement that stretched across three hills. Here we observe an elaborate shrine as well as a wonderfully preserved wine press – one of the oldest in the world. Following this we return to Heraklion to spend time at the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite jewellery and brightly-coloured wall paintings. Within this peerless collection of artefacts from the Minoan age is the iconic bull's head 'rhyton', or ceremonial



drinking vessel, which was brought here from the Palace of Knossos.

Day Five | Palace of Phaistos - Gortyn

We enjoy a morning at the columns and courtyards of Phaistos to visit **Ayia Triada**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa that has yielded more examples of Linear A tablets than any other site of its kind. After this we travel to the magnificent **Palace of Phaistos**. Famous finds here include thousands of documents, some inscribed with the earliest known occurrence of the still undeciphered writing of the Minoans – a script also known as 'Linear A'. We resume our adventures at the important Greco-Roman site of **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley, a gem of the archaeological world since its discovery in 1884. Thought to have once been populated by over 300,000 people, the site is best known for its collection of 5th-century stone



Tick the mighty Palace of Knossos off your archaeological wish-list

Explore the city of Akrotiri – the “Pompeii of the Aegean” – and admire the fascinating frescoes on display in the museum

Take a boat trip to the island of Spinalonga, a leper colony that was in use right up until the 60s, where we will explore the abandoned buildings and its history

Visit the vast Archaeological Museum in Heraklion and view its fascinating collections

blocks, inscribed with the law codes of classical Greece – the oldest and most complete example of coded ancient Greek laws ever found.

Day Six | Palace of Malia - Gournia

Our day starts with a trip to the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains, significant not only for its size, but also its strategic port and grand façades. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. The remains of Gournia cluster around cobbled streets on the side of a hill and are crowned by the now-ruined palace. Traces of some 50 houses are in evidence here, as well as a court and cemetery. This afternoon we have the option of a boat trip to the haunting and evocative island of **Spinalonga**, the location of a former leper colony that was still in use right up until 1962. It is believed that the island was cut off from the mainland by occupying Venetians in the 16th century in order to strengthen their defences.

Day Seven | Mochlos

This morning, if the weather permits, we have the option to journey by fishing boat across the turquoise Gulf of Mirabello to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, on which an important Minoan town once stood – a hub of trade and industry. A number of pit graves and tombs have been unearthed here, and the excavations, begun in 1908, continue to this day. This afternoon is free for us to enjoy our spectacular surroundings at our leisure. Stroll along

the splendid coastline, doze in the sunshine or plunge into the warm and welcoming waters near our hotel – the choice is yours.

Day Eight | Sissi - Heraklion

This may well be our last morning in Crete, but the discoveries aren't over yet. Before we make our journey to the airport, we drive to stunning **Sissi** to visit the excavations on Kephali Hill, where evidence of Early Minoan mortuary activity has been found near Crete's latest Minoan palace to be discovered. Alas, it is now time to say goodbye to the Minoan world and to our fabulous group as we make our independent onward journeys.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 19th May departure.



Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught archaeology and art history at the American University of Athens. Join Rita on our 22nd September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Santorini, Heraklion & Elounda

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
19th - 26th May	\$5,860	\$1,020
22nd - 29th Sep	\$6,120	\$1,110

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

Wild Thrace

Discover ancient kingdoms across this region

9 DAYS FROM \$5,690pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Very interesting, well planned, and an excellent guide lecturer and tour manager.”

East of Thessaloniki are the mountains and plains of Thrace. Its ancient kingdoms were alternately at war and allied with Persians, Greeks and Macedonians. Discover the strategic cities that grew up in the wake of passing conquerors of Philippi, explore 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.

Day One | Thessaloniki – Kavala

Meet the group at Thessaloniki airport to transfer 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 as well as houses dating from the Roman period.

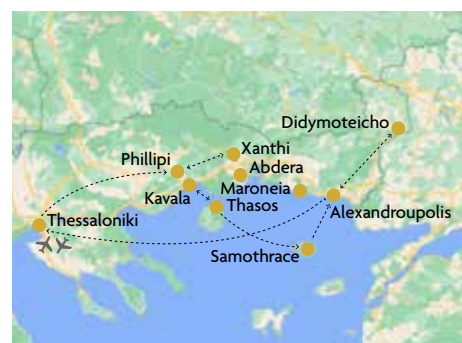
Day Two | Kavala – Philippi

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 **Philippi**, named after Philip II, who conquered it and is famous 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. At the end of the day, we return to Kavala where we see the **Byzantine Castle**.

Day Three | Thasos

This morning we make our way to Keramoti port and continue by ferry to the Island of **Thasos**, the most northerly of all Greek islands surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea. 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. We spend a day on the island exploring the excavated remains of the classical city which once lay under modern day Limenas. We also visit **Limenas Museum** before returning to the mainland.



Day Four | Abdera, Xanthi & Komotini

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 several houses from the Roman period and later Byzantine churches. We continue to **Xanthi**, a major trading town in Byzantine and Ottoman eras well known in Greece for its distinctive



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 unspoilt islands of Thasos and Samothrace

Explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, built to honour fertility deities around 1000 BCE

period architecture. We end the day with a visit to **Komotini**, whose history was closely tied to the Via Engatia down to the late antique period when Theodosius fortified the road here.

Day Five | Kavala – Samothrace

An early start this morning as we make our way to Alexandroupoli in time for the morning ferry to the lovely island of Samothrace. We arrive mid-morning and drive up to the **Chora** set high up on Mount Saos and visit 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. After lunch we check into our hotel with some free time to relax after our early start or alternatively, you may wish to join an optional walk in Fonias Gorge.

Day Six | Samothrace – Alexandroupoli

We spend the morning exploring the famous classical '**Sanctuary of the Gods**'. 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. Rivalling that of Eleusis, it was known as the 'Delos of the North'. We also visit the small site museum which presents exhibits from the Sanctuary as well as various archaeological sites of the island. After lunch we return to the Chora for some free time before we catch the ferry back to the mainland and transfer to our hotel in Alexandroupoli.

Day Seven | 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 **Zoni**. Excavations on the site have been continuously conducted for over 50 years and have brought to light the fortification wall, private houses inside the fortified area, the city's layout with its street network, public buildings, a sanctuary of Demeter and a temple of Apollo. In the afternoon we return to Alexandroupoli to visit the **Archaeological Museum**. Opening in 2022, the museum contains more than 1,000 ancient objects excavated from the archaeological sites around Alexandroupoli, Evros and the wider region of Thrace.

Day Eight | Didymoteicho & Evros Delta

This morning, we travel north to **Didymoteicho** whose idiosyncratic name might derive from its two sets of walls built in the 6th century under Justinian. Built on a rocky outcrop, the town once controlled the estuary of two rivers from its commanding position and we shall explore some of the fortifications and remains of Byzantine houses as well as the small church of St Catherine. In the afternoon we take a boat trip on the **Evros**, a river associated with a number of Greek myths and named by Euripides as 'argiroritis', the carrier of silver. Its estuary in the Thracian Gulf forms the Evros Delta, a region of coastal lakes, lagoons, dunes, swamps and reed beds, one of Europe's most important natural habitats rich in wildlife.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Christina
Hatzimichael-Whitley

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



Day Nine | Alexandroupoli - Thessaloniki

Our tour comes to an end, and we return to Thessaloniki Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Kavala, Samothrace & Alexandroupoli

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	\$5
2nd - 10th Sep	\$5,690	\$740

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Classical Greece

From Bronze Age to Byzantine

11 DAYS FROM \$6,960pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Embark on a modern-day odyssey to pivotal archaeological sites as we trace the story of Ancient Greece from the Bronze Age to Classical glory. This is a tour for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the ancient Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules. It is also the perfect opportunity to revisit the stories of *The Iliad* and *Odyssey* and marry them with the impressive material remains of the people who inspired, composed and believed in them.

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in the Plaka.

Day Two | Athens

We spend an entire day exploring ancient Athens on foot. We walk past the **Theatre of Dionysus**, the very place where the masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes were originally performed, and continue up to the **Acropolis** which still dominates the city. Here stands the **Parthenon**, 'Chamber of the Maidens', built in the 5th century BCE to house a colossal gold and ivory statue of Athena, patron goddess of the city. The views out over the city from here are simply stunning! After lunch in the Plaka, we visit the fabulous **Acropolis Museum**, consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world. Now 10 years old, the museum was designed by Bernard Tschumi, with local Greek architect Michael Photiadis, and houses the ancient artefacts found in and around the Acropolis, including the superb Parthenon frieze – some parts original, some copies.

Day Three | Athens

This morning we explore the **National Archaeological Museum**. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older

museum is still home to one of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world. Established in 1829 to protect antiquities from all over Greece, there are over 11,000 exhibits dating as far back as the Neolithic period through to late antiquity. From the huge bronze statue of Poseidon (or is it Zeus?) to the golden mask of Agamemnon, the antiquities on display here provide the staple images of ancient Greece. In the afternoon, we continue our exploration of Athens with a walk through the **Agora**, the political and commercial heart of ancient Athens where Socrates stood trial and where free-born male Athenian citizens could come to cast their vote.

Day Four | Athens - Thebes - Delphi

This morning we drive north to the site of ancient **Thebes**. The ancient city holds a central place in ancient Greek mythology as the setting for many prominent myths and legends, including the stories of Oedipus and Antigone. Here we visit the newly rebuilt **Archaeological Museum**, one of the most important in Greece. The finds from Boeotia, covering the Palaeolithic up to post Byzantine periods, comprise some rare and unique collections. We then continue our journey to Delphi where we stay overnight.

Day Five | Delphi - Olympia

Our morning is devoted to the **Panhellenic Sanctuary at Delphi** in its wonderfully dramatic mountain setting. The temple, perched on a high terrace, is approached by the sacred way, which passes numerous 'treasuries' and other monuments of the city-states of Greece, vying for the attention of visitors both past and present. The oracle was given by a priestess called the Pythia who sat on a tripod over a chasm in the inner sanctum and, inhaling the vapours which issued from it, uttered prophecies in a trance. We also visit the on-site **museum**, home to some extraordinary artefacts, including the famous Charioteer, a masterpiece of classical art sculpted in bronze. We depart in the early afternoon, crossing the Rion-Antirion bridge, and travel to the Peloponnese peninsula at Olympia.

Day Six | Olympia - Nafplion

This morning, we explore **Olympia**, home of the first and greatest Panhellenic Games and the most important religious centre in the 8th century BCE. Here we find the ruins of the ancient stadium and temples such as the Pelopion, once the alleged tomb of Pelops, the mythical chariot-racing king who gave this region its name. The major festivals here once provided opportunities for the



Discover the site of ancient Thebes, the mythical home of Oedipus

Consult the oracle at the Panhellenic Sanctuary at Delphi in its wonderfully dramatic mountain setting

Explore the famous citadel of Mycenae and see the Lion Gate, the grave circles and the Treasure of Atreus

Admire the Byzantine architecture of Mystras, some of the finest examples of 14th and 15th century AD architecture in Greece

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Christina
Hatzimichael-Whitley

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



meeting of representatives from the Greek states. Facilities discovered at the sanctuary include a gymnasium, with covered practice running track and *palaistra* (training compound), baths and a hotel. Archaeologists have also found evidence of the camps and traders' stalls set up by ordinary visitors to the games. We also visit the small on-site museum before we continue to Nafplion, where we spend the next four nights.

Day Seven | Nafplion & Epidauros

Our first visit today is to the excellent **Archaeological Museum** located in the main square of Nafplion. Here we see artefacts from excavations in the general Argolid region, including extraordinary Mesolithic finds and objects from several Bronze Age settlements and tombs, as well as later Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic items. After lunch we drive east to the ancient site of **Epidauros**, a celebrated centre of healing in the ancient world. It is famous for its magnificently preserved theatre superbly set against a background of rolling hills. Its acoustics are extraordinary – the tearing of a piece of paper at the centre of the orchestra can be heard in the uppermost tier!

Day Eight | Corinth

Today we drive west to Corinth, situated at the isthmus which joins the Peloponnese to the northern Greek mainland. In antiquity, to avoid the long and hazardous sailing route around the Peloponnese, ships were winched across the isthmus on a paved way – the *diolkos*. We visit the **Sanctuary of Poseidon at Isthmia**, once one of four sites that hosted a quadrennial cycle of athletic competitions, known to us as the Panhellenic Crown Games. From the time the games were founded in 584 BCE until the end of the 4th century AD, Greeks (and later Romans) competed here in contests of speed, strength and

even singing ability, each seeking to win the crown of pine that was the traditional award. After lunch we visit **Corinth** itself, one of the great cities of Classical Greece, which according to Hellenic myth was founded by Corinthos, a descendent of the god Helios.

Day Nine | Mycenae

We explore the great Bronze Age hilltop site of **Mycenae**, another major hub of Greek civilisation and, according to Greek tradition, capital of legendary King Agamemnon. We walk into the city, with its remarkable Cyclopean walls, through the famous **Lion Gate** and view the archaeological remains of the acropolis, including the palace and the grave circles where the so-called mask of Agamemnon was found. Now in the National Museum at Athens, the discovery of this stunning mask prompted Henrich Schliemann to say, 'I have gazed upon the face of Agamemnon'. In the afternoon we explore **Tiryns**, a Mycenaean hillfort whose cyclopean walls made it one of the most notable fortresses of Mycenaean Greece, and also reputedly the birthplace of Heracles. The city suffered the same collapse that destroyed Mycenaean civilisation at the end of the Bronze Age but remained a small but dwindling township into classical antiquity.

Day Ten | Mystras - Sparta - Kalamata

We leave Nafplion this morning and head south to **Mystras** on the slopes of the hill of Mezythra. The ruins of this Byzantine town have some of the finest examples of 14th and 15th century AD architecture in Greece. Churches, monasteries and houses line the winding streets, and the summit is topped by an impregnable fortress. We spend most of our morning here and after lunch continue south to nearby **Sparta**, situated within the expansive, fertile Eurotas valley. Its decentralised layout stands in stark contrast to other Greek poleis of the time

and city's austere culture, which differed markedly from Athens' grand architectural ambitions, resulted in relatively modest construction projects. Most of the archaeological ruins visible today date back to the Roman era and include the ancient theatre, the partially preserved sanctuary of Artemis Orthia and the site alleged to be the tomb of Spartan King Leonidas.

Day Eleven | Kalamata

Our classical odyssey comes to an end. We bid farewell to Greece and transfer to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Athens, Delphi, Olympia, Nafplion & Kalamata

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/DbI Share	SS
21st Sep - 1st Oct	\$6,960	\$1,370

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

Discover the Dodecanese

Following in the footsteps of Herakles

9 DAYS FROM \$5,720pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



See another side of the lovely islands of Rhodes and Kos and rediscover their ancient origins. Long beloved by British travellers, there is more to appreciate here than their lovely beaches and sheltered bays. Hugging the coastline in the south-eastern corner of the Aegean, these islands were in the midst of a crucial sea lane in antiquity and served as a bridge between east and west during their long and eventful history. From Hellenistic sanctuaries, Roman villas and Crusader fortresses to Byzantine churches and stylish Italian architecture, characteristics of both worlds can be found here. Venturing inland, the landscape swiftly changes from urban dwellings to juniper and thyme-clad hills where broom, myrtle and laurel grow in profusion.

Day One | Rhodes

Meet the group at our hotel in Rhodes.

Day Two | Rhodes

We explore **Rhodes**, occupied by the Knights of the Order of St. John for over two centuries and one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. We walk through its beautiful medieval centre down the Avenue of the Knights to the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in the former hospital of the Knights. This fantastic Gothic building contains some remarkable finds from the island including an exquisite marble statue of Aphrodite and extraordinary Hellenistic pebble mosaics. In the afternoon we visit the **Acropolis** and its precipitous terraces on the slopes of Agis Stefanos Hill.

Day Three | Lindos & Kalavarda

This morning we visit the small village of **Lindos**, which was founded by the Dorians in the 10th century BCE. The dramatic natural landscape here

is enhanced by the picturesque quality of the more modern town with the **Acropolis** rising dominantly behind it. The stunning views from the top are worth the 250 steps it takes to reach it and here we see the Temple of Athena lodged within the ruins of a medieval castle. In the afternoon we travel on to **Kalavarda**, a well-preserved Hellenistic and Roman city with superb views of the ocean.

Day Four | Kamiros & Ialysos

Today we drive along the northwest coast of the island to ancient **Kamiros**, built amphitheatrically overlooking the sea. Together with Lindos and Ialysos, it was one of the three most powerful cities in Rhodes which reached their peak in the 6th – 7th centuries BCE. Kamiros was the smallest of the three and relied more heavily on its agriculture in the production of wine, olive oil and the cultivation of fig trees. In the afternoon we explore **Ialysos**, which lies at the highest point of the Filerimos hill, overlooking Rhodes.



Day Five | Rhodes - Kos

We take the early morning ferry to the island of Kos, famed throughout the ancient world for its sanctuary dedicated to the healing god Asclepius. Arriving mid-morning, we head to the **Archaeological Museum**. Housed in one of the last major public buildings constructed during Italian occupation, the collections here include artefacts found in the Sanctuary of Kos. Later we explore the substantial ruins of Nerazia Castle, a 14th-century construction built by the Order of St. John. The fortress is situated at the entrance of Kos harbour and faces Halikarnassos Castle just opposite on the Turkish coast with which it collaborated to control this strategic body of water. In the ancient world this strait was a great maritime crossroad for ships from Egypt, Rome, Syria and Persia.

Images: Lindos



Enjoy a day spent on the lovely island of Kalymnos, where we discover the Castle of Chrysocheria

Admire the fabulous collection of statuary at Rhodes Archaeological Museum

Soak up the stunning views at Lindos and Kalavarda

Discover the Asklepieion, one of the pre-eminent healing centres in the ancient world

Day Six | Asklepieion & Antimachia

We travel along the cypress-lined road to the **Asklepieion**, a healing sanctuary dedicated to the god Asclepius, built in the 4th-century BCE. Formed along tree terraces, the sanctuary is situated on the slopes of Mount Dikeos and is set among natural springs and pine woods. Overlooking the narrow straits of Bodrum, we find wonderful views here across the sea and coast. We continue to the **Castle of Antimachia**, the target of Turkish assault in the Middle Ages - with only one entrance and exit, doubly fortified, it was able to withstand many attacks. Finally, we stop at the ruins of the Early Christian basilica of **Agios Stephanos**.

Day Seven | Kalymnos

We enjoy a day trip to the beautiful island of Kalymnos, described as 'rich in honey' by Homer. We explore the **Castle of Chrysocheria**, built in the 15th century by the Knights Hospitaller, and also discover some of the beautiful white Byzantine churches which dot the hills. In the afternoon we visit **Kalymnos Archaeological Museum**, where we discover a fine collection of marble statues found in 2001 off the coast, along with the splendid

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



bronze figure of the 'Lady of Kalymnos' pulled from the seabed by a Kalymnian fisherman in 1995.

Day Eight | Kos

We spend our last day in **Kos**. There are many Graeco-Roman ruins scattered through the town to enjoy, including streets and houses, the agora and the **Pandemos Aphrodite Sanctuary**. In the afternoon we see the Western Excavation area, which includes a Roman Odeon, Casa Romana and the Baptistry of St. John Prodromos.

Day Nine | Kos

Our tour comes to an end and we make our independent onward journeys.

“Enjoyable tour, both educational and pleasurable. Perfect weather and lovely scenery.”

Andante Travels Guest

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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
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Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Rhodes & Kos

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
6th - 14th Oct	\$5,720	\$690

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

Rest of Europe



Diverse, picturesque and fascinating, with a lot of stories to tell: Europe is home to countless treasures and boasts a history that spans millennia. A continent which roughly stretches from the Atlantic in the west, the Urals in the East, the Mediterranean, Black Sea, Scandinavia and the Arctic Sea, it's unsurprising that Europe offers some of the most varied archaeology in the world.

The earliest evidence of human habitation in Europe dates back to the Palaeolithic period, when early Homo sapiens ventured into the continent from Africa. The world-famous cave sites in France and Spain showcase astonishing art created at a time when Europe lay in the grip of the Ice Age and creatures now long extinct roamed the countryside. The advent of agriculture and the domestication of animals brought about the construction of megalithic monuments, such as Carnac in France and the Hypogeum of Hal Saflieni in Malta, both testaments to complex belief systems.

The Middle Ages and medieval period witnessed the spread of Christianity and the rise of Muslim dynasties saw the construction of forts, castles, cathedrals and huge cities resulting in the Age of Exploration and the expansion of European empires around the globe. The continent is home to a plethora of iconic architecture – magnificent Gothic Cathedrals like Notre Dame and Cologne, world-famous palaces like the Alhambra or Versailles and imposing civic buildings such as the Reichstag in Berlin or the Louvre in Paris. All of these diverse sites have valuable stories to tell and offer a captivating window into the human experience.

With nine additions for 2026, there is certainly plenty of choice for a European adventure. Admire the masterpieces of the Dutch Golden Age, follow in the footsteps of the Vikings on an epic voyage through Germany, Denmark and Sweden, discover the treasures of scenic Saxony, explore the dramatic landscapes along the route of the Via Egnatia, journey back to prehistoric times in Ireland and much, much more.





Take an in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds, Chauvet and Cosquer, in the company of an expert

Admire the richly illustrated gladiatorial mosaic at the Villa Nennig, one of the most important Roman artefacts north of the Alps

View the famous Viking longships at Roskilde, the best-preserved collection in Scandinavia

Adventure off-road into the Transylvanian Mountains to the UNESCO sites of Sarmizegetusa Regia and Costesti

Explore the most remarkable open-air ensemble of Palaeolithic art on the Iberian Peninsula

“The tour had all that one has come to expect of an Andante tour- small friendly group, efficient manager, knowledgeable expert, quality hotels, plenty of food and a few extra treats and great sites including opportunities to see what other travellers may not have access to.”



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NEW
FOR 2026

Prehistoric Ireland

Newgrange, Knowth and Inis Mor

8 DAYS FROM \$4,790pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Experience the fascinating prehistory of Ireland on a tour which links two equally important regions of Ireland. From the Neolithic monuments in the fertile land of the Boyne Valley, we cross the island westwards to the wild landscapes of the Atlantic Coast and Galway.

Day One | Dublin

Meet the group at Dublin Airport and transfer to **Fourknocks**, where we see a fine example of a passage tomb, now preserved under a concrete dome with lighting apertures to show the unusual decoration to good effect. The remains of at least sixty individuals were found here and grave goods included stone and bone pendants and beads, as well as bone pins. From here, we continue to our hotel in Dublin for one night.

Day Two | Dublin - Drogheda

We spend most of our day in Dublin, a city founded by Vikings where the River Liffey meets the sea. Our first stop is to the **Old Library of Trinity College**, the largest library in Ireland and a permanent home to the magnificent Book of Kells which dates from the 9th century. Later we visit the elaborate 12th century structure of **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, a place of worship integral to Ireland's history for 800 years and one of the few buildings which remain from the medieval period. After lunch we explore the **National Museum of Ireland**. This excellent museum offers an impressive collection of artefacts spanning from the Stone Age to the Early Modern period. Highlights include an impressive range of Bronze Age gold and

metalwork, the 4,500 year old Lurgan longboat, carved from a giant oak trunk and measuring over 14 metres and the perfectly preserved human remains found in Ireland's boglands during the Iron Age. From here, we continue to our hotel in Drogheda.

Day Three | Newgrange & Knowth

After breakfast, we journey to **Newgrange**, a monumental burial mound from the Neolithic period, which predates both Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza. A unique feature of the Newgrange passage is a stone box set in the roof which allows the rising sun to shine along the passage at the time of the winter solstice, and to hit the back of the rear chamber. This demonstrates not only the importance of astronomical events in the annual Neolithic calendar, but also the engineering skills of the builders. From Newgrange, we head to the UNESCO-listed site of Knowth, another extraordinary Neolithic mound that sits atop earlier occupation layers. **Knowth** features two passage graves: one with a simple, undifferentiated passage and the other with a remarkable cruciform terminal chamber. The main mound is adorned with more than three hundred decorated stones, making it home to a group of megalithic art in Europe.

Common motifs are spirals and serpentine forms. Later, we visit the **Hill of Tara**, once the historic seat of the High Kings of Ireland. We wander the Iron Age hilltop enclosure and view the so-called **Stone of Destiny**, a powerful symbol of Ireland's ancient monarchy.

Day Four | Drogheda - Sligo

We begin our day by heading to the passage grave cemetery at **Loughcrew**, also known as Slieve na Callighe, or Hill of the Witch, where we see some of the oldest monuments in Ireland. Cairn T, one of the largest tombs in the complex is aligned to sunrise at the spring and autumn equinoxes and one of its kerbstones, known as the Hag's Chair, has been shaped and decorated with a cross, probably as a place for celebrating the Catholic Mass during the penal times. We continue to the coastal town of Sligo. Located at the mouth of the Garavogue River, Sligo's name - derived from the Gaelic 'Shelly River' - reflects its rich history. This natural harbour once served as a bustling trade hub, with visitors from the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans passing through its waters. After lunch, we encounter one of the best examples of an Irish Court Tomb at Creevykeel. These structures have a courtyard area surrounded by walls and their size and shape



Take a boat trip to the island of Inis Mor and visit Dun Aengus

View an an Irish Court Tomb at Creevykeel#

Admire the collection of prehistoric artefacts at the National Museum of Dublin

Visit the Hill of Tara with over 30 visible monuments, including the Stone of Destiny

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Jeremy Bennett

A British archaeologist, Jeremy was awarded his PhD at Magdalene College, Cambridge.



suggests that they were constructed for some kind of social event involving large gatherings of people.

Day Five | Carrowmore & Carrowkeel

Today's highlight is our visit to **Carrowmore**, the oldest prehistoric cemetery in Ireland and one of the most significant in Europe. The majority of its monuments are clustered around **Listoghil**, a great chamber and the only tomb in the site to contain inhumations rather than cremations. These ancient tombs were later re-used for burials during the **Bronze and Iron Ages**, long after their original construction. After lunch, we make a stop to view the **Drumanone dolmen** before continuing to the **Carrowkeel megalithic complex**. Reaching this atmospheric site requires a **scenic one-mile walk** through beautiful countryside. Like Carrowmore, Carrowkeel is a **megalithic hilltop passage tomb cemetery**, locally known as 'the Pinnacles.' From here, we can enjoy breathtaking views over **Sligo Bay** and the cairn-topped **Knocknarea Hill**.

Day Six | Sligo – Rathcroghan - Galway

We journey to Galway, situated at the mouth of the River Corrib at the head of Galway Bay. En route, we stop at Rathcroghan – the former capital, Connachta. The unique archaeological landscape, often referenced in early Irish medieval

manuscripts, includes burial mounds, ringforts and medieval field boundaries from Neolithic up to the early medieval period. Once in Galway, we visit the Galway City Museum to see its Prehistoric collection.

Day Seven | Inis Mor

On our last full day we catch a ferry across to **Inis Mor**, one of the three Arran islands. Here the island's wild natural landscapes are accentuated by the thatched roofs of Irish stone cottages and dry stone walls which criss-cross the island. It's also rich in archaeological sites, the most impressive of which is **Dun Aengus**. This spectacular fort stands on the edge of the cliff of Inishmore and features a D-shaped plan comprising concentric semi-circular defensive walls and a sheer drop of more than 100 metres to the sea.

Day Eight | Shannon

This morning we make our way to the airport in Shannon from where we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Dublin, Drogheda, Sligo, Galway

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	SS
25th Jul - 1st Aug	\$4,790	\$460 \$0

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

Cave Art of the Dordogne

Discover the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe

7 DAYS FROM \$4,590pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



The beauty of the Dordogne is undisputed – lush walnut groves and mellow limestone, dramatic chateaux and sinuous rivers blend harmoniously in one of France's best-loved regions. For Andante guests, however, its greatest beauty lies in the greatest concentration of decorated caves in Europe. Our Guide Lecturers tell the story of the art, its discovery and what is known of the people who created it – the first true 'old masters', caught in the extreme cold of the last Ice Age.



Day One | Poitiers

Meet the group in Poitiers, then we drive to the village of Angles-sur-l'Anglin where we will see **Roc-aux-Sorciers**.

Day Two | Poitiers - Les Eyzies

This morning we head to Les Eyzies, making some important stops along the way. Our first is to the excellent **Museum of Prehistory** at Lussac-les-Chateau, dedicated to the local prehistory. We continue to **Roc-de-Sers** and **La Chaire à Calvin**, a rock shelter decorated with monumental parietal sculptures.

Day Three | Cap Blanc & Font de Gaume

We begin at the rock shelter of **Cap Blanc**, a rare example of Ice Age sculpted bas-reliefs and the best still in situ which are open to the public. After lunch we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Font de Gaume**, the **Musée de la Préhistoire** and finally the **Musée de l'Abri de Cro-Magnon**.

Day Four | Le Thot & Lascaux IV centre and Lascaux II cave

This morning we visit the **Lascaux IV centre** and then its on to the park of **Le Thot**. We have an independent lunch in Montignac, before dedicating the afternoon to the **Lascaux II cave**. Lascaux is the most famous and spectacular of all



Discover images from the world-famous painted cave of Lascaux at the Interpretation Centre, Lascaux IV

Enjoy an extended itinerary taking in verdant landscapes and limestone plateaux of the Dordogne

Gain insights from experts in rock art and the archaeology of the last Ice Age

View the extraordinary UNESCO-listed cave system at Grotte de Rouffignac



decorated caves, with hundreds of paintings and 1,500 engravings, best known for its awe-inspiring depictions of aurochs, horses and deer.

Day Five | Grotte de Rouffignac & Abri du Poisson

We travel by electric train into the cave system of **Rouffignac**. Known as the Cave of the Hundred Mammoths, about one-third of all mammoth depictions known are found in this cave. Our next stop is the the fascinating site of **Lauerie Haute** before ending our day at the small rock shelter known as **Abri du Poisson**.

Day Six | Cougnac & Pech Merle

Our first visit is to **Cougnac**, two caves are found here which contain the claw-marks of cave bears and fascinating stalactite and stalagmite formations. We continue to **Pech Merle**, with painted black outlines of aurochs, mammoth, spotted-horses, geometric shapes and handprints.

Day Seven | Les Eyzies

Our tour ends and we make our independent onward journeys.

Cave visits may vary according to seasonal opening hours.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers. Join Paul on our 28th April departure.



Dr Rob Dinnis

An expert on the Palaeolithic and archaeology of the last Ice Age, Rob has published many papers on how people lived. Join Rob on our 8th September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Poitiers - Les Eyzies

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
28th Apr - 4th May	\$4,800	\$400 \$0
8th - 14th Sep	\$4,590	\$400 \$0

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

Hidden Paris

Peek beyond the famous landmarks and explore the secret archaeology

6 DAYS FROM \$3,870pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The tree-lined boulevards, elegant architecture and cobbled riverbanks along the silvery Seine have made Paris one of the most recognisable and romantic cities in Europe. First-time visitors are understandably impressed by its historic monuments, but peek beyond the famous landmarks and you will see another side of Paris to which only the most curious are privy.



Explore the Conciergerie, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as tribunal and prison

Admire the architectural masterpiece of Sainte Chapelle, one of the greatest examples of Gothic art

Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean Catacombes de Paris

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

Winner of the Wanderlust World Guide Award - History & Culture 2023, John has worked extensively in the field in Europe.



Day One | Paris

Meet the group at our hotel in Paris where we will gather for an introductory exploration of the historic Marais district, venturing on foot through this, one of the oldest parts of the city, where a 12th century fortress remains tucked away among fashionable streets.

Day Two | Sainte Chapelle & Musée de Louvre

This morning we visit the **Île de la Cité**. This area of Paris is home to many famous sites, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie** before ending the day at the **Musée de Louvre**.

Day Three | Egouts & Saint-Germain-en-Laye

We make an unusual visit to the **Egouts**, a complex network of tunnels which mirror the city streets. The sewers have long been an unusual attraction for visitors and guided tours were conducted by boat or wagon as early as the 19th century. Later, we head to the leafy suburbs of Saint-Germain-en-Laye, and the **National Archaeological Museum**.

Day Four | Sacré Coeur & Musée de Montmartre

We head to **Montmartre** in the 18th arrondissement. This hilltop right bank neighbourhood with its narrow alleys and cobbled lanes retains some of the famous village atmosphere that appealed so much to the artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Here we visit the snow-white confection of **Sacré Coeur** and the nearby unsung gem, the **Church of St. Pierre**. There is a Roman temple to Mars tucked away within its holy grounds and we admire the spolia repurposed within the church. We end the day at the **Musée de Montmartre**.

Day Five | Arènes de Lutèce & Catacombes de Paris

We explore the city's Romano-Gallic origins with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD, it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernisation and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand new museography.

Day Six | Paris

We leave Paris and make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 including the Paris Metro

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Paris

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	\$S
12th - 17th May	\$3,870	\$620

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

Chauvet & Cosquer

An in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds

4 DAYS FROM \$2,860pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Palaeolithic cave paintings and engravings are mankind's first recognisable artistic expression, but they mean more than that. They show creatures which were extant during the Ice Age, shed light on hunter-gatherer culture thousands of years old and many archaeologists believe that the art is a highly sophisticated way of expressing complex beliefs about the supernatural world. The story of mankind is a constantly changing jigsaw puzzle in which many pieces are missing or even change shape as improvements in scientific dating methods and new discoveries redefine them yet again. Join us for an in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds in the company of an expert on rock art and fabulous exponent of popular and accessible archaeology.



An in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds in the company of an expert

Visit to Grotte Chauvet II to explore this unique facility

See the state-of-the-art facsimile of La Grotte Cosquer

Day One | Marseille - Avignon

Meet the group at Marseille Airport or at our hotel in Avignon. This evening there will be a lecture before dinner.

Day Two | Chauvet

Lessons learned at Lascaux, where the cave suffered irreparable damage before its closure in 1963, the Chauvet cave has never been opened to the public since its discovery in 1994. Restrictions imposed by the French Ministry of Culture bar all but scientists and other researchers from the fragile environment of the cave itself. However, recognising that an international audience was clamouring to view the cave, a \$62.5 million facsimile, called the **Grotte Chauvet II** was created and we explore this unique facility. The simulated cavern is not only a stunning real-life recreation of the cave but also a celebration of its discovery when three weekend cavers tunnelled their way through a narrow passage, and descended into a world frozen in time - its main entrance blocked off by a massive rock slide perhaps 21,000 years ago. In the afternoon we drive to Aven D'Ornac where we visit the **Cite de la Prehistoire**. The exhibitions here take us on a journey from the Middle Paleolithic to the first

Iron Age covering a period of 350,000 years from Neanderthal to Homo Sapiens.

Day Three | Cosquer

We spend our morning at **Cosquer Mediterranee**, to see the state-of-the-art facsimile of La Grotte Cosquer. Six years in the making, this new museum opened its doors in June 2022, and it is evident that the technical skill used to create the facsimile at Lascaux and Chauvet has shown dividends here. The entire scale of the 2,300m² cave system has been faithfully replicated with meticulous attention to detail. As you are conveyed through the tunnels, skilful lighting reveals more than 500 images which unfold just as you travel deeper into the facsimile. In the afternoon we explore the Museum of Mediterranean Archaeology, second in France only to the Louvre, which occupies part of the imposing old monastery, the Centre de la Vieille Charité. The Mediterranean Basin and Near East department offers a very rich ceramic and lapidary collection, some of which are unique.

Day Four | Avignon - Marseille

We transfer to the airport in Marseille to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Rob Dinnis

An expert on the Palaeolithic and archaeology of the last Ice Age. Rob has published many papers on how people lived.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Avignon area

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
7th - 10th Apr	\$2,860	\$290 \$0

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

Brittany - Carnac & Beyond

Encounter the world's largest assemblage of megalithic sites

7 DAYS FROM \$5,150pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Brittany offers a prehistoric landscape filled with some of the world's best megalithic monuments, from standing stones to chambered tombs. A whole day is rightly dedicated to Carnac, where stone rows stud the heather-clad countryside, and we explore passage graves with depictions of weaponry that mark the resting places of a selected few of the wider Neolithic population.



Day One | Carnac

Meet the group at our hotel in Carnac.

Day Two | Locmariaquer - Table des Marchands

A morning in and around the fishing village of **Locmariaquer** awaits us. Monuments in the area include the **Mané-Lud Carnac** mound, a large and prominent passage tomb with a central burial at the entrance to the village, the passage-tomb of **Mané Rutuel** and the fallen stone known as the **Grand Menhir Brisé**. When intact, the latter stone

was over 20 metres high and weighed an incredible 280 tonnes. We end the day at the **Table des Marchands**, a passage grave with an exceptionally high burial chamber, capped with a huge, partly decorated stone.

Day Three | Gavrinis - Carnac

We travel by boat to the island of **Gavrinis** in the Gulf of Morbihan, where we visit a large and important passage grave that was constructed around 3500. The stones of the passage and capstone of the tomb are decorated with symbolic



Come face-to-face with a selection of fascinating passage graves, chambered tombs and polished axes

Devote an entire day to the stunning monuments of historic Carnac

Take a ferry to the island of Gavrinis to visit its famous and elaborately decorated passage tomb

and abstract designs in a virtuoso display of prehistoric art. In the distance, we see the stone circle of **Er-Lannic** on its islet before we return to Lamor Baden. One circle marches into the sea and the second has long since vanished beneath the waves. We continue to **Carnac Prehistory Museum**, the richest in the world for Megalithic culture and founded by the Scottish antiquary James Milns, who was the first (and last) to excavate extensively at Carnac. This museum contains a wonderful array of artefacts, including Alpine jade axes, some of the best-preserved jewellery and exquisitely knapped arrowheads.

Day Four | Plouharnel - Erdeven - Quiberon

We visit various sites between Plouharnel and Erdeven, including **Mané-Kerioned**, a group of three dolmens, the impressive dolmen at Crucuno that is partly incorporated into a farmhouse, and also the passage graves of **Mané-Groh** and **Rondossecc**. Later on, we visit the Quiberon Peninsula, where we visit the **Port Blanc Dolmens**, a set of 2 passage tombs where the bodies of around 50 people were preserved by the sandy environment. Lastly, we stop at the **Kerbougnec Alignment**, on the eastern side of the peninsula. Here the stones can be seen at low tide stretching out into the sea.

Day Five | Carnac - Geant du Manio

Today is spent exploring the megalithic sites of

Carnac. The fantastic rows of stones, over 3,000 of them, run for over three kilometres across the Breton countryside. They are accompanied by tombs in the form of tumuli and dolmens (eroded stone-built tombs with capstones). There are four groups of alignments, three of which may once have formed a single conglomeration. We visit the rows at **Le Menec** and view the alignments of **Kermario**. After lunch, we explore the passage grave at **Kercado** and visit the menhir known as **Le Géant du Manio**. Along a forest trail, we find this giant in a clearing, standing over six metres high.

Day Six | Le Rocher - Petit Mont Cairn

We delve into the **Le Rocher** passage tomb and then we explore the **Arzon peninsula**, on the south side of the Gulf of Morbihan, where we visit the **Petit Mont Cairn**. This extraordinary cairn has been much reconstructed, but is still a very impressive construction of about 4600 BCE, with several phases of burial chambers. It was commandeered in 1943 to have a bunker – part of the Atlantic Wall – built into it. Ironically, the damage created revealed the very first dolmen chamber.

Day Seven | Carnac

Our tour comes to an end today and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Nick Thorpe

A lecturer in Archaeology, Nick has published books and articles on prehistoric Wessex, Britain and Europe, on burial practices, and on the origins of agriculture and the archaeological fringe.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Hôtel Les Salines de Thalazur Carnac or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
7th - 13th Sep	\$5,150	\$780

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

Roman Provence

Amongst diverse landscapes discover some of Europe's finest Roman remains

7 DAYS FROM \$4,490pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Provincial Romana was founded in France at the end of the 2nd-century BCE, as the Romans grew their Empire across Europe and an extensive building programme of grand amphitheatres, baths and aqueducts emerged with it, built in the days of high empire to impress and subdue the native Gallic tribes. The idyllic landscapes of Provence are therefore home to some of Europe's finest Roman remains.

Day One | St. Remy

Meet the group in Paris, Avignon or at our hotel in St. Remy.

Day Two | Nîmes

We spend the day in and around **Nîmes**, a flourishing modern city. Our first visit is to **Porte d'Auguste**, an ancient Roman gate constructed during the reign of Emperor Augustus. We then discover **Maison Carrée**, one of the best-preserved Roman temples in the world and dedicated to Gaius and Lucius Caesar, the grandsons and heirs of Emperor Augustus. In the afternoon, we explore the **Arènes de Nîmes**, a Roman amphitheatre, built around 70 AD and used for gladiatorial contests and other public events. Later, we explore the **Musée de la Romanité**, a contemporary museum offering an immersive experience, with over 5,000 artefacts, including mosaics, statues and everyday objects from the Roman era. Afterwards, we continue to the incredible **Diane Temple**, which features a vaulted ceiling, large arches and intricate stone carvings. We then enjoy a tour of **Magne**, a charming village known for its picturesque landscapes, historical architecture and vibrant local culture.

Day Three | Glanum & Pont du Gard

Before leaving St. Remy this morning we enjoy its vibrant market. We then take a short drive to the **Glanum Archaeological Site**. Once an ancient city founded by the Celts around the 6th century BCE, it was later developed by the Greeks and Romans and features ruins that portray the architectural and cultural influences of these civilisations. In the afternoon, we drive to **Pont du Gard**, an ancient Roman aqueduct bridge. Built in the 1st century AD, it is a remarkable feat of engineering and a testament to the ingenuity of Roman architecture. The Pont du Gard is a UNESCO World Heritage site and remains one of the best-preserved examples of Roman aqueducts. We visit the **Pont du Gard Museum**, for a comprehensive insight into the history and construction of the Pont du Gard. The museum features a variety of exhibits that detail the engineering marvels of Roman aqueducts, the daily life of the Romans who built them and the historical significance of the bridge.

Day Four | Orange

Today, we head to the historic town of Orange and visit the **Arch of Orange**, a UNESCO World Heritage site which was built during the reign of Augustus, around 20-25 AD, to celebrate the victories of the

Roman army. We explore the **Roman Theatre of Orange**, constructed in the early 1st century AD and originally able to accommodate up to 10,000 spectators. It is recognised for its exceptional acoustics and impressive stage wall, which is one of the few remaining examples of a fully intact Roman theatre wall. Our morning ends with a visit to the **History Museum of Orange**, located near the Roman Theatre, which offers a comprehensive look into the town's rich past. This afternoon, we journey to **Vaison-la-Romaine**, a charming town, renowned for its ancient Roman ruins, including a well-preserved theatre, luxurious villas and intricate mosaics. We discover nearby sites such as **Puymin**, an archaeological site located within the ancient Roman city, which offers a glimpse into the daily life of a Roman town. We enjoy a leisurely walk down to the **Roman Bridge** and wander the Old Town. Known as the Pont Flavien, the bridge is an example of vigorous ancient Roman engineering and is unique due to it being one of the few surviving Roman bridges with its original decorative arches intact.

Day Five | Arles

Today is spent in **Arles**, where we visit the **Archaeological Museum**. The city boasts numerous



Discover the charming town of St. Remy, a haven for artists, writers and musicians and our base for this tour

Explore the World Heritage sites at Orange, Arles and the Pont du Gard in the company of a Roman expert

Visit the Oppidum at Entremont and learn about the extraordinary cult of the severed head

Roman and Romanesque monuments, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including a well-preserved amphitheatre, the Arles Amphitheatre – a testament to its ancient past and is still used today for various events. The Archaeological Museum is a recognised institution dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of ancient artefacts from the region. Its impressive collection includes mosaics, sculptures, sarcophagi and everyday objects that provide insight into the lives of the ancient inhabitants of Arles. A highlight is the Arles Rhône 3, a remarkably well-preserved Roman barge, discovered in the Rhône River. We drive back to St. Remy via the **Barbegal Aqueduct**, an outstanding structure considered one of the most impressive examples of Roman engineering and ingenuity. Used to supply water to the city of Arles, it is unique in its incorporation of a complex watermill system, which is believed to have been used for milling grain.

Day Six | Aix en Provence

This morning, we discover **Aix-en-Provence**, a city famous for its thermal springs and charming Old Town, filled with narrow streets, fountains and beautifully preserved buildings. We visit **Oppidum**

D'entremont, an ancient Celtic settlement established in the 2nd-century BCE, which served as the capital of the Salyes, a Celtic tribe. The site is home to some impressive fortifications, including a large defensive wall and gate. Excavations have revealed numerous artefacts, such as pottery, tools and coins, which provide insight into the daily life and culture of the inhabitants. The Oppidum D'entremont is also notable for its carved stone statues and reliefs, which depict warriors, deities and animals, showcasing the artistic skills of the Celts. Aix-en-Provence is home to several renowned art museums, including the **Musée Granet**, which we make our afternoon visit. The museum houses work by Cézanne, Rembrandt, Rubens, Ingres and Picasso and its collection spans several centuries, from the Renaissance to the 20th century. It also hosts temporary exhibitions, providing a culturally dynamic experience, with various artistic styles and historical periods.

Day Seven | St. Remy – Avignon

We transfer back to Avignon to take the train to Paris from where make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Prof. Tony King

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



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Hotel Gounod, St. Remy or similar

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
19th - 25th Oct	\$4,490	\$550

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Treasures of Saxony

The historic cities of Dresden and Leipzig

6 DAYS FROM \$4,520pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Discover the rich history and beauty of Saxony on this six-day tour, based in Dresden, the 'Florence on the Elbe.' Explore Dresden and Leipzig on guided walking tours, visiting historic churches, grand palaces and world-class museums. In Leipzig, we uncover the city's role in history, from its grand churches to sites linked to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Visits to museums and galleries offer a deep dive into the region's artistic and cultural achievements.

Day One | Dresden

Meet the group at our hotel in Dresden.

Day Two | Southern Suburbs of Dresden

This morning, we explore the historic city of Dresden, beginning with a walk through **Neumarkt Square**. Our tour takes us through the city's rich past, including a visit to the magnificent **Hofkirche** and the iconic **Frauenkirche**, a stunning symbol of Dresden's resilience and architectural beauty. We also visit the **Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister** (Old Masters Gallery), home to an exceptional collection of European masterpieces, including works by Raphael, Rembrandt and Vermeer. We enjoy lunch near the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister before heading to the Southern Suburbs of Dresden. Here, we visit the elegant **Pillnitz Palace and Gardens**, a former royal summer residence set along the scenic banks of the Elbe River. We then continue

to the **Baroque Gardens Großsedlitz**, a beautifully designed masterpiece of symmetry, fountains and grand terraces, offering a glimpse into Saxony's regal past.

Day Three | Residenzschloss & Zwinger Palace Complex

Today, we visit the magnificent **Residenzschloss** (Royal Palace), one of Germany's most impressive landmarks, reflecting centuries of Saxon royal grandeur. Originally built in the 15th century as a medieval fortress, it evolved into a lavish Renaissance and Baroque residence for the Electors and kings of Saxony. The palace is a treasure trove of art and history, home to world-renowned museums. The Historic Green Vault (Grünes Gewölbe) showcases Baroque treasures, while the New Green Vault houses extraordinary works of gold, ivory and precious gemstones. In the

afternoon, after lunch, we visit the **Zwinger Palace Complex**. We explore the Porcelain Collection, home to one of the finest displays of Meissen and Asian porcelain in the world. From here, we take a short walk to the **Albertinum**, a museum dedicated to 19th and 20th-century art. Housing masterpieces by artists such as Caspar David Friedrich and Claude Monet, the collection showcases an impressive range of Romantic, Impressionist and modern works.

Day Four | Meissen & Moritzburg Palace

We spend the morning in **Meissen**, beginning with a visit to the stunning **Meissen Cathedral**, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Later we drive to the **Meissen Porcelain Factory** where we will have lunch before viewing the demonstration rooms which describe the production of this translucent ceramic in fascinating detail. We also visit the museum here and admire an extensive



Visit the Meissen Cathedral and the Meissen Porcelain Factory

Discover Pillnitz Palace and Gardens in Dresden

Explore the incredible Zwinger Palace Complex

See the Church of Saint Thomas and Saint Nicholas in Leipzig

collection of historic and contemporary porcelain, tracing the evolution of craftsmanship over the centuries. In the afternoon, we drive to **Moritzburg Palace**, one of the most beautiful moated castles in Saxony. Originally a 16th-century hunting lodge, it was remodelled as a country seat with opulent baroque decor and formal gardens in the French style. We shall spend the remainder of the afternoon here before returning to Dresden.

Day Five | Leipzig

Today, we explore the vibrant city of **Leipzig**, beginning with a morning walking tour. Highlights include the Church of Saint Thomas, famed for its connection to Johann Sebastian Bach, the Famous Courtyards and Passages, showcasing Leipzig's unique architectural charm and the **Museum of Fine Arts**, home to an impressive collection spanning centuries. After a lunch in the city centre, we continue our tour, visiting key historic sites such as the Church of Saint Nicholas, a symbol of the peaceful revolution of 1989, and exploring the events leading to the Fall of the Berlin Wall. We also visit the **Museum of Antiquities**, which houses a fascinating collection of ancient artefacts. Afterwards, we reboard our coach and return to Dresden for the evening.

Day Six | Dresden

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and visit the **Dresden Book Museum** in the **State Library**, home to the **Dresden Codex**, one of only four surviving **Mayan codices** in the world. Afterwards, we transfer to the airport for our independent onward journeys.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tom Abbott

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



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Dresden

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
19th - 24th June	\$4,520	\$410

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

Roman Germany

Exploring the Rhine Frontier

10 DAYS FROM \$7,980pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“An excellent tour visiting interesting sites with expert guidance.”

In AD 9, the largest army of the Roman Empire suffered unprecedented defeat at the Teutoburg Forest. This episode brought about a change in Roman strategies in Germany. Rome by and large abandoned further expansion in Germany and, instead, constructed the *limes* Germanicus, a defence system of bank, ditch, wall and forts which developed over time. This involved a massive concentration of the army in this area and, with that, the acculturation of the native populations as troops interacted with locals. For this reason, there is a plethora of Roman archaeological sites, both domestic and military, along the *limes*. In this beautiful part of Europe often overlooked by tourists, we explore extraordinary museums, stunning houses, along with the *limes* itself.

Day One | Cologne

We meet at our hotel in Cologne. Time permitting, there will be an evening walk where we might admire the skyline dominated by Cologne's famous cathedral.

Day Two | Cologne

Today, we explore the impressive remains of Cologne, the erstwhile Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium. We start with the excellent collections of the **Romano-Germanic Museum** which has an excellent collection of artefacts from the Roman colony and is built over a section of a Roman road as well as an impressive elite domus which contains a wonderfully preserved mosaic of Dionysus. After lunch we visit the hidden gems dating from the Roman period, including the Roman sewage system which bears witness to the Roman army's remarkable engineering skills.

Day Three | Xanten

Heading north, we arrive at **Xanten**, where the Roman town of **Colonia Ulpia Traiana** has been reconstructed. The city was constructed by the army in order to service the legion and the auxiliary troops stationed here; the latest incarnation was built ex novo in the Trajanic period – after the previous city was destroyed in the revolt of the Batavi. The result was one of the largest colonia in the Roman empire and included all the amenities associated

with a Roman city, including baths and an amphitheatre. The **archaeological park** at Xanten today is a recreation of this colonia on the site of the archaeological site; though somewhat controversial, it offers us the chance to experience Roman buildings as they must have been.

Day Four | Cologne – Boppard - Braubach

Today we visit the extensive **Ahrweiler villa**, which was built in the 1st century AD at the height of the empire and transformed in the crisis-ridden late antique period into a smelting plant. The imposing remains, which have survived thanks to a 5th-century AD landslide preserving the villa, are testament to the wealth of the German elites in the early imperial period, as well as the struggle they faced from the 3rd century onwards. We explore the ruins as well as the excellent museum which preserves artefacts from the site. Then on to **Boppard**, a UNESCO-listed town lying in the picturesque Rhine Gorge, with a medieval core. From here we travel by boat on a beautiful part of the Rhine to our next hotel in Braubach.

Day Five | Zugmantel, Saarlburg & Feldberg

We reach the *limes* – the 500km boundary fortified with great banks and ditches overlooked by 900 watchtowers and patrolled from 60 forts. We start with an exploration of the remains of a fort in **Zugmantel**, built in the Flavian period as part of the Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes and today located in an atmospheric edge of a wood. Next



to the fort, which has been reconstructed, is a vicus, a settlement which grew next to the fort, a spill over from the fort which may have included locals who lived near the army to provide support for it. We proceed to the UNESCO-listed site of **Saarlburg**, where we explore a spectacularly reconstructed cohort fort, as well as an excellent museum. We end the day at the *limes* in **Feldberg**, which preserves remain of a bath house, granary and praetorium.

Day Six | Braubach - Mainz - Trier

A drive along the Rhine takes us to **Mainz**, ancient Mogontiacum, the founded at the end of the 1st century BCE by Drusus as a military fortress and capital of Germania Superior. We start the day at the world-class **Museum für Antike Schifffahrt**, established in order to display the remains of 6 remarkably well-preserved ships found in the Rhine in 1981, two which have been reconstructed. Four of the ships are a type known as the *navis lusoria*, a nimble, shallow draft ship used for transport troops previously only known from written sources. In the museum, we see other artefacts from the *classis Germanica*, the Rhine fleet. After lunch, we visit the **Temple of Isis** in Mainz, which shows how cosmopolitan the province was in the Roman period. Afterwards, we have free time where you might visit the Gutenberg Museum before we head to Trier.



Explore the remains of the fort and reconstructed watchtower at the UNESCO site of Saarlburg

Admire the richly illustrated gladiatorial mosaic at the Villa Nennig, one of the most important Roman artefacts north of the Alps

Visit the Museum fur Antike Sciffahrt in Mainz for an unparalleled exploration in the ancient art of seafaring

Explore the impressive Roman remains the UNESCO-listed Trier, including the Porta Nigra

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tony Wilmott

Senior Archaeologist with Historic England, Tony has directed many excavations, and published several books and many articles in archaeological journals. He specialises in the Roman periods, with a particular interest in the Roman military.



Day Seven | Trier

Today is the first of our days in Imperial **Trier**, the erstwhile Augusta Treverorum which became prosperous in the 4th century when it was made capital of the Prefecture of Gaul. The city is a UNESCO-listed site for its spectacular Roman remains, the most significant in German. Trier also has wonderful Gothic remains, some of which we will explore in the **Museum am Dom**, which is UNESCO-listed for its wonderful collection of early art and illuminated manuscripts. We proceed to the **Rheinisches Landesmuseum**, which contains one of the best collections of ancient artefacts in Germany, including the Trassen gold hoard from 1600 BCE. In the afternoon, we view **Constantine's Basilica**, built by the emperor Constantine as part of a palace complex and which remains the largest extant ancient hall.

Day Eight | Porta Nigra & Villa Borg

This morning we spend the morning in Trier, visiting the famous **Porta Nigra** whose remarkable preservation is due to its transformation into two superimposed churches, as well as the **Kaiserthermen Baths** whose impressive remains were built in the 4th century. We proceed to the funerary monument of **Igel**, decorated with remarkable detail of wool merchant's lives before driving to the **Villa Nennig** where see the remarkably well-preserved gladiatorial mosaic – the most important north of the Alps – which belonged to the atrium of a Roman villa built in the end of the 2nd century. We end the day with a visit

to the and the impressive reconstruction of the **Villa Borg**, a villa rustica whose pars dominica and pars rustica both survive.

Day Nine | Trier - Aachen

We drive to **Aachen**, where Charlemagne was crowned in 800 and his preferred residence. A city redolent of Germanic identity, it is where the Holy Roman Emperors were crowned from the 9th to the 16th centuries. In a tour which started with the imperial period, continued to the late antique period, it is fitting that it ends with the Holy Roman empire. In the morning we take a walking tour of the city and visit the **Treasury**, richly endowed by Holy Roman emperors, including Charlemagne himself. It includes the Aachen Gospels and a diptych of Christ from the Carolingian period, as well as the Lothar cross from the time of Otto III. We end the day at the incredible UNESCO-listed **Cathedral of Aachen**, built at the order of Charlemagne to resemble the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna and to challenge the Basilica of San Giovanni in Lateran in splendour. Richly decorated with marbles taken from Rome and Ravenna, this cathedral, one of the oldest in Europe, is a fitting way to (almost) end the tour.

Day Ten | Aachen

Before making our independent onward journeys and time permitting, we pay our final visit is to the 14th century **Gothic Rathaus** or town hall whose coronation hall contains 19th century frescoes of Charlemagne.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Cologne, Braubach, Trier, Aachen

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 9 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
27th Sep - 6th Oct	\$7,980	\$920

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

Berlin - Beyond the Wall

The highs and lows of a city divided and reunited

5 DAYS FROM \$3,440pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Enjoy the rich flavour of the region's past and present, from its royal Prussian palaces to its place in Nazi fantasies, and explore its role as a hub of both socialist cultures and radical counter cultures. Berlin has been the nexus for so many pivotal moments in European history and its stories are simply fascinating. Join our expert Guide Lecturer on visits to the city's most significant and historic sites and museums.



Explore the city with a long-term resident and experienced archaeologist

Pay a visit to Sanssouci, Frederick the Great's Rococo summer palace

See Berlin's iconic sites, including as the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie

World-class museums await discovery, which are home to amazing artefacts from the ancient world

Day One | Berlin

Meet as a group in the evening and take a stroll through the heart of Berlin to explore the Prussian city shaped in large part by Frederick the Great. We take in the **Opera House**, **Humboldt University** – founded by Frederick William III in the 19th century – and the **Memorial at Bebelplatz**.

Day Two | Berlin

We spend the morning at **Museum Island**, the cultural heart of imperial Berlin where we explore innumerable treasures such as the famous bust of Nefertiti at the **Neues Museum** followed by a visit to **PERGAMON**, **Masterpieces of the Ancient Metropolis and 360° Panorama** (the Pergamon Museum is currently closed for refurbishment). After lunch we visit the **Jewish Quarter** where we see memorials such as the Stumbling Stones and Deserter Room and consider Otto Weidt, who employed blind and deaf Jews to make brooms and brushes, thereby saving them from deportation. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore at leisure.

Day Three | Berlin - Cecilienhof

We spend the day in Potsdam and visit **Sanssouci**, Frederick the Great's Rococo private residence that was built in the mid 18th century. We proceed to

Cecilienhof, a very different royal palace built by the Hohenzollern during World War I, ironically in the form of an English Tudor manor house.

Day Four | Berlin - Wittenberg

We journey to Wittenberg today to visit a number of World Heritage Sites associated with Luther. These include the **Lutherhaus**, originally part of the University of Wittenberg, it became Martin Luther's residence and is where he wrote his 95 theses. We also visit the Castle Church, or rather **All Saints' Church**, where he allegedly nailed his 95 theses to the door and where he is buried. In this town steeped in the reformation, we visit the houses of other figures important to the movement, such as Melancthon and the painter, Cranach.

Day Five | Berlin

This morning we explore Berlin's famous sites, including the **Reichstag**. We also visit **Brandenburg Gate**, modelled on the Propylaeum of the Athenian Acropolis and one of the most iconic sites in Berlin. We complete the morning with a visit to **'Checkpoint Charlie'**, the infamous crossing point between East and West so redolent of the city's Cold War period. Our tour will end this afternoon and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Nick Jackson

Nick is an archaeologist with wide-ranging excavation experience. He has lived and worked in Berlin for over 20 years and has an in-depth knowledge of his home city.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Berlin

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db Share	\$5
20th - 28th Aug	\$3,440	\$410 \$0
3rd - 7th Dec	\$3,590	\$410 \$0

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

Vienna

Exploring Habsburg Wonders in Winter

6 DAYS FROM \$5,270pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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. This tour guides us through this masterpiece of Baroque architecture and apart from the sumptuous palaces, we explore the city's many world-class museums, doing all of this in the festive season, a lovely time to visit this city of music.



Explore the many artistic masterpieces in the Kunsthistorisches Museum

Gaze at Klimt's *The Kiss* and his other works of art in the stupendous *Schloss Belvedere Palace*

Examine the treasures excavated in *Ephesus*, including the *Parthian Monument*

View the fabulous collection of paintings and drawings in the *Albertina Museum*

Day One | Vienna

Meet the group in Vienna. We make our way to the Hoher markt, afterwards onto the **Roman museum** and then 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. We end the day with a visit to the Christmas markets in Maria-Theresien-Platz.

Day Three | Vienna

This morning we venture to **St. Stephen's Cathedral** and then continue to the **Albertina Museum**. After lunch we visit the **Staatsooper**, the impressive opera house built by Franz and then continue to the **Secession Building**. 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 with a visit to the **Imperial Crypt**, 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** 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. After lunch, we venture to the **Schönbrunn Summer Palace**, and 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. Afterwards we make our way to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tom Abbott

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



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$5
2nd - 7th Dec	\$5,270	\$1,250

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Viking Homelands

Germany, Denmark and Sweden

11 DAYS FROM \$10,690pp

Activity Level ●●●●○



The Vikings were the greatest seafarers, raiders and traders of the Early Middle Ages. Far from being a race of unwashed barbarians, they presided over a trading network which extended from Greenland to Baghdad. Following in the Viking's footsteps, we make our own epic voyage starting in Germany, travelling across Denmark and culminating in Sweden.

Day One | Hamburg - Aarhus

Meet the group at Hamburg Airport to travel to Aarhus in Denmark stopping on route to explore the UNESCO World Heritage sites of **Hedeby** and **Danevirke**. These important Viking trading towns are situated on the Schleswig isthmus, the narrowest strip of land between the Baltic and the North Sea, and they once secured the border area between Scandinavia and Central Europe. Excavations at both sites have revealed the Vikings international links. After our site visits we continue to Aarhus our base for the next three nights.

Day Two | Ribe - Jelling - Ravning Enge

Our first visit this morning is to **Ribe**, another flourishing Viking settlement and Denmark's oldest town, with remains dating back to the 8th century AD. We continue to **Baekka** and view the evocative stone ship setting where standing stones trace the outline of a 45m ship placed between two bronze age barrows. A local chieftain erected the monument in commemoration of his late mother, Vibrog. In the afternoon we visit **Jelling**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most extraordinary archaeological sites in Denmark. We see Gorm's Stone and Harald's Stone, both decorated and inscribed with runes and with two substantial burial mounds with a church between them. **The Kongernes Jelling Visitor Centre** provides a splendid view of the whole monument complex from its roof terrace. We end our site visits at **Ravning Enge**, where excavations have revealed the remains of a huge bridge, a considerable feat of Viking engineering.

Day Three | Fyrkat - Lindenhøj

This morning we visit **Fyrkat Fort**, one of five Viking fortresses constructed in the late 10th century during the reign of King Harald Bluetooth. An earthen rampart marks the area where the fort once surrounded the original 16 farmhouses. The locations of these houses are now indicated by white stones. We also visit the Viking Centre, where the reconstructed village gives a real feel for everyday Viking life. After lunch we drive to **Lindholm Høje**, an expansive Viking and Iron Age grave site which contains nearly 700 graves. These burials span an impressive 500-year period, primarily dating from the 8th to 10th centuries. Most are cremation burials, distinctively marked by stone arrangements in triangular, oval and ship-shaped formations. Excavations have yielded numerous grave goods, including personal possessions and everyday items. Some artefacts show evidence of being imported from distant lands, highlighting the site's connection to broader trade network.

Day Four | Aarhus - Ladby - Copenhagen

We travel west to visit the famous **Ladby ship** burial, which has been preserved in situ beneath a reconstructed mound. Nothing of the timber has survived, but like Sutton Hoo, the clenching rivets remained in place, with an impression in the earth of the planking. The burial had been plundered but the skeletons of eleven horses, three or four dogs and many other grave goods escaped the robbers. It is thought to have been a rowing boat for 32

oarsmen, and dates to about 850-950 AD. We conclude our visit with the **Ladby Museum** before we cross the Great Belt Bridge to Zealand and our site visit at **Trelleborg**. Our tour coincides with the annual Viking Festival when 'The Battle of Trelleborg' takes place fought by around 250 armed Viking warriors. Here we see the ring fortress, one of a number of extraordinary, well-planned circular forts built at the time of King Harald Bluetooth in the 10th Century.

Day Five | Gammel Lejre - Roskilde

This morning we visit **Gammel Lejre**, the site of a prosperous manor owned by the Danish crown in the Middle Ages. Its association with important literary material, including Beowulf, shows us that this was a particularly important Iron-age and Viking-period royal centre. We continue to **Roskilde**, where the **Viking Ship Museum** displays one of the best-preserved groups of Viking period ships from the Scandinavian world. They were excavated from Roskilde fjord, and they survived because they were deliberately sunk to block access, presumably to the harbour here. There is also an opportunity to sail in a replica Viking ship before we visit the **cathedral**, burial place of Danish royalty.

Day Six | Copenhagen

On our last morning in Denmark, we visit the excellent **National Museum in Copenhagen** with prehistoric and Viking artefacts, including the Gundestrup cauldron, the Trundholm chariot, an amazing series of Bronze Age coffined burials and a



Enjoy the Viking Festival at Trelleborg with its craft workshops, re-enactors and Viking battles

View the famous Viking longships at Roskilde, the best-preserved collection in Scandinavia

Explore Gamla Uppsala with its three huge royal burial mounds that legend attributes to kings Aun, Egil and Adlis

Discover the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of Birka, just a boat ride away from vibrant Stockholm

magnificent Bronze Age lur (a long natural blowing horn). This afternoon may either be spent at leisure or on an optional walk around Copenhagen's historic centre.

Day Seven | Copenhagen - Stockholm

We leave Copenhagen this morning and take the train to Stockholm. The route takes over the impressive Øresund Bridge, a magnificent engineering marvel that connects Denmark and Sweden across the Øresund Strait. This combined railway and motorway bridge transitions into a tunnel, offering unique views of the Baltic Sea. Throughout the journey we see the landscape transform from rolling countryside, characterised by traditional red farmhouses, to deep pine forests and lakes. The journey takes around 6 hours, and we arrive in Stockholm in the late afternoon.

Day Eight | Anundshög & Uppsala

Venturing out of the capital city, we head to **Anundshög**, the largest royal burial mound in Sweden where standing stones are arranged to represent two ships and a rune stone. Next, we move to **Gamla Uppsala** to view three huge royal burial mounds that legend attributes to kings Aun, Egil and Adlis. The beautiful Gamla Uppsala kyrka (church) stands over the site of a great temple, where it is believed that sacrifices to the Norse gods Thor, Frey and Odin took place. Legend and history intertwine as we visit tinghög (parliament hill) and the **Gamla Uppsala Historical Centre**, which displays the artefacts from the excavated mounds.

Day Nine Sigtuna & Stockholm

Today we drive to the shores of Lake Mälaren where we visit the old Swedish capital of **Sigtuna**. Founded in AD 980 by Erik the Victorious, this charming town boasts a remarkably well-preserved main street – 'Stora Gatan' – which still runs along its original route and its Viking heritage is everywhere to be seen. Returning to Stockholm after lunch, we explore the **Historik Museum**. Highlights here include the Gold Room which displays an impressive collection of gold and silver artefacts dating from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages and the Viking exhibition, showcasing important archaeological finds that illuminate this fascinating period of Scandinavian history.

Day Ten | Birka

We take a boat to the island of Björkö (meaning 'Birch Island') to explore the UNESCO-listed Viking town of **Birka**. Founded in the year 750, it benefited from its strategic location and became an important Viking trading centre until 975, when Gotland and Sigtuna took over the Russia-Byzantine trade. A silver ring from a Viking-era grave in Birka is the first with Arabic inscription from that era to be found in Scandinavia's centre. 700 people lived at Birka when it was at its largest, and 3,000 graves have been found.

Day Eleven | Stockholm

We will visit the amazingly complex **Vasa warship** before taking a walk around Gamle Stan, the Old Town which occupies the island of Stadsholmen.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Brian Ayers

An expert in medieval urban archaeology, Brian is Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of East Anglia. He is interested in the origins and the development of towns on both sides of the North Sea during the early medieval period.



It is not a Viking Age town, since it dates from the 13th century, but it retains its medieval street pattern with numerous narrow alleyways and staiths leading to the commercial waterfront. Afterwards we transfer to the airport in Stockholm to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Aarhus, Copenhagen & Stockholm

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
14th - 24th Jul	\$10,690	\$1,300

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

Albania

Land of the Eagles

9 DAYS FROM \$4,230pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Geographically, and for 50 years culturally isolated during the post-war Stalinist regime, Albania is unlike any other country in Europe. Homeric landscapes, for the most part undisturbed by modern life, hold ruinous Classical cities which once vied in splendour with their neighbours in Greece and Italy. Greek coastal colonisation provided new stimulus to the native population, and recent excavations of their Illyrian hilltop cities, such as Byllis, have revealed the successful absorption of Hellenistic architectural ideas in their planned layout.

Albania holds an array of splendours set in a dramatic scenery of mountains, deep blue seas and wide plains but perhaps the most important element of this tour is Oliver Gilkes, who started working here just after the fall of the old regime. During his 30 years excavating in this fascinating country, he has witnessed at first-hand how Albania has struggled to assert its new-found freedom. His observations add interest and depth to our study of this land in ancient times. Having trained many Albanian students on the dig at Butrint, he is a well-known and well-loved figure here and the best guide to the archaeology of this country.

Day One | Tirana

Meet the group at our hotel in Tirana.

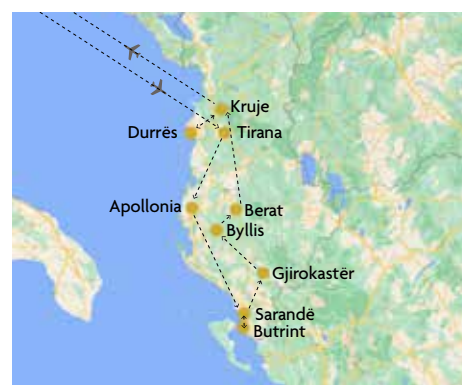
Day Two | Tirana

We spend the morning in in Albania's lively capital of Tirana and explore the city centre, a microcosm of Albania's modern history. We visit the **Ethen Bay Mosque** and the **National Historical Museum**, which contains a large section on prehistory, including Neolithic painted pottery, weapons and jewellery from Bronze and Iron Age and Illyrian tombs, some of the best finds of sculpture, mosaics, pottery and figurines from Illyrian and classical sites. In the afternoon we head to the outskirts of the city where we explore **Bunkart 1**, an enormous bunker intended as a nuclear shelter for Enver Hoxha and his inner circle. Now converted

into a museum and art centre, exhibits explore aspects of life under communist rule.

Day Three | Tirana – Apollonia - Saranda

Today we drive to **Apollonia Archaeological Park**, site of the colony founded by the Corinthians in 588BCE, and one of the most important Greek cities on the Adriatic, the ruins of which cover an enormous area. Today the excavated remains are surrounded by olive and oak trees with grassy banks hinting at what may still lie buried underneath, while the evocative Byzantine monastery is now a museum. This afternoon, we drive along the 'Mountains of Thunder' down the beautiful Ionian coast, stopping for lunch in **Vlora**. We arrive in Saranda early this evening.



Day Four | Butrint

Our entire day is spent at **Butrint**, which achieved UNESCO World Heritage status in 1992 and remains Albania's best-known site. It is one of the most striking in the Mediterranean and our guide lecturer Oliver Gilkes has directed excavations here for many years. The city lies in suggestive woodlands and contains remarkable monuments of all periods. After a picnic lunch at **Butrint Castle**, we visit the museum, before walking down to catch the ferry across the Vivari Channel. Here we explore the Venetian Triangular Fortress.

Day Five | Saranda - Gjirokastra

Today we leave the Ionian and cross the mountains to arrive in Gjirokastra. This amazing Ottoman city is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and we shall



Uncover a story of the discovery of 2,000 years of untouched archaeological heritage

Spend a full day at the World Heritage Site of Butrint

Enjoy fantastic scenery, mountains, valleys and the dramatic Albanian Riviera

Join Oliver Gilkes, a well-known and well-loved figure, having trained many Albanian students and the best guide to the archaeology of this country

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



have the chance to visit the **Gjirokastra Museum**, the **medieval Fortress** and the National Museum of Arms. This afternoon we enjoy a special visit to the late Ottoman mansion, **Zekate House**. Built in 1812, Zekate is widely considered to be one of the grandest examples of its kind, providing us with amazing an insight into the upper echelons of Ottoman life.

Day Six | Gjirokastra - Byllis - Berat

We head northwards and along the valley of the mighty river Vjosa round to the ruins of **Byllis**. According to legend, the city was founded by warriors led by Neoptolemus, the son of Achilles, returning from the Trojan wars. Archaeologists have yet to find evidence of Homeric heroes but have uncovered a Hellenistic-era stadium, theatre and fortifications as well as numerous later Roman churches. After lunch, we visit the excavated **Byllis Cathedral**, before continuing onwards to Berat and enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Day Seven | Berat - Kruja

Today we shift from classical to medieval times and focus on the attractive town of **Berat**, which

is brimming with traditional architecture. The lower city along the riversides was the preserve of the Muslim inhabitants, while by agreement the Christians held the citadel. Here we explore Byzantine churches, Ottoman mosques and the **Onufri Museum**, home to a spectacular collection of 16th-century religious artwork.

Day Eight | Durres

We visit **Durres**, Albania's chief port and the starting point of the Via Egnatia. This was ancient **Dyrrachium**, a great imperial port on the Adriatic. Here we visit the 2nd-century amphitheatre, the largest in the Balkans, as well as sections of the mighty walls. After lunch we continue to **Kruja**, the mountain fortress of the Kastrioti family, and home of the National hero George Kastrioti Skanderbeg. We visit the **Skanderbeg Museum** and wander through the **Ottoman bazaar**; An eclectic last day to truly represent the many ages and influences of Albania.

Day Nine | Kruja

This morning, we transfer from Kruja to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Tirana, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Berat & Kruje

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
18th - 26th Apr	\$4,230	\$500

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

Albania, Macedonia & Northern Greece

The Via Egnatia

9 DAYS FROM \$4,680pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Join us as we explore the dramatic landscapes of Albania, Macedonia and Northern Greece - a vast patchwork of cultures and civilisations along the route of the Via Egnatia. Our tour takes in the magnificent tomb and treasures of Philip of Macedon, the late Imperial glories of Thessaloniki and the beautiful Medieval churches on the shores of stunning Lake Ohrid.

Day One | Durrës

Meet the group at our hotel in **Durrës**, ancient Dyracchium, ready to begin our exploration of the Via Egnatia and the cultures and civilisations which flourished along its length.

Day Two | Apollonia

Now Albania's principal seaport, **Durrës** was the principal western terminus of the Via Egnatia in its Roman guise. This was a major imperial city with great public buildings. We pass by the amphitheatre, the largest in the Balkans, and the late-antique city walls. A stop at the circular **Forum of Anastasius** brings us to the road's starting point. A monumental column once stood in the centre to mark where the road began. We continue south to **Apollonia**, a great Corinthian Greek colony, which facilitated the Roman conquest of the Balkans. This was the starting point for the older, southern branch of the road and was perhaps the greatest classical city in the region, enriched by its control of the trade routes inland and known for its slave markets. It has been substantially excavated by Albanian, French and German missions and has a fine museum. The young Octavian attended the schools of rhetoric here before hastening back to Rome following the assassination of his adoptive father, Julius Caesar.

Day Three | Durrës - Tirana - Ohri

A long drive today. First a visit to Tirana, the capital of Albania. A pastiche of a city with Ottoman, fascist, communist and modern elements mixed.

A visit to the **National Historical Museum** gives us a particular view of Albanian history. We continue to **Elbasan**, ancient Scampis, the first major stopping point on the Via Egnatia heading east. We walk the line of the road through the castrum with its fine late Roman and Ottoman walls and the first mosque marking the Ottoman conquest. It was a major market centre in later centuries and was noted for its thronged bazaars. Under the communists, it gained the dubious privilege of housing the massive 'Steel of the Party' metallurgical combine. We then follow the route of the road up the dramatic gorge of the river Shkumbini, over the pass of St. Athanasius and into Macedonia to the city of Ohrid.

Day Four | Ohrid

All day in wonderful **Ohrid**, ancient Lychnidos - 'the city of light'. It was founded by Philip II of Macedon on Lake Ohrid as one of a string of fortresses which guarded the northern borders of his kingdom against the fierce Illyrians. The ancient bodies of water of Lake Ohrid, and its sister Lake Prespa to the south, are the result of glaciation and are some of the highest and deepest lakes in the Balkans. Ohrid boasts a Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman past, the city and fortress lie above the classical town. The remains of the city's ancient theatre have been excavated, but the many Byzantine churches trace the waxing and waning of Byzantine ambitions in the Balkans. We explore the churches of **Mary Peribleptos/St. Clement's** - full of quite superb 13th-century frescoes produced by the

greatest artists of their age. **St. Panteleimon** was the original burial place of Clement, one of the followers of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who converted the Slavic peoples. Finally, **St. Sofia** the great cathedral church.

Day Five | Ohrid - Bitola

A morning drive along the shore of **Lake Ohrid** to the 'Bay of Bones'. This region of the Balkans is known for its prehistoric lakeshore villages, which extend into southern Albania. These communities made use of the productive lakes, which Herodotus records as being full of fish, the lake shore and mountains. Underwater surveys along the shore of Lake Ohrid revealed thousands of wooden pilings from just such a community. It has been excavated and restored as a typical Bronze Age lake settlement. We continue towards **Lake Prespa** and the monastery of **St. Naum**. The companion of St. Clement he was primarily responsible for continuing his work and developing a new alphabet for the Slavic peoples of the 10th century to spread the knowledge of Christianity. It was called Cyrillic in honour of the two saints' mentors. The saint is buried in a special mausoleum attached to the tiny jewel of a church. It became a place of pilgrimage for both Christians and Muslims as Naum had the reputation of healing the insane. We journey onward over the mountains to Bitola to rejoin the Via Egnatia.



Explore the great Corinthian Greek city of Apollonia, one of the starting points of the Via Egnatia

Enjoy the beauty of Ohrid, the 'city of light' situated on the shores of one of the oldest lakes in Europe

Admire the thundering waterfalls in Edessa and walk along the colonnaded Via Egnatia in the ancient city

Discover the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe – the tomb of Philip II – and its extraordinary museum

Day Six | Bitola - Edessa

Bitola has a long history. The city of **Heraklea Lyncestis** was founded by Philip II of Macedon and grew to become a major communications hub for the Balkans, first on the Via Egnatia and later as the metropolis of Monastir, the major Turkish road and rail nexus. We visit the site of Heraclea, where the theatre and the important early Christian cathedral and bishop's palace can be seen. Next, we explore **Bitola**, which as a commercial and political hub, was full of markets and endowed with a number of very fine mosques from the 16th century. Its importance to the 'great powers' of the 19th century in the seething nationalist world of the Balkans is marked by the presence of a series of consulates. All crowded together, each one vied to outdo its neighbour. They were the haunt of merchants and travellers, like Edward Lear, whose famous journey here produced some of the earliest depictions of the town. We drive onwards following the course of the road into Greece. We stop en route in Edessa, to have a look at the impressive waterfalls which thunder over the edge of the bluff where the acropolis and medieval town lie. Water-powered mills were built in the 19th century to harness the many streams. This delightful town is cool and fresh with tree-lined streets and numerous streams.

Day Seven | Edessa - Thessaloniki

Firstly, we visit ancient **Edessa**, where it is possible to walk along the colonnaded Via Egnatia through the walls in this partially excavated city. We take a slight detour on to ancient Aigai. Here in the 1980s, at the site of the Macedonian royal and

ritual capital, the richest ancient burial in Europe was discovered amongst tombs of the Macedonian royal house. The principal burial is that of the father of Alexander the Great, Philip II. The innovative **Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai** houses his funeral goods, including the solid gold chest in which his ashes were found wrapped in purple silk. We visit the newly opened **Palace of Aigai**, once one of the largest buildings in Classical Greece as well as the new **Polycentric Museum of Aigai**. After our site visit, we continue to Thessaloniki for our first night in this fascinating city.

Day Eight | Thessaloniki

Founded by King Cassander to be a new capital city for Macedonia in 315 BCE, Thessaloniki became the first terminus of the Via Egnatia. It developed as a major Roman port and ultimately as the second most important city in the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. It was the birthplace of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. Today we visit the **Agora and Forum complex**, the ancient city's centre, and the great late Roman church of **St. Demetrius**. Venerated for centuries by both Christians and Muslims, the saint is said to guard the walls of the city and his feast day is still celebrated by a parade where his icon is carried around the streets. On to the palace complex of the emperor Galerius which includes the famous **Rotonda**, which survived as it was converted into a mosque, and the remains of the mighty triumphal arch over the Via Egnatia. In the afternoon we pay a visit to the extensive **Archaeological Museum** and **Byzantine Museum** with their superb collections.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



Day Nine | Thessaloniki

Today we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

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Accommodation

- Accommodation in Durres, Ohrid, Bitola, Edessa, Thessaloniki

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	SS
11th - 19th Oct	\$4,680	\$550 \$0

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

Bulgaria

Thracian Treasures and Mountain Monasteries

12 DAYS FROM \$5,750pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



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 also introduces the complicated history and cultures of the mosaic of peoples who have occupied the fertile plains bordering the River Danube.

Day One | Sofia

Meet the group at our hotel 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 the 4th-century **St. George Rotunda** 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

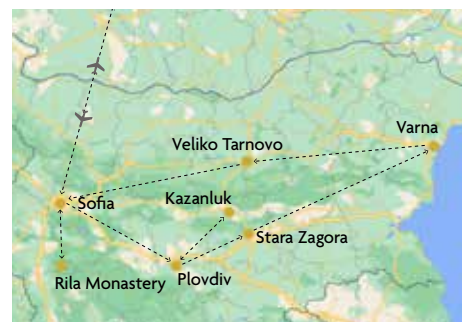
(in the literal sense!) masterpiece and one of Bulgaria's most famous and most beautiful sites. Its vibrant frescoes which cover much of the monastic ensemble rival even most the lavish holy shrines around the world. The colours are almost audible in their intensity.

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 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 BCE. We continue to the 'Valley of the Thracian Kings' where we explore three of the 1,500 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.



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

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 Tarnograd 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.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

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.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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/Dbl Share	\$5
21st Apr - 2nd May	\$6,300	\$690 \$0
22nd Sep - 3rd Oct	\$5,750	\$640 \$0

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

The Archaeology of Roman Istria

Exploring idyllic Croatia

5 DAYS FROM \$3,750pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The idyllic peninsula of Istria, with its staggeringly beautiful coastline, has a rich history linking it to the Veneti and is now famed for its wonderful ancient ruins as well as its beautiful Venetian cities. This tour brings different layers of history to life, for a memorable journey through Istria's captivating past.

Day One | Pula

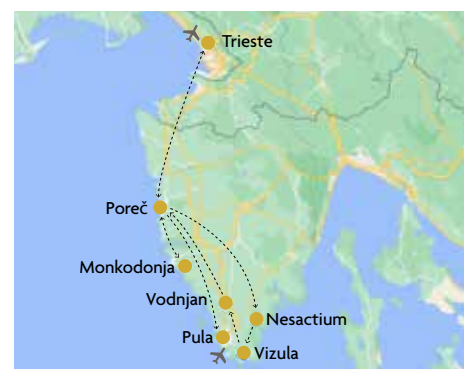
Meet the group at our hotel in Pula.

Day Two | Pula & Vizula

This morning we explore the wonderful remains of **Pula**, which offer precious testimony to the Roman presence and influence in Istria. Most prominent among these is the stunning **amphitheatre**, which preserves the underground service rooms, as well as the four outer towers, which contained water for the sparsiones sprinkled on the spectators during performances. We can also see evidence of the structures necessary for the awnings used to shade the spectators. We proceed to the **Roman forum** where we see the **Temple of Augustus**, one of the best-preserved Roman temples outside of the Italian peninsula. Dating from the same period is the Arch of the Sergii, which was both a city gate as well as a commemoration of the victory at Actium. Nearby is the Gate of Hercules, recognisable from the high relief sculpture of the hero's bearded head,

together with his club. Nearby is the well-preserved Roman theatre, built into the hillside on which the castle now sits.

We take a short drive to the charming fishing village of Medulin for lunch, after which we head to **Vizula Archaeological Park**. The peninsula which constitutes the archaeological park is beautiful in natural terms but has a wealth of remains. Evidence shows habitation here from the Neolithic period onwards. One of the most striking sites is an Imperial villa, whose large size and rich decorations underlines the prosperity of some of the city's inhabitants. We round off the day at **Nesactium**, whose Roman remains were built upon the original Histrian town destroyed by the Romans in 177 BCE. It was an important station on the Via Flavia from Tergeste to Dalmatia.



Day Three | Monkodonja - Poreč - Trieste

This morning we drive to the Bronze Age hill fort at **Monkodonja**. It was discovered in 1953 and has given much evidence of the lives led there. It was inhabited and not merely a defensive refuge, with the Acropolis itself having residential buildings and streets. A good deal of pottery has been unearthed and shows a thriving local culture of craftsmen as well as trade across the Mediterranean even as far as the Levant. We continue to lovely town of **Poreč**, situated on the western side of the Istrian



View the Roman ruins in the elegant city of Trieste, including a stunning theatre and the remains of a forum

Visit Pula with its staggering collection of Roman ruins, including its impressive amphitheatre and stunning Temple of Augustus

Examine the Euphrasian Basilica in Poreč, a stunning early Byzantine church with a magnificent array of shimmering mosaics

Explore the beautifully located archaeological park of Vizula, which contains the remains of an opulent Roman luxury villa

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



peninsula. Inhabited since prehistoric times, it was a Roman castrum in the second century BCE, making use of the natural harbour and became a municipium during the time of Augustus. We start at **Marafor Square**, site of the Roman forum. There are remains still visible of some of the Roman temples, as well as paving from the forum itself. We note the **Romanesque House**, erected in the 13th century, as well as the **Kanonika**, which still has its original stone portal. Here we see the pediment of the Temple of Neptune, once the largest in Istria. We make our way to beautiful **Euphrasian Basilica** in a complex that includes a baptistery and bell tower. This UNESCO-listed building is a particularly good example of Byzantine architecture, built in the 6th century on top of an older, 4th-century basilica, as well as a Roman domus. Inside, the eye is caught by the staggering mosaics in this complex; the oratory retains a mosaic floor that belonged to the domus.

Day Four | Trieste

Today is dedicated to exploring **Trieste**, the capital of Friuli, which is on the border with Slovenia, and which was shaped by centuries of Habsburg rule when it was one of Europe's most important ports

and the bridge between central and southern Europe. Walking along the city's elegant avenues, we explore the archaeological remains of the city which was a military camp. We start with the **Paleochristian Basilica** first discovered in the 19th century and which is notable for its 4th and 6th-century mosaics which, are reminiscent of those found in the Euphrasian Basilica, including those which record the names of donors who paid for the floor. We continue to the **Cattedrale di San Giusto**, built between the 9th and 11th centuries on top of an early Christian church and a Roman temple and notable for its Venetian apsidal mosaics. Just outside the cathedral, we explore the remains of the **Roman forum**. The afternoon is spent exploring more Roman remains, including the Arco di Riccardo which monumentalised the entrance to the Cardo, and the well-preserved Roman theatre.

Day Five | Trieste - Pula

Before we drive to Pula airport to make our independent onward journeys, we drive to the pretty town of **Vodnjan** for a guided walk of its architecture which shows its Venetian heritage.

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- 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 Pula & Trieste

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbf Share	\$5
23rd - 27th May	\$3,750	\$630

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

Prehistoric Malta & Gozo

Malta's first inhabitants

7 DAYS FROM \$5,480pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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.

Day One | Valletta

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

Day Two | Mġarr & Mdina

Beginning in the town of Mġarr, we visit the two conjoined temples of **Ta' Haġrat** and **Mġarr** built during the 4th-millennium BCE. 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 1500 BCE. 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 BCE. Nearby, we visit **Tarxien** megalithic site, one of the most elaborate of all the Megalithic temples on the island which has undergone extensive excavation and restoration.

Images: Valletta



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

Day Five | Għar Dalam & Xemxija Heritage Trail

This morning we visit **Għar 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 explore **Xemxija** where we walk along the heritage trail and seek out some of the rock-cut tombs dotted around the hillside. Here we 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 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

After breakfast we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

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.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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	SS
9th - 15th Mar	\$5,480	\$920
6th - 12th Apr	\$5,690	\$920
5th - 11th Oct	\$5,910	\$960

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Warsaw to Danzig

Palaces, Museums and Teutonic Knights

8 DAYS FROM \$4,970pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Join us on an escorted tour across Poland, from Warsaw to Danzig (Gdansk), exploring palaces, museums and the legacy of the Teutonic Knights. We start in Warsaw with a tour of the Old Town and key museums, then visit the medieval city of Toruń. In Gdansk, we discover Malbork Castle and the city's rich history before enjoying Oliwa's Basilica and its museums. A perfect blend of culture, history and stunning architecture awaits you on this unforgettable journey.

Day One | Warsaw

Meet the group at our hotel in Warsaw.

Day Two | Warsaw Old Town

We begin with a wonderful day in **Warsaw**, immersing ourselves in its rich history. Our **walking tour** takes us through the charming **Old Town**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, full of colourful townhouses and cobbled streets. We explore the **Market Square**, once the heart of Warsaw's medieval trade, and continue through **Royal Square**, home to grand architecture and historic landmarks. In the afternoon, we visit the **Royal Castle Museum**, the former residence of Polish monarchs and admire its lavish interiors and priceless artworks. We then step inside **St. John's Archcathedral**, one of the city's oldest and most important churches, known for its stunning Gothic design and historic royal tombs.

Day Three | Warsaw

On our second full day in **Warsaw**, we delve deeper into its rich cultural and historical heritage with visits to two remarkable museums. First, we explore the **National Museum**, home to an extensive collection of Polish and European art, including masterpieces from the Middle Ages to modern

times. The museum also houses the famous Battle of Grunwald painting and an impressive display of Polish decorative arts. In the afternoon, we visit the **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews**, a fascinating institution that chronicles a thousand years of Jewish history in Poland. Here, through immersive exhibits and personal stories, we gain an insight into the profound cultural contributions and resilience of Poland's Jewish community.

Day Four | Warsaw - Toruń

After breakfast, we check out of our Warsaw hotel and set off for **Toruń**, a city renowned for its medieval charm and Gothic architecture. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Old Town for a tour of some of its most iconic landmarks. The **Teutonic Castle**, built by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century, offers a glimpse into the region's medieval past with its impressive exterior. Nearby, the **Old Town Hall** and its tower showcase Gothic architecture and provide stunning views of the Old Town. The **Town Hall Art Museum**, housed in a beautiful Renaissance-style building, features a range of local art. The **Cathedral of St John the Baptist**, with its striking Gothic design, offers a peaceful space for reflection, while the **Church of St Mary**, known for its towering brick

Gothic structure, stands as one of the most iconic landmarks in the area.

Day Five | Toruń - Gdansk

Today we head to **Malbork Castle**, a stunning fortress, built by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century. We explore its extensive grounds and impressive interiors to learn about its strategic importance and the role it played in the region's history. The castle's museum offers a rich collection of medieval artifacts, including sculptures and tapestries, providing a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the knights who once inhabited it. This afternoon we drive to **Gdansk**, our home for the next three nights.

Day Six | Gdansk

Following breakfast, we embark on a full day of guided walks and museum visits around the historic city of Gdansk. Our day begins with the **Guided Historical and Architectural Walk**, starting with the exterior of the stunning Golden Gate. This grand structure marks the entrance to Long Lane, Gdansk's main thoroughfare, and sets the tone for the rich history we'll uncover. Next, we visit the **Artus Court Museum**, located in the heart of the city. Housed in a historic building that once



Discover Warsaw, a city where historical charm and cutting edge design converge

Malbork Castle, the enormous structure built by the Teutonic Knights

Explore the extensive Maritime Museum in Gdansk on Otowianka Island

served as a gathering place for merchants and dignitaries, this museum offers a glimpse into Gdansk's prosperous trading past. The opulent interiors and exquisite artefacts on display reflect the city's importance as a major hub in the region's commerce. Our journey continues with a visit to **St. Mary's Basilica**, one of the largest brick churches in the world. This awe-inspiring Gothic structure features a breathtaking interior, including intricate stained-glass windows, a grand altar and a remarkable astronomical clock dating back to the 15th century. To conclude the morning, we trade the monumental scale of the basilica for the intimate charm of the **Uphagen House Museum**. Here, we step into the world of 18th-century Gdansk, exploring the preserved interiors of a merchant's home, which offers a fascinating look into the daily life and lifestyle of the city's wealthy elite. In the afternoon, we shift our focus to the city's maritime history starting with a visit to the Historic Crane, an iconic symbol of Gdansk's maritime heritage. Later we board a ferry to cross the river, heading toward the **Maritime Museum**, where we dive into the city's deep connection to the sea. Our next stop is the **World War Two Museum**, a profound and thought-provoking experience that offers a comprehensive account of Gdansk's pivotal role during this tumultuous period in history.

Day Seven | Gdansk & Oliwa

We begin the day with a visit to the **Solidarity Museum**, an institution dedicated to the history of the Solidarity movement and the fight for freedom in Poland. Through multimedia exhibits, photographs and personal stories, we gain an understanding of the struggles and triumphs of the movement that played a pivotal role in the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe. The museum offers a poignant and inspiring look at the courage and resilience of the Polish people. Afterwards, we travel to **Oliwa**, where we visit the **Basilica Oliwa**, a stunning example of Gothic architecture. Famous for its tranquil setting and exquisite design, the basilica boasts intricate stained-glass windows, a beautiful wooden altar and impressive acoustics.

Day Eight | Gdansk- Warsaw

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and enjoy one final museum visit to the **Amber Museum**. This unique museum showcases a wide range of amber artefacts, from ancient inclusions of prehistoric insects to stunning modern jewellery. The exhibits provide an in-depth look at the formation, extraction and artistic use of amber, offering a captivating end to our journey through Poland's rich cultural heritage. Afterwards, we transfer to the Warsaw Airport for our independent onward journeys home.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tom Abbott

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



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Warsaw, Toruń, Gdansk

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	SS
24th – 31st Aug	\$4,970	\$690

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

Frontier Lands of Romania

From the Dacians to Dracula

10 DAYS FROM \$5,940pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Romania offers a fascinating and under-explored historical narrative which is uncovered by its photogenic and diverse remains. Colonised in the Greek period and famously conquered in the Roman era under Trajan when it became the province of Dacia, Romania has retained a sense of its Classical identity. However, it is also a land of mysteries and legends played out in a backdrop of amazing Gothic castles and medieval cities. This is a unique tour covering Greek colonies, notably the ancient city of Tomis, on the Black Sea, the Roman ruins – including the victory monument at Adamclisi celebrating the Dacian Wars – as well as the world-famous Bran Castle, home of Vlad Dracul. Piecing it all together is one of Andante's most popular Guide Lecturers, Dr Doru Bogdan, who provides in depth knowledge of his native country.

Day One | Bucharest - Constanta

Meet the group at either the airport in Bucharest or in the city of Constanta.

Day Two | Constanta

We explore Constanta, the ancient city of Tomis, situated on the western coast of the Black Sea and famed for being the place the poet Ovid was exiled and from whence he wrote his famous *Tristia*. Here we see remains of a vast late antique complex, which has retained colourful mosaics as well as

the National History and Archaeology Museum.

The museum houses finds from all over Dobrogea, including the Neolithic statuettes known as the thinkers from the Hamagia culture, the Glykon Sphinx from the 2nd-century AD, as well as the famous 'Sculpture Treasury'. In the afternoon we visit **Mangalia**, a former Greek colony known as Callatis and founded from Heraclea Pontica, where we see impressive archaic fortifications.

Day Three | Histria

Today we explore **Histria**, first founded in the 7th-century BCE by Milesians and the largest excavation site in Romania. We spend all day here exploring the many layers of history of the sites, from the archaic periods to the late antique era. The highlights include the city walls, a bath complex and several Christian basilicas. There is also a site museum which displays artefacts from the city which demonstrate its importance in trade.

Day Four | Constanta - Adamclisi - Bucharest

We drive to Bucharest, via **Adamclisi** to see the Tropaeum Traiani, the triumphal monument erected by Trajan in 109 in celebration of his victory over the Dacians. After exploring the site of the monument, we visit the **Adamclisi Museum** in Bucharest which displays the vivid metopes that once decorated the monument. Echoing Trajan's column in Rome, the metopes depict scenes from the battle including Dacian bodies being thrown off a cliff and the suicide of Decebalus, the Dacian king. After lunch we transfer to Brasov.

Images: Bran Castle



Adventure off road into the Transylvanian Mountains to the UNESCO sites of Sarmizegetusa Regia and Costesti

Investigate the ruins at Histria, ancient Milesian trading colony on the shores of the Black Sea

Discover the 15th-century Gothic magnificence of Corvin Castle at Hunedoara

Day Five | Brasov – Bran - Hunedoara

We start our day in the Saxon medieval town of **Brasov** where we visit the **Brasov County Museum of History** before making the scenic drive to **Bran Castle**, on the borders of Wallachia. Now owned by the Hapsburgs, this 14th-century castle was once a major frontier post between Wallachia and Transylvania. In the early part of the 20th century, it was home to Marie of Edinburgh, the last Queen of Romania whose furniture forms the basis of the museum housed in the castle. Popularly associated to Dracula, sadly there is no real evidence linking the castle to the well-known Vlad Dracul. Later, we drive to Hunedoara where we stay for the next two nights.

Day Six | Sarmizegetusa - Costesti - Orastie

On this is adventurous day, we take off-road vehicles from Orastie into the Transylvanian mountains to **Sarmizegetusa Regia**, capital of the Dacian kingdom and home of Decebalus, the last king of Dacia who was defeated by Trajan in the Dacian Wars. Here we see a fortress made with imposing stone blocks, as well as a sacred zone which has a number of shrines, including a circular one which bears some resemblance to Stonehenge. After a picnic lunch we visit nearby **Costesti**, dating from the 1st-century BCE and one of the oldest Dacian forts in the area. On our return to Orastie we visit the **Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art** and afterwards transfer back to Hunedoara.

Day Seven | Hunedoara - Corvin - Sarmizegetusa - Sibiu

Our morning is spent at the striking 15th-century

gothic **Corvin Castle** at Hunedoara, one of the largest castles in Europe. Before lunch we pay a brief visit to **Densus Church**, the oldest orthodox stone church in Romania. In the afternoon we visit **Sarmizegetusa Ulpia Traiana**, the capital of the Roman province located 40 kilometres away from the Dacian Sarmizegetusa and settled by veterans of the Dacian war just after its conclusion. Here we see elements typical to any Roman city, such as baths, an amphitheatre and a forum, as well as a number of temples, including one to Mithras.

Day Eight | Sibiu - Bucharest

Today we explore **Sibiu**, founded by Saxon settlers and explore the old town and visit **Bruckenthal Palace**, home to one of Romania's oldest museums. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Bucharest.

Day Nine | Bucharest

Today we spend all day in the capital **Bucharest**, exploring the country's past. We start with the **National Museum of Romanian History** which houses artefacts dating throughout the history of the country. Perhaps the most important finds are the wonderfully crafted Dacian gold work, including the Golden Helmet of Coțofenești and bracelets which were used as currency as well as display. We proceed to the Old Town where a number of 15th-century churches remain in use. Later we transfer to the northern part of Bucharest to visit the Village Museum of Romanian Ethnography.

Day Ten | Bucharest

We transfer back to the airport in Bucharest from where we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

Dr Doru Bogdan is a researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia, Romania. He specialises in Roman archaeology and has supervised excavations in Carnuntum (Austria), Pompeii (Italy), Catalhöyük (Turkey) and Birdoswald (UK). He also directed numerous archaeological excavations and research projects in Transylvania and the Lower Danube/Black Sea area of Dobruja.



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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Constanta, Brasov, Hunedoara, Sibiu & Bucharest

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
12th - 21st Sep	\$5,940	\$690

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Serbia

Land of the Iron Emperors

8 DAYS FROM \$5,210pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



The vast lands of the Danube were home to two great European peoples, the Illyrians and the Serbs. This tour takes us off the beaten track, uncovering a wealth of iconic archaeological sites - from remote prehistory until the birth of modern Europe - they are not to be missed!

Day One | Belgrade

Meet the group at our hotel in Belgrade.

Day Two | Sirmium - Novi Sad

A day of imperial connections awaits. We begin by driving to **Sirmium**, one of Europe's lost capitals. Once a strategic hub, it served as a convenient base on the Danube for emperors Galerius, Severus II and **Licinius**, who used it to intercept barbarian raids and dominate the road network. In the afternoon, we cross the river to **Novi Sad** and explore the **Petrovaradin Fortress**, a vast edifice built by the Austrian emperors against the Turks, which was never actually used in battle. Owing to its size, thick walls and 400 cannons, it was considered unconquerable and earned the nickname 'Gibraltar on the Danube'. Although demilitarised in the 20th century, its commanding presence continues to captivate visitors.

Day Three | Belgrade & Vinča

Today, we venture beyond the city to **Vinča**, one of Europe's most significant prehistoric sites. Occupied since the Neolithic era (around 5700 BCE), Vinča was home to one of the earliest settled farming communities, marking a turning point in human population growth and settlement development. We explore the famous riverbank site, one of only two prehistoric 'tells' in Europe. Later, we return to Belgrade to visit the **Serbian National and Historical Museum**, celebrated for its impressive archaeological collections.

Day Four | Belgrade - Viminacium - Kladovo

We have an early start with a drive along the Danube. We stop first at **Viminacium**, a huge Roman site, both provincial capital and legionary fortress, used as a campaign base by numerous emperors. Onwards to **Golubac fortress**, the

beginning of the Iron Gates, where a medieval and Turkish fortress cascades down the river gorge. We continue our journey along the Danube gorge, making a stop at **Lepenski Vir**, an extraordinary Mesolithic riverside village with a culture dating back around 8,000 years. This site is one of the largest and most significant prehistoric archaeological treasures from the Stone Age. Located on the right bank of the Danube in the dramatic Djerdap Gorge, Lepenski Vir was discovered during the preparatory work for the Danube dam project, revealing a world of ancient art and architecture. Finally, we drive on to **Kladovo**, the site of the dam and location of our overnight stay.

Day Five | Kladovo - Zajecar - Nis

This morning we make a quick stop to see the remains of **Trajan's bridge**. Built in AD 105, the great bridge across the Danube (1135m long) was



Explore Vinča, the Danube-side cradle of Neolithic civilisation

Visit extraordinary Gamzigrad, Emperor Galerius' retirement home

Visit Golubac and other fortresses on the banks of the mighty Danube

See the medieval new town of Krusevac, built by the heroic but doomed Prince Lazar

Discover the old town at Nis, a typical medieval trading city of the Balkans

intended to link the new provinces of Dacia, north of the river, with the Roman heartlands to the south. We continue our journey southwards to **Zajecar**, where we marvel at the discoveries from **Gamzigrad**. Among the treasures on display are exquisite mosaics, renowned inscriptions, intricately carved temple sculptures and a breathtaking series of imperial portraits that capture the grandeur of a bygone era. Next, we travel to **Felix Romuliana**, where Emperor Galerius once built a sumptuous retirement villa, echoing the legacy of his mentor, Diocletian, in Split. Set amidst rolling countryside, the expansive walled enclosure, though now in ruins, remains impressively majestic. We then continue our drive to the town of **Nis**, celebrated to be one of the oldest cities in the Balkans and the gateway between the East and West.

Day Six | Carcin Grad & Nis

Following breakfast, we venture into the hills towards **Caricin Grad** to uncover another emperor's dream. Our first stop is the ancient ruins of **Justiniana Prima**, a city envisioned by Emperor Justinian the Great as a new ecclesiastical centre in the Balkans. Transforming his native village of **Bederiana**, Justinian replaced the humble hamlet with a thriving metropolis. The fortified inner city once housed the bishop's 'palace,' while the outer

city flourished with churches and aristocratic residences. After delving into this fascinating history, we return to **Nis** to explore the rich collections at the Archaeological Museum.

Day Seven | Nis - Belgrade

Constantine the Great was born in **Nis**, and remnants of his era endure. We visit the old city's **Turkish fortress**, where traces of his time remain. The citadel also features 18th-century Turkish walls, with two of its four gates impressively preserved. In the outskirts, we find the huge Constantinian Roman villa at **Mediana**, with mosaics and a series of huge warehouses. We head back towards Belgrade, stopping at **Kruševac**, where the hero Prince Lazar, last of the great medieval monarchs, had his capital. Seen as the 'once and future king', Lazar occupies a vital position in modern Serbian identity. We visit the **church**, the first of the Byzantine Moravian style.

Day Eight | Belgrade

Today we bid farewell to marvellous Serbia. We transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is still involved in projects in Albania and is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK.



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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Belgrade, Kladovo, Nis

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$S
11th - 18th May	\$5,210	\$580 \$0

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

Ancient Catalonia

Unravel a complex web of early civilisations

8 DAYS FROM \$5,020pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The coastline of Catalonia has been a busy place since the 7th century BCE when the first traders settled here. The discoveries at the ancient city of Empuries – “the trading post” – make plain just how cosmopolitan ancient Catalonia became as a result of Mediterranean trade – faience from Egypt, black pottery from Etruria, holy statues from Carthage, fine metal work from the Gauls and the distinctive black and red pottery of Archaic Greece. And, just a few miles inland, behind the bustle of the ports and harbours, lies a landscape apart and forgotten. In the peace of the interior lie medieval towns and quiet abbeys amongst the rolling vine-clad hills and winding rivers of Catalonia.

We explore remote indigenous Iberian strongholds, from Ullastret and Olerdola to the superb coastal site of Emporion (“the market”) and the Roman walls of Barcino and Tarraco, in and under and through the buildings of the attractive modern towns of Barcelona and Tarragona.

Day One | Barcelona or Tarragona

Meet the group at Barcelona Airport or at our hotel in Tarragona.

Day Two | Tarragona

Today is devoted to **Roman Tarraco** (Tarragona), a UNESCO World Heritage site and the oldest Roman settlement on the Iberian Peninsula, established in the 3rd century BCE. The archaeological

ensemble here is one of the earliest and most comprehensive examples of Roman city planning in the Mediterranean region. We follow part of the circuit of the town walls and visit the provincial and colonial forums, the amphitheatre and the impressive circus. Our final visit is to the fabulous 12th-century **Cathedral**, built on the site where the Temple of Augustus used to stand.



Images: Roman amphitheatre of Tarragona & Ferreres Aqueduct



Explore the charming coastal town of Tarragona, once the capital of Hispania Tarraconensis

Tread the roads of Iron Age Ullastret, a town which once traded with the Etruscans, Greeks and Carthaginians

Discover Girona, known as the 'City of the Four Rivers', its historic quarter dominated by medieval buildings and Roman, Arab and Hebrew influences

Day Three | Sierra de Godall & Centelles

This morning, we visit another UNESCO World Heritage site – the rock art complex of the **Sierra de Godall** where depictions of animals and hunting scenes are distributed across the various shelters of the cliffs. After lunch, we visit the ancient site of **Tivissa**, an Iberian settlement dating from the 3rd-century BCE, which once controlled trade between the coast and the interior, along the course of the river Ebro. Our last site of the day is the **Roman Villa of Centelles** to see its marvellous polychrome dome mosaic depicting Christian themes.

Day Four | Tarragona

We start our day at the **Palaeo Christian necropolis** in Tarragona. Over 2,000 graves have been found, providing a wealth of information about the people who lived here in the 3rd century AD. We continue to the excavations of '**El Munts**' a large Roman villa site situated on a hillside overlooking the coast near Altafulla. This wealthy residence boasted at least two storeys and a large interior courtyard with a fishpond in the middle. This afternoon we travel a few miles out of the city to see the Roman quarry at **Mèdol**. Many of the walls from which the blocks of stone were extracted are still visible. We finish our day at the magnificent **Ferreres Aqueduct**, also known as the Pont del Diable.

Day Five | Tarragona - Callela de Palafrugell

We leave Tarragona today and head north, stopping at **Olerdola**, a rural site where the church of St. Miquel was built in an early medieval fortress overlying earlier Roman buildings. After lunch, we visit the **Catalan Museum of Archaeology** in Barcelona where we see the finds from Tivissa along with many other wonderful artefacts. We will also visit the **History Museum**, which contains the underground excavations of the Roman city of Barcino.

Day Six | Girona

Today we visit **Girona**, once ancient Geruna and a town of the Ausetani tribe, which survived to prosper in the Roman period. We walk around the town walls and visit the cathedral with its famous 11th-century tapestry of the creation. Later we visit the **Museu Arqueologic de Sant Pere de Galligants** housed in a delightful 11th-century Romanesque monastery. Returning to our hotel in the late afternoon, we make a stop at **Peratallada**, a medieval village that has kept its original aspect with narrow streets, fortified castle and deep moat.

Day Seven | Empuries & Ullastret

This morning we drive to the coastal trading colony and tripartite site of **Empuries**, which was colonised by Iberian, Greek and Roman settlers. Remains at the site include the ruins of the Greek market and port, an ancient necropolis and the Roman-era walls, mosaics, amphitheatre and early Christian basilica. In the afternoon, we visit the Iron Age settlement of **Ullastret**, a fascinating early town, developed by the local Iberian tribe of the Indiketes and influenced by the Greek settlers on the coast.



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Dr Doru Bogdan is a specialist in Roman archaeology. He has supervised excavations in Carnuntum (Austria), Pompeii (Italy), Catalhöyük (Turkey) and Birdoswald (UK). He also directed numerous archaeological excavations and research projects in Transylvania and the Lower Danube/Black Sea area of Dobrudja.



Day Eight | Barcelona

This morning we make our way to Barcelona Airport from where make our independent onward journeys.

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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
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- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Tarragona & Callela de Palafrugell

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	\$5
27th Apr - 3rd May	\$5,020	\$550

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

Rock Art & Human Origins

Northern Spain and the Pyrenees

10 DAYS FROM \$6,600pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The rock art of northern Spain and the Pyrenees offers a fascinating look into early human life. Sites like Altamira, El Castillo and Ekain reveal the cognitive, spiritual and cultural development of our ancestors. We also visit caves in southwest France, including Grotte de Bédeilhac, Grottes de Gargas, Mas d'Azil and Niaux, where prehistoric echoes remain. Led by expert guides, we enjoy exclusive access to key caves for a truly memorable experience.

Day One | Bilbao

Meet the group at our hotel in Bilbao.

Day Two | Atapeurca & Burgos

This morning we drive south to **Atapeurca**, one of the most important paleontological sites in Europe. The limestone caves contain a rich fossil record of the earliest human beings in Europe, from nearly one million years ago right up until the Common Era. Painted and engraved panels have been recorded, with geometrical motifs, hunting scenes and anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures alongside abundant human remains. We enjoy lunch in Atapeurca before heading to Burgos to visit the **Museo de Human Evolution**, where we learn about the region's pivotal role in human evolution. After exploring the museum, we visit the **Atapeurca** archaeological site itself.

Day Three | Bilbao - Santillana del Mar

Following breakfast, we check out of our hotel and travel to Santander, where we visit the **Museum of Prehistory**. The museum houses an extensive collection of artefacts and exhibits spanning from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age, showcasing items recovered from archaeological excavations in the region. It's a must-see for anyone interested in prehistory, with notable collections of stone and bone tools from decorated caves like Altamira, El Castillo and **El Pendo**. We have lunch in Santander before driving a short distance to **El Pendo**. Here we visit the cave of El Pendo, which contains a panel over eight metres long of painted animals. There are 8 hinds drawn in red and outlined with dots, a horse, a goat, some headless animals and a variety of signs and dots. Interestingly, portable art

made from bone and antler was also found here in tremendous quantities. Afterwards, we drive to the charming medieval town of **Santillana del Mar**, our base for the next three nights.

Day Four | Tito Bustillo & Altamira

After breakfast, we travel west to **Ribadesella**, where we visit the **Cueva de Tito Bustillo**, discovered in 1968. The modern entrance leads visitors through a passage that effectively reverses the original route, which was blocked around 10000 BCE. Inside, the cave's main panel is a masterpiece of Ice Age art. As we explore, the roar of an underground river echoes beneath us. The cave is rich in artwork, most famously known for its frieze of horses and reindeer, making it a highlight of prehistoric art. After lunch, we continue our journey to **Altamira**, where the remarkable facsimile of the cave stands as an extraordinary testament to the original site. With the actual cave now closed to preserve its delicate artwork, the facsimile offers a breathtaking and authentic experience. Created using 3D scanning technology that captures 40,000 data points per square metre, it replicates every contour and crag of the cave with astounding precision. The result is truly astonishing, with the atmosphere eerily resembling that of the original cave. Altamira is most famous for its magnificent, painted ceiling, adorned with bison, but the cave also contains a wealth of engravings and finger tracings, each adding to its rich history. Walking through the replica, it's easy to imagine the ancient artists at work, their hands guiding the images that still captivate us today.

Day Five | Santillana del Mar - San Sebastian

This morning, we visit the **Puerta Viesgo Rock Art Centre**, home to an extraordinary collection of prehistoric rock art. The centre offers a fascinating glimpse into the ancient world, highlighting caves that feature some of the most important examples of Cantabrian cave art. Among these, the **Cueva de las Monedas** and **Cueva de El Castillo** stand out, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The rock art found here dates back over 20,000 years, and it provides a fascinating glimpse into the lives and beliefs of prehistoric communities in the region. The artwork consists of a variety of symbols, handprints and animals, such as bison, deer and horses, depicted in vivid red and black pigments. In the afternoon, we travel to **San Sebastian**.

Day Six | Guggenheim & Ekain

Today we visit the iconic **Guggenheim Museum**. Designed by Frank Gehry, this architectural masterpiece is renowned for its flowing, organic forms and gleaming titanium exterior, which have made it one of the most recognisable buildings in the world since its opening in 1997. Inside, the museum boasts an impressive collection of contemporary art, featuring works by celebrated artists such as Richard Serra, Jeff Koons and Anselm Kiefer. After lunch, we head to the facsimile of **Ekain**, the painted cave discovered in 1969. This site is famous for its remarkably lifelike and vibrant depictions of horses and bison, offering an incredible window into prehistoric art.

Day Seven | San Sebastian - Pau - Oust

The journey from San Sebastián to Pau takes us through the heart of the Basque Country and



Visit the spectacular cave at Tito Bustillo and admire its images, both painted and engraved

Examine the contrast between ancient art seen in the caves themselves and the modern art on display at the world-renowned Guggenheim in vibrant Bilbao

Pay a memorable visit to the extraordinary facsimile of Altamira Cave, widely regarded as the Sistine Chapel of cave art

Visit the area's key sites of prehistoric cave art, from Niaux to Mas d'Azil

Gain fascinating insights into both the creation of cave art along with the lives of those who produced it



into the foothills of the Pyrenees. As we leave the coastal beauty of San Sebastián behind, we wind through rolling hills and lush green valleys, with the landscape shifting from the gentle curves of the Basque countryside to the more rugged, dramatic terrain as we approach the mountains. Pau is a charming city at the foot of the majestic Pyrenees. We enjoy lunch on arrival, before continuing our drive out to **Grotte de Gargas**. Here, we find cave art consisting of two different elements – both created in the Upper Palaeolithic period of approximately 25000 BCE. One is a collection of animal engravings and paintings, including fine depictions of horses, ibex and mammoths similar to those found in Lascaux. These are found in specific areas of the cave and are created by using finger strokes in soft clay; by engraving on the rock with a hard object and by gentle scratching. The other is a group of some 231 hand prints in black, red, brown, ochre and white. They were created by blowing coloured liquid from the mouth over a hand lying flat on the rock leaving a negative impression of the hand with a 'halo' of droplets around it. After our visit, we continue to Oust, a village located in the Ariège department of southwestern France, nestled in the heart of the Pyrenees. We check in to our hotel, our home for the next three nights.

Day Eight | Grotte de la Vache & Grotte de Niaux

Today, we visit two remarkable prehistoric caves, beginning with the **Grotte de la Vache**. Dating back to the Upper Palaeolithic period (around 15,000 years ago), the cave showcases numerous engravings and paintings, primarily of animals such as bison and horses. As one of the region's significant cave art sites, it offers a fascinating glimpse into the symbolic

and artistic practices of early humans. We stop for lunch in Petit Auberge de Niaux and then continue to the famous painted cave, **Grotte de Niaux**. This is one of the deep cave sanctuaries, dramatically situated with beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Here we can see one of the greatest and most powerful collections of Ice Age drawings that can still be visited.

Day Nine | Grotte du Mas D'Azil & Bédeilhac

We continue our exploration of prehistoric caves with a visit to arguably one of the most impressive and iconic, the **Grotte du Mas D'Azil**. This cave is a key location for the **Azilian culture**, a name given to an archaeological culture of the Stone Age which dates approximately 10,000 - 12,500 years ago. Artefacts from the culture include finely carved bone harpoons and colourfully decorated pebbles. Next, we journey to **Bédeilhac**, where we spend the afternoon exploring both the **Museum of Prehistory** at Tarascon-sur-Ariège and the **Grotte de Bédeilhac**. The museum, located in the charming town of Tarascon-sur-Ariège, offers an engaging and in-depth exploration of prehistoric life through fascinating exhibits, interactive displays and artefacts that highlight the daily lives of early humans in this region. Next, we head to the nearby **Grotte de Bédeilhac**, a stunning cave that provides a rare glimpse into the art and culture of prehistoric societies. Afterwards, we return to our hotel in Oust.

Day Ten | Oust - Toulouse

After breakfast, we depart our hotel for one last for one last museum visit before heading home. We spend the morning at the **Musée de l'Aurignacien**, located in the village of Aurignac. This museum is

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



dedicated to the Aurignacian culture, which dates back to around 35,000 to 29,000 years ago and is known for its significant contributions to early human art and tool-making. After our visit, we continue to Toulouse Airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Bilbao, Santillana del Mar, San Sebastian, Oust

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
11th - 20th May	\$6,600	\$1,010

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Amsterdam. Haarlem & The Hague

From the medieval to the contemporary

6 DAYS FROM \$4,960pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Delve into the Dutch Golden Age in the Netherlands, where our visits offer a comprehensive overview of the artistic achievements of this prolific period. Across the South Holland province, look forward to discovering some of the most iconic museums in the world and getting up close to masterpieces such as *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* and *Sunflowers*.

Day One | Amsterdam

Meet the group at our hotel in Amsterdam.

Day Two | The Hague

After breakfast, we make our way to The Hague, where we visit the outstanding art museum of **Mauritshuis**. This magnificent example of Dutch classicist architecture was built in the 17th century and houses a world-famous collection of Dutch works by the likes of Rembrandt, Vermeer and Steen, with iconic paintings such as *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp* on display. Following lunch here, we visit **Mesdag Panorama**, the largest circular canvas in Europe and located in a purpose-built museum. Created by Hendrik Willem Mesdag and his team in 1881, the panorama offers a 360-degree vista of the sea, dunes and the village of Scheveningen as they appeared in the late 19th century. It's a fascinating immersive experience that transports us straight back to that time, giving the sensation of standing in the middle of the landscape itself. Our final stop is **Museum Voorlinden**, located in Wassenaar. Founded by Joop van Caldenburgh, this contemporary building is home to the largest

private art collection in the Netherlands, featuring an engaging blend of paintings, sculptures and installations by both Dutch and international artists such as Yayoi Kusama, Antony Gormley and Anish Kapoor.

Day Three | Amsterdam

Today is spent exploring Amsterdam, starting with **Rembrandt's House**. Nestled in the heart of Amsterdam, this was where Rembrandt lived from 1639 to 1656 and has now been meticulously restored to its 17th-century state. The studio where he created many of his masterpieces and vast collection of his etchings, personal items and period furniture offer a unique glimpse into the artist's life and work, while the temporary exhibitions here focus on Rembrandt's contemporaries and his influence on later artists. Next, we head to the historic Jewish quarter to visit the **Jewish Museum**, set in four interconnecting monumental synagogues. The wide range of exhibits include religious artifacts, significant documents, and contemporary art, providing an examination of Jewish life, history and culture in Amsterdam throughout the centuries. We learn

more at the Portuguese Synagogue, founded in 1639 by refugees from Spain and Portugal. After lunch we take a historical and architectural **walking tour** of historic Amsterdam, including a visit to the beautiful Oude Church.

Day Four | Amsterdam

Some of the most iconic masterpieces await today, beginning at the **Rijksmuseum**, which was relocated to its current location in 1885. The museum is renowned for its extensive collection of Dutch Golden Age paintings, including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Hals. Among its most famous pieces are Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* and Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*. The museum also features an impressive collection of Asian art, sculptures and historical artifacts while outside, the beautiful landscaped gardens are scattered with various outdoor sculptures and installations. After lunch at the Rijksmuseum, we visit another world-famous art gallery, the **Van Gogh Museum**, which houses the largest collection of Van Gogh's paintings and drawings in the world. We explore the artist's life and work through a comprehensive display of his masterpieces, including the iconic



Admire the iconic masterpiece, the Girl with a Pearl Earring, up close at Mauritshuis

Step back in time at the spectacular Mesdag Panorama, the largest circular canvas in Europe

Learn more about one of the world's most famous painters at Rembrandt's House

Tick off the symbols of the Dutch Golden Age in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tom Abbott

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



Sunflowers, The Bedroom and Irises. The museum also features works by Van Gogh's contemporaries, offering a broader context of the art scene during his time.

Day Five | Haarlem & Amsterdam

In the morning, we make our way to the charming city of Haarlem, where we visit the **Frans Hals Museum**, dedicated to the works of the famous Dutch Golden Age painter Frans Hals. Housed in a beautiful 17th-century building that was originally an almshouse, expect to see Hals' renowned group portraits and lively genre scenes that capture the spirit and character of his subjects with remarkable realism and energy, along with other works by other notable Haarlem artists of the Golden Age. Our next stop here is the **Cathedral of Saint Bavo**. This Gothic gem is renowned for its impressive architecture, including its soaring nave, intricate stained glass windows and a towering spire that dominates the Haarlem skyline, as well as the magnificent Müller organ, which was once played by a young Mozart. In the afternoon we return to Amsterdam to visit the **Houses on the Grachten**, the canal belt famous for its iconic

houses with their distinct gables. Then our final visit of the day is the **Museum Van Loon**, located in a canalside house. Built in 1672, it was once the home of artist Ferdinand Bol and later the Van Loon family. Offering a unique glimpse into the lifestyle of Amsterdam's patrician class, highlights include beautiful period furniture, precious silver and porcelain, along with family portraits and other artworks in the grand rooms plus a formal 17th-century style garden.

Day Six | Amsterdam

After checking out of the hotel we visit the waterfront **National Maritime Museum**, one of the largest and most significant museums of its kind. Housed in a former naval storehouse dating back to 1656, its extensive collection includes ship models, maritime paintings, navigational instruments and world maps, all of which tell stories of naval battles and the life of sailors. A real highlight is the full-scale replica of the Dutch East India Company ship, the *Amsterdam*, since the original was wrecked on the way to the Far East in 1749. Later we make our independent onward journeys home.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Amsterdam

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
27th Mar - 1st Apr	\$4,960	\$920

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

Africa & Egypt



From Howard Carter's famous discovery in the 1920s right through to the present day, the wealth of treasures which have been unearthed in Egypt is truly staggering. There is always something new to see, and thus with the recent opening of the highly anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt is likely to be an incredibly popular destination for archaeological travellers in 2026. The sprawling necropolis of Saqqara promises to fascinate visitors too, particularly due to the recently opened Old Kingdom Tomb of Mehu and the Imhotep Museum, which has undergone two years of renovation.

It is no wonder that the incredible age and audacious size of the Egyptian sites, which were seen as ancient to those living in Classical Antiquity, astonish us still today. The seemingly impossible Great Pyramids of Giza, as well as the breathtaking temple complex at Karnak, underscore the prosperity and vitality of Egyptian culture over an enormous period. Perhaps more than anything, it is the longevity of Egyptian history that strains belief.

Meanwhile, the sites in North Africa are vital for shedding light on other ancient peoples, notably the Phoenicians or Carthaginians, as well as the Numidians and Romans. Visiting Punic sites in Africa not only sheds light on the complexity of Carthaginian urban infrastructures but poses questions about the city's enmity with Rome and what would have happened had the Punic wars not been won by Rome. The wonder of North African archaeological sites is their fabulous state of preservation; cities such as Timgad, Dougga and Volubilis can scarcely be found in Europe, whose sites have been encroached upon over succeeding millennia. At the same time, North African sites – abounding with olive oil presses, magnificent mosaics, temples and baths – pay homage to the region's prosperity in the Roman period, when it was the bread basket of the empire. Or in Morocco and Andalusia, separated only by a narrow body of water, it's fascinating to see where Africa and Europe meet.

Our expanding portfolio includes a fantastic variety of tours, with Namibia just one highlight from our brand-new collection, home to some of the world's most astonishing rock art sites and awe-inspiring landscapes. From the shores of Morocco to the sands of the Sahara and beyond, you're assured a captivating journey into the ancient world on whichever tour you choose, with the very best of your destination on offer.



Enjoy the sensation of time travel in one of the world's most complete medieval cities – Fez

Gaze upon some of the world's most impressive mosaics at the Bardo, Sousse and El Djem museums

Traverse the vivid white landscape of the chotts, its salt structures shaped by the desert wind

Visit the long-awaited Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza, which has been decades in the making. Within its twelve exhibition halls are more than 100,000 artefacts and include – for the first time – the entire collection of King Tutankhamun's treasures, including the young pharaoh's golden mask, jewellery and other burial items

Explore new tomb discoveries at Saqqara, including the Tomb of Mehru and the Tomb of Maia

Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile



“Spectacular. It was a 12 out of 10. Fantastic hotels, extensive, immersive coverage of sites and museums, Knowledgeable Egyptologist and Tour Guide. Did not want to come home. Loved it. Great value for money.”



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Egypt - New Museums & Discoveries

Recently excavated tombs and new museums in Cairo and Alexandria

7 DAYS FROM \$6,390pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



“Great tour packing much into five full days.
Tour Leader & Lecturer were both excellent!”



Visit the long-awaited and much-anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza

In expert company, explore the Imhotep Museum at Saqqara and Greco Roman Museum in Alexandria, both recently opened

New tomb discoveries in Saqqara including the Tomb of Mehu and the Tomb of Maia

Spend two days in Alexandria; the capital of the Ptolemies, one of the greatest cities of the Hellenistic and Roman world

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

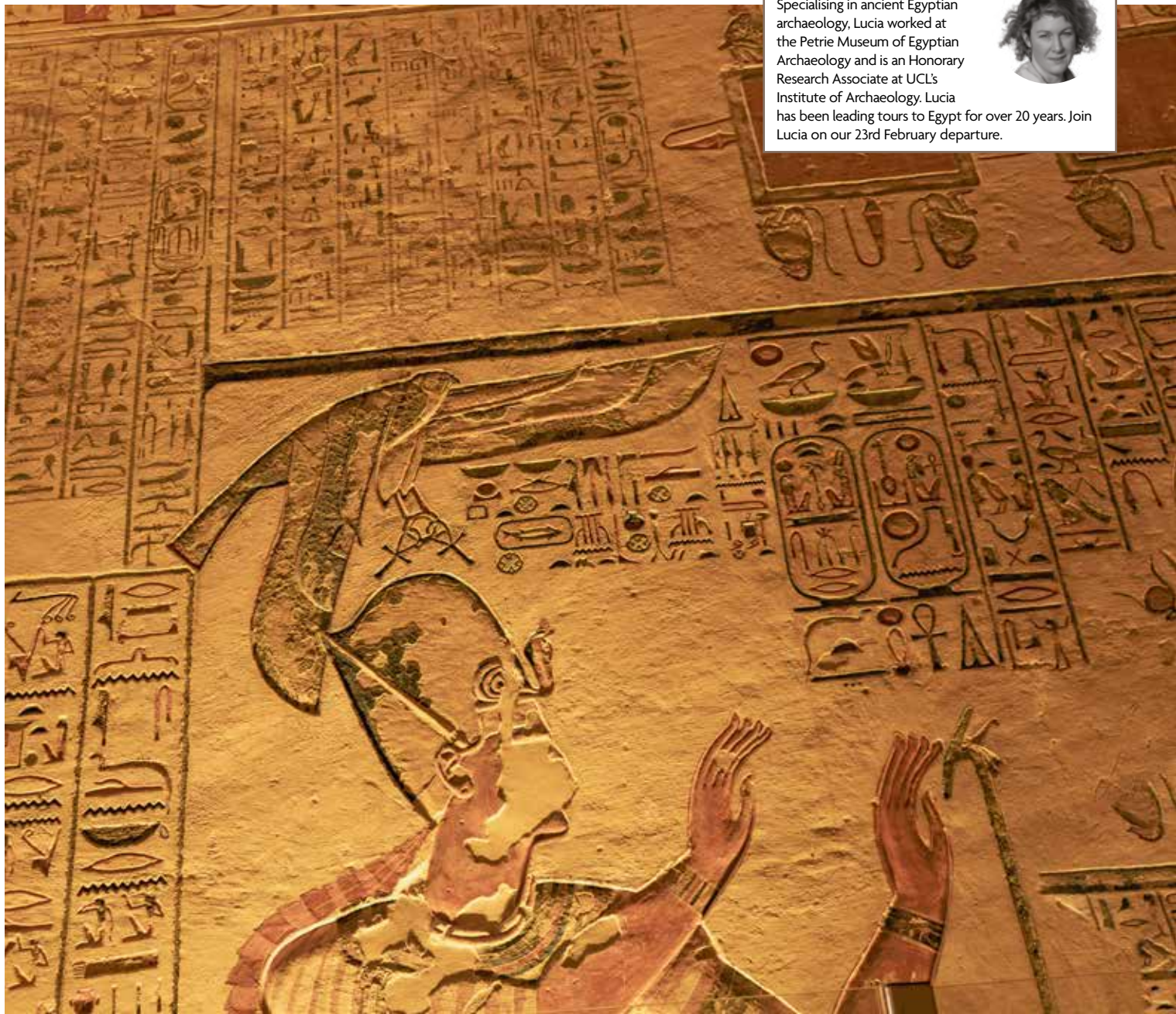
Dr Elizabeth Bloxam

Visiting Professor of Egyptology at North East Normal University in China, Elizabeth held an Honorary Senior Research Associate post at University College London for the last 10 years. Join Elizabeth on our 20th January departure.



Lucia Gahlin

Specialising in ancient Egyptian archaeology, Lucia worked at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and is an Honorary Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Lucia has been leading tours to Egypt for over 20 years. Join Lucia on our 23rd February departure.



Archaeology in Egypt is seeing another Golden Age, this time led by local Egyptians themselves. With new technology and work undertaken in the last 10 years, countless projects are coming to fruition revealing often surprising detail about the ancient Egyptians and how they lived from engineering ingenuity to insights into their beliefs. It is clear that Ancient Egypt is not done giving up her secrets. Alongside these remarkable discoveries, the redesign and modernisation of existing museums, together with the creation of regional museums, means that many precious artefacts which have been languishing in a basement, some as far back as the Victorian age, are now on display.

This tour focuses on these new discoveries from the recently excavated tombs in Saqqara to the newly renovated Greco Romano Museum in Alexandria and the long-awaited, much anticipated brand-new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza. Returning to these sites in the engaging company of our experienced excavators and Egyptologists is a treat not to be missed.





Day One | Cairo

Meet the group at our hotel in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admirably refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. Here we see the **Tombs of Maya and Horemheb** and the recently opened Old Kingdom **Tomb of Mehu**, subject of the excellent 2020 documentary *The Secrets of Saqqara*. In the afternoon we shall explore the **Imhotep Museum** which has re-opened after two years of renovation. Our day at Saqqara completes with the **Tomb of Maia** who

was wet-nurse to Tutankhamun and the **Tomb of Nemtyemes**, both re-opened to the public in the last decade.

Day Three | Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilisation throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st-century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. After lunch we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day Four | Alexandria

Our focus this morning is the fabulous **Graeco-Roman Museum**, which re-opened its doors to the public in 2023 after 18 years of renovation work. Dedicated to the Greek and Roman eras of Egypt, exhibiting artefacts from Alexander the Great's occupation, the subsequent Ptolemaic Dynasty, and the period of Roman rule to province up to the Muslim conquest. Among the thousands of artefacts on display are several discovered during underwater excavations in the sunken cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus as well as in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**. Here we see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies and the excellent Manuscripts Museum. There is so much more to see here than most people realise.

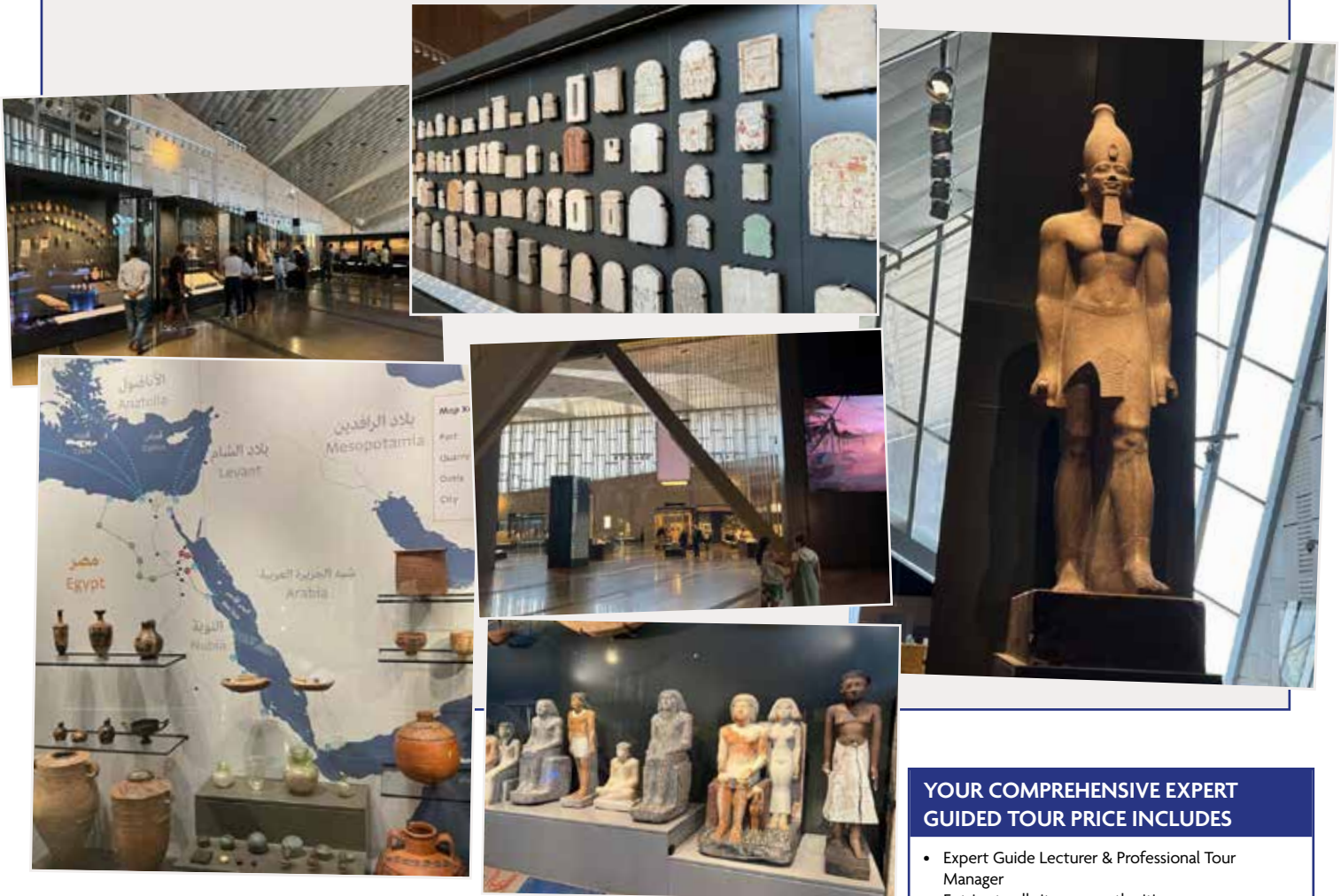
Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo

In January 2002, a ceremonial foundation stone was laid at the site of a new museum, one that would change the face of antiquity and offer its visitors the chance to witness the world's greatest treasures right next to the only remaining wonder of the ancient world – the Pyramids of Giza. 20 years later, the massive 120-acre Grand Egyptian Museum, announced a partial opening to some of its galleries.

The building's design was chosen through an international architectural competition, which was won by the Irish firm Heneghan Peng Architects. One of the most striking features of the Grand Egyptian Museum is its translucent stone façade, which allows natural light to filter into the interior spaces. The design also includes a grand staircase that leads visitors from the entrance to the main exhibition halls, offering panoramic views of the Pyramids along the way.

The 'GEM' is the largest museum in the world and is dedicated to a single civilisation showcasing Egypt's rich cultural heritage, from the pre-historic era to the Greco-Roman period. Within its twelve exhibition halls are more than 100,000 artefacts and include – for the first time – all of the artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb previously kept in storage.

On display are pharaonic statues, huge sarcophagi, a variety of impressive Egyptian art, including wall paintings and sculptures and thousands and thousands of artefacts from canopic jars to scarabs, board games, amulets and jewellery. To enhance the visitor experience, the museum also uses cutting-edge technology, such as augmented and virtual reality, to bring ancient Egypt to life.



Day Five | Alexandria - Abu Sir - Cairo

We leave the city centre and drive to **Abu Sir**, ancient **Taposiris** where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra's tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered. After lunch we return south to Cairo.

Day Six | Giza

A full day devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum**, which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids within view. A huge undertaking which started over 20 years ago, the museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands on thousands of artefacts. At 45m long, the cedarwood Solar Boat of King Khufu once

housed in a cramped exhibition hall at Giza now fits easily within the vast space of the GEM and two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt's most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun alone. For the first time, almost all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world.

Day Seven | Cairo

We return to Cairo Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Cairo & Alexandria

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunch & 5 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$5
20th - 26th Jan	\$6,390	\$970
23rd Feb - 1st Mar	\$6,390	\$970

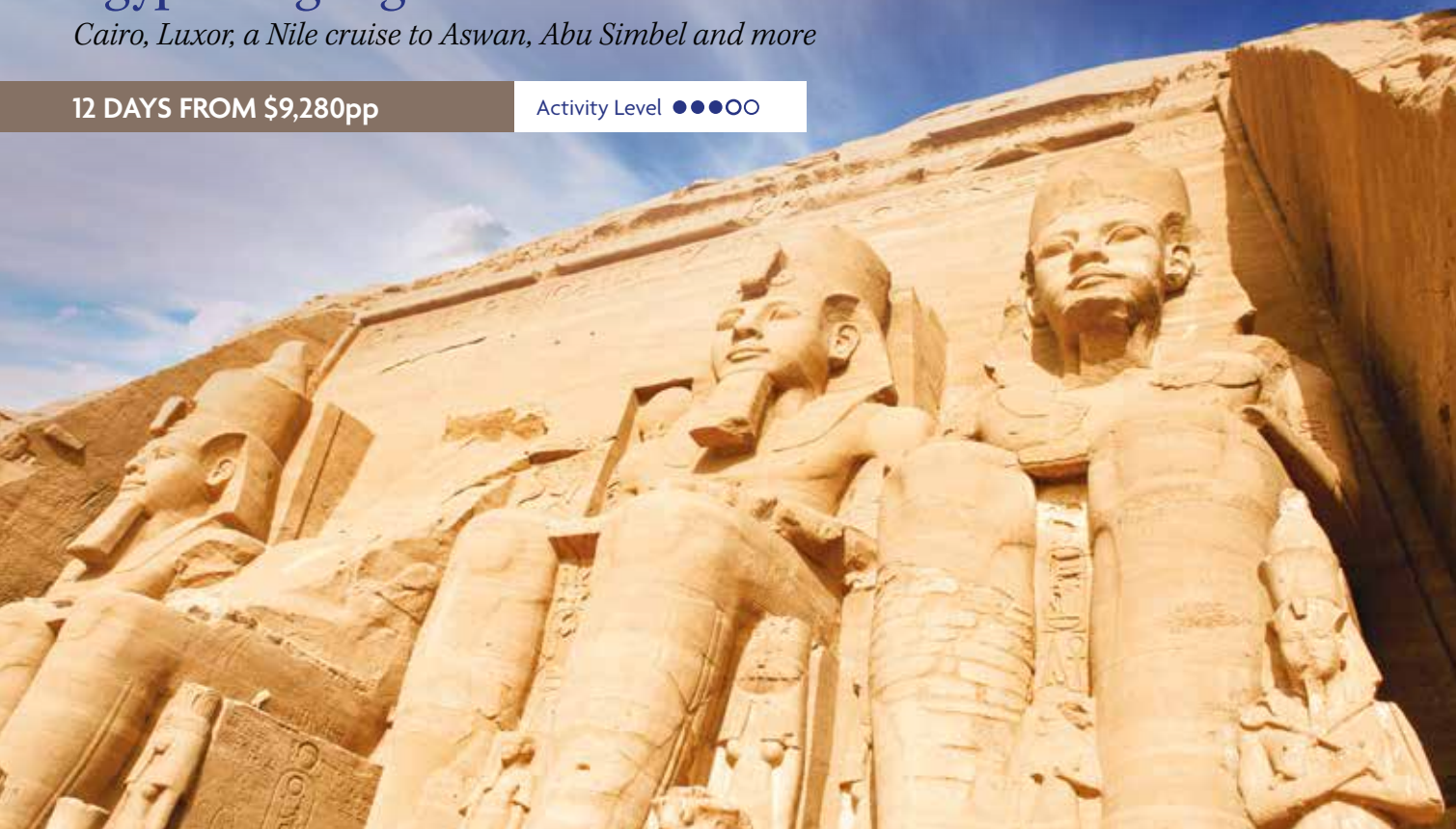
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Egypt - Highlights & Discoveries

Cairo, Luxor, a Nile cruise to Aswan, Abu Simbel and more

12 DAYS FROM \$9,280pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The archaeology of ancient Egypt is one of the most instantly recognisable of all the great civilisations. This is a narrative of power, vision and ambition. The monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones – through the expertise of our Guide Lecturers, we get to ‘meet’ the real ancient Egyptians: from legendary pharaohs to the humble workers, who built their tombs and palaces.

Day One | Cairo

Meet the group at our hotel in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt’s extraordinary capital – a city that Egyptians admiringly refer to as ‘the Mother of the World’.

Day Two | Cairo

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of **Memphis** and it was also the place of Egypt’s first pyramid. We will explore the incredible **Step Pyramid of Djoser**, the once smooth-sided Pyramid of Unas with its earliest known Pyramid Texts, and the **Mastaba of Mereruka**. After lunch in a nearby restaurant, we explore the fabulous Serapeum, catacombs for the sacred Apis bulls and the Imhotep Museum, newly re-opened after refurbishment.

Day Three | Cairo

This morning we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the Giza Plateau to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: **the Great Pyramid**. It towers some 147 metres above the plateau and its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx**. Our afternoon is devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum**, which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids in view. This monumental project began over 20 years ago and features 750,000 sqm of floor space, 12 exhibition

halls and thousands and thousands of artefacts. Notably, two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt’s most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun. For the first time, nearly all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world.

Day Four | Cairo – Luxor

We fly to Luxor today but before we leave Cairo we visit **The National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The Museum opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilisation throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. Its exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. Later we transfer to the airport and fly to Luxor arriving mid-afternoon.

Day Five | Luxor

This morning we explore the temple complex of **Karnak**. Here we encounter the cult temple of Amun-Ra, chief of the deities of the New Kingdom. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it’s a dazzling maze of



monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. In the afternoon we cross to the West Bank where we visit the **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III which captivated the imaginations of curious travellers for millennia. We complete our afternoon with the Qurna tombs of **Ramose, Userhat and Khaemhat** and **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. Here we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community.

Day Six | Luxor

Our first visit today is to the Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahri, cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of the neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! On the East Bank we check-in to our Nile cruise boat and after lunch onboard

Image: Abu Simbel



“I thoroughly enjoyed the tour. It was a wonderful introduction to ancient Egypt. The tour manager and guide were impressive and the accommodation excellent.”



Experience the delights of cruising the famous River Nile

Discover the impressive temple site of Abu Simbel

See the grand gallery and the royal burial chamber of the Great Pyramid of Khufu

Explore the long awaited and much anticipated Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza

we visit the Ramesseum, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias'. Afterwards we make our way to Medinet Habu, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Seven | Luxor

This morning we lose ourselves in the captivating complex of **Karnak**. Here we encounter the cult temple of Amun-Ra, chief of the deities of the New Kingdom. This is a spectacular multi-period location with a wealth of religious and historical inscriptions at every turn. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. After checking into our cruise boat and having lunch on board we make our way to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias'. Afterwards we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Eight | Luxor - Edfu

Before we set sail this afternoon we visit the fantastic **Luxor Museum** - a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and home to celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tutmosis III, and **Luxor Temple** with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns.

Day Nine | Edfu - Kom Ombo

We make our way to the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, it's decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses an Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile water. This afternoon, we explore the **Temple of Sobek** and **Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's Crocodile Museum.

Day Ten | Philae - Aswan

Today we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border and visit the impressive **Temple of Isis** in Philae. The flooding of Lake Nasser caused the whole complex to be moved from its original location. After a stop at **Aswan (High) Dam**, we visit the ancient Quarries at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments and site of the spectacular '**Unfinished Obelisk**'.

Day Eleven | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

It's an early morning start as we disembark the our cruise ship and transfer to Aswan Airport and fly to **Abu Simbel**. Here, we make the most of our last day exploring what is considered to be Egypt's most impressive temple site, home to temples of

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Lucia Gahlin

Specialising in ancient Egyptian archaeology, Lucia worked at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and is an Honorary Research Associate at UCL's Institute of Archaeology. Lucia has been leading tours to Egypt for over 20 years.



Ramesses II and Nefertari. After lunch, we fly to Cairo, where a farewell dinner awaits this evening.

Day Twelve | Cairo

We take our leave from Egypt and make our onward independent journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Sofitel El-Gezirah, Pavillon Winter Luxor Hotel, 4 nights aboard MS Tulip & Le Meridien Cairo Airport or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 10 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ship are payable locally)

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$5
6th - 17th Feb	\$9,280	\$1,600
9th - 20th Dec	\$9,540	\$1,740

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

Egypt Encompassed

From Pharaohs to Caesars

19 DAYS FROM \$16,190pp

Activity Level ●●●●○



Howard Carter's description of his first sight into Tutankhamun's tomb is also a fitting description of Andante's exploration of the archaeology of this amazing country. Egypt is indeed a land of 'wonderful things', a country where adjectives are insufficient to describe the monuments and experiences which are not to be found anywhere else in the world. While certain images of Egypt have become familiar, there is no substitute for witnessing at first hand the glittering treasures of Tutankhamun's tomb, the quiet intrigue of the hypostyle hall at Karnack, the beautiful setting of the Temple of Isis at Philae or standing over-awed at the feet of the colossal statues of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel. This epic tour encompasses all of these iconic sites and so much more. Starting with the Old Kingdom and the 'Age of the Pyramids' and ending with the Ptolemaic Dynasty and the Romans, we take a journey of a lifetime as we explore Upper and Lower Egypt travelling through the millennia.

Day One | Cairo

We meet in Cairo – this buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly refer to as 'the Mother of the World'.

Day Two | Saqqara

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the sprawling necropolis of **Saqqara**. Here were buried some of the most important officials of Memphis and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. We will discover the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the smooth-



Images top to bottom: Tutankhamun



Journey to the Middle Nile and discover the city of the heretic pharaoh Akhenaten at Tell el-Amarna

Admire the exquisite artistry of the special tombs, Seti I, Sennefer and Rekhmire

Enjoy privileged access at Taposiris, conjectured to be the site of Cleopatra's burial

Spend a whole day at Saqqara where we discover sites seldom viewed by the casual visitor

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sided **Pyramid of Unas** as well as the Imhotep Museum. After lunch we return to focus on the lesser-visited parts of this huge site and visit two important tombs, the **mastaba of Mereruka**, a large and complex tomb of the Vizier to King Teti, and the superb **mastaba tomb of Ti** as well as the **Serapeum**, burial place of the sacred Apis bulls in the northern part of the Saqqara complex.

Day Three | Giza

This morning we pay a visit to the pyramid complex on the Giza Plateau to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: **the Great Pyramid**. It towers some 147 metres above the plateau and its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tonnes. We also explore the **Valley Temple of Khafra and Menkaure** as well as the enigmatic **Sphinx**. Our afternoon is devoted to the **Great Egyptian Museum**, which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids in view. This monumental project began over 20 years ago and features 750,000 sqm of floor space, 12 exhibition halls, and thousands and thousands of artefacts. Notably, two exhibition halls are entirely devoted to Egypt's most famous pharaoh, Tutankhamun. For the first time, nearly all of the 5,000 objects discovered in his tomb will be on display. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world.

Day Four | Cairo - Beni Hassan - Minya

We set off early for Beni Hassan this morning, winding our way out of the traffic heavy roads of Cairo and onto the fast highway to Minya. The journey takes us around 4 hours as we travel through the desert tracking the Nile. Our goal is

the site of **Beni Hassan**, just south of Minya. These rock-cut tombs high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile take a little effort to reach but the view from the top is breathtaking and the tombs are fabulous. These Middle Kingdom tombs are painted, rather than decorated in carved reliefs and covered in scenes of daily life in extraordinary detail. These include scenes of agriculture, crafts, fishing, fowling and hunting. We overnight in Minya, now a small city mostly overlooked by tourists but once a powerful regional capital within Egypt.

Day Five | Tell el-Amarna

Today we visit **Tell el-Amarna**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt. It is also one of those which is usually ignored or given scant attention by tour operators because there are no monumental structures here. Amarna is, however, the most significant surviving city site from ancient Egypt; the majority having been built over by later settlements. It was also a new Capital city, constructed by Amenhotep IV beginning in the 5th year of his reign. The original name of the city was Akhenaten, the 'Horizon of the Aten', a title corresponding to the actions of the so-called 'heretic Pharaoh' Akhenaten as he later became to be known. The city itself was abandoned after the Pharaoh's death, only 20 years or so after its creation. Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, Nefertiti's Palace and the Temple of Aten.

Day Six | Minya - Tuna el-Gebel - Abydos

Our day starts at the rich and varied archaeological site of **Tuna el-Gebel** which functioned as the necropolis for the ancient town of Khemnu/

Hermopolis at the edge of the western desert. It marks the boundary of Akhenaten's city some 11kms from the centre of Tell el-Amarna and is home to one of Akhenaten and Nefertiti's 'boundary stelae' carved into the limestone cliff. We also visit vast catacombs for ibis and baboons, associated with the god Thoth, and impressive tombs, including that of a High Priest of Thoth c300 BCE – Petosiris, whose reliefs combine Greek and Egyptian artistic styles. In the afternoon, we continue our drive south to Abydos.

Day Seven | Abydos – Dendera - Luxor

This morning we visit **Abydos**, one of the most sacred sites in Egypt, identified as the burial place of Osiris. The main focus of our visit is the important cult **temple of Seti I** with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. The temple is also the home of the only King List still to remain in situ. After a picnic lunch we continue to **Dendera** once the capital of the Sixth Upper Egyptian nome. Like Saqqara it was the site of burials of sacred animals, particularly cows associated with the cult of the local goddess Hathor. The roof of the temple includes a number of chapels, symbolic mortuary chapels for Osiris. One of these contained the famous Dendera Zodiac, which is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, but it is replicated here in situ by a circular plaster cast depicting the hours of the day and night as well as the journey of the sun, moon and stars across the sky.

Continued...



Day Eight | West Bank

This morning we cross the river by motorboat and then travel by coach, to visit the famous **Colossi of Memnon** on the West Bank at Thebes. These two enormous statues of the Pharaoh Amenhotep III stand at a towering 18-metres high and were erected to guard the entrance to the pharaoh's vast and opulent memorial temple. Alas, only traces of that once-great temple remain. Next, we visit the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to the public and we enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated **tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. In the afternoon we visit **Deir el-Medina**. This is a special place because here, perhaps more than anywhere else in Egypt, we come closest to the daily lives of a group of individuals living in a community. This was no ordinary community however, but the settlement of the craftsmen responsible for constructing the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, and as such employees of the state.

Day Nine | West Bank

This morning we return to the west bank and visit the **Valley of the Queens** where we visit a selection of beautiful tombs. Then we continue to the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece 'Ozymandias.' Later we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. In total, the precinct contains over 7 square kilometres of decorated reliefs.

Day Ten | West Bank & Luxor

We start today at the Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut at **Deir el-Bahri**, a stunning shrine cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! It is famous for its scenes showing a trading expedition to the land of Punt where the Egyptians traded with the local people for exotic products, including incense trees. Next we visit **Howard Carter's House** – the property used by the archaeologist during his search for the tomb of Tutankhamun and eventual discovery and to round off the day we visit the excellent **Luxor Museum**, where we see a masterfully arranged collection of archaeological artefacts and celebrated works of art, including the famous statue of Tutankhamun, an extraordinary figure carved out of greywacke and an alabaster figure of Amenhotep III protected by the great crocodile god Sobek.

Day Eleven | Karnak & Luxor

We spend the morning at **Karnak**, exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Ramesses II to the Ptolemies, Romans and early Christians; all have left their mark here. In the afternoon, we visit **Luxor Temple**, linked to the Karnak complex by an avenue of sphinxes, processions would travel along this 1.5km route on a regular basis. There were barque shrines where the boats, which carried the image of the god, could be placed and where ceremonies could be conducted. At the end of the day, we

embark on our Nile cruise and the first of our 4 nights on board.

Day Twelve | West Bank - Edfu

Before we set sail today, we make one last visit to the west bank and the **Tombs of the Nobles**. Here we see two of the most splendid non-royal tombs dating to the New Kingdom period, the vibrantly painted burial chamber of **Sennefer** and the intricately decorated funerary chapel of **Rekhmire**. After lunch on board, we start our journey to Aswan, slipping anchor and sailing up the Nile towards Edfu.

Day Thirteen | Edfu - Kom Ombo - Aswan

Today we discover the temples of the gods of Upper Egypt, starting with the **Temple of Horus at Edfu**. One of the country's most magnificently preserved shrines, the construction of which is thought to have spanned an incredible 180 years, from the 3rd to the 2nd-century BCE. Towering at a jaw-dropping 37 metres, its pylon - or gateway - is the highest among all of Egypt's surviving temples and is decorated with vivid scenes of King Ptolemy VIII destroying his enemies before Horus. The complex even houses a Nilometer, a structure made to measure the depth and clarity of flooding Nile waters. This afternoon we explore the **Temple of Sobek and Horus the Elder** at Kom Ombo and the site's **Crocodile Museum**. The partially restored remains of Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stand dramatically above the Nile and its situation overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque. It is peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout; the eastern half dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor and their son Khonsu and the western to the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasetnofret and their son Panebtawy.

Day Fourteen | Aswan

Arriving in Aswan, we make our way to ancient Egypt's southern border to visit the atmospheric



ruins of the Ptolemaic **Temple of Isis** in Philae, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines – which were originally dedicated to the goddess Isis. To 19th-century travellers Philae was ‘the pearl of the Nile’ set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin. It was pictured by David Roberts, Frances Frith and a generation of other artists and photographers. These individuals would recognise most of the site we see today but might be surprised to learn that it is no longer on its original island. After a stop at the High Dam, we continue to the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular **Unfinished Obelisk**, some 42 metres long and weighing approximately 1,197 tons. After lunch on board our ship, we visit **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan.

Day Fifteen | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

Today we fly from Aswan to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan at the edge of the desert. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser’s rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal pair. In an effort to prevent the temples’ destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe. After our site visit, we fly to Cairo.

Day Sixteen | Cairo - Alexandria

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilisation throughout the ages, from

prehistoric times to the present day. The museum’s exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st-century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets, in addition to shedding light on the rituals and religious beliefs surrounding mummification in ancient Egypt. Later we visit the **Egyptian Museum** in Tahrir Square to see a few of the important artefacts remaining here (including, for now, Tutankhamen’s gold sarcophagus). This afternoon we leave Cairo on the desert road and travel to Alexandria.

Day Seventeen | Alexandria

We spend the day in Alexandria, exploring the major monuments of the ancient city. We visit the **Catacombs of Kom el-Shoqafa**, an underground labyrinth of decorated tombs from the Roman period, we also visit **Pompeys Pillar**, the site of the **Serapeum**, the temple dedicated to the god Serapis and his consort Isis and one of the most important temples of the Hellenistic world. We explore part of the civic centre of Roman Alexandria at **Kom al Dikka**, with its major monuments including an Odeon type building and a fine house, the **Villa of the Birds**. In the afternoon we visit the **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**, the modern Library, here we see superb mosaics recovered from the royal palace of the Ptolemies.

Day Eighteen | Alexandria - Cairo

Our focus this morning is the fabulous **Graeco-Roman Museum**, which re-opened its doors to the public in 2023 after 18 years of renovation work. Dedicated to the Greek and Roman eras of Egypt, exhibiting artefacts from Alexander the Great’s occupation, the subsequent Ptolemaic Dynasty, and the period of Roman rule to province up to the Muslim conquest. Among the thousands of artefacts on display are several discovered during underwater excavations in the sunken cities of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus as well

as in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria. Before returning to Cairo, we visit **Abu Sir**, ancient **Taposiris**, where the Ptolemaic temple and a funerary monument modelled on the Pharos were built on a ridge between lake Mareotis and the Mediterranean. Recently there has been much speculation that it may contain Cleopatra’s tomb which as yet, remains undiscovered. We arrive in Cairo this evening.

Day Nineteen | Cairo

At the end of our epic journey, we return to Cairo Airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Cairo, Minya, Abydos, Luxor, Alexandria & 4 nights aboard a Nile cruiser

Culinary inclusions

- 18 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 17 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner (all other drinks in the hotels and on board the ships are payable locally)

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
9th - 27th Apr	\$16,190	\$2,480

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

Carthage to the Sands of the Sahara

Travel in the north and south of Tunisia

15 DAYS FROM \$6,630pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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

Day One | Tunis

Meet the group at our hotel in Tunis.

Day Two | Carthage

'Delenda est Carthago' cried Cato the Elder to the assembled Senate of Rome – Carthage must be destroyed! And destroyed it was after a succession of wars between the two superpowers of the ancient world – Carthage and Rome. Today we explore what remains of that once great Phoenician city. We start at the **Byrsa Hill** site, where Dido is said to have first founded her city, and continue to the site of the Tophet where the cremated remains of thousands of children were found. Later we visit the Punic harbour of Cothon and the impressive **Antonine Baths**, unique in their design and construction so close to the sea. Finally, we end the day at the **amphitheatre**, once one of the largest in the Roman world.

Day Three | Tunis – Teboursoúk

This morning we travel northwest to Bulla Regia, stopping en route to admire the small town of **Testour**, established in the 17th century by Jewish and Muslim communities who came here from Andalucía to escape the Spanish Inquisition. After an early lunch at the small café at **Bulla Regia**, we explore this rare site which contains complete, superbly preserved, subterranean Roman houses. Most of the mosaics remain in situ and therefore can be viewed in their original context.

Day Four | Dougga - Kairouan

A full day at the magnificent site of **Dougga**, perched high on the hill above fertile olive groves and one of the oldest towns in Tunisia. Beginning life as a Numidian walled citadel and later built over by the Romans, its native ancestry and hillside location resulted in a winding street plan, rather than a typical Roman grid.

Day Five | Makhtar – Kairouan

We start our journey south to Kairouan today, stopping on the way to explore **Makhtar**. This Numidian settlement was used as a base by Scipio Africanus in 202 BCE before one of history's famous clashes between two skilled commanders (Scipio and Hannibal) at the Battle of Zama. We explore its Roman remains and small museum before continuing to Kairouan.

Day Six | Kairouan

We stay local today to explore **Kairouan**, the fourth holiest city of Islam. Founded in 670, it has never lost its ancient esteem, and it is still a place of pilgrimage. We start our day at the Aghlabid pools, reservoirs built on the outskirts of the city in the 9th century, and then visit the **Barber Mosque**, burial place of one of the prophet's companions, Abu Zama El Belaoui. Most of the existing buildings are of 17th to 19th century and their elaborate style contrasts with the simplicity of the Great Mosque which we visit next. In the afternoon, we explore the **Medina** with its network of winding streets, shops and courtyard houses.



Day Seven | Kairouan - Tozeur

An early departure this morning for our long drive south to Tozeur, breaking our journey in Gafsa, once a Numidian town later occupied by the Romans. We see one of the remaining 'Roman pools', a deep open-air basin fed by hot water springs and visit the small museum opposite. In the afternoon, we take a walk through the old town of **Tozeur**, an important staging-post on the caravan route from the Sahara to the northern Mediterranean coast and famous for its mud-brick architecture.

Day Eight | Tozeur

Today is free to enjoy as you wish, either by relaxing at the hotel or exploring further afield.

Day Nine | Tozeur - Douz

Today we make our way to Douz, crossing the vast salt flats known as the chotts. The largest, **Chott el-Jerid**, covers a surface area of 4,600 square kilometres, and stretches unbroken across almost the entire distance from the Algerian border and the Gulf of Gabes. We also visit a section of the



Enjoy a thorough exploration of Tunisia's historical sites from ancient Carthage and Rome to fortified Berber villages

Traverse the salt plains of the chotts - the visual effect of this vivid white landscape is dazzling, with the salt blown into unusual shapes by the desert wind

Explore the mosques and medinas of Kairouan's rich architectural and heritage

Discover a treasure trove of Roman mosaics remarkable for their intricate beauty of their figural and floral design

Limes Tripolitanus, the system of military outposts and fortifications at the southern frontier of the Roman Empire. Remains are few and far between but it is possible to see part of the extraordinary defensive wall at **Bir Oum Ali**, stretching for over 600m.

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 **Tamezret**, a traditional village of the indigenous Amazigh people, and troglodyte houses, which are scattered in and around **Matmata**. We also see a **ksar**, a form of fortified village which is common in southern Tunisia. At the end of the day, we start our return journey north.

Day Eleven | El Djem – Sousse

Continuing north, our first site visit of the day is to **El Djem**, where we explore the massive amphitheatre. It had three tiers of seats to accommodate 30,000 spectators, with further standing room. 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. After lunch we drive to **Sousse**, port used by Hannibal in his campaign against Scipio at the end of the Second Punic War, and also by Caesar in 47 BCE. **Sousse Museum** is housed in part of the Kasbah, or high citadel, and the displays include an exceptionally fine series of mosaics. We continue to the coast and our overnight hotel near Hammamet.

Day Twelve | 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. It was

discovered in 1952, and extensive excavations have revealed a semi-circular layout, enclosed by a low rampart. 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 BCE.

Day Thirteen | Oudna – Thuburbo Majus

Today we travel south, stopping on our route to examine a section of the longest aqueducts, built in the Roman Empire. Built between 120 and 131 AD, this extraordinary feat of engineering was undertaken at Emperor Hadrian's behest and carried 32 million litres of water per day. A short drive takes us to **Oudna** and the site of ancient Uthina, a colonia established by Emperor Augustus for retired soldiers of the Third Legion. We continue to **Thuburbo Majus**, originally a Numidian settlement in the midst of rich farming country.

Day Fourteen | Carthage – Tunis

We have come full circle and saved the best for last. 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. The **Bardo Palace**, which was the official residence of the Beys until 1957, had a collection of antiquities established in its harem quarters as early as 1882. The exhibits grew in number and the museum completed a £7.5m renovation project in 2012 which doubled the floor space by adding a modern wing. In the afternoon, we 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 | Tunis

Our tour comes to an end and we transfer to Tunis Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 9th February departure.



Dr Jamie Sewell

An author of books and articles on the archaeology of towns in Hellenistic Italy, Jamie has 15 years' worth of experience supervising excavations in Britain, Germany, Italy and Romania. Join Tony on our 11th November departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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, La Kasbah Hotel, 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	Twinn/Dbl Share	SS
9th - 23rd Feb	\$6,630	\$900
11th - 25th Nov	\$7,010	\$920

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

Carthage & Roman Tunisia

Stand before the mighty ancient amphitheatre of El Djem

10 DAYS FROM \$4,970pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



A land where dramatic events shaped ancient history – the superpowers of Carthage and Rome clashed in three Punic Wars, which determined the course of Western history. Lasting over 100 years, this conflict resulted in the destruction of Carthage and assured Roman ascendancy. Superb sites and changing landscapes, from rolling hills and olive groves to sparkling sea, makes this an excellent tour.

Day One | Tunis

Meet the group at our hotel in Tunis.

Day Two | Carthage

Today is devoted to **Carthage**, now a wealthy suburb of Tunis, but scattered with the remains of this once great Phoenician city. We start our day at Byrsa Hill, once the citadel and a central feature of the Punic settlement. There are fantastic views over the modern city from here. Next we continue to the disquieting Salambo Tophet, a cemetery which contained the remains of children who were sacrificed to Tanit, after they were already dead, or, more likely, as live victims. We also visit the Cothon, or harbour, testament to Carthage's famous maritime might; the Roman Antonine Baths, one of the largest in the whole of the Roman empire and the huge cisterns which supplied them.

Day Three | Tunis

This morning we begin with a visit to the famous **Bardo Museum**, situated in an old Beylical palace. It houses one of the most important collections of

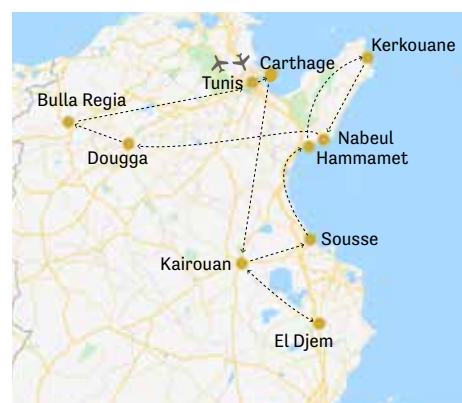
mosaics anywhere in the world. Highlights include the Virgil Mosaic and the Odysseus Mosaic, as well as many depicting beast hunts. There is a wonderful collection of Carthaginian artefacts and Paleo Christian baptisteries. In the afternoon we study a section of the Carthage **aqueduct at Jebel Oust**, before exploring nearby **Oudna**, a city established by Emperor Augustus for retired soldiers of the Third Legion.

Day Four | Tunis - Dougga

We drive west to **Dougga**, one of the best preserved and most famous ancient sites in North Africa. Here, we visit the theatre and famous Capitulum. We also explore bath complexes, houses and sanctuaries, all in the kind of peace no longer found at European sites. Dougga is one of the Roman world's best sites and a visit here is always a memorable one.

Day Five | Bulla Regia

We start at the ancient site of **Musti**, once a town of some importance but still largely unexcavated



before continuing north to **Bulla Regia**. The city was made the Numidian capital by Massinissa and here we explore a bath complex, as well as a series of houses, replete with mosaics, which have underground rooms, offering their elite owners protection from the African heat. These houses include the impressive House of the Hunt and the House of Amphitrite. From here, we continue north to Hammamet.

Day Six | Dougga - Kairouan

We journey south to the delightful and little-visited site of **Thuburbo Majus**. Originally Punic (though



Visit the incredible El Djem amphitheatre, Africa's largest and best preserved

Gaze upon some of the world's most impressive mosaics at the Bardo, Sousse and El Djem museums

Tour a selection of little-known sites, including Mustis and Ain Touna as well as the Bulla Regia

Explore the UNESCO-listed sites of Dougga and Kairouan, and the beautifully preserved site of Kerkouane

it has a characteristic *Th* sound associated with Numidian cities), the city was later re-founded as a Roman veteran colony in the Augustan period. Here we explore the forum, dominated by the Capitolium, before moving on to the Winter Baths and Summer Baths. In between the two, there is the well-preserved Palaestra of Petronius, which belonged to the Summer Baths, and a memorable latrine. We walk up to view some temples with a Punic flavour: the Temple of Baalit and Temple of Caelestis, both Romanised names of Punic goddesses. Later this afternoon, we travel to Kairouan, Tunisia's most important religious city, founded by the Umayyads in the 7th century AD.

Day Seven | El Djem

Today we make our way southeast to El Djem. Originally a Numidian city called Thysdrus, El Djem was particularly wealthy in the 2nd century AD and into the late antique period when it was an olive oil production centre. On the back of this wealth, the city built several amphitheatres, the most important of which was built in the 3rd century AD and is one of the largest in the empire. We explore this huge structure – visible for miles – and continue to the **museum of El Djem**, which has a wonderful collection of mosaics, as well as in situ houses, which provide glimpses of the city's wealth. This afternoon we return to Kairouan to visit the **Great Mosque**, which has a plethora of reused Roman pillars and lintels and explore the city's medina.

Day Eight | Kairouan - Hammamet

We travel to **Sousse** to visit its museum, located in the city's 12th-century kasbah and which has the second largest collection of mosaics in the world, after the Bardo. The earliest artefacts in the museum date from the city's Punic period, when it was called Hadrumetus. The most splendid, however, date from the prosperous Roman period, when the citizens of Hadrumetum, made rich from trade, could afford the best mosaics in the Roman empire. Here we see mosaics which testify to this maritime background, the most famous of which is the large mosaic of Neptune on his chariot. From here we continue north to Hammamet.

Day Nine | Kerkouane

Today we drive along the Cap Bon Peninsula, the point of Tunisia that is closest to Sicily. Our morning is spent at **Kerkouane**, a UNESCO-listed site overlooking the sea. It was inhabited from the 7th to 3rd-century BCE and it was abandoned after the first Punic War, making it the only purely Punic site in Africa. The highlights of this site are the houses that typically contain bathtubs waterproofed with a pinkish mortar. We visit the site museum, which has interesting remains from the nearby necropolis. We have a picnic on site here before travelling to **Nabeul** – today famed for its ceramics but in antiquity a trading port founded by Cyrene. On arrival, we visit the museum to view its mosaics and to read about the production of garum in the area.

Day Ten | Hammamet - Tunis

We transfer to Tunis Airport for our independent onward travel.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Farès K Moussa

Specialising in religious art and artistic practice, Farès has both written and researched on Romans and Phoenicians in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sardinia, as well as on the subject of prehistoric rock art. Join Farès on our 14th April departure.



Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 22nd October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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, La Kasbah Hotel, Hotel Sindbad & Hotel Thugga or similar

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
14th - 23rd Apr	\$4,970	\$670
22nd - 31st Oct	\$4,970	\$670

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

The Romans in Algeria

From Algiers to Timgad

11 DAYS FROM \$7,060pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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 – Timgad.

Day One | Algiers

Meet the group at our hotel in Algiers.

Day Two | Algiers

This morning we visit two of the city centre museums: the **Bardo Museum**, housed in a neo-Moorish Villa with collections which focus on prehistory, and the **Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts**. After lunch we explore the **Kasbah**, built on the ruins of old Icosium, a Phoenician commercial outpost later overtaken by the Romans. Little remains of its ancient past but having survived bombardment and civil war, the Casbah of Algiers remains the largest old walled city or 'citadel' in North Africa and was put on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites in 1992.

Day Three | 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 Four | Algiers - Annaba

Today we fly to Annaba, arriving 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 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 Five | 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 Six | Tiddis & Constantine

Our morning is spent at the beautifully situated ruined city of **Tiddis**, an authentic Berber site modified by Roman civilisation. Spectacularly located, the sandstone constructions at Tiddis



have a distinctive ochre-red colour from the deep red of the earth in the surrounding area which is washed down from the hill-top and carried by the wind. The site has been occupied at least since the Neolithic period and several circular 'bazina' burial monuments from the pre-Roman Numidian period are visible 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 see its museum, kasbah, suspension bridge and the **Palace of Ahmed Bey**, one of the finest Ottoman-era buildings in the country.

Day Seven | Constantine - Djémila - 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

Image: City of Constantine



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

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 Eight | Setif - Batna

This morning we drive south to Batna stopping en route to visit the **Medracen Royal Tomb**. This large cylindrical mausoleum dates to the 3rd-2nd centuries BCE and is believed to be the tomb of a Numidian King. We continue to Batna and arrive in time for lunch. In the afternoon we explore **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.

Day Nine | Batna - Timgad - Biskra

We spend the morning at **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.

After lunch we continue south, driving through the spectacular scenery of the Aurès Mountains to the **Biskra** province which lies on the northern edge of the Sahara. We stop on the way in the area of the gorges of Tighanimine and the breathtaking canyon of Rhouffi and we 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 Ten | Biskara - Algiers

We enjoy a relaxing morning visiting a traditional date Palmerie. For centuries, inhabitants of the Ziban have carefully planted and pollinated their precious date palms in the area – 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.

Day Eleven | 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.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Farès K Moussa

Specialising in religious art and artistic practice, Farès has both written and researched on Romans and Phoenicians in Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Sardinia, as well as on the subject of prehistoric rock art. Join Farès on our 20th March departure.



Tony O'Connor

A specialist in the Roman Empire, Tony has excavated widely across Britain, Europe and North Africa. He first led a tour for Andante over 10 years ago and he just gets better and better! Join Tony on our 16th November departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Lamarz Arts Hotel, Sheraton Annaba Hotel, Protea Hotel by Marriott Constantine, Novotel Setif, Hotel Messouadi - Batna & Hotel Nail Zakaria - Biskra or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
20th - 30th Mar	\$7,060	\$890
1st - 11th Nov	\$7,110	\$890

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

Morocco & Andalucía

Where Africa and Europe meet

18 DAYS FROM \$10,200pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Separated by only a narrow body of water, Morocco and Andalucía have exchanged peoples and cultural ideas for millennia. Not only were both countries united by the Roman empire in antiquity, but Berbers were key to the initial Islamisation of Spain, just as the Berber Almoravids and Almohads were instrumental in stopping the advance of the Catholic reconquest of Spain in the 11th and 12th centuries. It is in Al-Andalus where Islamic art and traditions reached their apogee in Europe. This cultural exchange produced a wonderful, shared architectural language, involving a variety of instantly recognisable decorative elements such as horseshoe arches, zellij tilework and muqarnas. On this tour of a lifetime, we explore the nexus between Africa and Europe, starting in the Roman period and continuing to the expulsion of Muslims and Jews in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella. We explore unforgettable Roman ruins in both continents at Volubilis and Italica, and stunning Moorish architecture in the medinas and palaces of Fez and Marrakech, as well as in the palaces of Sevilla and Malaga. Standing in the wondrous Cathedral of Cordoba or in the Alhambra in Granada, we experience centuries of culture which transcend boundaries between Europe and Africa, between Christian and Muslim.

Day 1 | Marrakech

Meet the group at our hotel in Marrakech and time permitting have a brief walk around the **Kutubiyya Minaret** and **Jeema el fna Square**.

Day 2 | Marrakech

Our day begins at the 16th-century Saadian Tombs, a beautiful blend of Moorish and European styles, especially in the Chamber of the Twelve Columns. We continue to the grand Baddi Palace, a symbol of Saadian power. After lunch, we visit Bahia Palace, a 19th-century gem of intricate tilework and wood carving. An evening lecture explores Roman and medieval Morocco.

Day 3 | Rabat

Before leaving Marrakech, we visit the famous Yves Saint Laurent Museum in the Jardin Majorelle and the small museum there, which displays objects of Islamic art. Then we journey to Rabat, founded by the Almohads in the 12th century. In the afternoon, we visit the unfinished Hassan Tower, an ambitious project of the third Almohad Caliph.

Day 4 | Medina & Meknes

This morning, we explore the Museum of History and Civilisation, home to exceptional finds from Volubilis, Banasa and Thamusa. We visit the UNESCO-listed Medina and Kasbah before heading to Chellah, a former Phoenician and Roman site later transformed in the Islamic period. After our site visits we continue to Meknes.

Day 5 | Meknes

We spend most of the day at Volubilis, Morocco's premier archaeological site, flourishing in the 1st century AD from the olive oil trade. On our return to Meknes, we stop at the town of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun which developed in the 11th century after inhabitants abandoned Volubilis.

Day 6 | Fez

We travel to Fez and spend the day exploring its UNESCO-listed Medina. Though mosque interiors are inaccessible, we admire their architecture. Highlights include the 14th-century Bou Inania Madrasa, the 9th-century Andalusian Mosque, and Qarawiyyin University, rich in styles from various dynasties. In the afternoon, we visit the Nejarine Museum of wooden arts. Free time follows.



Day 7 | Banasa & Lixus

We travel north this morning to the first of two seldom visited archaeological sites Banasa and Lixus (which we will visit tomorrow). Banasa was known in antiquity as Colonia Iulia Valentia. The ruins we see today include a forum and Capitolium as well as a bath complex. We will have a packed lunch on the site before continuing to Lixus where we overnight.

Day 8 | Lixus & Tangiers

We explore Lixus, once a Carthaginian trading post, possibly linked to the mythic Gardens of the Hesperides. On the site we will see remains of temples, a Paleochristian church, as well as bath complexes. After lunch we drive to Tangiers where we will be based for the remainder of our time in Morocco.

Day 9 | Tetouan & Tangiers

We journey to Tetouan, just 40km from Gibraltar. Once a Marinid stronghold, the city flourished after the fall of Granada in 1492 when thousands of Moriscos arrived. We explore the Andalusian-flavoured Medina. Back in Tangiers, we visit the Kasbah Museum, home to regional archaeological treasures.

Image: Medina Azahara



Explore the extensive ruins of Volubilis, one of the most important archaeological sites in North Africa

Visit Fez with its UNESCO listed Medina and its historic buildings and medieval museum

Examine the site of Gadir which includes remains from the Phoenician and Roman periods

View the extraordinary site of Granada, the last bastion of Muslim culture in Andalucía

Day 10 | Tarifa - Cadiz

This morning, we cross continents. We take the fast ferry from Tangiers, crossing the Straits of Gibraltar to arrive in Tarifa. From here we make our way to Cadiz, stopping on the way to visit Baelo Claudio a former Roman trading post situated on the part of the coast where the Straits are at their narrowest point. We arrive in Cadiz in the late afternoon.

Day 11 | Cadiz

We explore Cadiz, among Europe's oldest cities. Highlights include the Cadiz Museum with Phoenician sarcophagi, the 1st-century Roman Theatre, and the grand Cathedral. At the Gadir site, we discover Phoenician and Roman remains before heading to Seville.

Day 12 | Seville

We begin at the Metropol Parasol and its archaeological remains, then visit the Palacio de Lebrija, known for Roman mosaics collected by the Countess of Lebrija. After lunch, we tour Seville's Cathedral and Giralda Tower – once a mosque's minaret – and the Real Alcazar, a palace with layers of Islamic and Christian architecture.

Day 13 | Seville - Ronda

We explore Italica, birthplace of Trajan and Hadrian, famous for its amphitheatre, theatre, and mosaicked villas. After lunch, we continue to Ronda where we explore the city's melange of architecture, including the Puerta de Almocabar. Next, we see the façade of the Iglesia de Santa Maria la Mayor the late 15th-century church built on top of a mosque which has a wonderful Mudejar bell tower.

Day 14 | Ronda - Malaga

We visit Mondragon Palace, a 14th-century residence turned museum. At La Casa del Rey Moro, a 14th-century residence, and to the Arabic Baths, which closely resemble its Roman counterparts and the well-preserved Arabic Baths, we glimpse medieval daily life. In Malaga, we explore the 11th-century Alcazaba, a fortified palace with Roman spolia and lush gardens.

Day 15 | Malaga

Malaga, founded by Phoenicians, blends cultures and eras. At the Malaga Museum, we examine artefacts from across its long history. We continue to the Roman Theatre, built in the age of Augustus and in use for several centuries, ultimately being dismantled in order to build the Alcazaba. Our last visit of the morning is to the Church of Santiago Apostol, built in the late 15th century on the place of an old mosque.

Day 16 | Cordoba

A day in Cordoba reveals Andalucía's layered past. At the Mosque-Cathedral, we marvel at the blend of Islamic and Christian elements. The Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos features Moorish gardens and fortress architecture. We conclude at Medina Azahara, the opulent 10th-century Caliphate complex.

Day 17 | Granada

Our final full day takes us to Granada. We visit the Cathedral, burial site of Ferdinand and Isabella, and El Bañuelo, 11th-century Arabic baths. The day ends with the Alhambra, the pinnacle of Nasrid architecture, admired for its poetic beauty and influence on art in both Spain and the Maghreb.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Eireann Marshall in Morocco

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



Dr Doru Bogdan in Andalucía

A specialist in Roman archaeology, Doru has supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



Day 18 | Malaga

After the tour of a lifetime exploring the wonders of Morocco and Spain, we make our way to Málaga Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Marrakech, Rabat, Meknes, Tangiers, Cadiz, Seville, Ronda & Málaga

Culinary inclusions

- 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 15 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
10th - 27th Nov	\$10,200	\$1,670

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

Morocco: Tangier to Marrakesh

Imperial cities and Lords of the Atlas

10 DAYS FROM \$6,150pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Morocco is known as the 'Maghreb el-Aqsa' the land of the further west, encircled by three great seas and tucked in at the corner of Africa. This tour programme focuses on the legacy of the medieval dynasties of Morocco and its Imperial Cities on a journey which extends from the northern tip of the country at Tangier to the borders of the desert at Marrakesh in the south.

Day One | Tangier

Meet the group at our hotel in Tangier.

Day Two | Lixus & Tangier

We start our explorations with **Lixus**, originally a Phoenician settlement and later Roman control. The site occupies a commanding position with spectacular views over the Loukos Estuary. A small portion of this large site has been excavated but we are able to see temple remains, a Paleochristian church, as well as bath complexes. Returning to Tangier for lunch, we spend our afternoon exploring this ancient trading city, once one of the world's most popular literary hang outs.

Day Three | Tangier - Chefchaouan - Fez

Today we make the long journey south to Fez, stopping en route at **Chefchaouen**, the outrageously picturesque blue-tinted city. Settled in the 15th century by refugees fleeing the Reconquista, the town was both safe haven and strategic outpost in the Rif Mountains. After lunch we continue to Fez arriving in the late afternoon.

Day Four | Fez

Today is devoted to **Fez**, the most ancient of the Imperial cities on the north-south caravan route and one of the best preserved medieval settlements in North Africa. We make sense of this magnificent muddle of mosques, minarets, palaces and squares with, at its heart, the warren of winding lanes which make up the old medina. We visit the odiferous tannery and admire the stunning architecture of its Mosques (from the exterior – Morocco is traditionally strict and prohibits non-Muslims to enter) including the **Bou Inania Madrasa**, founded in the 14th-century and considered the epitome of Marinid architecture; the 9th century **Andalucian Mosque**, built by refugees from Andalucía fleeing the repression of the Umayyads, and **Qarawiyyin University**, built in the 9th-century Andalucian and a smorgasbord of Moroccan architectural styles, including elements from the Almoravid and Almohad periods.

Day Five | Volubilis

We spend our day at the most famous archaeological site in Morocco, **Volubilis**. The ancient city developed from the 3rd-century BCE, largely because it is in a fertile area, but really came to its own in the 1st century AD when it became capital of the kingdom of Mauretania. Many of the city's most photogenic ruins, including temples, a basilica and a magnificent triumphal arch of Caracalla, date to this period when the city grew wealthy from the olive oil trade. This opulence can be seen in the scale of the elite residences which are decorated by exquisite mosaics, many of which are still in situ.

Day Six | Fez - Meknès - Rabat

Leaving Fez, we travel west to Rabat, stopping en route at **Meknès**. Founded in the medieval period by the Almoravids and once capital of Morocco in the 17th century, the city also boasts a UNESCO listed Medina. We see the Bab al-Mansour gate constructed in the 17th century using zellij tilework and Roman columns and walking along its winding



Explore the remarkable Roman site of Volubilis, ancient capital of Mauretania Tingitania

Enjoy the sensation of time travel in one of the world's most complete medieval cities – Fez

Discover Marrakesh and its famous Jamaa el Fena Square with its storytellers, jugglers, musicians and snake charmers

streets past a symphony of colours, street vendors and madrasas, we admire the façade of the 12th Great Mosque.

Day Seven | Rabat

We enjoy a day in Rabat, starting with a visit to the **Museum of History and Civilisation**, which contains the most extensive collection of archaeological artefacts found in the country. The museum holds prehistoric and pre-Islamic collections, including objects uncovered by archaeologists working on the Roman sites of Volubilis, Banasa and Thamusia. We also see the **Hassan Tower**, a minaret of an incomplete mosque by the third Almohad Caliph in 1195, whose ambitions to build the largest minaret and mosque in the world were thwarted by his death. The tour continues to the UNESCO-listed Medina and Kasbah of Rabat, which is smaller than the medina in Fez.

Day Eight | Rabat - Marrakesh

Today we make the journey south to Marrakesh, arriving in time for lunch. The architecture of this

vibrant city founded in the medieval period by the Berber Almoravids is decidedly Andalusian in character. In the afternoon we explore the **Kutubiyya Minaret**, which is decorated in typical Almohad style and akin to the Giralda of Seville and the Hassan Tower of Rabat.

Day Nine | Marrakesh

This morning we visit the 16th-century **Saadian Tombs**, which includes a medieval necropolis and the **Dar Si Said Museum**, an elegant 19th-century Hispano-Islamic residence which today includes a museum of artisanal art works. After lunch, we explore the 16th-century **Baddi Palace**, a sumptuous residence designed to showcase the power of the Saadian Sultans and **Ben Youssef Madrasa**. The day ends with a visit to the famous **Yves Saint Laurent Museum** in the **Jardin Majorelle**, which includes a botanical garden, and the **Islamic Art Museum** of Marrakech.

Day Ten | Marrakesh

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

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

An Honorary Research Fellow for the Open University, Eireann has led many Andante tours. She won the Top History and Culture Guide prize at *Wanderlust* magazine's 2019 World Guide Awards, and has also published a variety of articles on Roman North Africa.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Tangier, Fez, Rabat and Marrakesh

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	SS
4th - 13th Dec	\$6,150	\$740

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

Namibia

Follow in the footsteps of our early ancestors

14 DAYS FROM \$14,670pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Namibia's vast landscapes provide some of the most dramatic natural scenery in the world and scattered throughout this astonishing country are rock art sites of unquestionable beauty and isolation. On this tour, we visit not only the famous World Heritage site at Twyfelfontein but also rock art in the Brandberg and Erongo Mountains where artists used natural pigments mixed with binding agents to create paintings that have remarkably survived thousands of years. The country's pristine wilderness provides some of Africa's most dramatic wildlife viewing opportunities, set against backdrops that photographers dream of.



Discover the 'White Lady' rock painting in the Brandberg Massif of Damaraland

Take a bushwalk with the San and gain an insight into the ancient hunter-gatherer culture

Track desert elephants in two of Namibia's ephemeral river beds the Ugab and the Aba Huab

Spend two days discovering the animals of Etosha

Day One | Johannesburg

Meet the group at Walvis Bay International Airport to transfer to Swakopmund. After checking into our hotel, we have time to unwind and relax before our evening meal tonight.

Day Two | Swakopmund

Today we explore the area of the **Moonlandscape** and the **Welwitschia Plains**, where the stark, desolate beauty of the terrain takes centre stage. Amidst this arid expanse, we see examples of extraordinary millennia-old plants. Their ancient, weathered forms stand as a testament to nature's resilience. On the way back, we visit the area of the Swakop River which reaches the sea on the southern edge of **Swakopmund**. The area around the river mouth and the surrounding dunes are rich in bird life and unusual plant species. In the afternoon, choose to book an optional flight over the dramatic sweeping landscapes of Sossusvlei or take some time to explore the charming town of Swakopmund.

Day Three | Swakopmund – Spitzkoppe

After breakfast, we set off towards the stunning **Spitzkoppe** range, often referred to as 'the Matterhorn of Namibia,' to explore its awe-inspiring granite rock formations. Dominating the landscape, the Inselberg rises to 1,728m above sea level and is one of the most photographed mountains in Namibia, visible from miles around. All around the Spitzkoppe, hundreds of paintings can be found, and the rock art here depicts patterns of hunter-gatherer societies and their subsistence practices before the advent of farming.

Day Four | Omandumba & Ekuta

This morning, we visit the fascinating '**Living Museum**' of the Ju/Hoansi-San, also known as the Bushman at **Omandumba**. Here, we gain insight into the ancient traditions of the hunter-gatherer culture. During a bushwalk we learn the timeless skill of animal tracking and snaring, discover how shelters are made and observe how fires are set. The landscape surrounding us is equally captivating, with large, reddish boulders scattered across the

terrain, creating a stunningly unique backdrop. This area is home to a rich diversity of wildlife, including rock hyrax (known locally as 'dassies'), mountain zebra, and various antelope species like kudu, steenbuck, and the rare, black-faced impala. Look out too for baboons and warthogs! After lunch, we continue to the rock shelter of **Ekuta**. Considered to be one of the best rock art sites in the whole region, it contains detailed depictions of animals and people carrying equipment, such as bows and arrows.

Day Five | Ai Aiba

At the Ai Aiba Lodge, our base in the foothills of the Erongo mountain range, we are surrounded by ancient imposing granite boulders. These rock formations, which are the weathered remnants of a volcanic complex dating back around 130 million years, carry with them a deep sense of history. Today, we dedicate our time to exploring the local rock art by safari vehicle, followed by guided walks to various painting sites, each with its own story to tell. Some of the artwork features intricate depictions of animals and humans, while others hint at trance-like states and connections to the spirit world.

Day Six | Spitzkoppe - Omandumba West – Brandberg

We spend our morning in **Omandumba West**. The rock art in this area includes rare and valuable paintings, such as the 'Swarm of the Bees' depicting honey foragers running from their victims. After lunch, we continue our journey

to our overnight hotel. Once we've checked in, we head out to explore the areas along the **Ugab River**. This river plays a crucial ecological role in the region, flowing above ground for only a few days each year, yet its subterranean waters support a variety of wildlife. Among the most remarkable residents of this area is the rare desert elephant, adapted to survive in these arid conditions. We search along the riverbed, hoping to spot these magnificent creatures.

Day Seven | Brandburg – Twyfelfontein - Mowani

Following breakfast, we start the morning with a walk to the famous '**White Lady**' rock painting on the north-eastern side of the Brandberg mountain range. This area holds deep spiritual significance for the Damara San people and is renowned for its vast collection of rock paintings, estimated to number in the tens of thousands. The majority of the artworks are situated high up on the mountain, making them difficult to access. The walk to the 'White Lady' site is fairly easy, covering about four miles along a flat, dry river bed, though there are some small boulders to negotiate at the foot of the mountain. In the afternoon, we drive on up to the **Twyfelfontein** area, home to one of the largest and most important concentrations of rock art. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2007, is a remarkable testament to the rich cultural and spiritual history of the region, with its intricate engravings depicting animals, humans and spiritual symbols that have endured for millennia.

Day Eight | Aba Huab River & Twyfelfontein

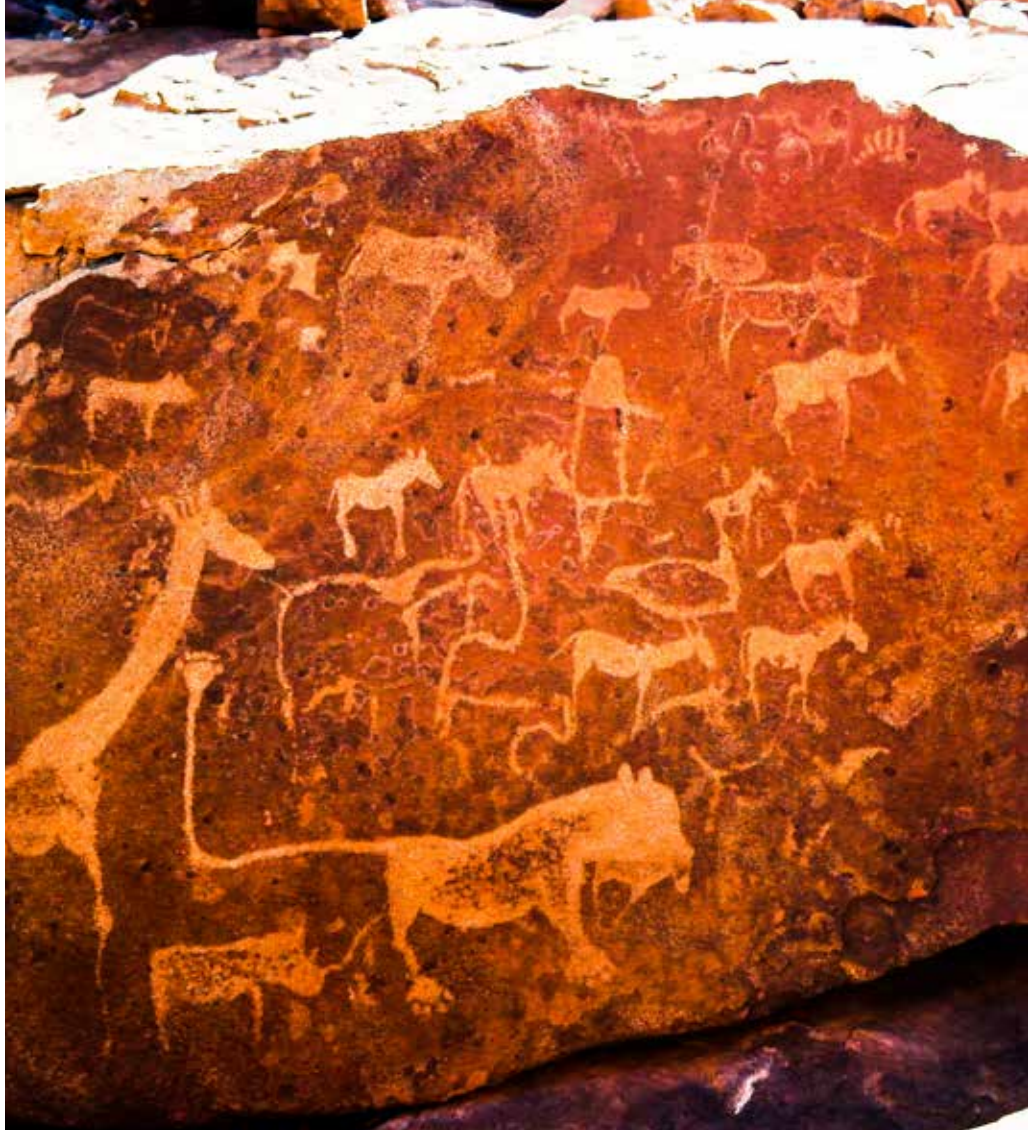
We start our day with a safari along the **Aba Huab River Valley**. The Huab is another ephemeral river which, when flowing, runs westwards through Mopane savanna before reaching the Skeleton Coast. The landscape here is dramatic with vast sandy valleys, punctuated by gigantic boulder outcrops, sand dunes and rocky hills. This unique environment is home to mountain zebra, oryx, springbok, steenbok, desert elephant, rhino, spotted hyena, jackal, leopard, cape fox and African wild cat. In the afternoon, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Twyfelfontein**. Though small, this world heritage site includes some remarkable galleries of petroglyphs depicting an extraordinary diversity of wild animals – rhino, elephant, giraffe, oryx, ostrich, flamingo, zebra and many more. The engravings are often superimposed on one another and are engraved on the massive rock faces of free-standing boulders in completely exposed positions.

Day Nine | Mowani - Peets Alberts Koppie - Etosha

After driving to Kamanjab, we arrive at the rock art site of **Peet Alberts Koppie**. This is the second-largest rock engraving site in Namibia and the images of animals range from abstract, highly stylized and unpatinated to realistic images of white rhinos and kudu. The most prominent engraving at this site is that of a giraffe which measures 330cm from hind hoof to ear. It is the biggest rock engraving in Namibia. After lunch, we journey onwards to **Etosha National Park**.

Day Ten | Etosha - Mushara

Today promises an exciting day of game drives in Etosha National Park, one of Africa's great wildlife sanctuaries. The park's defining feature is the vast Etosha salt pan, a shimmering white expanse so large it can be seen from space. This ancient lakebed covers roughly a quarter of the park and gives Etosha its name, which translates to 'Great White Place' in the Oshindonga language. The park's ecosystem revolves around its waterholes,



which serve as vital gathering points for a wide array of wildlife, particularly during the dry season. As we explore, we hope to observe large herds of elephants, zebras, and numerous species of antelope, including the rare, black-faced impala. Etosha is also home to healthy populations of lions, leopards and one of the largest concentrations of black rhinos in Africa.

Day Eleven | Etosha National Park

We spend our second day in Etosha National Park exploring different areas of the park or perhaps returning to the site of a recent lion spot.

Day Twelve | Mushara - Okonjima

Today we drive south to the reserve at **Okonjima**, famous for its AfriCat charity programme. Founded in the 1990s, the **AfriCat Foundation** focuses on ensuring a sustainable future for Namibia's large carnivores, such as leopards and cheetahs, through their conservation efforts. This afternoon, we have the chance to track some of these magnificent animals.

Day Thirteen | Okonjima

We spend more time today on activities offered by the AfriCat programme, with further opportunities to track these incredible animals in the wild. In addition to the leopards and cheetahs, we take a game drive to spot brown hyenas known as strandwolf. In the evening, we enjoy our last dinner together and take time to look back and recount the many highlights of our tour in this incredible country.

Day Fourteen | Okonjima – Windhoek

We leave Okonjima and drive to Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe, Ai Aiba, Etosha & Okonjima

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
17th - 30th Oct	\$15,670	\$1,320

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

South Africa & Great Zimbabwe

Human origins in the African Savannah

14 DAYS FROM \$12,810pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Discover the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the Cradle of Humankind and Great Zimbabwe

Adventure into the bush on a walking rock art safari at Berg en Dal

Admire the paintings depicted at Koaxa's Shelter, opening up the hidden world of the ancient San people

Explore Mapungubwe, one of the glories of South African archaeology

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr John McNabb

Senior Lecturer in Palaeolithic Archaeology at Southampton University since 2010, John has researched widely within South Africa including Makapansgat.



Southern Africa's vast and open expanses hide a wealth of archaeology – from some of the earliest evidence of human ancestors who left behind stone tools and skeletons to kingdoms who traded gold and ivory beyond China. There are thousands of Stone Age sites in the wild, caves and rock shelters, inland and along the coast, that have recorded the way of life and history of people in the region over nearly two million years. From the famous Sterkfontein Caves to the relatively unknown archaeological treasures over the border in Zimbabwe, this is a fabulous opportunity to explore the far depths of the human past in the company of an expert in human origins while revelling in the magnificent Savannah landscapes in which humankind developed.

Day One | Johannesburg - Maropeng

Meet the group in Johannesburg. We then travel together as a group to Maropeng where we start our introduction to human origins with a visit to the **Maropeng Visitor Centre**. Later, we transfer to our hotel and check in.

Day Two | Sterkfontein Caves & Swartkrans

Continuing our exploration of the **Cradle of Humankind**, we start today with the **Sterkfontein Caves**. Finds here included the 2.1-million-year-old Australopithecus skull, and "Little Foot", an almost complete skeleton more than three million years old. In the afternoon we visit nearby **Swartkrans**, rich in archaeological material and a prominent fossil site.

Day Three | Braamfontein

We visit two important museums today. First, the **Origins Centre in Braamfontein**. The centre displays an extensive collection of rock art from the Rock Art Research Institute at Wits University and

follows the path of hominin innovation that began over two million years ago. Offering a stark contrast to the morning, we visit the **Apartheid Museum** in the afternoon, a superb example of design, space and landscape offering the international community a unique South African experience. The Apartheid Museum is critical to our understanding of this beautiful and troubled country.

Day Four | Maropeng - Polokwane

This morning we journey north to Polokwane in Limpopo, stopping en route at **Arend Dieperink Museum** to set the scene for tomorrow's explorations. The museum charts the history of the town and its surroundings from the discoveries at Makapan's Cave right through to the Anglo-Boer War. Here we take a step back in time to explore the cultural heritage of the Afrikaner people, particularly in what is now Limpopo province, but was once Transvaal, one of the three Boer Republics.

Continued...





Day Five | Makapansegat

Transferring to 4x4s, we travel to **Makapansegat**, an important Palaeolithic site that is littered with caves. At Makapansegat we gain insight into one of the most famous hominin sites in the world – the Limeworks Cave. Searches here revealed remains of about 40 individuals of *Australopithecus africanus*, a species of hominin dating from 2.5 to 3 million years ago or more. Moving on in time we visit the **Cave of Hearths**, which show us something of how hand axe makers lived half a million years ago and the importance of their surrounding landscape to their survival.

Day Six | Polokwane - Mapungubwe National Park

We make our way to **Mapungubwe National Park**, an expansive Savannah landscape which was once a large kingdom before its abandonment in the 14th century. We explore the bush land and climb up to the site's lost city on the **Mapungubwe Hill**. Mapungubwe is one of the glories of South African archaeology. A little earlier than its more famous neighbour Great Zimbabwe, this city was connected through its trading links to an Indian Ocean-sized trading web, which reached to India and the great imperial court of far-off China. This magical place is a must-see.

Day Seven | Mapungubwe - Tzaneen

Today we drive to **Koaxa's Shelter** in our search for rock art. The paintings depicted here will take your breath away and open up the hidden world of the ancient San people. You can almost hear them conversing in their klick language as they painted their experiences and beliefs. These 200 images of fine detail depict at least 16 animal species including lion, hyena, mongoose and locusts.

Day Eight | Tzaneen - Kruger National Park

We continue south to **Kruger National Park** today, one of the prime game-watching destinations in the world. This area has an incredibly diverse ecosystem and is home to an impressive array of wildlife: lions, cheetah, rhinos and buffalo wander a 20,000km square expanse of parkland. We arrive in time for lunch and a late afternoon game drive.

Day Nine | Berg en Dal

An adventure today at **Berg en Dal**, where we walk through the bush on the hunt for rock art scattered on boulders across the landscape. The sites here bring us face-to-face with the modern difficulties of preservation. The beauty and fragility of the rock art scattered amongst the bush will stay with you. We have some free time today to relax and rest before our return to Johannesburg.



Day Ten | Kruger National Park - Johannesburg

After an optional early morning game drive, we make the journey back to Johannesburg, where we stay before our onward travel to Zimbabwe tomorrow.

Day Eleven | Johannesburg - Bulawayo - Great Zimbabwe

We take a flight from Johannesburg to Bulawayo this morning, arriving in time for lunch. In the afternoon we journey to Great Zimbabwe, known locally as “Dzimba Dzamabwe” meaning the house of stone or stone buildings. We overnight nearby ready for our site visit tomorrow.

Day Twelve | Great Zimbabwe

We dedicate most of our day to the extensive site of the **Great Zimbabwe**, the largest and most important capital of the vast Shona Kingdom, which at its peak controlled 100,000 km² between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. We examine its extraordinary stonework and the fascinating architecture of its Great Enclosure as well as the finds from the site displayed at its museum. There

will be some free time in the afternoon to spend relaxing or you could choose an optional game drive in the Lake Mutirikwi Recreational Park.

Day Thirteen | Great Zimbabwe - Nalatale - Bulawayo

We make our way back to Bulawayo, stopping en route at the **Madzimbabwe of Nalatale**, in the remote Somabula Flats in central Zimbabwe. Nalatale was once the capital of the Butua Kingdom, which rose to prominence following the decline of Great Zimbabwe. The ruins are unique for their intricate herringbone, chevron and chequer-patterned stone walls.

Day Fourteen | Bulawayo - Khami - Johannesburg

Our last site visit is a short trip to **Khami** on the outskirts of Bulawayo. Continuously inhabited for 40,000 years, Khami was the court of the Rozvi's Mombo dynasty and later an important spiritual shrine of the Ndebele. This afternoon we take a flight to Johannesburg from where we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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Included travel

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Accommodation

- Accommodation in Johannesburg, Polokwane, Mapungubwe National Park, Tzaneen, Kruger National Park, Great Zimbabwe & Bulawayo

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
31st Mar - 13th Apr	\$12,810	\$1,160

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

Eastern Mediterranean & the Middle East



The Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East are truly astounding places to explore from an archaeological perspective. We offer a range of tours that can take you to Turkey and Jordan, along with Oman, crossroads of commerce for millennia.

Anatolia and the Levant were central to the development of permanent settlements and to the agricultural revolution. The domestication of crops in the beginning of the Holocene, which saw a transformation in the natural environment with the introduction of irrigation and deforestation, was later accompanied by the domestication of animals and, later, by the development of pottery. This fundamental change in the lifestyles of humans is hotly debated as scholars contest a variety of questions, including whether permanent settlements gave rise to the development of farming or whether the advent of farming gave rise to static habitations. For these questions, Göbekli Tepe in Turkey is instrumental. The site, which dates to the 10th millennium, houses several monumental circular buildings which appear to have a religious aspect to them, and which may have serviced peoples coming from a wide area. What is interesting is that dwellings and evidence of cultivation haven't yet been found, which may give clues to the development of permanent settlements. Turkey is also home to Çatal Hüyük, dating from the 8th to the 6th millennium BCE, which provides invaluable evidence for the development of this agricultural revolution a few millennia after Göbekli Tepe.

Both Anatolia and the Levant also prospered in Classical Antiquity, as is clear from the proliferation of such outstanding archaeological sites as the Anatolian sites of Ephesus, Pergamon and Aphrodisias with their stunning collection of monuments. What is, perhaps, not emphasised enough is how multicultural this part of the world is, as is particularly evident with the Nabateans who produced the stunning rock cut buildings, such as the Monastery and Treasury in Petra. The Levant also houses a number of impressive castles, notably Kerak, erected in the medieval period and instrumental in understanding the crusades and concomitant Christian attempts to regain the Holy Land.

With unforgettable sites such as the rock-cut city of Petra, the mighty walls of Troy and the well-preserved Roman town of Jerash, incredible discoveries await in this sun-soaked region of the world.



Gaze upon the mighty walls of Troy as everyone from Achilles to Alexander the Great has desired to do

Explore the vast and rambling Topkapi Palace, a palace like none you will have ever seen

Discover one of the oldest settlements in the world at Çatal Hüyük

Admire the almost lunar-like desert scenery of Wadi Rum

Visit Jerash, the best-preserved (and Jordan's largest) Roman town in the east, a site that is home to the Oval Plaza and the Corinthian columns of the Temple of Artemis

“It was fantastic to find a tour that visited all the sites I had long wanted to visit - Catal Huyuk, Gebeckli Tepe, Karahan Tepe and the Byzantine churches and their frescoes, Nemrut Dagı and the landscape of Cappadocia. It gave a context to the interest of the development of agriculture in the Neolithic and the bewildering succession of kingdoms that ruled the area after the Bronze Age.”



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Classical Turkey: the Aegean Coast

Powerful city states of ancient history

11 DAYS FROM \$6,860pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The ruined cities of the famously beautiful Aegean coast of Turkey were once some of the most powerful in the ancient world. The storied heritage is fascinating, from if Homer is to be believed, the site of the legendary conflict between Greeks and Trojans, to the World Heritage Site of Hierapolis. The remains of these splendid cities are set in a breath-taking landscape of rugged limestone peaks, plunging valleys, olive groves, pine forests and flower-dotted meadows, with the glittering blue waters of the Aegean Sea as a constant backdrop. We travel widely along the littoral of the Aegean and occasionally towards the interior in search of these evocative sites. Our journey ranges through time, too, reaching back to the early Bronze Age kingdoms, the time of the Hittite Empire and the Homeric period.

Day One | Istanbul

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

Day Two | Istanbul

Istanbul is kaleidoscopic and every street yields a different refraction. We explore some of its major sites today including the magnificent **Hagia Sophia**, **Yerbatan Sarayı**, a cavernous and palatial Byzantine underground water cistern, the **Hippodrome** with its Egyptian obelisk and the **Blue Mosque**, renowned for its richly decorated interior.

Day Three | Istanbul - Assos

We make the long journey around the sea of Marmara to Çannakale, where we take the ferry across the Dardanelles and continue to **Troy**. This is a place to quicken the senses and it is tantalising to imagine the Greek army ranged across the landscape while Paris paced the walls of the city and Hector duelled with Achilles. Its first excavator, Heinrich Schliemann, dug between 1871 and 1879 - cutting through nine later levels to get to the second, which he thought was 'Homeric' Troy. Following later excavations, we now know that the sixth level (1750-1300 BCE) is most likely Homer's city.

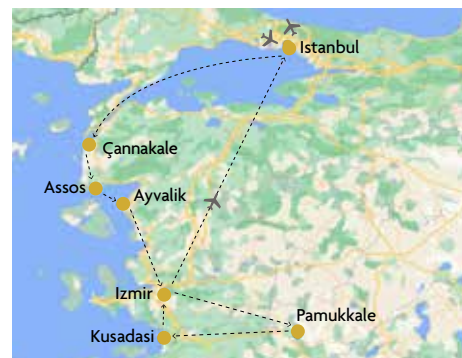
Day Four | Assos - Ayvalik

This morning, we drive from sea level up to the site of **Assos**, one of the most beautifully

situated sites in Turkey, perched on a prominent hilltop overlooking the Aegean and Sappho's island of Lesbos. The site has a fine set of city walls, magnificent theatre and the famous **Doric Temple of Athena**, situated on the east side of the acropolis. This afternoon we continue our journey around the coast to Ayvalik, stopping on the way to visit a hidden gem, the small archaeological site of **Antandros**. This Greco-Roman city is located on the slopes of Mount Ida and was established in the 7th century BCE. Excavations here have been ongoing for some time and there have been some exciting new discoveries. Later we arrive in Ayvalik.

Day Five | Ayvalik - Izmir

We spend the day at the Hellenistic city of **Pergamon**, one of the greatest ancient cities in Turkey, whose extensive remains range across a dramatic rocky outcrop reached by cable car. Our explorations include the Acropolis and the breathtaking precipitous theatre, more landscape architecture than public building. After lunch we visit **Pergamon Museum** and the **Aesclepium**. This was the shrine of the healing God Asclepius whose cult became one of the most popular in the ancient world. Pilgrims would visit the shrine, take part in rituals and then be visited by the god in their sleep to be healed. Equally revived, we continue to Izmir.

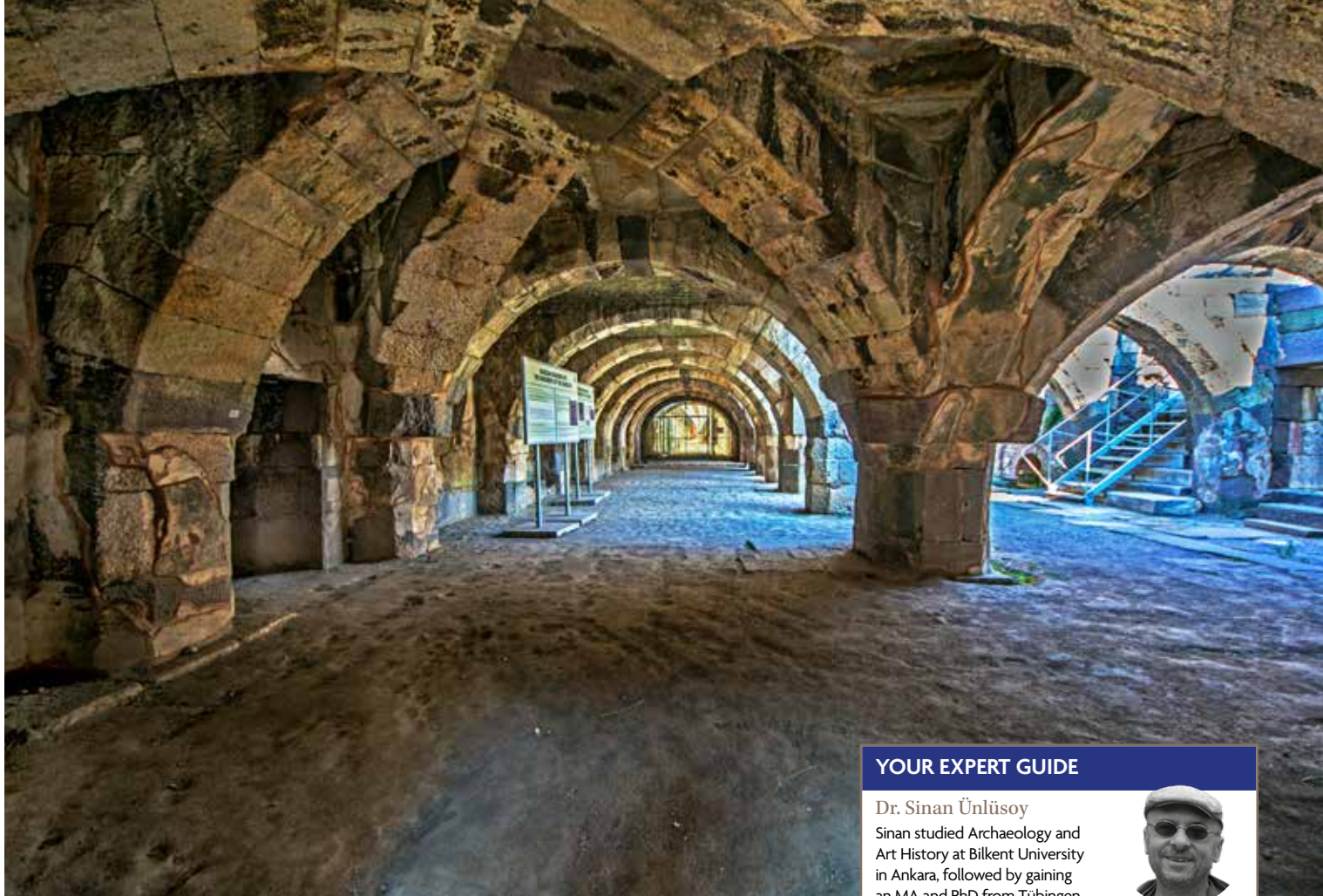


Day Six | Izmir - Pamukkale

Our first visit of the day is to the **Agora of Smyrna**, located in the Mezarlıkbasi neighbourhood of Izmir. Built during the reign of Alexander the Great, it served as a commercial, judicial and political centre of the ancient city. Recent excavations here have promoted a tentative World Heritage listing as part of the historic port of Izmir. We continue inland to **Sardis**, a city that has always functioned as a centre of Power. We see its massive gymnasium and bathhouse, and the finely preserved **Temple of Artemis**. We continue to **Pamukkale**, the limestone 'cotton castle' of calcite pools with warm thermal springs. Located in the River Menderes Valley, the Roman ruins here remain remarkably well-preserved.

Day Seven | Hierapolis & Laodicea

Today we explore ancient **Hierapolis**, which benefited hugely from the nearby thermal springs, with its extensive tombs and the oracular Temple of Apollo. Adjacent to the temple lies the Plutonium, a shrine of the lord of the underworld. It conceals a vent which does still release noxious fumes. This would have been used to induce



Gaze upon the mighty walls of Troy as everyone from Achilles to Alexander the Great has desired to do

Explore remarkably well-preserved classical cities such as Pergamon, Miletus and Aphrodisias, and discover a range of evocative lesser-known ruins

Discover the Hagia Sophia, one of the most remarkable ancient structures in the world

trance-like states and is the source of the oracular powers of the temple. The limescale formations with cascading pools and hot springs make this site very picturesque. In the afternoon we visit **Laodicea**, a site largely unknown until 2003 when excavations revealed its history dates to 5500 BCE, with the city's peak occurring between the first and third centuries AD. With a population estimated at around 80,000 at that time, Laodicea was far larger than Hierapolis.

Day Eight | Pamukkale - Kusadasi

We travel east up the long valley of the Menderes River, through magnificent scenery to **Aphrodisias**. The river appears in Homer's Iliad and was noted in antiquity for the winding course it struck through the hills. We get our own word meander, for a winding river, from this ancient original. Aphrodisias was capital of the Roman province of Caria and the mountains surrounding this idyllic site produce very fine white Carian marble. The city became famous for its sculptors and traces of their work can be seen everywhere.

Day Nine | Priene, Didyma & Miletus

We spend the morning at **Priene**, which is set on a peaceful wooded hillside beneath a towering limestone peak. The Temple of Athena stands as a substantial ruin. The city was never large and was forced to shift its location due to the silting of its harbour by the Menderes River. From here we follow in the footsteps of the Greeks to **Didyma**. Originally a Carian city, it became an Ionian Greek

settlement with a huge temple that housed a shrine and oracle of Apollo, famed for its religious festival, the Didymaea. A number of significant personalities participated in the festivals including Alexander the Great and in AD 129 Emperor Hadrian. We end the day at Miletus, well built with its regular street grid on a peninsula. This was the home of Hippodamus of **Miletus**, among others, who is credited as inventing regular city organisation, the origin of town planning no less!

Day Ten | Ephesus & Selçuk

Our tour culminates at **Ephesus**, one of western Turkey's highlights. This was one of the richest cities in Asia Minor and continued to thrive through the Roman period. Ephesus was famed for its gigantic temple and sanctuary of Diana/Artemis, built in around 550 BCE it was reckoned one of the wonders of the ancient world and a major example of Ionic architecture. A single column now marks its sad remains. Images of the famous cult statue were extensively copied in the ancient world, the goddess draped with sacrificial remains. The city is full of fine architecture, including the restored but harmonious library of Celsius. After exploring the city, we visit the museum that houses treasures from the site. We end the day at the fortifications and **Basilica of St. John at Selçuk**.

Day Eleven | Kusadasi - Izmir

We drive to Izmir, where the tour ends, and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr. Sinan Ünlüsoy

Sinan studied Archaeology and Art History at Bilkent University in Ankara, followed by gaining an MA and PhD from Tübingen University in Germany in the Pre and Proto History Department. He specialized in the Bronze Age Aegean. He has worked in many excavations in Turkey as a field archaeologist including Troy for over 15 years. Join Sinan on our 13th April departure.



Isabella Sjöström

An archaeologist who has excavated in the UK, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Libya, Isabella works as a pottery specialist with the Sudan Archaeological Research Society. Join Isabella on our 28th October departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Istanbul, Assos, Ayvalik, Izmir, Pamukkale & Kusadasi

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
13th - 23rd Apr	\$6,910	\$1,160
28th Oct - 7th Nov	\$6,860	\$1,160

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

Byzantium & Ottoman Istanbul

A glittering jewel on the Bosphorus

7 DAYS FROM \$5,680pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



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.

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,



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

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 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 to reach the viewing platform, which allows a stunning 360-degree panorama of the city. We 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 1,000 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 has 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 waterfront. 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 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

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

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*.



noisy part in political meetings. Whilst in this part of the city, we 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

Our tour ends and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Sultanahmet, Istanbul

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$5
7th - 13th April	\$5,680	\$940
2nd - 8th Nov	\$5,900	\$940

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

Turkey: from Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe

A journey through Cappadocia and south east Turkey

14 DAYS FROM \$10,380pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Join us on a kaleidoscopic journey through the heartlands of Turkey from Çatal Hüyük, arguably the earliest city in the world, to Göbekli Tepe, a remarkable early Neolithic complex in upper Mesopotamia. We discover the otherworldly geology of Cappadocia, a bizarrely beautiful landscape matched by its unique archaeology, underground cities, vividly frescoed churches and the elaborate ritual sites of the ancient kingdoms in Southeast Turkey. We travel through The Fertile Crescent, arcing around the flat lands of Mesopotamia, which saw the birth of agriculture and the first domestication of cattle, goats, sheep and pigs, and we see the spectacular Roman mosaics in Gaziantep, rescued from the flood waters of a dam on the nearby Euphrates. Our journey includes an astonishing array of world-class sites, four of them UNESCO-listed, as we chart the civilisations which rose and fell here over the millennia.

Day One | Istanbul - Konya

Arrive independently into Konya via Istanbul and meet the group at our hotel.

Day Two | Çatal Hüyük & Binbir Kilise

We begin with one of the oldest settlements anywhere in the world: **Çatal Hüyük**, which comprises two tells rising 20m up from the plain. One of the largest and most distinctive sites of the Neolithic period, dating 7500-6500 BCE, it is exceptional in its layout of closely packed houses with roof access into the buildings. In the afternoon we explore the remote early Byzantine site of **Binbir Kilise**, complete with Syriac-style churches, monasteries and houses.

Day Three | Konya

Before we leave Konya, we visit the **Mevlana Museum**, former tekke (dervish hall) and mausoleum of the famous Sufi mystic Rumi, the **Karatay Madrasa**, an excellent example of Selçuk Turkish architecture, and the **Alaeddin Mosque** with its typically Selçuk 'forest' of columns and very early ebony prayer platform. After lunch we make the long journey to Göreme.

Day Four | Göreme & Sarı Han Caravansary

Engaging with the regional culture this morning, we visit a local co-operative which produces Anatolian rugs, a tradition which has integrated different motifs and practices introduced by the Armenians and Caucasian and Kurdish tribes. Afterwards we

head out to the **Sarıhan Caravansary**, one of the many which once serviced the Selçuk trade route from Konya to Kayseri. After lunch we continue to our main visit of the day at **Göreme Open Air Museum**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a fairytale landscape of eroded volcanic tuffs, full of rock-cut churches of the mid-Byzantine period, which bear witness to the faith, fervour and tenacity of devout Christian communities, beset both by Arab raiders and the persecutions of the Iconoclastic movement.

Day Five | Ilhara Valley & Aşıklı Hüyük

We start our explorations of **Cappadocia** with a visit to the **Ilhara Valley**, a beautiful, verdant gorge occupied by a fast-flowing river. The gorge is believed to have contained more than four thousand dwellings and a hundred churches cut into the rocks, used for worship by early Christian communities. We explore some of these churches this morning before moving on to visit **Aşıklı Hüyük**, an impressive settlement mound comprised of layers dated between 9000 and 7400 BCE, and which developed in part owing to its proximity to an important obsidian source.

Day Six | Göreme – Derinkuyu – Adana

Today we head south, stopping en route at the extraordinary underground city of **Derinkuyu**. This is one of the largest and most accessible of many such Byzantine settlements. Little is known of their true function, however, with such a geology at their



disposal, it may almost have been as easy to dig down as build up. We continue our journey south across the Anatolian plateau before crossing the formidable Taurus range and dropping down to the fertile Cilician Plain to overnight at Adana.

Day Seven | Adana - Karatepe - Gaziantep

This morning we visit **Adana Archaeology Museum**, which houses a fine collection of Hittite artefacts. We continue east and rise into wooded mountains to visit the 8th-century BCE fortress palace of **Karatepe**, now located in an archaeological park. A bilingual text inscribed on the gate here reveals the name of the neo-Hittite ruler who built the fortress: "I am indeed Azatiwatas, The Blessed of the Sun, the servant of the Storm-God, whom Awarikus exalted, king of Adanawa...". The twin gateways of the fortress palace are lined with relief-carved figurative slabs.

Day Eight | Gaziantep

Our main focus this morning is the **Zeugma Mosaic Museum**, which contains the very fine Roman mosaics from Zeugma, a city which stood on a crossing of the Euphrates river, and which has now been largely flooded by the construction of the Birecik Dam. We also visit the town of **Halfeti**, itself partially submerged as a result of the same project. Here we can see houses and minarets emerging from the water, and further up the river the monumental bulk of the largely medieval fortress **Rumkale**.

Image: Göreme



Discover one of the oldest settlements in the world at Çatal Hüyük

View the extraordinary volcanic landscapes, underground cities and rock-cut churches in Cappadocia

Visit the excavations at Göbekli Tepe, with megaliths predating Stonehenge by an impressive 7,500 years

Walk up to the World Heritage Site of Nemrut Dag, where huge statues of syncretised Greek-Persian gods and the kings of Commagene gaze imposingly from the summit of a remote peak

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

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.



Day Nine | Gaziantep - Adiyaman

We start the day today with a walk around historic **Gaziantep** and explore the **citadel**, largely built by Turkish Mamluks in the 13th – 16th centuries. The citadel itself lies on top of existing Roman walls and a Neolithic tell. The bazaars are full of copper ware, dried pepper flakes and pistachio nuts, and the mosques betray the influence of the Arab lands to the south. Indeed, Gaziantep is reminiscent of Aleppo, some 50 miles away in Syria. In the afternoon we take the long but scenic road north to overnight at Adiyaman, at the foot of 7,000-ft-high Mount Nemrut.

Day Ten | Mount Nemrut & Adiyaman

We spend the day with the rulers and monuments of the Commagenian kingdom today – beginning at the **Roman bridge at Cendere**, built by the Legio XVI Flavia Firma in the reign of Septimius Severus around AD 200, and the **Karakuş (Black Bird) Tumulus**, probably built to cover the burials of the mother, sister and niece of Antiochus' son and successor. After lunch we continue to the remote hilltop site of **Mount Nemrut** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), where Antiochus I had a monumental sanctuary constructed to promote his rule, comprising the world's largest tumulus and a collection of huge statues of the gods and of himself.

Day Eleven | Adiyaman - Şanlıurfa

This morning we journey to Şanlıurfa where we visit **Şanlıurfa Museum**, a huge complex completed in 2015 and home to a treasure trove of finds. Its exhibition halls contain a remarkable series of finds from the Neolithic sites around Şanlıurfa, as

well as a life-sized reconstruction of one of the stone circles at Göbekli Tepe, along with Assyrian, Babylonian, Hittite, Neolithic, and Bronze Age artefacts. Adjoining the main museum another large structure houses a superb collection of in-situ late-Roman/early Byzantine mosaics, once part of the palace of the rulers of the kingdom of Osroene.

Day Twelve | Göbekli Tepe & Karahan Tepe

Our morning is dedicated to the excavations at **Göbekli Tepe**, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2018. Situated on top of a rounded hill in the anti-Taurus mountains a few miles northeast of Şanlıurfa, this spectacular early Neolithic complex, an extraordinary series of structures centred on carved megaliths up to 5 metres in height, has challenged the conventional view that only settled societies could produce monumental architecture. In the afternoon we continue further east and south to the remote site of **Karahan Tepe**, where a series of circular enclosures and T-shaped monoliths (250 of them) have been uncovered. The 10-hectare site, along with Göbekli Tepe, forms one of the so called Taş Tepeler (Stone Hills) sites in the region.

Day Thirteen | Şanlıurfa

Today we explore more of Şanlıurfa. We view the **Pools of Abraham**, filled with sacred carp. It was here that Muslim teachings tell how Abraham was thrown into the fire by Nimrod, but upon landing in the fire, the flames were turned into water and the logs into fish. Şanlıurfa is Turkey's most Middle Eastern city, and we continue our exploration of this bustling place with a foray into the labyrinthine bazaar, a glass of tea in the

courtyard of an Ottoman caravanserai and ascent of the rocky citadel for splendid views of the old city.

Day Fourteen | Şanlıurfa - Istanbul

After breakfast this morning we head to Şanlıurfa airport for our return journey to the UK.

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- 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 Konya, Göreme, Adana, Gaziantep, Adiyaman, Şanlıurfa

Culinary inclusions

- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
27th Apr - 10th May	\$10,380	\$2,630
12th - 25th Oct	\$10,480	\$2,630

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

Jordan - Petra & the Desert Fortresses

Spend two days in the evocative rock-cut city of Petra

10 DAYS FROM \$5,970pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Nothing can prepare you for Petra - the scale, the colours and the grandeur. Lively, cosmopolitan and rich, with goods from every corner of the world, ancient Petra was an extraordinary city. Its streets were swathed in a fusion of Nabataean and Classical architecture - elaborate tombs, colonnaded roads and temples carved into the rose-red rock.

Day One | Amman

Meet at our hotel in Amman before we have dinner together as a group.

Day Two | Wadi Seer - Dead Sea - Amman

After a leisurely start, we head to the valley of Wadi Seer. Here we find the remains of **Qasr-al-Abd**, a well-preserved Hasmonean and rare Hellenistic period Palace. Hyrcanus of Jerusalem built the palace around 200 BCE as part of a much larger estate, that is now covered by the village of Iraq al-Emir. We then spend time both at and in the **Dead Sea**. The lowest place on earth is also the deepest hyper-saline lake in the world, over nine times

saltier than the ocean. This salinity has created a harsh environment so it is unsuitable for any plants of wildlife, hence its name. It is however, a unique experience to be able to 'float' on the Dead Sea, so we make the most of this opportunity. After our time here, we return to Amman.

Day Three | Gadara - Jerash

We explore two Roman Decapolis cities today as our adventure continues. We start off at the ancient city of **Gadara** (known today as Umm Qais), which offers views over the Golan Heights and Sea of Galilee. After lunch we continue to **Jerash** (ancient Gerasa) for the afternoon, which is set in



Image: Petra



Admire the almost lunar-like desert scenery of Wadi Rum

Discover the mighty crusader castle at Kerak, built in the 12th century

Visit Jerash, the best preserved (and Jordan's largest) Roman town in the east, a site that is home to the Oval Plaza and the Corinthian columns of the Temple of Artemis

the pine valleys of the biblical land of Gilead, and is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the east. The architecture is particularly fine, and includes the impressive 2nd-century **Hadrian's Arch**, the Corinthian columns of the **Temple of Artemis** and the Oval Plaza - framed by a magnificent colonnade - a unique feature of the Forum.

Day Four | Amman

The morning is spent in Jordan's modern capital Amman. Here we visit the **Archaeological Museum** and the citadel. The museum is home to artefacts from archaeological sites from across the country, including the Dead Sea bronze scroll written in Aramaic characters. The citadel is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in the world, and we visit the ruins of the **Roman Temple of Hercules** and the **palace of the Omayyad Caliphs**. Before lunch we visit the **Memorial Church at Mount Nebo**. In the afternoon, we make a short drive to the early Byzantine **Church of St. George in Madaba**, where we view the amazing 6th-century mosaic map of the Holy Land depicting biblical sites of the Middle East, from Egypt to Palestine. Afterwards, we spend a little time in the **Madaba Archaeological Park** before heading back to our hotel.

Day Five | Umm al-Jimal

Today we head into the eastern desert to explore the dramatic basalt city at **Umm al-Jimal**, even the doors are made of huge black slabs and some of them still operate! After lunch we travel on to the desert castles, **Qasr Azraq**, **Amra** and **al-Kharanah**, with far-reaching views over the surrounding landscape. Jordan's desert castles were so-called due to their imposing stature, but they served mainly as agriculture and trade centres, and caravan stations.

Day Six | Umm al-Rasas - Kerak

We visit the church and spectacular mosaics at **Umm al-Rasas**. A Roman and Byzantine site, the mosaics of the churches have fine depictions of the principal cities of the region. Before lunch, we have a stop at a viewpoint at Wadi Mujib. On next to the mighty crusader castle of Kerak, one of the largest in the Levantine region. Overlooking

the Dead Sea, it was built in 1132 as the first line of defence for the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem. Its position gave control of important trade routes between Damascus, Egypt and Mecca, and of the region's Bedouin herders.

Days Seven & Eight | Petra

Today is the first of two full days in **Petra**, and with the archaeological park spread across 200 square kilometres, we easily fill our time spent here as there is much to explore. Located among mountains and rugged desert canyons, this ancient capital of the Nabatean Arabs is carved directly into a mixture of sandstone cliff face, its colours a mixture of red, white and pink hence it is also known as the "Rose City". We walk into the site each day, both for the sense of discovery, and to experience the famous entrance to the ravine site, the Siq. As we wander along the colonnaded streets, we take in some of the ancient city's most significant structures, such as the world-renowned "**Treasury**" (Al-Khazneh), a temple over 40 metres in height with a truly impressive ornate façade. The Nabateans, though essentially nomadic, developed a sophisticated water technology, the remains of which we also see here during our extensive visit. Led by our expert guide, there are optional climbs on both days to Nabatean '**Monastery**' and the '**High Place**'.

Day Nine | Little Petra - Wadi Rum

This morning we visit the Neolithic site of **Beidha**, where 8th-millennium BCE houses can still be seen and the painted tomb at "Little Petra" (Siq al-Bahrid). Thought to have been an important suburb of Petra, the site includes temples, tombs, water channels and cisterns carved out of rock. We drive to **Wadi Rum**, home of the largest Roman copper mine in the empire. Here we take 4x4s through spectacular scenery, made famous by the filming of *Lawrence of Arabia*. There are also several rock art sites to be explored here. Afterwards, we head back to Amman for a farewell group dinner.

Day Ten | Amman

Our tour ends in Amman and from here we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Nick Jackson

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



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Al Qaser Metropole Hotel Amman & The Petra Moon Hotel, or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunch & 8 dinners (plus 1 snack in hotel room if arriving late evening)
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$5
23rd Mar - 1st Apr	\$6,030	\$1,130
19th - 28th Oct	\$5,970	\$1,130

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

Oman

On the frankincense trail

11 DAYS FROM \$9,140pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Oman has been a crossroads of commerce for millennia. Traders came here from Mesopotamia for copper, Petra's Nabateans for incense; Greek and Roman merchants rode the monsoon winds that blew them to India and Arab seafarers used it as a base for trade to East Africa. The sands connecting Arabia with the Mediterranean were constantly lined with the crossing of caravans that passed through trading hubs like the lost city of Ubar, a legendary city known as the 'Atlantis of the Sands' after it was swallowed by the desert of the Empty Quarter around 300 AD.

Travelling from the mountains of Muscat to the beaches of Salalah, we explore the hub of Classical Arabia Felix, the great incense city of Sumhuram, with a special drive out into the Empty Quarter to take us to the site of the lost city of Ubar, entrepot of the Frankincense trade.

Day One | Muscat

Meet the group at our hotel in Muscat.

Day Two | Muscat

We spend the day in Muscat, an ancient trading city, noted by the geographer Ptolemy in the 2nd century and at times part of the Sassanid Persian Empire. The city was centre of trade and power on the Gulf of Oman and Indian Oceans. The Portuguese held it for a century but from the 17th century it was one of the hubs of the Omani Empire and its rulers ultimately overcame the power of the Imam princes of Nizwa to rule all Oman. Visits in the morning include the **Grand Mosque** and time to wander through the labyrinthine alleyways of **Muttrah Souq**. In the afternoon we take a short drive to the **Al Alam Palace**, followed by a visit to the **National Museum of the Sultanate of Oman**, which showcases the nation's heritage from the earliest human settlement through to the present day.

Day Three | Muscat - Nizwa

Today we travel in 4x4s through date palm orchards to **Al Hazm fort Al Ayn** and the **UNESCO Site of Bat**, where we discover the extraordinary Bronze Age beehive tombs. The tombs are part of a major copper mining settlement of the Umm-an Nar culture of the 3rd millennium BCE. This region of Oman was a vital centre of early metallurgy, the ore being exported as far as Mesopotamia and smelting taking place regionally. The distinctive 'beehive' dry stone tombs form an enormous necropolis. We continue to the historic walled town of Nizwa for the night.

Day Four | Al Hamra, Wadi Ghul, Wadi Nakhar & Misfah

We drive to the atmospheric village of **Al Hamra**, nestled in the foothills of the Jabel Ahkdar. Its old multi-storied mud houses are surrounded by a vast expanse of lush green date plantations. From here we continue to **Wadi Ghul**, home of the traditional weavers of Oman, and then to **Wadi Nakhar**, Oman's



deepest canyon, to see rock art and Bronze Age tombs. Our next stop is **Misfah**, a lovely village with stone houses precariously clinging to the side of the mountain cliff where we enjoy a picnic lunch. Afterwards we explore the Falaj irrigation system.

Day Five | Wadi Tanuf, Nizwa, Jabrin & Salut

Today we make our way to **Wadi Tanuf**, set against the backdrop of the Al Hajar mountains. Here we enjoy a short walk to see rock art and Hafit (Early Bronze Age) tombs. Afterwards we explore **Nizwa**, capital of the ancient Imamate of Oman, an ancient centre of trade in the pre-desert and the birthplace of Islam. We visit the famous Round Tower Fort, built in the 17th-century, and its souq, renowned for its intricately hand-carved khanjars (daggers) and ornamental silver jewellery. After lunch we drive to **Jabrin**; more of a fortified palace than a fort, it was built in the 17th century by Bil'arub bin Sultan, one of the Imam princes of Nizwa as a retreat and became a centre of Islamic scholarship and learning. We conclude our day in **Salut**, near Bisayah, an



Follow in the footsteps of the ancient caravans as we explore rock art and a range of sites

Explore the striking Bronze Age tombs at Bat, a UNESCO World Heritage site

Enjoy beautiful contrasting landscapes from the red gold dunes of the Wahabi desert to craggy mountains and the glittering blue Arabian Sea

Discover the once-lost city of Ubar in the sands of the Empty Quarter

archaeological site home to an ancient, fortified collection of ruins and fortifications, which offer rare evidence of the development civilisations in the Arabic peninsula in the Bronze and Iron ages.

Day Six | Nizwa – Lizq - Wahiba Sands

The archaeological site of **Lizq** in Ash Sharqiyah is our first visit today. Discovered in 1979, the hill fort here has pottery similar to Early Iron Age sites. We continue to **Wahiba Sands**, a vast desert region inhabited by the Bani Wahiba, Al-Harthy and Al-Hinawy tribes. The northern part of the Wahiba is dominated by huge parallel-layered, rusty-coloured dunes. We shall spend the night at a desert camp where free of light pollution, we admire the star-studded Arabian night sky.

Day Seven | Wahiba Sands – Muscat - Salalah

This morning, we leave the desert and drive to Muscat where we catch our flight to **Salalah**, the historic centre of Dhofar and source of the frankincense trade which flourished in this region for centuries. Highly valued for its aromatic properties, frankincense was one of the most important commodities in the ancient and medieval world and its extraction was responsible for the construction of cities, forts and irrigation systems in the harsh desert environment.

Day Eight | Sumhuram, Wadi Darbat & Mirbat

Today starts at Khor Rori Creek and the ruined city of **Sumhuram**, on a bluff overlooking the sea. This was an eastern outpost of the Arabian kingdom of Hadramawt whose centre was to the west, in modern Yemen and was the capital of the frankincense trade before the coming of Islam. We visit the museum here before heading to the nature park **Wadi Darbat** for lunch while we enjoy majestic views of waterfalls, lakes, mountains, caves,

wildlife and lush vegetation. Afterwards in **Mirbat**, an important town as early as the 9th-century for its trade in frankincense, horses and slaves, we explore old houses famous for their woodcarvings. We also reflect here on the 197 military campaign in Oman, in particular the legendary battle at Mirbat. We stop at Bin Ali's Tomb, a fine example of medieval architecture, on our return to Salalah.

Day Nine | Hanum, Empty Quarter & Ubar

We start today at **Hanun**, a depot along the frankincense routes, and the nearby, 5th-century BCE triliths (groups of three stones perched together). We continue into Rub Al Khali, the empty quarter the fabled city of **Ubar** - Iram of the Pillars at Shisr. Once a crossroads of the frankincense trade across Arabia, Ubar vanished beneath the sands around AD 300 and became a place of myth and Koranic legend. Searches for the vanished city in the 20th century amongst the great dunes proved fruitless, though ancient caravan routes and tracks were occasionally revealed by drifting sands. An expedition and excavation in 1992, partly based on satellite imaging, found an ancient, fortified spring which, while clearly not the 'Atlantis of the Sands', might well be the origin of the myth. On the way back to Salalah we sit a Frankincense tree plantation.

Day Ten | Salalah - Muscat

Today we explore **Al Balid**, or the ancient port city of Zafar. It is the site of the first archaeological park in Oman and is today part of the UNESCO World Heritage Land of Frankincense. Walking around the ruins, we see remains of watchtowers, pylons of a bridge and foundations of houses, souqs and mosques. The site museum houses an excellent collection of frankincense. In the afternoon we travel through a spectacular landscape of plains, mountains, and pastureland to visit the biblical

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Nick Jackson

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



"**Nabi Ayoub**" Prophet Job's Tomb, perched high in the mountains. Afterwards we fly to Muscat for our last night.

Day Eleven | Muscat

We leave Salalah and travel to Muscat to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Muscat, Nizwa, Wahiba Desert, Salalah

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunch & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	\$5
30th Jan - 9th Feb	\$9,140	\$1,380
13th - 23rd Nov	\$9,140	\$1,380

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



From megacities to nomadic camps, mountain forts to complex monasteries and complex mausoleums to highly decorated madrasas, the archaeological heritage across Asia is vast, reflected in these fascinating tours. Much of it is undocumented and understudied while much of it can be found in remote desert, mountain or lush steppe landscapes. Exploring these sites brings an element of discovery and adventure, travelling to places far off the beaten track – indeed in some cases where there is no track at all!

We have three exciting programmes which explore the archaeology of this extraordinary region. The first discovers the ancient kingdoms of not one but two little known countries that once supported the trade routes along the Silk Road: Armenia & Georgia. The second circles the legendary cities of Samarkand, Khiva and Bukhara, once great cities that supplied the ports that punctuated the trade routes in what is now Uzbekistan. The third is our exciting adventure to Kazakhstan, a wonderful combination of rich history, unique culture and stunning landscapes.

The importance of the relationship between settlements and their surrounding areas is just one theme that we explore. At the extraordinary site of Shengavit in Armenia, for example, at a settlement that spans the 5th to the 3rd millennium BCE, we discover the extent to which urban centres fed populations who lived in the hinterlands. These archaeological sites across the continent are also important to our understanding of cultural transmissions between East and West. The Silk route, which has fascinated travellers for centuries, facilitated the passage not only of trade but of cultural exchange over vast distances. The city sites in Uzbekistan provide evidence of the trade of slaves, spices and silk as well as its concomitant exchange of ideas. Alongside the conquest of Alexander the Great, the silk route enabled the introduction of Hellenistic culture to cities in central Asia, particularly in Samarkand. In this way East really can meet West.

Join us to discover the dazzling blue-tiled cities in Uzbekistan, the staggering beauty of two countries little known to Western tourists in Armenia and Georgia and the wild steppes of Kazakhstan. Each are true once-in-a-lifetime adventures, never to be forgotten.



Learn about the ancient Georgian wine-making tradition, which involves fermenting grapes in earthenware and is now recognised by UNESCO

Enter the magnificent Bibi-Khanyam Mosque and admire the many ornate palaces in the mesmerising Silk Road city of Khiva

Get a taste of the avant-garde at the renowned Savitsky Art Museum, home to the world's second-largest collection of Russian art pieces

Visit the historic sights of Ulaanbaatar, including the National Museum of Mongolia, and discover the artefacts of the country's history, from the Neolithic to the present day

“What a varied and incredibly interesting tour! I learnt so much. I had very few expectations as to what Armenia & Georgia, would be like, except that it sounded as though it would be an interesting trip; and it was.”



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Armenia & Georgia

Explore the site of Nokalakevi with Ian Colvin

15 DAYS FROM \$8,650pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



Between Europe and Asia, the Caspian and the Black Sea, and on the ancient Silk Roads and the Scythian invasion routes stand the republics — ancient kingdoms — of Armenia and Georgia. Their location between great civilisations guaranteed them a pivotal role in world history. Yet, their varied landscapes are reason enough to visit.

Day One | Yerevan

Meet as a group at our hotel in the midst of the bustling city of Yerevan.

Day Two | Yerevan

This morning we visit the **Mother Cathedral of Echmiadzin** and the striking ruins of **Zvartnots**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This afternoon, we pay a visit to the **Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Manuscripts** and its **Matenadaran Museum**, which commemorates the creation of the Armenian alphabet.

Day Three | Yerevan

Today we drive east into the Gegham mountains to visit the World Heritage Site of **Geghard**. This 12th and 13th-century monastery is carved out of the living rock. Nearby, perched above the gorge of the Azat, stands the fortress and summer palace of **Garni** with its Graeco-Roman temple. In the afternoon, we explore **Yerevan's History Museum**, a national treasure-house of archaeological artefacts that tell the story of Armenia's long history.

Day Four | Yerevan

We begin at **Shengavit**, a settlement that spans the Chalcolithic to the Bronze Age. We continue to the museum and fortress of **Erebuni**, the ancient Urartian capital in the Araxes valley in the first

half of the 1st millennium BCE. This afternoon we have free time to explore Yerevan at our own leisure, or instead choose to pay an optional visit to the moving Genocide Museum and memorial at Tsitsernakaberd.

Day Five | Yerevan - Dilijan

This morning we travel towards Ararat. Beneath the mountain stands the monastery of **Khor Virap**. Here, King Artaxias I founded one of Armenia's ancient capitals, Artashat. Further south we visit **Areni Cave**, a fascinating archaeological site that has preserved organic materials from the 5th millennium BCE, including an ancient winery and the world's oldest shoe. We have lunch at the medieval monastery of **Noravank**, an architectural gem in a stunning valley setting. Our day ends with a drive to our hotel in Dilijan, Armenia's 'Little Switzerland'.

Day Six | Dilijan - Tbilisi

Today we visit some of Armenia's finest and best preserved monastic complexes. The 10th-13th century **Haghartsin** is hidden at the head of the wooded valley outside Dilijan, and we then travel to the impressive 12th-13th century **Goshavank** monastery in the scenic village of Gosh, which houses one of the world's finest examples of an Armenian cross-stone.



Day Seven | Tbilisi

This morning we start with a walking tour of **Old Tbilisi**, taking in the **Metekhi Church**, the **Narikala Fortress**, the **Baths district**, the **Great Synagogue**, the **Sioni Cathedral**, and the 6th-century **Anchiskhati Basilica**. After lunch, we visit the **Georgian National Museum** with its spectacular gold rooms.

Day Eight | Tbilisi

We travel to **Kakheti**, the most important of Georgia's wine-growing regions. The monastery of **Iqalto**, was founded in the late 6th century, and in the 12th century David IV 'the Rebuilder' founded an Academy here. We continue with a visit to **Tsinandali**, the 19th-century summer palace of the princely Chavchavadze family. Over lunch at a local winery, we sample the local wines and learn about the ancient Georgian 'Qvevri' wine-making tradition, which creates its unique taste.



See exquisite metalwork and jewellery from the Bronze Age

Discover the captivating history that created both Tbilisi's and Yerevan's urban centres

Enjoy the country's dramatic landscapes, from its lush sub-tropics to the semi-desert steppes

Learn about the ancient Georgian wine-making tradition, which involves fermenting grapes in earthenware and has now been recognised by UNESCO

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Ian Colvin

Ian is a researcher and historian who specialises in the Roman and Byzantine history of the Caucasus regions.



Day Nine | Tbilisi

Today is our last day in Tbilisi and we start with a visit to the **Open Air Ethnographic House Museum**. This attractive museum preserves type examples of traditional architecture from Georgia's many regions. We continue to the **National Gallery**, which displays the largest Pirosmanni collection in the world by famous Georgian painter Niko Pirosmanni. It also exhibits collections of Georgian work from the 4th century onwards.

Day Ten | Tbilisi - Borjomi

We start our day at **Mtskheta**, Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre. After visiting the 6th-century **Jvari Church**, we explore the excavations of **Armazistsikhe**. We finish at **Svetitskhoveli Cathedral**. After lunch, we visit **Gori** for the ancient rock-cut city of **Uplistsikhe** and the **Stalin Museum**. The latter preserves the museum erected by Stalin's murderous Caucasian viceroy Beria, making it a relic of the cult of Stalin and the counterpoint to the exhibition on the Soviet Occupation in Tbilisi's National Museum.

Day Eleven | Borjomi

This morning we drive past the fortress of **Khertvisi**, where we have a brief photo stop, to the medieval cave monastery of **Vardzia**. Renowned as a mustering point of Queen Tamar's armies in

her wars against the Turks, the monastery is also famous for its cycle of frescoes, including a famous depiction of Queen Tamar herself. This afternoon we return to Borjomi via **Akhaltikhe** and the **Rabati fortress**, a centre for Ottoman slaving at late as the 1820s.

Day Twelve | Borjomi - Kutaisi

We drive to Kutaisi this morning, Georgia's second city and historic capital of Imereti. Here, we visit the royal monastery and UNESCO-listed site of **Gelati**. After lunch, we have free time to explore the city.

Day Thirteen | Kutaisi - Batumi

Today we visit our Guide Lecturer's site of **Nokalakevi**. The extensive ruins of a large Byzantine-period fortress stand atop earlier archaeological levels going back through the 1st millennium BCE to at least the 3rd millennium. After a tour of the site and the small museum, we have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, we drive through the Colchian lowlands towards the Black Sea coast, arriving at Batumi.

Day Fourteen | Batumi

We start with a walking tour of **Batumi**, before visiting the Roman playing-card fort at **Apsarus**, with its small museum. After lunch, we enjoy some free time.

Day Fifteen | Batumi

Our tour ends today and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Yerevan, Dilijan, Tbilisi, Borjomi, Kutaisi & Batumi

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
1st - 15th Oct	\$8,650	\$1,190

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

Uzbekistan

Visit the UNESCO-listed sites of Bukhara and Samarkand

13 DAYS FROM \$6,780pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



“A wonderful trip, I enjoyed everything about it.
Amazing sites, expertly led, with excellent company”

Follow in the footsteps of history as we explore the sites and cities of the Silk Road, which once ran from China to Europe, with Uzbekistan right as its heart. The steppes, deserts, mountains and blue-tiled cities all tell stories of trade and conquest, and this is a journey across the country that traces the paths of those who've passed by for thousands of years.

Day One | Tashkent

Meet the group at our hotel in Tashkent. In the afternoon, we visit the **State Museum of History of Uzbekistan**. Highlights here include the remains of a prehistoric man dating from 1.5 million years BC as well as significant statues and reliefs from the country's Buddhist period. This evening, we enjoy a group dinner together.

Day Two | Tashkent

We drive to the ancient settlement of **Shahrukhiah**, the first large city of the Tashkent oases situated on the Great Silk Road through Yaksart but now hidden beneath a green and verdant mound. At first glance, the site seems similar in appearance to British hill forts but on closer inspection, the internal layout of the town can be discerned, and the scale of this extensive medieval entrepôt becomes apparent. In the afternoon we return to **Tashkent** for a walking tour. The great earthquake of 1966 devastated most of the old city and much of Tashkent was rebuilt as a model Soviet city with wide boulevards and cutting-edge architecture but there are remnants of its medieval past in “eski shakhar” or old city. We will visit **Chorsu Bazaar**, the spiritual heart of Tashkent, and **Hast Imam Square** that includes the **Tellya Sheik Mosque**.

Day Three | Tashkent - Nukus

This morning we fly west to Nukus, located in the Karakalpakstan Republic. This area of Uzbekistan

is the most remote and much of the semi-autonomous republic is desert, surrounding the increasingly desiccated Aral Sea. Its capital, Nukus, is the administrative heart of the region. On arrival we make our way to **Gyaur Kala**, the “Fortress of Infidels”, a settlement established at the time of the First Persian Empire. Its surviving mud brick walls and towers are indicative of Zoroastrian inhabitants. After lunch we continue to the Medieval city of **Mizdakhan**, site of Uzbekistan's oldest necropolis, first founded some 2,000 years ago. Still a place of pilgrimage and mysticism, the legends surrounding this settlement include that of the “World Clock”, a building that is said to shed just one brick a year. According to legend, when the last brick falls, the end of the world begins.

Day Four | Nukus - Khiva

Our day starts at the world-renowned **Savitsky Art Museum**, which hosts the world's second-largest collection of Russian avant-garde art that hangs alongside that of Socialist Realism. There are also archaeological and ethnographic objects on display. Next we travel south along the Amu River to the remote ruined tepe of **Chilpik Dakhma**, a Zoroastrian “Tower of Silence” used in funerary “sky burial” rituals until the Arab invasion of the 7th century AD. Our final destination for the day is **Khiva**, an important Silk Road city famous for its role as a slave trading post.



Day Five | Khiva

We begin with an excursion to the mighty fortresses of **Ayaz Kala**. Dramatically situated on a hilltop overlooking the Kyzylkum Desert, and erected to protect local inhabitants against nomadic attacks, these ancient strongholds were largely destroyed at the time of the Arab invasions. We continue to the abandoned city of **Toprak Kala**, a complex built by the slave-owning Khorezm, with an extended line of crumbling walls that is visible for miles around. Built in the 3rd century AD, its remains include the residences of Khorezm governors, workshops which formerly manufactured bows, and a palace with three imposing towers.

Day Six | Khiva

Today we step into a world of “Arabian Nights”, spending a whole day exploring **Khiva** on foot to enjoy its narrow alleys, graceful minarets and thriving markets. Although it was virtually destroyed by Genghis Khan, much of what was subsequently rebuilt is impressive. The first of Uzbekistan's sites to achieve World Heritage status, the city still boasts its original defensive walls and



Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Khiva, Bukhara, Samarkand and Shakhrysbaz

Get a taste of the avant-garde at the renowned Savitsky Art Museum, home to the world's second-largest collection of Russian art pieces

Travel to the ancient trade routes, where caravans of silk, spice and textiles once crossed the landscape

Enter the magnificent Bibi-Khanyim Mosque and admire the many ornate palaces in the mesmerising Silk Road city of Khiva

gates, as well as a wealth of ornate mosques and mausoleums.

Day Seven | Khiva - Bukhara

Today is dedicated to **Bukhara**, the great oasis city of Central Asia. Bukhara is unique not only because of its architectural masterpieces (of which there are plenty), but also because of its accessibility; you can wander freely from a modern hotel into a madrasah or from a local restaurant into the local quarters of courtyard houses. Formerly part of the Persian Empire, the city was seized by the Samanids in 903 AD and went on to become a significant centre for intellectualism in the Islamic world. As part of our tour, we visit the **Po-i-Kalyan** religious complex, an impressive collection of sacred buildings, so transcendent that not even Ghengis Khan could not bring himself to destroy it. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional folk show before having dinner.

Day Eight | Bukhara

We visit the site at one of Bukhara's predecessors today - the ruined city of **Poykent** which lies away from civilisation, in a seemingly deserted region around 60km southeast of Bukhara. In the past, however, this region was much more fertile, watered by the Zarafshan river. The gradual drying up of this watercourse led to the city's desertion and it provides a fine contrast to Bukhara which continued to have access to plentiful water. After a picnic lunch we return to Bukhara for further exploration of the city and some free time. Also, today we will visit the beautifully located **Mausoleum of Ismail Samani**.

Day Nine | Bukhara

We visit the site of one of Bukhara's predecessors today - the ruined city of **Poykent**. After a picnic lunch at the **Poykent Museum**, we return to Bukhara to visit the **Mausoleum of Ismail Samani**, a fine example of Samanid architecture, and the **Bolo Haus Mosque**, as well as other places of interest.

Day Ten | Bukhara - Samarkand

Today we follow the Silk Road route to **Samarkand**, on a drive east across the scenic plains of central Uzbekistan. En route, we stop at Rabat-i Malik, an 11th century caravanserai with a Persian façade matching those found on palace walls at Persepolis.

Day Eleven | Samarkand

We spend the day discovering **Samarkand**, a city associated with so many tales of the past. The sheer number of standing architectural monuments is astonishing. Among today's many highlights is the **Ulugh Beg Observatory**, a 15th-century marvel of astronomical research which was unearthed in 1908 and the stunning necropolis at **Shah i Zinda** which is a series of grand palatial tomb. We also admire Registan Square, an impressive public square bordered by three stunning madrasahs, or Islamic schools. A breath-taking monument to power and learning. Samarkand is more than a shrine of Timurid tiles, however; it has a deeper and more complex history, and we will also walk into the remains of the old **Afrasiab** that sits in a corner of the modern Samarkand, seemingly lifeless and often unnoticed by visitors.

Day Twelve | Samarkand

We begin our last full day by exploring more of central Samarkand, first visiting the restored **Gur-i-Amir Mausoleum** complex where Tamerlane was buried. We continue on to the enormous **Bibi-Khanyim Mosque**, with its magnificent columns, portals and minarets – a grand site established during the reign of Tamerlane. After lunch we return to Tashkent by high-speed train this afternoon, and upon our arrival we enjoy a farewell dinner.

Day Thirteen | Tashkent

Our tour ends in Tashkent and we continue our onward journeys.

Please note: the order of the day-by-day itinerary for this tour is subject to change, please visit our website for the latest version.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDES

Dr Peter Brown

Dr Peter J Brown is an archaeologist specialising in the medieval world across Europe and Eurasia. He has worked on, and directed, a wide variety of archaeological field projects across the Middle East, Central Asia and China and has published on topics including water management, long distance trade, and the growth of cities during the medieval period. He has held research positions at universities and archaeological institutes in the UK, the Netherlands, China and Germany. Join Peter on our 28th March departure.



Dr Katie Campbell

Katie has worked as an archaeologist for the past decade throughout Central Asia and the Middle East, and is now completing a doctorate at the University of Oxford looking at the impact of the Mongol Conquests on the cities of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Join Katie on our 11th September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Tashkent, Khiva, Bukhara & Samarkand

Culinary inclusions

- 12 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 12 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	\$5
29th Mar - 10th Apr	\$6,830	\$550 \$0
12th - 24th Sep	\$6,780	\$550 \$0

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

Kazakhstan

A varied and unique journey with rich history, culture and stunning landscapes

12 DAYS FROM \$6,520pp

Activity Level ●●●●○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Kazakhstan was the land of the Saka and many other famous tribes – home of many glorious cities and nomadic empires in the past, as well as the scene of bloody and devastating wars. From its early beginnings, this large land in the middle of Eurasia lay at the junction of Silk Roads, and housed a multitude of cultures both sedentary and nomadic. By the 15th century the first Khanates appeared, hinting at the single political entity that the country would become. Kazakhstan presents a majestic landscape – high mountains, green valleys, lake-dotted steppe, western deserts and remote underground mosques and affluent cities. Join us on a varied and unique journey, passing through the lands of the ancient residents of Kazakhstan, and tour wild steppes where nomads lived in harmony with nature.

Day One | Almaty

Meet the group at our hotel in Almaty.

Day Two | Altyn-Emel & Tamgaly-Tas

This morning, we travel north-east to **Altyn-Emel** which lies at the foothills of the Jungar Alatau mountain range. Renowned for its natural beauty the park is also home to the famous **Bes-shatyr** archaeological complex which consists of Early Iron Age burial mounds dating back to the 1st millennium BCE. These remarkable structures belong to the Saka people who dominated the Eurasian steppe, from the Black Sea to Siberia, c900-200BCE known through the writings of the ancient Greeks and Persians as fearsome warriors. Before returning to Almaty we will also visit **Tamgaly-Tas** with its enigmatic petroglyphs depicting Buddha and Burhans (Bodhisattvas) that are accompanied by Tibetan inscriptions.

Day Three | Chimbulak

We spend our morning in the mountains, a

conservation area of outstanding beauty located very close to the city. We take the cable car up to **Chimbulak** to admire the Alpine scenery and Almaty Lake surrounded by giant conifers before returning to the city for lunch. Afterwards we shall visit the **Central State Museum** which contains one of the most impressive collections in the region and provides a great background to the country's palaeontology and archaeology and the vast ethnographic sections go a long way to explain the culture of over a 100 ethnic groups residing in this country.

Day Four | Almaty - Tamgaly – Taraz

Today we leave Almaty and make the long journey to Taraz near the southern border of Uzbekistan. The journey will take most of the day, but we will make a visit to **Tamgaly** on route. This World Heritage site consists of an amazing assemblage of petroglyphs from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages and some of the best examples of the rock art anywhere in the world. It is a real gallery of



ancient art with around five thousand petroglyphs reflecting different aspects of life from the 2nd millennium BCE to early 20th century AD. We continue to Taraz, arriving in the evening.

Day Five | Akyrta & Taraz

In the morning, we visit the ruins of **Akyrtas** a site which forms part of the Serial World Heritage 'Silk Roads'. This is a unique walled settlement with extensive use of stone as a building material. Its origins are unknown, but it is probably the location of the palace of the Karluk Khans in the 8th to 10th centuries AD. In the afternoon we visit 2,000-year-old **Taraz**, another important Silk Road city, known as the city of merchants. In addition to the central remains of the medieval city, we will also view the heavily reconstructed caravanserai located on the outskirts and pay a visit to the **City Museum**.

Day Six | Shymkent

Our first site visit is to the evocative and architecturally important 12th century **Aysha Bibi**



Discover the blue-tiled wonder of the mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi

View the thousands of petroglyphs decorating the rocks at Tamgaly from the Bronze and Iron Ages

Explore the dead city of Sauran, a former hub of the Silk Road which now stands alone amidst the Kazakh Steppe

mausoleum, a small structure believed to be the tomb of 11 – 12th century noblewoman. Her identity is a mystery with no less than 28 different legends offering suggestions. We continue to Shymkent a city often associated with major dynasties of Central Asia. The regional museum provides a good review of that glorious past in and also in the South Kazakhstan region.

Day Seven | Shymkent - Otrar - Turkistan

Leaving Shymkent we make our way to **Otrar**. Once one of the great cities of the Silk Road the great mounds of the dead city stretch over a considerable area. This was where Tamerlane caught a chill and died on his way to conquer China in 1405. The site lies in the important transitional zone between the nomadic north and sedentary south and it's a location with an exceptionally significant role to play in the understanding of Central Asian history. We spend most of our day here before continuing to Turkistan.

Day Eight | Turkistan

Today is dedicated to **Turkistan** city. This centre rose to prominence following the final demise of Otrar in the 16th and 17th centuries. There are several museums and interpretation centres and great remains of the medieval bathhouses and several other archaeological sites. They are all in a walking distance from each-other and will provide a nice and relaxing day, respite in our own caravan across Kazakhstan. Our visits will also include the museum and the huge, blue-domed mausoleum commissioned by Tamerlane to cover the grave of the 11th century Sheikh Khoja Akhmet Yassawi. It resonates well with the grand scale of some of the major Timurid monuments in neighbouring Uzbekistan and the site was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003.

Day Nine | Turkistan - Sauran - Kyzylorda

We travel north-east from the city into the vast steppe to the remains of **Sauran**. This vast metropolis was once the largest city in Kazakhstan. We pass through its still standing adobe walls to visit the ruins within. In addition to tangible remains of a glorious medieval city, there is also shows clear evidence for one of the most complex kyariz (underground canal) systems in the past. In the afternoon we move on **Sygnac**, another of these desert-bound ruins. Founded in the 4th century AD, destroyed by the Mongols, it too vanished into the dunes in the 17th century. From here we continue to Kyzylorda.

Day Ten | Kyzylorda - Astana

This morning we take a flight to **Astana**, the new and shiny modern capital of Kazakhstan designed and built by some of the leading architects of the world. Situated in the vast steppe, the establishment of a city here seems almost an act of defiance against the constraints of nature. After lunch we will visit the **National Museum** a purpose built multi-storey complex with 11 major halls and with display areas designed to impress. By far the largest museum of entire Central Asian region, it simply has a lot to see.

Day Eleven | Astana

We spend a full day exploring **Astana**. Among the many fascinating sites here, we will visit some of the key architectural landmarks such as the **Bai Terek Observation Tower**, the famous landmark of Kazakhstan; the **Hezret Sultan Mosque** with its huge dome and beautiful marble interior and the **Pyramid Building** (Palace of Peace and Harmony) designed by Sir Norman Foster.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Peter Brown

Dr Peter J Brown is an archaeologist specialising in the medieval world across Europe and Eurasia. He has worked on, and directed, a wide variety of archaeological field projects across the Middle East, Central Asia and China and has published on topics including water management, long distance trade, and the growth of cities during the medieval period. He has held research positions at universities and archaeological institutes in the UK, the Netherlands, China and Germany.



Day Twelve | Astana

This morning we make our way to Astana Airport from where make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in Almaty, Taraz, Shymkent, Turkistan, Kyzylorda & Astana

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
27th Sep - 8th Oct	\$6,520	\$700 \$0

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

The Americas



Choose to make 2026 the year of exploration and discover storied monuments, incredible wildlife, bustling cities and so much more: the continents that make up the Americas are well worth a visit for any archaeological enthusiast. Here we find incredible sites nestled among truly awe-inspiring and often otherworldly landscapes, from the dramatic ruins of Machu Picchu that sit atop a mountain ridge to the sprawling Atacama Desert with its curious geoglyphs – not forgetting the maori-studded hills that cover the volcanic Easter Island.

To put this part of our world into context, the Americas are home to a vast array of pre-Columbian sites produced by peoples who were, in many ways, as sophisticated as their European counterparts. Although Incas famously didn't have wheels or an alphabet, they were able to conquer vast tracks of the continent and to produce sites as wondrous as Machu Picchu, and then the central American peoples, principally the Maya, constructed impressive cities such as the vast Chichén Itzá, which had a series of fine buildings, including temples and ball courts.

South America, meanwhile, is home to wonderful rock art, notably the Nazca lines and the geoglyphs in Chile. The former was produced in the Nazca desert in the 1,000 years between 500 BCE and AD 500 and include simple lines as well as figurative depictions of a variety of animals, including monkeys, lizards and humans. Although less famous than the Nazca lines, 5,000 geoglyphs have been found in the Atacama Desert, including geoglyphs produced between AD 500-1450 in the Cerros Pintados, as well as those found in Yervas Buena and finally the famous Atacama Giant.

Prepare to venture into the lush jungle and learn more about ancient civilisations in Guatemala, Honduras and Belize, journey amongst the sandstone cliffs and rocky canyons of Brazil's Serra da Capivara to uncover one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world, head to the iconic Easter Island to experience places seldom visited by tourists or take an in-depth tour of Mexico, spanning the fascinating museums of Mexico City to the mysteries of the tropical Yucatán Peninsula. Wherever you choose to explore, you're sure to tick off a few more items on your must-see list!



Enjoy the wonder and fascination of prehistoric rock art in situ precisely where the artist intended it to be

Journey through the Atacama Desert, declared the world's driest by NASA after a series of in-depth studies

Explore Easter Island, the most remote piece of land inhabited on the planet, and visit an array of sites where the curious moai can be seen in situ

Travel in 4x4s and then by motor-launch boat to the remote site of Yaxchilán, famous for its architecture

Explore the ball court, observatory, sacred well and the great pyramid of Kukulcan at the awe-inspiring city of Chichén Itzá

“I thoroughly enjoyed my tour, particularly the time on Easter Island which is somewhere I have always wanted to visit. Local Tour Guides and Tour Manager were excellent and, like most Andante tours, my fellow travellers were a very agreeable bunch who I enjoyed spending time with.”



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Brazil – Rock Art & the Pantanal

Unveiling the mysteries of the Serra da Capivara

14 DAYS FROM \$21,070pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Visit two remote regions only just opening up to mainstream tourism and enjoy them whilst they remain unsullied by crowds

Enjoy the wonder and fascination of prehistoric rock art in situ precisely where the artist intended it to be

Examine a remarkable assemblage of prehistoric art depicting wild animals and human figures skirmishing, dancing and hunting

Discover the rich flora and fauna of the Pantanal, the world's largest inland wetland area

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



In a remote corner of northeast Brazil, amongst the sandstone cliffs, rocky canyons and deep valleys of the Serra da Capivara, there are hundreds of prehistoric sites. Pedra Furada meaning 'perforated rock' was the first site to be excavated here by Brazilian archaeologist, Niède Guidon and her findings caused uproar, challenging the Clovis theory that Homo sapiens arrived in the Americas 12,000 years ago. According to UNESCO, in light of these findings, the region represents one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world, and an outstanding testimony to one of the oldest human communities in South America.

Led by Dr Paul Bahn, this is a very special tour indeed, taking us to prehistoric sites seldom seen by foreign travellers. We meet site archaeologists who will bring us up to date on the latest developments connected with these amazing discoveries and travel into the park by off road vehicle to see as much of the area as possible. We may catch sight of some of the animals depicted so beautifully in the rock art—armadillos, anteaters, ocelots, guans, agoutis, lizards, red deer, wild pigs, as well as a variety of birdlife.

After our brush with prehistory, we journey from one remote region to another flying south and travelling into the Pantanal, one of the most biologically rich environments on the planet, saturated with wildlife and an absolute gem for photographers and naturalists alike. Here we search for jaguar, giant otter, anteaters, capybara, hyacinth macaw and much more.

Day One | Rio de Janeiro

Meet the group in the hotel for lunch, then later in the afternoon we will take a trip up to Corcovado Mountain, home to the iconic art deco monument of **Christ the Redeemer**. We end our day with a trip to iconic **Sugarloaf Mountain**, which towers above Guanabara Bay. Travelling to the top by cable car, there are breathtaking 360-degree views over Rio.

Day Two | Rio de Janeiro – Petrolina

This morning we visit Rio's historic centre, where modern skyscrapers mingle with colonial and Belle

Epoque-era architecture. We explore two of its museums: the **Museu Histórico**, housed in a former arsenal and by contrast, the ultra-modern **Museum of Tomorrow**. In the late afternoon we return to the airport in time for our flight to Petrolina and the start of our journey north. Arriving late tonight, we transfer to our hotel in town, situated in front of the legendary Saint Francisco river.

Day Three | Recife - São Raimundo Nonato

Today we make the long journey west across country to the town of **São Ramundo Nonato**. For



much of the journey we drive alongside the huge lake of the Sobradinho Dam and travel through wine making country. We have lunch at our hotel in town and afterwards drive the short distance to the **Museum of American Man**, which showcases the work of decades of research alongside precious finds. Tonight, we spend the first of four nights at the Serra di Capivara hotel, newly constructed at the edge of the park to accommodate visitors to the sites.

Continued...



Day Four | Serra da Capivara

We spend the next five days exploring the extraordinary sites of the **Serra da Capivara**. Over 300 archaeological sites have been found within the park, the majority decorated with paintings, some more than 25,000 years old. Numerous circuits and trails have been created in order to access them and we start our exploration with the site of **Boqueirão Pedra Furada**, a huge geological structure discovered by Niède Guidon. An extremely important site surprising in the unique chronological range it covers: a stratigraphy of, at least 60,000 years of human occupation, in addition to traces of animals such as sabre-toothed tigers and giant sloths. During the 10 years of initial excavation of the site, several lithic artefacts were found (spearheads, half-moon axes, flaked stone blades etc.), structured bonfires, coprolites, cave paintings and various marks of human occupation. Our rock art circuit for the day also includes the sites of **Toca do Sítio do Meio** and **Toca da Fumaça**. We end our day with a visit to the **Serra da Capivara Ceramics Project**, created in 1994 to support the local economy with the artisanal production of pottery, decorated with rock art

paintings found on the sandstone cliffs of the archaeological sites.

Day Five | Serra da Capivara

After breakfast we travel into the park to walk the **Cicuito Serra Branca route**. This is an area where the manicobeiros lived, extracting latex from the manicoba tree during the rubber boom of the late 19th century. Here we view the rock art at numerous sites including Toca do Vento, Toca do Mulungu, Toca do Caboclo da Serra Branca, Toca da Extrema, Toca do João Arsená, Toca do Veado, Toca Pingo de Boi and Sítio Andorinhas. Towards the end of the day we make our way to **Canyon Andorinhas** to take in the panoramic view and if we are very lucky see a murmuration of swallows, for which the canyon is named, as they gather to roost for the night.

Day Six | Serra da Capivara

Our visits today include Toca da Entrada do Pajaú I and II, small shelters with dozens of paintings portraying the daily activities of prehistoric people. We also see Toca do Barro, Sítio Desfiladeiro and Toca do Papagaio, the first site to be catalogued by

researchers and where two skeletons were found, dating to over 7,000 years old.

Day Seven | Serra da Capivara

On our last full day in the reserve, we walk up to Toca da Entrada do Baixão da Vaca, a 100m long shelter where there are hundreds of cave paintings, many of them clearly visible. We also take in two sites on the Hombu Trail (Hombu means 'come see') – Toca da Ema do Sítio do Brás I and II.

Day Eight | Serra da Capivara - Recife - Brasília

This morning we take the **Serra Vermelha Circuit** and visit **Sítio Três Perna**. After an early lunch we make our way back to Petrolina airport, where we overnight, ready for onward travel to the **Pantanal** the following morning.

Day Nine | Brasília - Cuiabá - Pantanal

We begin the second part of our tour and fly to Cuiabá this morning. Founded by gold prospectors in the 18th century, the city sits on the Cuiabá River, a tributary of the mighty Paraguay and the gateway to the northern Pantanal, the world's largest freshwater wetland. From here we drive along



the Transpantaneira, deep into the Pantanal. The wetlands are comprised of a patchwork of different ecosystems – dense woodland, open savannah and rainforest.

Day Ten | Pantanal

We take a sunrise safari, our best chance of seeing the giant anteater as it searches for food before returning to the lodge for our own breakfast later in the morning. We leave this region today and set off for Porto Jofre, where we transfer to our houseboat permanently moored on the Piquiri river bank. We spend two nights here.

Day Eleven | Pantanal

The Pantanal is best known for its incredible jaguar viewing. This is best achieved by manoeuvrable boat in the northern part of the wetlands, where the cats have the habit of hunting along the riverbanks. We take morning and afternoon boat trips out on the wetland searching for jaguars and spotting other wildlife.

Day Twelve | Pantanal

After breakfast, we transfer to Porte Jofre and travel back along the Transpantianiera to Puival. The journey

takes us most of the day as we travel back through this incredible wilderness. On the way we enjoy the fauna of this very diversified environment, looking for Hyacinthine Macaws, Seriemas, howler monkeys, toucans, finches and flycatchers.

Day Thirteen | Pantanal

Our day is spent hunting for wildlife, walking from the lodge or adventuring out by vehicle. There is no shortage of wildlife viewing opportunities here from the brightly-coloured macaws which dart amongst the tree canopy to the comical capybara who frequent the wetlands. Other wildlife highlights include giant anteaters, giant otters, tapirs and jabiru storks and a vast range of other tropical birds.

Day Fourteen | Pantanal - Cuiabá

Our adventures in the wild come to an end and we travel back along the Transpantianiera to Cuiabá airport. The journey will take us most of the day as we travel back through this incredible wilderness to the tarmacked road which will speed us to Cuiabá airport, from where we make our independent onward journeys.

**YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT
GUIDED TOUR 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 Orla Copacabana Hotel, Rio de Janeiro; Hotel Serra da Capivara; San Marco Hotel, Brasília; Pousada Piuval, Pantanal; Transpantanal Houseboat, Pantanal; Hotel in Cuiabá airport

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
10th - 23rd June	\$21,070	\$2,160

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

Chile & Easter Island

Discover some of the world's most enigmatic rock art

14 DAYS FROM \$15,090pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





Discover extraordinary geoglyphs and petroglyphs among truly unforgettable and often lunar-like landscapes

Explore Easter Island, the most remote piece of land inhabited on the planet, and visit an array of sites where the curious moai can be seen in situ

Visit a selection of fascinating regional museums, which house exhibitions that showcase the likes of wooden carvings and the Chichorro Mummies

Journey through the striking Atacama Desert, declared the world's driest by NASA after a series of in-depth studies

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Paul Bahn

The world's leading archaeologist on prehistoric rock art, Paul is one of our best-known Guide Lecturers.



An adventure awaits, travelling across the globe with an international expert to see some of the most enigmatic rock art in the world – situated in vast and often remote landscapes. Venture down the coast of northern Chile into the Atacama Desert before flying back over the Pacific to the iconic site of Easter Island to discover places seldom visited by tourists.

Day One | Santiago

We meet as a group for lunch and then in the afternoon we visit the **Museo de Arte Precolombino**, which houses a world-class collection of Latin American antiquities. Begun by Chilean architect and antiques fanatic Sergio Larraín García-Moreno, it displays many interesting artefacts that have been selected specifically for their aesthetic qualities. Highlights here include Mapuche funeral carvings and an entire room of beautiful prehistoric textiles.

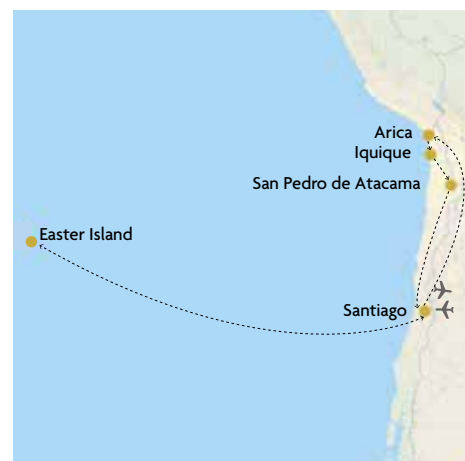
Day Two | Santiago – Arica

We make our way over to Vina del Mar this morning to visit the **Museo de Arqueología e Historia Francisco Fonck**. The museum is an excellent taster to Easter Island archaeology with its display of an original island statue (moai) as well as numerous artefacts and even an exhibition on the process of shrinking heads. After lunch we enjoy a walking tour of the quirky town of **Vaplaraiso**. Built on dozens of cerros (hills) that create a natural

amphitheatre overlooking the sea, the city served as Chile's main harbour for centuries and is often referred to as the 'Jewel of the Pacific'. After dinner tonight we take the late flight to Arica and transfer to our hotel.

Day Three | Arica – Azapa Valley

Today we explore the culture and history of the Chichorro people. In the morning, we visit **Colón 10**, a burial ground of the Chichorro, discovered in 2008. Interestingly, the museum was built directly over the burial ground, so some of the excavated skeletons have remained in situ. Afterwards we visit the **San Miguel Archaeological Museum**, home to the famous **Chichorro Mummies**, preserved for several millennia by the dry heat of the desert. Modern analysis of the mummies has revealed them to be semi-nomadic people subsisting on the sea. Astonishingly, the oldest body predates the Egyptian mummies by some 3,000 years. Later we cross the stark oasis of the **Azapa Valley** to view the spectacular rock art still visible on the hillsides – a vivid assortment of human figures and animals.



Day Four | Arica - Iquique

This morning our journey takes us through the **Atacama Desert**, the driest desert in the world according to studies by NASA. Parts of this region have never received even one drop of rain. We stop at **Tiliviche** and **Chiza** to see the sprawling human and llama geoglyphs here, thought to have been created as a guide to caravans descending from the mountains to the coast. Before we arrive at our hotel we also explore the **El Gigante del Atacama**, the world's largest prehistoric depiction of a human. *Continued...*



Day Five | Iquique

We take time to relax this morning with a boat trip into the Pacific from Iquique harbour, where we look out for pelicans, sea-lions and endangered Humboldt penguins. After lunch, there is an atmospheric tour of the 'ghost town' of **Humberstone**, a former saltpetre mining town that was abandoned in 1960 and has since been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fertiliser sodium nitrate produced here transformed agriculture in North and South America and Europe, producing great wealth for Chile.

Day Six | Iquique – San Pedro de Atacama

After breakfast, we drive to **Cerro Pintados** to view geoglyphs scattered for miles along the hillsides. More than 450 figures have been discovered here, with over 60 restored so far; the largest collection of its kind anywhere in South America. Once we have finished observing the numerous geometric shapes and figures here, we visit **Quillagua** and its small museum before continuing to San Pedro de Atacama, an oasis village surrounded by spectacular volcanic scenery – one of Chile's most beloved destinations. Nearby geysers and bizarre rock formations add to the town's otherworldly atmosphere.

Day Seven | Yerbos Buenas – Salar de Atacama

Today we drive to the **Yerbos Buenas**, located in Chile's geographical centre. Amongst the impressive rocky outcrops, we see petroglyphs carved by the

Atacameño people in an area important to herders, traders and travellers for millennia. More than 1,000 images are visible here, including depictions of alpaca and llama, flamingos, foxes and other predators. The afternoon is free to spend how you wish, either relaxing at the hotel, exploring Pedro de Atacama or joining an optional excursion which can be arranged through our Local Guide. One of the most popular is to the extraordinary Atacama Salt Flat, located about 60 kilometers south of San Pedro.

Day Eight | Valle de la Luna - Santiago

This morning, we spend some time among the amazing lunar landscapes of the **Valle de la Luna**. This colourful and textured valley contains unusual wind-carved formation, contorted caverns, dry lakes and vast dry lakes that gleam with salt. After lunch we return to the airport for our late afternoon flight to Santiago. We overnight close to the airport tonight to be ready for our onward travel to Easter Island.

Day Nine | Santiago – Easter Island

The next part of our adventure begins as we fly across the ocean to enigmatic **Easter Island**, one of the most isolated locations on the planet. Our explorations start with a preliminary walk around Hanga Roa, the island's capital and harbour, as well as its only town. This calm and compact settlement is home to most of the island's 5,000 inhabitants.

Day Ten | Easter Island

Our first full day on Easter Island begins with a trip to our first moai at **Ahu Tahai**, where these monolithic human figures stand – one with its giant coral eyes replaced. Three ceremonial platforms remain on this site, which were restored by the late American archaeologist, Dr William Mulloy. We continue on to the nearby **Museo Antropológico Sebastian Englert** to learn the story behind the moai and their discoverers. Here we see the only female moai to have been discovered, as well as an original moai eye. This afternoon we explore sites on the southern coast: **Ahu Vaihu**, where the moai lie face down with broken necks, **Akahanga**, an unrestored platform near which the island's first king is said to be buried and **Hanga Tetenga**, where tumbled statues rest amidst scattered rocks.

Day Eleven | Rano Raraku & Papa Vaka

After breakfast we journey to the quarry at **Rano Raraku**, where many unfinished moai are still standing in situ. The site was in use until the 18th century, supplying stone for around 97% of the island's moai over a time frame of approximately 500 years. The biggest moai in existence lies here incomplete, and measures a staggering 21.6 metres from end to end. Following this we visit the longest line of standing statues at **Tongariki**, the largest Ahu on the island, where we find the world's heaviest re-erected moai, weighing in at an almost inconceivable 86 tonnes. After a picnic lunch at Rano Raraku, our day concludes with a viewing of the rock carvings at **Papa Vaka**. Here we see marine



petroglyphs carved into the basalt, including a remarkable depiction of a squid.

Day Twelve | Rano Kau, Vinapu & Puna Pau

This morning we make our way to the restored moai in the harbour of **Hanga Piko**, and to **Ana Kai Tangata** (the name of which translates to ‘cannibal cave’), situated directly on the sea-front. We continue to **Rano Kau**, a wide volcano within which lies a crater lake, as well as a fertile landscape nurturing figs and luscious vines. Here we visit the **Orongo ceremonial village**, perched magnificently on the crater’s edge, beside a sheer 300-metre cliff. Looking out across the water we see the offshore islet of **Motu Nui**, final destination for competitors in the annual Birdman swimming race, the first prize of which was to rule Easter Island for a year. We then head out to the ruined platforms of **Vinapu** which feature the finest stonework on the island. After lunch we visit the lava cave at **Te Pahu**, a tunnel formed many thousands of years ago, during the last local lava spill. Our next stop is **Ahu Akivi**, another inland platform whose seven identical statues seem to have been carefully placed to mark both spring and autumn equinoxes. Next, we stop to enjoy **Ahu Huri a Urenga**, an inland platform with an astronomical orientation and a single moai with four hands. Finally we visit the quarry at **Puna Pau**, an extinct volcano and source of the huge red cylindrical stone top-knots seen on the heads of many moai. The rock here is soft, easy to carve and

is given its colour by the high iron content. A climb to the sides of the crater rewards us with wonderful views of Hanga Roa.

Day Thirteen | Easter Island – Santiago

Before we leave Easter Island this afternoon, we visit two final sites. The first is **Te Pito te Kura**, the site of a bizarre magnetic stone as well as the largest moai to be transported from Rano Raraku and, lastly, but by no means least, the detailed carved figures of the royal platform of **Ahu Nau Nau**. After lunch we transfer to the airport and catch our return flight to Santiago.

Day Fourteen | Santiago

We make the most of our last day and take a trip out of the city to the Santa Rita Vineyard. Here we not only admire the old hacienda-style Estate house, enjoy a tour and wine tasting but we also visit the on-site museum, the Museo Andino. Housing a once privately owned collection, this new museum houses around 3,000 archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, created by Pre-Columbian peoples. Later this afternoon we transfer to the airport to make our independent onward journeys.

**YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT
GUIDED TOUR 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 Magnolia, Hotel Antay, Gavina Sens & Conference Centre, Hotel Poblado Kimal, Holiday Inn Santiago & Hotel O'tai or similar

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
29th Jan - 11th Feb	\$15,090	\$1,810

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Peru

Moche, Chimu and Inca

18 DAYS FROM \$15,340pp

Activity Level ●●●●○





Experience world-renowned Machu Picchu after the crowds start to disperse and again at daybreak before it gets busy

Cross the Peruvian Andes on one of South America's most spectacular rail journeys from Cusco to Puno

Visit the famous floating reed settlements of the Uros people on beautiful Lake Titicaca

Experience traditional Andean culture at the healers market at Chiclayo and amongst the weavers at Huilloc

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Luis A. Muro Ynoñán

Luis A. Muro Ynoñán is a Peruvian anthropological archaeologist specialising in the archaeology and heritage of the Moche. He is currently Assistant Curator of South American Anthropology at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and a Lecturer in Archaeology at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in Lima.



Many people visit only the Highlands and the Sacred Valley in Peru but anyone with an interest in the past would feel disappointed if they did explore a little further, for the sites preserved along the Pacific coast are amongst the most extraordinary in the world. Our tour combines pre-Inca culture and the famous sites of the Sacred Valley.

Day One | Lima

Meet the group in Lima at our hotel.

Day Two | Lima

Today is for acclimatisation and gentle exploration of Lima. We head to the Pueblo Libre District and visit the **Larco Museum**, an eighteenth-century Viceregal mansion that houses more than 3,000 years of Peru's pre-Columbian history. The museum boasts a supremely fine collection of gold and silver jewellery and worship paraphernalia that demonstrates the superb skill of ancient Peruvian gold and silversmiths. In the afternoon we enjoy a walking tour of the city visiting the Main Square, Plaza e Armas, Lima Cathedral, the San Francisco Convent and its catacombs.

Day Three | Lima – Trujillo

We take a flight to **Trujillo** where we arrive mid-morning. After lunch, we take a short drive to the site where the ancient Moche city lies beneath the plain. The complex is dominated by two huge adobe brick buildings: the Pyramid of the Sun (sadly too fragile to access) and the Temple of the

Moon. The imagery associated with human sacrifice is very strong here and in particular, there are striking multi-coloured murals found which depict a fearsome 'Decapitator God' who in Moche art is regularly connected with sacrifice. We visit the site museum which helps to explain the considerable amount of work that has gone on here in recent years and also displays some very impressive objects.

Day Four | Trujillo

Our first visit this morning is the **Temple of the Rainbow Dragon**, a few miles north of Trujillo city. One of the oldest pyramidal temples in the Moche Valley, it is considered to be the first settlement of the Wari culture which flourished from AD 500 to AD 800. These people, still relatively little known, added many elements to Andean civilisation that would later be taken up and developed further by the Incas. Next, we visit **Chan Chan**, the imperial capital of the Chimú people. This adobe city contains vast royal compounds, reservoirs and acres of baked clay architecture which would have been spectacular in its day. We visit the well-preserved

Tschudi compound and later this afternoon, the **UNT** (National Museum of Archaeology, Anthropology and History). Housed in a beautiful 17th-century former mansion, we see collections from the Chimú, Mochica and Incan Empires.

Day Five | Trujillo – Sipán - Chiclayo

We drive north this morning to **El Brujo**. This group of sites, very close to the sea, is truly impressive with excavations revealing ceremonial palace structures and life-size friezes of chained captives. In recent years a discovery was made of the tomb of a heavily tattooed lady ruler, known as the **'Senora de Cao'**, who now has her own small museum and exhibition. After lunch, we continue north to **Sipán** located in the Lambayeque Valley. The site was discovered in 1987 and contained intact royal tombs of the Moche civilisation. The most famous discovery was the tomb of the "Lord of Sipán," a Moche ruler buried with extraordinary riches and accompanied by several sacrificed individuals.

Continued...



Day Six | Sipán & Chiclayo

Today we visit the **Royal Tombs of Sipán Museum**, specifically built to showcase the treasures found at the Sipán burial sites. Layer upon layer of personal jewellery and ritual objects are on display and we spend most of our morning here exploring this world-class museum. Later we have time to wander through the extensive markets of Chiclayo, which include a whole section devoted to brujos or witchdoctors.

Day Seven | Chiclayo - Cusco - Pisac

This morning we fly to Cusco via Lima. We arrive in the Inca capital in the mid-afternoon and transfer to **Pisac**, a small town at the eastern end of the Sacred Valley where Incan and colonial influences have blended to create a unique way of life for the local inhabitants. Sitting at an elevation of approximately 2950 meters, it offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Andean mountains and the Urubamba River that flows through the valley. We take the remainder of the day to acclimatize and relax, as we are at a high altitude now.

Day Eight | Pisac

After a leisurely morning and an early lunch, we visit some of the local artisan markets in Pisac before heading to the **Archaeological Park**, which sits on a mountain ridge above the modern town.

These archaeological remains include agricultural terraces, ceremonial centres, a temple complex and what archaeologists believe was an astronomical observatory.

Day Nine | Huilloc & Ollantaytambo

This morning we get a taste of real Andean culture by visiting the Community of **Huilloc** home to a group of families who keep their ancestral traditions very much alive. Most of the men from this community make a living by working as porters on the Inca trail and are known as huayruros, for the characteristic red and black of their traditional clothing. The women are outstanding weavers known for the high quality of their work. We continue from here to **Ollantaytambo**, one of the last redoubts of the Incas that was strongly protected by a massive fortress. We explore this enormous archaeological complex, which was once a tambo (place of rest) used by parties on royal Inca business to break their journey as they travelled vast distances.

Day Ten | Chinchero & Moray

In the morning, we travel to the beautiful site of **Chinchero**. Originally the private estate of the ruler Topa Inca, it possesses impressive carved rock outcrops, sweeping Inca terraces and a painted early Colonial church that incorporates a large Inca hall. We also make a specially arranged visit

to a local family to witness a demonstration of traditional weaving. We continue to **Moray** and its extraordinary circular terrace systems, the exact purpose of which is still much debated.

Day Eleven | Machu Picchu

We board the train for **Machu Picchu** and travel along the Urubamba River to Aguas Calientes. This small town is situated directly below the site. After lunch, we ascend the mountain by shuttle bus to spend the rest of the afternoon amongst the ruins, when the bulk of tourists will be heading back to Cusco. We return to Aguas Calientes in the late afternoon and check into our overnight hotel.

Day Twelve | Aguas Calientes - Ollantaytambo - Cusco

We return to **Machu Picchu** early in the morning to enjoy more time at this precariously perched city, once the estate of the first emperor of the Incas, Pachacutec. After our site visit, we continue our journey by train from Ollantaytambo to Cusco.

Day Thirteen | Cusco

We start our exploration of this fabulous Inca city with a visit to the **Coricancha** - or Temple of the Sun, the Incas' most sacred shrine. Legend has it that its inner walls were once completely lined with gold. We also explore the Spanish parts of the city taking in the cathedral and its lovely atria



and priceless 17th and 18th-century paintings, the **church of San Blas**, the **Casa Cabrera** and the main Colonial buildings around the Plaza Nazarenas

Day Fourteen | Cusco

This morning, we explore the great fortress of **Sacsayhuaman**, its massive walls constructed from huge blocks of limestone that were dragged from nearby quarries by thousands of workers, paying their labour tax to the Inca state. From here we travel a short distance to the site of **Q'enqo**, built of comparably worked stone but a smaller, sacred site where observations were made of the movements of planets and stars and on to **Tambomachay**, where we discover its aqueducts and canals. Returning to Cusco in the afternoon, the **Casa Concha Machu Picchu Museum**.

Day Fifteen | Cusco - Puno

Today we depart on one of South America's most spectacular rail journeys from Cusco to Puno, the gateway town to Lake Titicaca. Travelling approximately 236 miles across the Peruvian Andes, the journey typically takes about 10-11 hours, departing in the morning and arriving in the evening. The scenery along the route is breathtaking.

Day Sixteen | Lake Titicaca

Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable body of water in the world and forms a unique environment that, despite its seemingly hostile elevation, has been densely occupied for many centuries. We take a boat trip out into the lake to discover some of the remarkable floating islands of the Uros people. These human-made islands are constructed entirely from totora reeds that grow abundantly in the lake's shallows.

Day Seventeen | Puno - Lima

In the morning we drive to the impressive burial towers at **Sillustani**. These cylindrical and square towers are scattered across a peninsula jutting into Lake Umayo. The most impressive reach heights of up to 12 metres and date primarily from between 1300-1500 BCE, though the site contains burial structures spanning multiple periods. What makes these towers architecturally remarkable is their distinctive conical shape and construction from blocks of dark volcanic stone. In the afternoon we fly from Juilica to Lima for our final night of the tour.

Day Eighteen | Lima

Our tour ends today and we make our independent onward journeys.

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- 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 Lima, Trujillo, Chiclayo, Pisac, Aguas Calientes, Cusco, Puno

Culinary inclusions

- 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 17 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	\$S
2nd - 19th Sep	\$15,340	\$1,750

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

Guatemala, Honduras & Belize

Explore the magnificent civilisation of the Maya

16 DAYS FROM \$16,730pp

Activity Level ●●●○○





At daybreak, walk among Tikal's magnificent ancient temples and climb their steps as the sun rises over the horizon

Observe endemic wildlife, from howler monkeys to macaws and eagles

Tour the well-preserved buildings of Antigua, a UNESCO-listed city that was largely destroyed by an earthquake in 1773

Discover the Mayan culture amongst the quiet villages and spectacular scenery of the Guatemalan mountains

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Nicholas James

Author of "Aztecs & Maya",
Nicholas graduated from Oxford
and now teaches at Cambridge.



The juxtaposition of extreme cruelty and high cultural sophistication in the Maya world takes modern visitors by surprise but this enduring mystery of a magnificent civilisation, compounded by exotic jungle surroundings, make for a thrilling 'page-turner' of a tour. We now have intricate details of the lives, politics, religious rituals and wars of the all-powerful and colourful figures who were the Mayan aristocracy. A vivid picture has emerged of competitive city-states headed by aggressive dynasts regularly at war, with blood-letting and human sacrifice at the centre of their religious practice.

Much of Central America is still covered in lush rainforests as it would have been in most of the Maya period. This makes it easier to imagine the lives of these fascinating people as we venture through the jungle, listening out for the roar of howler monkeys high in the canopy and looking for the flash of brilliant colour that denotes macaws darting among the branches. Here, we are in a land of quetzal birds and jaguars, of volcanoes, lakes and waterfalls.

Day One | Antigua Guatemala

Meet the group at our hotel in Antigua Guatemala and enjoy dinner together.

Day Two | Antigua Guatemala

Today is ours to explore the beguiling city of **Antigua**, Guatemala's candy-coloured capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, we receive an introduction to the region – in a city renowned for its Spanish colonial buildings, its vibrantly patterned textiles and dramatic backdrop of looming volcanoes. Today's Antigua is the third incarnation of the city, established on this land in the 16th century after the first incarnation was uprooted by native uprisings, and the second devastated by volcanic mudflow. From markets to churches, with tales of ground-breaking earthquakes in between, learn all about Antigua's colourful past. It's a city made for walking: cobbled streets are arranged in a grid pattern with the imposing Volcán de Agua to

the south and the twin peaks of Volcán de Fuego and Acatenango to the west.

Day Three | Antigua Guatemala – Iximche – Lake Atitlan

Leaving Antigua Guatemala, we return to Guatemala City to visit the **National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology**. This museum was first founded in the late 19th century, and houses one of the most important collections of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican artefacts in the world – over 20,000 pieces in total, which offer an unparalleled glimpse into Guatemalan history. From here we drive to the small site of **Iximche**, once capital of the Highland Cakchiquel people, situated on a pine-forrested plateau at an altitude of 7,000 feet. The ruins are made up of four central plazas, each containing between one and three temples, a number of surrounding palaces and several smaller platforms believed to have been used for ceremonial



rites. It remains an important ceremonial site for indigenous pilgrims. Afterwards, we continue to Lake Atitlan.

Day Four | Lake Atitlan

We explore some of the villages along the shores of **Lake Atitlan**, high in the mountains of central Guatemala. Its spectacular setting and deep blue water has long been a draw for artists, writers and travellers. Aldous Huxley compared it to Lake Como but "... with the additional embellishment of several immense volcanoes. It is really too much of a good thing." Although ancient Maya civilisation perished, Maya culture persists in the quiet villages along the shoreline and in the mountains where old customs and costumes still prevail. In the afternoon we shall take a boat trip on the lake.

Continued...





Day Five | Lake Atitlán – Chichicastenango – Antigua Guatemala

This morning we drive to **Chichicastenango** in time to experience the market which takes place here twice a week. The town has been a main trading centre for hundreds of years and people throughout the Quiché region come here to buy and sell their produce and handicrafts. The streets are filled with stalls selling textiles, handicrafts, wood carvings, pottery and jewellery in the streets around the main square. In the middle of Chichicastenango is Santo Tomás, a 400-year-old church built on a Pre-Columbian temple platform. Its 18 stairs each represent one month of the Mayan calendar, and this is where you see the combination of pagan and Catholic rites in practice as offerings are presented to pagan deities outside the church and Catholic rituals are made within. After our visit we return to Antigua Guatemala for our last night there.

Day Six | Antigua – Copán, Honduras

A travelling day today as we leave Antigua Guatemala and make the long journey east to Copán, situated just over the border in neighbouring Honduras. We break the journey at the riverside town of Rio Hondo, set amidst farmlands of mango, lime and avocado groves.

Day Seven | Copán

Today is dedicated to the extensive ruined city of **Copán**. Though initially discovered in 1570, the ruins of Copán were not excavated until the 19th century. They are now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and are much admired for their Hieroglyphic Stairway, upon which the longest inscribed Maya text can still be viewed. We wander the stone ruins, viewing ancient tombs, the grand Monument Plaza, and the magnificent ball court, where an early precursor to the modern game of

basketball was played – a site of great cultural and spiritual significance.

Day Eight | Copán - Petén

Today we head back across the border for a tour of the ancient city of **Quirigua**, which lies 30 miles north of Copán, as the crow flies, and is thought to have been inhabited from 200 AD. It is best-known for its gigantic carved stelae, the largest of them, Stelae E, weighs over 60,000 tonnes. Although some are in poor condition, the carved detail which can be depicted is quite extraordinary. The Great Plaza here is also the largest known public space in the entire Maya region. The reason behind the city's decline remains a subject of much speculation. Later, we make the long journey to the attractive, laid-back town of Flores on Lake Petén, connected to the mainland by causeway. This is the main base for those visiting Tikal or the more remote areas of Petén.

Day Nine | Tikal

Our focus for today is nothing less than the mighty Tikal, an incomparable Maya metropolis that was occupied continuously from 800 BCE to AD 900. The **Tikal National Park** is an enormous site – its central section alone contains over 3,000 buildings – and still only a small portion has been excavated. This includes steep pyramids, palaces, ball courts, huge plazas, temples, shrines and paved causeways. The finds from these vast excavations are housed in the **site museum**, which offers plenty of extra historical and archaeological insight that bring this ancient civilisation vividly to life.

Day Ten | Tikal

With so much to see at this fascinating site, we continue our discovery of **Tikal**. Toucans and parrots caw from hanging vines, wild turkeys scrub around the bush, monkeys howl from the tropical canopy and crickets vibrate in unison.

We take ourselves to the heart of this enchanting spectacle, climbing the highest jungle temple. In the afternoon, we have some free time to relax at our hotel.

Day Eleven | Petén - Yaxhá - Topoxte - Belize

This morning we drive to the once-thriving city of **Yaxhá**, a former ceremonial centre of the pre-Columbian Maya. Though still little-known archaeologically, Yaxhá is one of the greatest Maya sites and it retains its original pre-Hispanic name meaning blue-green water - yax-ha. Lying on a series of natural hills above the north shore of Lake Yaxhá, the site centre contains more than 500 structures including some massive pyramid temples and a large number of residential buildings for the nobility. After a picnic lunch, we enjoy a boat trip to the important Maya site of **Topoxte**, first discovered in 1904. We visit the archaeological ruins here, for a Middle Preclassic encounter. After our full day of exploration, we travel across the border into Belize.

Day Twelve | Xunantunich & Cahal Pech

On our first morning in Belize, we visit **Xunantunich** – a destination where well-known Maya stucco friezes depict dancing figures and ropes thought to signify those held by women in labour. The site dates back to the Preclassic period but, as usual at Maya sites, most of the visible buildings and the 8 stelae found here are from the Late Classic. It was only recently, in early 2016, some extremely exciting discoveries were made here which include two well-preserved hieroglyphic panels and an intact Maya suggested by the unusual, shared practice of placing human digits in small bowls as burial offerings. After our site visit, we continue to **Cahal Pech**, where we see some of its 34 structures which include two ballcourts and a number of plain stelae before returning to our hotel.



Day Thirteen | Caracol

Today we venture deep into the forests to the Vacau Plateau, where the impressive Maya city of **Caracol** invites more ancient exploration. Caracol is the biggest Maya city in Belize and contains some impressive structures dominated by the 'Canaa' or 'Sky Palace', a pyramid some 46 metres in height. The settlement area of 'greater' Caracol is thought to have covered some 88 km² and around 35,000 constructions may have been occupied within this area when the city was at its peak in the Late Classic period between 650 – 700 AD. We spend the morning here and after lunch, we take the scenic route back through the jungle to our hotel.

Day Fourteen | San Ignacio - Lamanai

We make our way to **Lamanai**, visiting en route the site of **Atun Ha**, to the north of Belize City and not far from the Caribbean coast. The architecture visible today, much restored, is from the Classic period around 1000 BCE and though it might seem a pretty ordinary place after visiting Copán, Tikal or Caracol, Altun Ha's rulers, in terms of material possessions, were certainly wealthy and powerful people. It is generally thought that they acquired this wealth as key players in trade networks, probably dominated by Tikal, that connected the Caribbean coast with the Maya heartland area of the Central Lowlands. Next, we board a motor-

launch boat to Lamanai (also known as the 'Place of the Submerged Crocodile'), and cruise through acres of luxurious vegetation teeming with birds and jungle creatures. Tonight, we stay in eco jungle lodges.

Day Fifteen | Lamanai

We're in for a treat today as we wander the remote jungle remains of Lamanai, which spread along the shores of the New River lagoon. It is unique in being the longest lasting of all Maya cities and there was a settlement here on the banks of the New River lagoon by 1500 BCE. Never abandoned, there were still Maya here to introduce themselves to the Spaniards when they arrived about 1545. In the 9th century, when everywhere else in the Maya world was falling apart, Lamanai was still prospering, its temples maintained, new residential areas built. Highlights here include the extraordinary Mask Temple, decorated by a 13-foot-high stone mask of a Maya king, and the High Temple. Later, we enjoy free time in our lodge.

Days Sixteen | Lamanai - Belize City

We leave our jungle abode and take a boat ride from Lamanai to Belize City's international airport to make our independent onward journeys

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Hotel Camino Real Antigua, Hotel Atitlan, Hotel Marina Copán, Hotel Casona del Lago, San Ignacio Resort Hotel & Lamanai Outpost Lodge or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 15 dinners
- Water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/Dbl Share	\$S
11th - 26th Feb	\$16,730	\$2,740

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

United Kingdom

Some of the best preserved and most visually impressive archaeological sites in Europe are on our own doorstep. From the days of early excavations carried out at Stonehenge and Avebury in the 18th century, to recent extraordinary finds from cities, fields and shorelines, British archaeology provides unique insights into the lives and cultures of its early inhabitants.

The earliest evidence of humans in Britain is at Happisburgh in Norfolk, in an area of heavy erosion where the land is being constantly devoured by the sea. This site is particularly significant as it dates to 850,000 years old, pushing back the estimate of human presence in Northern Europe, and it is also the location of the oldest hominin footprints located outside of Africa.

For millennia, Britain was a changing collection of tribal areas, with no overall leader as Celtic tribes arrived from mainland Europe. The Romans successfully invaded in 43 AD and as a result, Britain is one of the best places in the former Roman Empire for the study of the Roman military. At its height, the garrison of the province comprised around 55,000 troops, roughly one eighth of the entire armed might of the empire. This major presence has left very extensive physical remains and Britain has a tradition of studying the Roman military as long-standing and well-developed as any other.

Following the Romans, two waves of immigrants came to Britain. Firstly, German tribes: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Then, secondly, the Vikings. For a long period, England was split into various kingdoms until it was unified by Æthelstan in 945 AD and subsequently, by force, England and Wales in the 13th century by Edward I. The union with Scotland took much longer and was plagued by hundreds of years of conflicts finally ending in the union in 1707.

Delve into this history on our captivating collection of tours, featuring two new journeys to Shetland, where the internationally important sites such as Mousa, Scatness and Jarlshof offer a unique window into a world long gone.

“Very good. We looked after beautifully by our tour manager and the architect on the tour was immensely helpful and very keen to impart his knowledge.”



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Highlights of Shetland

Explore the UK's most northerly islands

5 DAYS FROM \$2,650pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



We visit the internationally important sites at Mousa, Scatness and Jarlshof and take the ferry to the most northerly island in Britain, Unst, thought to be the first footfall of the Vikings. Nowhere is farther than three miles from the sea and the beauty of the landscape – deserted sandy beaches, jagged coastline, heather-clad hills and mirror-like lochs – is guaranteed to stay with you long after you return home.



Climb to the top of Mousa Broch, the tallest of this unique Iron Age structure at 13 metres – and enjoy the spectacular views over the sea

Discover Scatness, an extensive settlement site with prehistoric, Viking and Pictish remains, built and rebuilt over thousands of years

Explore Jarlshof, constructed by Neolithic farmers c2400 BCE and occupied, though not continuously, for over 4,000 years

Day One | Lerwick

We meet at our hotel in Lerwick before an introductory lecture and dinner together at the hotel.

Day Two | Mousa Broch & Jarlshof

We start our exploration of Shetland's archaeology at **Mousa Broch**, situated on the uninhabited island of the same name, just a couple of miles off the east coast of Shetland's mainland and now an RSPB reserve. The ferry drops us at the jetty, and we walk along the shore for just over half a mile to reach the site. The broch towers over the landscape at 13 metres tall with three corbelled chambers in its solid base. Dating back to around 3000 BCE, it was originally built with two wooden floors accessed by stairways which you can still climb today. Returning to the mainland, we drive south to **Scatness**, an Iron Age broch and village occupied for around two millennia. The site was discovered when Sumburgh Airport expanded in the 1970s to accommodate increased air traffic and is now a public heritage project. The broch survives to nearly four metres in height and the surrounding houses are single walled with an upper storey, possibly for storage. We end the day at **Jarlshof**, a spectacular site on the headland overlooking the West Voe. Here, there is evidence of over 4,000 years of human history – Neolithic houses, a Bronze Age village, Iron Age broch, Norse longhouse medieval farmstead and a 16th-century house.

Day Three | @ Unst

Today we take two short ferry crossings to reach **Unst**, Britain's most northerly inhabited island, where

we discover the island's Viking heritage. A large number of Viking longhouses have been discovered (at least 60) – the greatest number found anywhere, including Scandinavia. We visit one of the excavated sites at **Underhoull**, where there is evidence of outhouses, annexes and drains which have been added to the longhouse during its development. Remains indicate that there was also a wooden sprung floor and possibly a mezzanine level. We continue to Haroldswick to see the **Skidbladner**, a replica ship, and reconstructed longhouse. In the afternoon we drive towards Skaw to take in the view of the Muckle Flugga lighthouse, perched on the northern tip of Unst. Before catching our return ferry, we also visit **Muness Castle**, a late 16th-century tower house destroyed by French pirates in 1627 and abandoned in the 18th century.

Day Four | Shetland

For our last full day on Shetland we start with **Stanydale Temple** on the West Mainland. This extraordinary structure gained its name from its similarity to the megalithic temple sites in Malta. Its origins date between 2500-2000 BCE but it appears to have still been occupied into the early Iron Age. A series of alcoves, some with hearths and two massive post holes to support a timber-framed roof, confirm the grandeur which helps to set this building apart from other Neolithic structures in Shetland. From there we drive to the **Scord of Brouster**, one of the earliest Neolithic farm sites in Shetland. Excavated in the 1970s, it spans a period from just after 3000 BCE to around 1500 BCE and comprises several houses and interlinked field walls. Returning to Lerwick, we visit the fantastic,

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Val Turner

Dr Val Turner has been Shetland's Regional Archaeologist since 1986. An expert in Prehistoric and Viking Field Systems, she loves surprising visitors with Shetland's wealth of archaeology and she has been guiding walks and tours in both Orkney and Shetland for over 20 years. She lives in Shetland on a small croft with her husband.



award-winning **Shetland Museum** which displays over 3,000 artefacts and end the day at **Clickhimin Iron Age Broch** and later wheelhouse, situated just outside Lerwick.

Day Five - Shetland

We make our independent journeys home or remain to explore more of the islands.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Brae Hotel, Shetland

Culinary inclusions

- 4 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$5
18th - 22nd Jul	\$2,650	\$450

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

Highlights of Shetland & Orkney

From standing stones to chambered cairns

9 DAYS FROM \$5,310pp

Activity Level ●●●○○



The islands beyond the northernmost tip of Scotland glory in some of the most beautiful and rugged landscapes in the world. For more than five thousand years they have been home to farmers and fishermen, who left monuments so impressive that this has been called an archaeologists' paradise. During the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, the people of Orkney and Shetland were among the first in Britain to begin building Megalithic chamber tombs and later henge monuments. The islands are also blessed with an extraordinary natural beauty: wildflowers bloom throughout the summer, covering the green cliffs with colour and the exquisite scent of heather.

Day One | Lerwick

We meet at our hotel in Shetland at the Lerwick Hotel, before an introductory lecture and dinner together at the hotel.

Day Two | Mousa Broch & Jarlshof

We start our exploration of Shetland's archaeology at **Mousa Broch**, situated on the uninhabited island of the same name a couple of miles off the east coast of Shetland's mainland and now an RSPB reserve. The ferry drops us at the jetty, and we walk along the shore for just over half a mile to reach the site. The broch towers over the landscape at 13 metres tall with three corbelled chambers in its solid base. Built around 3000BCE, it was originally built with two wooden floors accessed by stairways which you can still climb. After lunch we visit **South Voe Croft Museum**, an engaging evocation of rural life in Shetland. We end the day at **Jarlshof** a spectacular site on the headland overlooking the West Voe. Here, there is evidence of over 4,000 years of human history - Neolithic houses, Bronze Age village, Iron Age broch, Norse longhouse medieval farmstead and 16th-century house.

Day Three Unst

Today we take two short ferry crossings to reach **Unst**, Britain's most northerly inhabited island,

where we discover the island's Viking heritage. A large number of Viking longhouses have been discovered (at least 60) – the greatest number found anywhere, including Scandinavia. We visit one of the excavated sites at **Underhoull** where there is evidence of outhouses, annexes and drains which have been added to the longhouse during its development. Remains indicate there was also a wooden sprung floor and possibly a mezzanine level. We continue to Haroldswick to see the **Skidbladner**, replica ship and reconstructed longhouse. In the afternoon we drive towards Skaw to take in the view of the Muckle Flugga lighthouse, perched on the northern tip of Unst. Before catching our return ferry, we also visit **Muness Castle**, a late 16th-century tower house destroyed by French pirates in 1627 and abandoned in the 18th century.

Day Four | Scatness

This morning we explore **Scatness**, an Iron Age broch and village occupied for around two millennia. The site was discovered when Sumburgh Airport expanded to accommodate increased air traffic and is now a public heritage project. The broch survives to nearly 4 metres in height and the surrounding houses are single walled with an upper storey, possibly for storage. We return to Lerwick

for lunch and make a stop to explore **Clickhimin Iron Age Broch** and later wheelhouse situated just outside the town. In the afternoon we drive to the **Scord of Brouster**, one of the earliest Neolithic farm sites in Shetland. Excavated in the 1970s, it spans a period from just after 3000 BCE to around 1500 BCE and comprises several houses and interlinked field walls. We continue to explore **Stanydale Temple**. This extraordinary structure gained its name from its similarity to the megalithic temple sites in Malta. Its origins date between 2500-2000 BCE but it appears to have still been occupied into the early Iron Age. A series of alcoves, some with hearths and two massive post holes to support a timber-framed roof confirm the grandeur which helps to set this building apart from other Neolithic structures in Shetland.

Day Five | Lerwick - St. Ninian's Isle – Kirkwall

On our last day on Shetland, we explore **St. Ninian's Isle** where we walk across the striking white-sand spit which links the islands to see the Church. Excavations here revealed a fabulous hoard of Pictish silver. We continue to **Scalloway** where we visit the Museum and its wonderful exhibition on the Shetland Bus, the operation which provided an escape lifeline for refugees and fugitives from Norway during WWII. We return to Lerwick for



Visit sites at the cutting edge of archaeological research which is shedding light on every aspect of Stone Age life

Discover five World Heritage sites at Old Scatness, Mousa Broch, Skara Brae, Jarlshof and the Ring of Brodgar

Enjoy the stunning landscapes of the most northerly and remote outposts of the British Isles

lunch and in the afternoon we visit the award-winning **Shetland Museum**, which displays over 3,000 artefacts. At 17:30 we take the evening ferry as foot passengers from Lerwick to Kirkwall, arriving at 23:00 and transferring to our hotel.

Day Six | Kirkwall & Ness of Brodgar

We spend this morning on foot exploring Orkney's capital, Kirkwall. We visit the **Orkney Museum**; the **Bishop's and Earl's Palace** and **St Magnus' Cathedral**, Britain's most northerly, founded in honour of Magnus Erlendsson, Earl of Orkney in 1137. The cathedral took over 300 years to complete, with different sections showing the evolution of architectural styles through the medieval period. After lunch in town, we take a short drive to the **Ness of Brodgar** where for over a decade, archaeological excavations have uncovered an astonishing array of Neolithic structures, including monumental buildings and hundreds of examples or prehistoric artwork. Our final visit for the day is the **Ring of Brodgar**, a stone circle – henge monument – occupying an opposing promontory between lochs.

Day Seven | Gurness Broch & Skara Brae

We start our explorations on the island with **Gurness Broch**, where we explore the remains of the 8-metre tower. Built between 200 and 100 BCE, the broch was a tall, easily defended tower surrounded by a series of small stone dwellings. These in turn were circled by outer defences comprising of three ramparts and three ditches. We visit the **Brough of Birsay**, a small island that can be reached on foot by causeway at low tide. Birsay has been settled continuously since Neolithic times and was once a centre of Viking power. The remains

of a Norse settlement can be found at the top of the ramp leading onto the island as well as the ruins of a 12th-century Romanesque church. We end our day at **Skara Brae**, the amazingly well-preserved Neolithic village occupied for over 600 years. On the southern shore of the Bay of Skail, buried for thousands of years beneath the sand, the stone buildings of Skara Brae were gradually exposed by storms until a sea wall was built to preserve them. Eight stone dwellings survive, and their interior fittings give a unique glimpse of life as it was in Neolithic Orkney.

Day Eight | Churchill's Barriers & Maeshowe

We drive south this morning and cross **Churchill's Barriers**. Now a vital link and causeway between island communities, these structures have become as iconic as Orkney's ancient landmarks. Created at the instigation of Sir Winston Churchill, they were intended to block off the eastern approaches to the naval anchorage of Scapa Flow and the work was undertaken by Italian prisoners of war being held on the island of Lamb Holm. Returning across the causeway, we visit the other remarkable structure built by detainees, the **Italian Chapel**. We end our morning in **Stromness** where we visit the small but excellent museum. There is an exhibition on the Cairns project, the excavation of an extensive, prehistoric and early settlement spanning the Neolithic to Viking/Norse eras situated on the isle of South Ronaldsay, Orkney. In the afternoon we visit **Maeshowe**, the largest and most impressive of Orkney's chambered cairns. A zenith in European prehistoric architecture and accomplishment, this chambered tomb has been a distinctive presence in the landscape for millennia. During midwinter when the sun dips below the horizon, it shines directly

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Val Turner

Dr Val Turner has been Shetland's Regional Archaeologist since 1986. An expert in Prehistoric and Viking Field Systems, she loves surprising visitors with Shetland's wealth of archaeology and she has been guiding walks and tours in both Orkney and Shetland for over 20 years.



through the entrance passage to illuminate the rear wall of the central chamber. As access is limited, while one party is viewing the Cairn, the other visits the **Stones of Stennes** and vice versa.

Day Nine | Kirkwall

Today we depart Kirkwall and make our respective journeys home.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Lerwick Hotel in Shetland & The Kirkwall Hotel in Orkney

Culinary inclusions

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

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twinn/DbI Share	SS
17th - 25th Sep	\$5,310	\$630

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

Richard III - Hero or Villain?

Discover one of English history's most tragic, bloody and colourful epochs

4 DAYS FROM \$1,880pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



The dramatic discovery of the skeleton of Richard III beneath a Leicester car park in 2012 was an archaeological find that made news all around the world. It also reignited the great debate about Richard's personal character – was he a hero or a villain?

Visit stunning Warwick castle, home of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, known to posterity as 'the Kingmaker'

Journey to Fotheringhay Church and the remains of the castle where Richard III was born in 1452

Explore the King Richard III Visitor Centre and Bosworth Battlefield

Day One | Warwick

We meet in the afternoon for a visit to **Warwick Castle**, home of the powerful Beauchamp earls of Warwick and Richard Neville, 'the Kingmaker'. We see the interesting additions made to the castle by Richard III, the Bear and Clarence towers, showing the king's interest in artillery. In the evening we enjoy an introductory lecture on Richard III at our hotel.

Day Two | Stony Stratford & Fotheringhay

We make a morning stop at **Stony Stratford**, where Richard took possession of Edward V in 1483, and then lunch at **Delapré Abbey**, discussing the significance of the battle of Northampton (1460), which took place in the abbey grounds. In the afternoon we visit **Fotheringhay Church**, mausoleum of Richard III's family, the house of York.

We also discover the remains of the castle, where Richard was born in 1452, and the scene of the trial and execution of Mary Queen of Scots.

Day Three | Leicester

We make a morning visit to **Bosworth Battlefield Centre**, the fateful clash that brought the Wars of the Roses to an end with Richard III's death and the accession of the first Tudor king, Henry VII. In the afternoon we travel to Leicester's **King Richard III Visitor Centre**, which tells the story of the discovery of his remains, and the **Cathedral**, where we see his striking new tomb.

Day Four | Warwick

In the morning we enjoy a **walking tour of Warwick**, taking in more of its fascinating medieval history, followed by a concluding talk on Richard III.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Michael Jones

Author and presenter Dr Michael Jones is a leading military historian with special interests in Richard III.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Warwick Arms Hotel or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Db'l Share	\$S
24th -27th Mar	\$1,880	\$230 \$0
29th Sep - 2nd Oct	\$1,880	\$230 \$0

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

Archaeology & Wildlife of the Pembrokeshire Coast

Exploring the wild, wild west

6 DAYS FROM \$3,210pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE



Pembrokeshire's long history is colourful and dramatic, possessing a rich legacy of prehistoric and later remains intrinsically linked to its coastline. From Neolithic cromlech to 11th-century cathedrals, and from bracken-strewn hills to a sea-faring trip that takes us between its outlying islands, join us as we explore one of the country's most captivating landscapes.



Discover Carn Meini, the site of the quarry for the Stonehenge bluestones

Take a sea safari through some of the richest waters for wildlife off the coast of the British Isles

Walk to the Iron Age hill fort of Foel Drigarn, which boasts wonderful views from the summit

Day One | Haverfordwest

We meet at our hotel for an introductory lecture, which is followed by dinner with our Guide Lecturer and fellow guests.

Day Two | Pentre Ifan & Garn Fawr

In the morning we visit the megalithic tomb of **Pentre Ifan**, the largest and one of the finest dolmens in Wales, dating from around 3500 BCE. Afterwards, it's on to the site of **Garn Fawr**, a coastal hillfort and enclosure system with breathtaking views of the coast and lighthouse at Strumble Head. In the afternoon we visit **Castell Henllys**, an Iron Age promontory fort with extensive defences and a large settlement.

Day Three | Marloes

Today, weather and tide permitting, we take a boat trip through some of the richest water for wildlife off the coast of the British Isles. In the afternoon we visit **Carew Castle** and **Tidal Mill**. Look out for Atlantic grey seals, harbour porpoise, common, bottlenose and Risso's dolphin plus a variety of seabirds. From an Iron Age fort to an Elizabethan stronghold, the site's history spans some 2,000 years. Here, we also find the only restored tidal mill in Wales.

Day Four | Solva & St. David's

We take a walk around the harbour of **Solva**, a small town steeped in maritime history and, during the 18th and 19th centuries, one of the busiest trading ports in Pembrokeshire. From Solva, we walk up to the Iron Age fort that stands on the end of the **Gribin**. This afternoon we visit **St. David's Cathedral**, constructed on one of Britain's most ancient Christian sites.

Day Five | Gors Fawr & Carn Menyn

Our day begins with an exploration at **Gors Fawr**, the sole surviving stone circle in the county. From here we walk to **Croesmihangel** and then it's on to the early Iron Age hill fort of **Foel Drigarn**, with a trilogy of burial cairns contained within rings of ramparts and ditches. In the afternoon we explore the quarry at **Carn Meini** and then **Waun Mawn**, where excavations confirm that Stonehenge's bluestones were erected first as a stone circle here before being later dismantled and moved on to Salisbury Plain.

Day Six | Haverfordwest

We say farewell to Pembrokeshire and make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Ken Murphy

Ken Murphy is a field archaeologist with over 45 years of experience. He has worked on numerous field and desk-based projects since 1979, including large-scale excavation of prehistoric and later sites, topographic survey of sites of all periods and landscape analysis of large parts of southwest Wales.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR 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 Mariners, Haverfordwest or similar

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
20th - 25th May	\$3,210	\$410 \$0

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

Sailing Through Time: Uncover the Ancient World

Cruising with Andante Travels



It's all included ON AN ANDANTE CRUISE

Accompanied by an expert Guide
Lecturer and Professional Tour
Manager on most cruises



Exclusive Andante excursions
with entry to all sites as stated
in the itinerary



Breakfasts, lunches and dinners



Special extras such as a welcome
cocktail and on-board drinks



Gratuities included - on board to on
shore, all site donations, driver and
hospitality staff tips are included



Our exciting cruise programme has proven extremely popular, and whether you are looking to take your first cruise with us or have enjoyed several, you are guaranteed a memorable experience with Andante.

Just imagine relaxing on your ship's sun deck and taking in the rolling hills, iconic landmarks and quiet villages of a picturesque river or enjoying the onboard activities and exploring the various ports of call on an ocean cruise. Whichever you choose, cruising is a wonderful way to soak up the vistas of your chosen destination and gain a different perspective from a host of different waterways. From the Rhône's most important archaeological sites to the Moorish wonders along the Guadalquivir and Guadiana in Spain, there are several returning favourites for 2026.

As well as these, there are several new cruises to consider. Led by Egyptologist Professor Paul Nicholson, our leisurely Egypt – Cruising the Nile tour glides between Cairo and Aswan aboard Mövenpick MS Darakum, taking us to a range of sites that most tourists to this part of the world typically miss. Meanwhile, Classical Highlights of Greece Cruise is a wonderful introduction to the ancient highlights of Greece's mainland, combining a stay in the shadow of the Acropolis with an enchanting cruise, circumnavigating the Peloponnese and closing the loop along the Corinth Canal. Lastly, Cruising Istria & the Islands of the Adriatic offers a relaxed journey along the Croatian and Montenegrin coastline aboard La Belle De L'Adriatique, featuring two Jacuzzis, a choice of bars and sunbathing decks to admire the passing scenery – bliss!

These cruises combine our usual captivating site visits with the comfort of a waterborne 'hotel', with our wonderful tour staff on board to answer questions when needed. Just like our land-based tours, all our cruises include so much in the price, from offshore excursions and all meals, with wine at dinner, to site donations and tips to drivers and hospitality staff. With everything taken care of, you can simply enjoy the benefits of this glorious type of travel.



With a focus on smaller ships, Andante's cruise holidays are designed to offer a more intimate experience than big ocean liners, with a shared sense of camaraderie. Fewer guests and a smaller vessel mean you can expect a more personalised service and the ability to stop at smaller ports well-suited to our itinerary.



Wonderfully relaxed, river cruises are a fantastic way to see the sights of your chosen destination and some of world's most iconic waterways. Offering comfortable cabins, open decks and spacious lounges, there are plenty of spots to take in the passing scenery aboard these 'floating hotels'.



Meander along the Seine from Paris to Roen, admiring world-famous sights, charming villages and centuries-old orchards along the way

Visit the improbably beautiful Dubrovnik with its evocative streets and the scenic 17th-century stradun which dissects the city

Sail along the mighty Guadalquivir River through the heartbeat of Iberian history, Andalusia, where a treasure trove of Moorish gems awaits

Cruise the whole route of the Nile from Cairo to Aswan, taking in Egypt's most impressive archaeological discoveries

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Ship information

At Andante Travels, we pride ourselves on providing wonderful cruise experiences, with carefully chosen itineraries and ships for our tours. The size of the cruise ships means that they can stop at smaller ports and are well suited to our archaeological and historical cruises. Many sites tend to be in remote locations which are challenging to reach and more easily accessed from our smaller vessels.

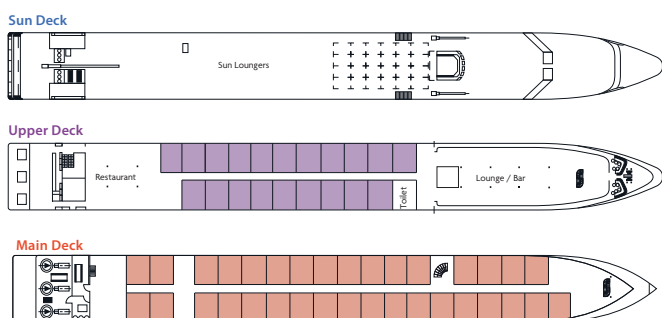
One of the highlights of sailing on these type of ships is the individual attention and excellent service you can expect. Fewer passengers means that the crew have time to get to know their guests: they are dedicated to making your holiday a delightful experience throughout and can really make a difference to life on board, whether you would like them to attend to special requests or fix your favourite cocktail.

From the intimate Motor Yacht of MY Callisto to the premium five-decked ship of La Belle De L'Adriatique, each vessel has everything you need for a comfortable and memorable time away: you'll soon be relaxing on deck while taking in the stunning surroundings of your chosen destination!



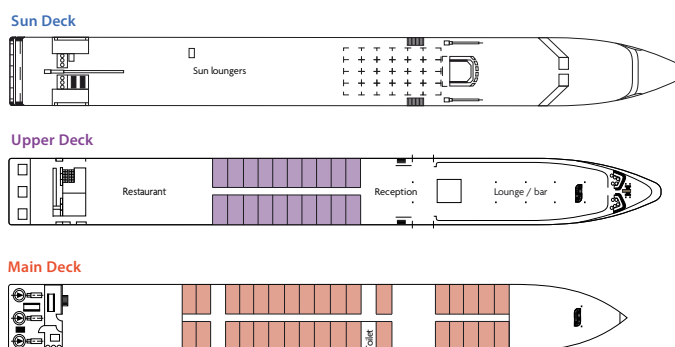
MS CAMARGUE

The MS Camargue is a premium rated ship, comparable to a 4* hotel, and boasts bright and spacious interiors. The Upper Deck has two main areas; the lounge and bar towards the bow of the ship, and the restaurant towards the stern. Cabins are 14m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, en-suite bathroom with shower and toilet, hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.



MS RENOIR

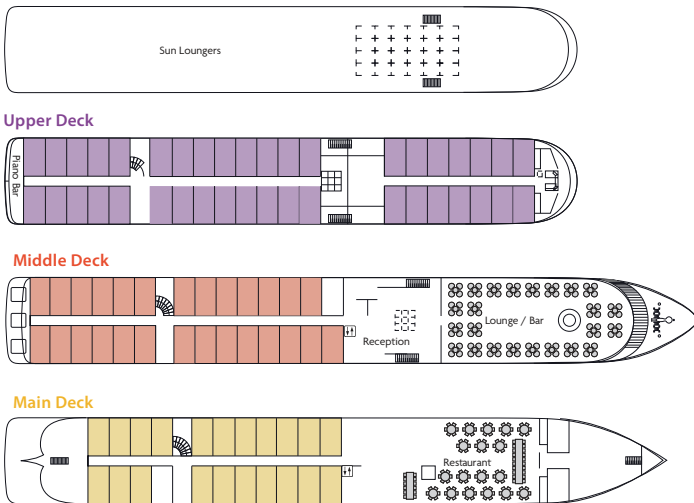
The MS Renoir is a premium rated ship, comparable to a 4* hotel. Its design adopts the "French chic" spirit, inspired by the friendship between Coco Chanel and Auguste Renoir. The Upper Deck has two main areas; the lounge and bar towards the bow of the ship, and the restaurant towards the stern. Cabins are 16.5 m² in size include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.





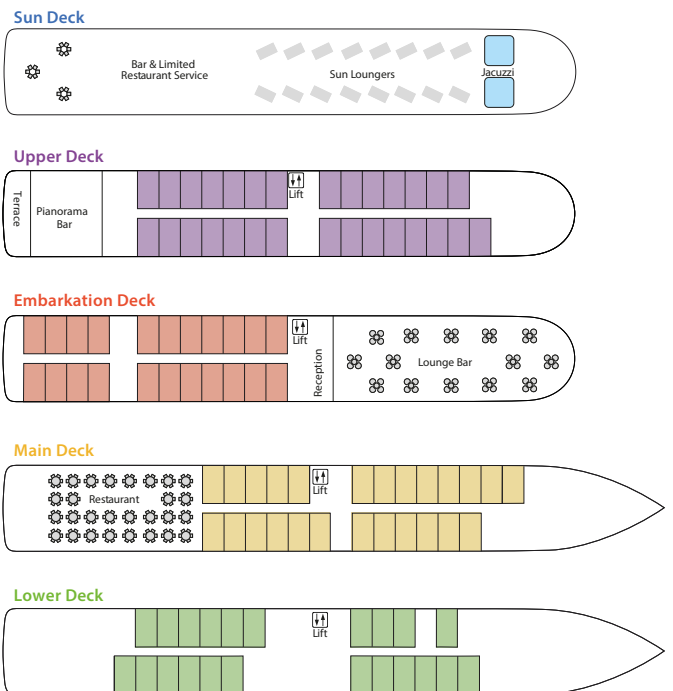
MS LA BELLE DE CADIX

The light and bright MS La Belle de Cadix, comparable to a 4* hotel, has four decks. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the lounge and bar on the Middle Deck, the 'Pianorama' Bar is on the Upper Deck and there is a Sun Deck with chairs and deckchairs. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, en-suite bathroom with shower, hairdryer, selection of bath products and towels.



MV LA BELLE DE L'ADRIATIQUE

This premium rated ship has five decks and is comparable to a 4* hotel. The restaurant is on the Main Deck, the Lounge Bar with dancefloor on the Embarkation Deck, and a smaller piano bar with terrace on the Upper Deck. The Sun Deck has a bar, two jacuzzis and sunloungers. Cabins are 13.5m² in size and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, independent air-conditioning, electricity 220V, Wi-Fi, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, hairdryer, a selection of bath products and towels.

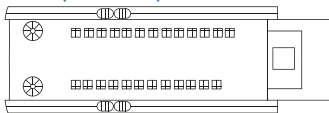




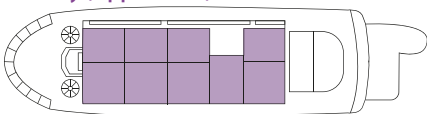
MY GALILEO

This mega yacht is of a classic wooden design, 157ft in length, and with the right winds her sails can be spread - an authentic way to cruise the Greek coastline. Facilities include a spacious indoor lounge/bar, a small library and dining area, and the Upper Deck has shaded areas as well as an outdoor bar. Wi-Fi is available in cabins and public areas (payable locally). The 24 ocean view cabins on board are split between the Upper Deck (with large porthole windows) and Lower Deck (with small portholes) and amenities include an ensuite bathroom with shower, air-conditioning, flat-screen TV, mini fridge, internal telephone, safe and hairdryer.

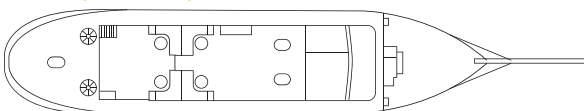
360° (Sun Deck)



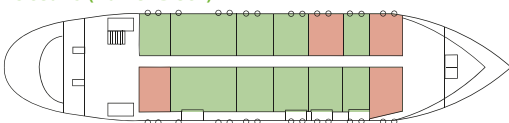
Infinity (Upper Deck)



Riviera (Main Deck)



Oceans (Lower Deck)



MÖVENPICK MS DARAKUM

A premium 5*star ship, the Mövenpick MS Darakum with its Moroccan inspired decór, is designed to offer high-end comfort and provides the perfect setting for an unforgettable journey cruising along the river Nile. The ship comprises of five decks, all furnished with Moroccan inspired design, and offers more space in public areas than most other Egyptian vessels. The main restaurant is on Deck 1 and serves buffets for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There is a uniquely designed and spacious Lounge Bar on Deck 4 for afternoon tea, cocktails and is host to entertainment onboard in the evenings. It adjoins an outdoor area perfect for observing the ever-changing scenery as you travel along the river. There are two sun decks, a lower sun deck on Deck 4 and the main Sun Deck and a bar which offers a variety of beverages and snacks. There is also a plunge pool and small fitness area on this deck. The cabins are 20m² in size and include satellite LCD TV, telephone (for internal calls), tea/coffee making facilities, complimentary bottled water, a safe, mini fridge, music channel, independent air-conditioning, electricity 110V, Wi-Fi, ensuite wood-panelled bathroom with bath and fixed head above, a hairdryer and complimentary toiletries.





MY VARIETY VOYAGER

This state-of-the-art Mega Yacht is 223ft in length, has 5 decks and is comparable to a 4*+ hotel. The glass enclosed dining room allows for spectacular views while you eat but also extends to an adjacent open deck area to allow 'al fresco' dining. There is a reception area with bar, a lounge area, a mini-spa and mini library. Sunloungers are available on the Sky Deck and the 360° Sun Deck, which also has an outdoor lounge bar and seating area. Wi-Fi is payable locally. The 36 ocean view cabins on board are across three decks. Category P are located on the Upper Deck, category A on the Main Deck and categories B and C are located on the Lower Deck. The cabins vary in size from 13.7m² to 19.5m² with either portholes or windows and include a TV, CD/DVD player, safe, mini fridge, individually controlled air-conditioning, electricity 220V, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, a hairdryer and bathrobes.



MY CALLISTO

This small, intimate Motor Yacht is of a classic design, 164ft in length with a cruising speed of 11 knots. It has 3 decks and is comparable to a 3* hotel. A spacious indoor bar/lounge, and dining areas (inside and outside) are all located on the Upper Deck. In addition to a small library; sunloungers, chairs and umbrellas are available on the 360° Sun Deck, an ideal place to relax and enjoy the passing scenery during sailing times. Wi-Fi is payable locally. The 17 ocean view cabins on board are across two decks. Category P and A cabins are located on the Main Deck and category B are located on the Lower Deck. The cabins vary in size from 11m² to 13.4m² with either portholes or windows and include a TV, telephone (for internal calls), safe, mini-fridge, individually controlled air-conditioning, electricity 220V, ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet, and a hairdryer.



NEW
FOR 2026

Cruising Istria & Islands of the Adriatic

From Croatia to Montenegro

9 DAYS FROM \$6,470pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MV La Belle de L'Adriatique - see page 189 for details

This is a wonderfully relaxed journey along the Croatian and Montenegrin coastline against the backdrop of the breathtakingly beautiful Adriatic and its islands. After spending time in Dubrovnik, the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', each destination offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of maritime life that defines this remarkable region. We visit Losinj, famous for its medicinal botany, stunning Rovinj with its visibly Venetian heritage and Pula, where Roman ruins stand alongside Romanesque churches as well as Kotor, Montenegro's tiny medieval jewel.

Day One | Dubrovnik

Meet the group at our hotel in Dubrovnik.

Day Two | Dubrovnik

Founded by Greeks in the 6th-century and conquered briefly in more modern times by Venice, Dubrovnik was the capital of the mighty Republic of Ragusa. We spend the day exploring the city, starting with a visit to the **Cathedral** dedicated to the Assumption of Our Lady, before continuing to the stunning **Rector's Palace**, a Gothic structure which served as seat of the Rector who oversaw the Ragusan Republic. In the afternoon, we explore the **walls**, built from the 12th to the 17th-centuries to protect the city and which are some of the most complex in Europe. We walk the stretch along the top of the city, pausing at various towers, bastions and viewpoints along the way. It's a wonderful way to survey Stari Grad, the Old Town. Later this afternoon we continue to the port to board our ship, the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique. We spend the remainder of our evening in the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', ahead of our welcome cocktail and dinner onboard.

Day Three | Dubrovnik – Adriatic Coast

Our ship remains at port this morning. In the afternoon we cruise along the Adriatic coast, passing the lush Elaphiti Islands and soaking up the spectacular scenery.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we take a cable car ride up to the top of **Srdj Hill**. The restored gondola was used to help evacuate the city in 1991 but now provides visitors with spectacular views over the terracotta-roofed city.

Day Four | Lonsinj - Krk

This morning we sail to Losinj, passing Kornati National Park, a maritime labyrinth of around 140 islands, islets and reefs sprinkled in the sapphire blue sea of the Adriatic. What makes the archipelago so distinctive are the islands' karst-limestone rock cliffs that emerge from the sea, in some cases reaching peaks of more than 60 metres above sea level. We reach Losinj after lunch. In the 19th century the town was a major shipping centre whose sailors manned expeditions to the North Pole but today it is better known for its medicinal

botany and the variety of herb species which carpet the nearby hills.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This afternoon we visit the **Museum of Apoxyomenos**, entirely dedicated to only one exhibit – the beautiful bronze statue of a young athlete, the Apoxyomenos. The statue was recovered from the sea in 1999, where it had spent nearly two millennia. Its name stems from Greek term for an athlete who cleans his body from oil, sweat and sand after exercise or competition. The statue, remarkably well preserved and almost entirely intact, depicts the moment when he's cleaning his scraper.

Day Five | Krk - Rovinj

We arrive in Krk early in the morning, Croatia's largest island. Connected to the mainland by an arched bridge, the picturesque main town here still retains some its medieval core with defensive towers and cobbled streets, while the island's beaches are stunning.

Joining the cruise excursion this morning, we proceed to the tiny island of **Koslijun**, travelling

Image: Dubrovnik



Enjoy a leisurely cruise through 3,000 years of Croatian history

Visit the improbably beautiful Dubrovnik with its evocative streets and the scenic 17th century stradun which dissects the city

Explore Pula with its staggering collection of Roman ruins, including its impressive amphitheatre and stunning Temple of Augustus

Discover Kotor, one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the Adriatic with its Cathedral of St. Tryphon and its ancient walls

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

Dr Eireann Marshall is a Research Associate and Associate Lecturer with the Open University. She has published a number of articles on Ancient North Africa, and co-edited volumes on 'Death and Disease in the Ancient City' and 'Women's influence on Classical Civilisation'. Eireann has led many tours for Andante, including several to Ravenna, Venice, Pompeii, Sicily and Tunisia, and is bilingual in English and Italian.



the last stretch by motor boat. Here we visit the 16th-century Franciscan monastery complex with its Gothic and Renaissance architecture. We also visit the small museum with its collection of rare books and incunabulas which includes Ptolemy's atlas, printed in Venice in 1511 and one of only three preserved copies. After lunch we continue to cruise through the Kvarner Gulf, sailing towards Rovinj.

Day Six | Rovinj - Pula

We arrive in Rovinj in the early morning. The ship moors here before sailing to Pula after lunch.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We drive directly to **Pula** this morning, where we spend the remainder of our day exploring Pula's wonderful Roman remains. The most prominent among these is the stunning **amphitheatre**, which preserves the underground service rooms, as well as the four outer towers, once containing water for the sparsiones sprinkled on the spectators during performances. We also view the Roman forum, where we see the **Temple of Augustus**, one of the best-preserved Roman temples outside of the Italian peninsula. Dating from the same period is the **Arch of the Sergii** and the **Gate of Hercules**, recognisable from the high relief sculpture of the hero's bearded head, together with his club. Nearby is the well-preserved Roman theatre, built into the hillside on which the castle now sits.

Day Seven | Pula - Zadar

We start our return to Dubrovnik today, sailing along the coast to Zadar, an ancient Adriatic city which became a major trading centre under Roman rule.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Zadar has suffered under the many factions which have sought to control it but evolving from frequent

reconstruction, this lovely city offers more than 3,000 years of history and culture. Its ancient Roman remains sit alongside fine medieval churches and striking contemporary sculpture. We explore sites along the main street and visit Romanesque churches of the Middle Ages and visit two of its excellent museums. The **Archaeological Museum** houses finds from prehistory onwards including an amazing collection of Roman material while the **Museum of Ancient Glass** displays over 5,000 glass objects dating to antiquity.

Day Eight | Zadar - Kotor - Dubrovnik

This morning is spent cruising through the Bay of Kotor, or Boka as it's known locally. Ringed by the Dinaric Alps, the Bay is a rolling succession of coves, pebble beaches and UNESCO-listed medieval towns, all of which sit beneath Mount Lovcen. Our last port of call is to one of them - Kotor - before we head back to the capital of Dubrovnik.

Exclusive Andante excursion: On our last excursion, we visit the Montenegrin town of **Kotor**, which has been given UNESCO World Heritage status for its impressive Venetian walls. Here, basking in the charm of its Venetian architecture, we visit the **Cathedral of St Tryphon**, consecrated in the 12th century and which preserves Byzantine frescoes, as well as an exquisite medieval ciborium.

Day Nine | Dubrovnik

We disembark after enjoying breakfast and make our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 1 night at a hotel in Dubrovnik & 7 nights aboard the MV La Belle de L'Adriatique

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MV La Belle de L'Adriatique: welcome cocktail and all on board 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

8th - 16th July	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
Lower Deck Outside Cabin with porthole windows	\$6,470	\$1,395
Embarkation Deck Outside Cabin with panoramic window	\$7,030	\$1,395
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with panoramic window	\$7,310	\$1,395

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 189 FOR MORE DETAIL

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

Cruising the Seine

Paris, Honfleur and the Seine Valley

7 DAYS FROM \$5,465pp

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

Activity Level ●●●●○

RIVER
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MS Renoir - see page 188 for details

The silvery Seine has been the subject of many famous painters who sought to replicate its constantly changing and flickering light and what better way to get acquainted with its sinuous beauty than with a cruise from Paris to Rouen. This stretch of the Seine meanders through gentle green countryside and chalk valleys, passing a delightful mix of market towns, working farms, ancient orchards, pretty villages and sites rich in cultural heritage. Our programme includes visits to hidden gems in France's alluring capital, an excursion to the magnificent Palace of Versailles, an induction to the historical heart of Honfleur and Roman discoveries in Rouen and Lillebonne.

Day One | Paris

Meet the group in Paris. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée Carnavalet**, which houses collections dedicated to the history of the city.

Day Two | Paris

We start our day in the vibrant area of **Le Marais**. This part of the city has more pre-revolutionary buildings and streets left intact than any other and is the closest we get to the feel of medieval Paris. In the afternoon we visit the **Musée de Cluny** where we visit the Roman baths that lurk beneath the museum. We end the day with a visit to the **Catacombes de Paris**. After several years of modernisation and accessibility work, the museum reopened in May 2022 with a brand-new

museography. We end our day with a visit to the **Arènes de Lutèce**, site of the Roman amphitheatre. Built in the 2nd century AD it was designed to seat up to 15,000 people.

Day Three | Paris - Poissy

This morning, we visit the Ile de la Cite. This area of Paris is home to more than its fair share of famous sights, but our goal is the infamous Palais de Justice and hidden within it, **Sainte Chapelle**. This architectural masterpiece was built to accommodate holy relics acquired by Louis IX in 1239 and it ranks as one of the greatest examples of Gothic art in France alongside the cathedrals of Notre Dame Cathedral and Chartres. We continue to the **Conciergerie**, formerly part of the palace complex but repurposed during the Revolution as



tribunal and prison. We end the day at the **Musée de Louvre** where we view the Etruscan, Greek and Roman galleries, one of one of the richest collections in the world. We transfer to our boat moored on the Seine for a comfortable rest on the boat for the next leg of the tour. This evening, we enjoy a cocktail before dinner on board; the ship sets sail through Paris tonight en route to Poissy.

Day Four | Poissy - Versailles - Le Havre

Arriving in the morning at Poissy, we disembark and join other Croisi passengers as we make our way to **Versailles**. Originally a hunting lodge and rural retreat, Versailles was transformed into the magnificent Baroque Palace we see today by Louis XIV when he made it his seat of power, moving his court and government there in 1682. One of the



YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.



Discover the magnificence of Versailles, embellished over centuries by generations of renowned architects, sculptors and landscape designers

Explore the Roman theatre at Lillebonne and the part ancient Juliabona played in the Gallic Wars

Admire the architectural masterpiece of Sainte Chapelle one of the greatest examples of Gothic art

Enjoy the ultimate hidden attraction – the subterranean Catacombes de Paris

most celebrated architectural achievements in the world, its creation stimulated a mini renaissance of interior design during the 17th and 18th centuries and was accredited with UNESCO World Heritage status in 1979. After a morning of artistic opulence, we return to our boat and settle in to relax on board as we sail onward to Le Havre.

Day Five | Le Havre - Rouen

Our first visit today is **Honfleur**, the prettiest of the Normandy ports, with its tall, slate fronted houses shouldering each other on the yacht filled harbour. For centuries Honfleur was a prosperous trade and fishing port, a strategic asset in the Hundred Years War and in the 17th century, the port from which French navigators set out to explore the New World and ultimately establish Quebec. Much of its historic heritage is intact and we take a guided walking tour through the town to explore its medieval and industrial past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: In the afternoon we take a trip out to **Lillebonne**. Occupied by the Romans during the Gallic Wars, the town was called Juliabona in Caesar's honour and evidence suggests it was a large and prosperous town. The large number of potsherds and amphorae excavated here suggests the city conducted vigorous trading with imported wines, oil, and olives coming from

the Mediterranean regions. The city boasted a large theatre designed to seat at least 3,000 people and we shall explore its remains as well as the small **archaeological museum**.

Day Six | Rouen - Paris

Having sailed overnight, we arrive in the city of Rouen, capital of the northern French region of Normandy.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we explore Rouen, once an important river port and centre for textiles. The city is steeped in history and today we see a vibrant and compelling mix of modern architecture, crooked medieval half-timbered houses, Gothic churches, celebrated restaurants, antique shops, food markets and patisserie selling multicoloured macarons. This afternoon we set sail once again and settle in to enjoy the scenes unfolding and relax on our return journey to Paris.

Day Seven | Paris

We disembark our ship this morning, leave Paris behind, and speed northwards across the channel by Eurostar back to the UK.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to Versailles and a guided walking tour of Honfleur with Croisi Europe, shared with other passengers
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Paris & 4 nights aboard the MS Renoir

Culinary inclusions

- 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 6 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Renoir: welcome cocktail and all on board 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 Mar - 5th Apr	Twin/DBL Share	SS
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a window	\$5,465	\$905 \$0*
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	\$5,820	\$905

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 188 FOR MORE DETAIL

**Book by 20th June 2025 to secure the \$0 single supplement*

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

Northern Adriatic Cruise

Exploring historic ports and coastal gems in Italy, Slovenia and Croatia

10 DAYS FROM \$10,475pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MY Callisto - see page 191 for details



This is a lovely maritime journey which explores the historic ports and coastal gems of the northern Adriatic. We start in Venice exploring this wonderful city visiting its world-renowned monuments as well as others lesser known, then east to Slovenia's charming port of Koper, with its Venetian-influenced Old Town and then curves south along Croatia's Istrian coast to Opatija. Further down the Istrian peninsula lies Pula, home to one of the world's best-preserved Roman amphitheatres. We then return to Venice via Ravenna, a city renowned for its spectacular Byzantine mosaics and UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Day One | Venice

Meet the group at our hotel in Venice.

Day Two | Venice

We start our day with a walk in the heart of Venice – **San Marco**, the architectural reflection of Venice's entire. Later we explore the **Doge's Palace** and two sites associated with Vivaldi – the **Chiesa della Pietà** and the **Chiesa San Giovanni in Bragora**. We end our day with an evening visit to **Basilica San Marco**.

Day Three | Venice

This morning we take a vaporetto to the oldest and most famous bridge across the Grand Canal in Venice: the **Rialto**. From here we walk to the little-known **Casino Venier**, we will also visit the **Ca d'Oro**. Later we discover **Chiesa della Madonna dell'Orto** and visit the **Venetian Ghetto**.

Day Four | Venice

Our ship stays moored in Venice today as we further explore the city.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: Today we have more wonderful Venetian sites to explore. We return to the Castello district with a visit to **Chiesa San Zaccaria**, then visit the wonderful **Palazzo Grimani**, and the **Basilica Santi Giovanni e Paolo** Venetian Gothic church. This afternoon we take the vaporetto down the Grand Canal to the **Basilica of the Frari**, and visit the nearby **Scuola Grande di San Rocco**, rightly seen as Tintoretto's masterpiece.

Day Five | Venice - Koper

We set sail this morning and enjoy a leisurely morning travelling to Koper. We arrive late morning and moor for the night.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We drive to Trieste, the capital of Friuli on the border with Slovenia. We discover the well-preserved Roman theatre and the **Cattedrale di San Giusto**, and explore the **Museo Winklemann** named after famous archaeologist killed in Trieste and its collection of archaeological remains

Day Six | Koper – Piran

Leaving Koper in the early hours of the morning, we sail to Piran, arriving in time for breakfast.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We drive to the lovely town of **Poreč**, situated on the western side of the Istrian peninsula. We start at **Marafor Square**, then make our way to beautiful **Euphrasian Basilica** in a complex that includes baptistery and bell tower. Returning to Piran in the afternoon we enjoy a guided walk around this charming medieval town.

Day Seven | Opatija - Pula

Our ship arrives in Opatija early this morning and moors here for the day before sailing overnight to Pula.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We drive to **Rijeka** a port city which sits at the head of the Kvarner Gulf where the Adriatic meets the mountains. Here, situated on the hillside above the city, we discover **Trsat Castle** which was originally built by the Frankopan family.



Enjoy four nights in the heart of Venice and take time to experience and appreciate this unique city of islands

Discover Pula with its staggering collection of Roman ruins, including its impressive amphitheatre and stunning Temple of Augustus

View the Roman ruins in the elegant city of Trieste, including a stunning theatre and the remains of a forum

Admire an astonishing flowering of decorative arts and architecture from the glorious final days of the Roman Empire in Ravenna

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

Dr Eireann Marshall is a Research Associate and Associate Lecturer with the Open University. She has published a number of articles on Ancient North Africa, and co-edited volumes on 'Death and Disease in the Ancient City' and 'Women's influence on Classical Civilisation'. Eireann has led many tours for Andante, including several to Ravenna, Venice, Pompeii, Sicily and Tunisia, and is bilingual in English and Italian.



Day Eight | Pula – Ravenna

Arriving in time for breakfast, the ship moors in Pula for the day. Later we sail overnight to Ravenna.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This morning we explore the wonderful remains of **Pula**, which offer precious testimony to the Roman presence and influence in Istria. Most prominent among these is the stunning **amphitheatre**, which preserves the underground service rooms, as well as the four outer towers. We proceed to the Roman forum where we see the **Temple of Augustus**.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: Today is dedicated to the fabulous UNESCO World Heritage monuments of **Ravenna** starting with the **Basilica di Sant' Apollinare Nuovo**, then from here we walk to the **Neonian Baptistery**, finishing the morning at **St. Andrew's Chapel**, a hidden jewel inside the **Archiepiscopal Museum**. After lunch we explore the exceptional **Domus dei Tappeti di Pietra** or 'House of Stone Carpets'. Later we visit the **Basilica of San Vitale** and the **Mausoleum Galla Placidia**.

Day Ten | Venice

Arriving in Venice this morning, we disembark and make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Venice & 7 nights aboard the MY Callisto

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MY Callisto: welcome cocktail, house wine, local beer, and soft drinks are included when lunch and dinner are being served onboard. Water, filter coffee and tea are available throughout the day.

Dates & prices per person

6th - 15th May	Twin/DbI Share	SS
Lower Deck - B Cabin - Twin	\$10,475	\$2,280
Main Deck - A Cabin - Twin/DbI	\$11,035	\$2,690
Main Deck - P Cabin- Twin/DbI	\$12,155	N/A

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 191 FOR MORE DETAIL

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Cruising Malta, Sicily & Campania

A cruise into the heart of the Mediterranean

10 DAYS FROM \$10,105pp

Activity Level ●●●●○

SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MY Variety Voyager - see page 191 for details

On this cruise into the heart of the Mediterranean we weave together three remarkable destinations: the sun-drenched Maltese archipelago, the historic island of Sicily and the breathtaking region of Campania along Italy's western coast. Our tour ends in Naples, a city with a distinct character marked by passionate locals, rich artistic traditions, and a unique blend of Mediterranean culture that sets it apart from northern Italian cities.

Day One | Valletta

Meet the group at our hotel in Valletta.

Day Two | Valetta - Porto Empedocle

The handsome capital of Valetta was created as a new town for the Knights of St John in 1571. We spend some time getting to know this unique fortified Renaissance city with visits to **St. John's Cathedral** and the **Grand Master's Palace** with façades of some of the many Auberges of the Knights. We round off the morning with a visit to the **Archaeological Museum** where we see an exceptional array of artefacts including the Sleeping Lady. In the afternoon we visit the temple sites at **Haġar-Qim** and **Mnajdra**, which sit clustered close together at the top of a promontory with views over the sea. Their use 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. This evening we embark on our cruise and sail overnight from Valletta to Sicily.

Day Three | Porto Empedocle - Trapani

Our first port of call is to Porto Empedocle where the ship moors for the day. The town is the closest sea port to the famous Valley of the Temples at Agrigento and is also well known as the fictional "Vigata" in Andrea Camilleri's popular Inspector Montalbano detective novels. Andrea Camilleri who was born in Porto Empedocle, used the town and its surroundings as inspiration for his beloved series. Tonight, we sail towards Trapani.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We drive to **Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples** and spend a whole day exploring the World Heritage site of Agragas. Here we see the finest series of Greek temples anywhere in the world including the remarkably well-preserved Temple of Concord. We also view the remains of the Temple of Olympian Zeus, another gigantic temple, with an unusual design characterised by enormous telemons. One almost complete telamons has been recovered and reinstalled on site, the other survivor looms large inside the **Regional Archaeological Museum of Agrigento**, which we also visit today.

Day Four | Trapani

We arrive early this morning in Trapani. Positioned on the most western tip of Sicily, Trapani boasts a dramatic coastline that forms a natural sickle-shaped harbour. It was an important trading post throughout history, particularly during the medieval period when it was a crucial stop for merchants travelling between Africa and Europe. Today it serves as a gateway to several notable attractions, including the Greek site of Segesta.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This morning, we head out to **Marsala**; originally the Carthaginian settlement of Lilybaeum. It was renamed Marsa al Allah by the Arabs and has been best known since the 18th century for its dessert wine trade. Here we visit the **Archaeological Museum** with its remains of a Carthaginian warship sunk in the first Punic war. After lunch, we cross by boat to the island of Motya, a stronghold of the Phoenicians, sacked in

397 BCE. We explore the island, including the North gate and the temple precinct and visit the Museum, famed for the remarkable statue of the Charioteer.

Day Five | Trapani - Palermo

Our ship remains at Trapani this morning till after lunch when it sails to Palermo arriving in time for dinner this evening.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: After breakfast, we drive through magnificent countryside covered in olive groves and vineyards to the ancient Greek city of **Segesta**. We visit the superb doric temple and the high-stepped, semi-circular theatre. In the afternoon we visit **Monreale**, the former hunting ground of the Norman kings of Sicily. Here, we discover an opulent Norman-Byzantine cathedral and abbey. Continuing towards Palermo we also visit **La Cuba**, a 12th-century Royal palace and UNESCO listed site inspired by traditional pleasure palaces of the East. We rejoin the ship in Palermo when it docks in time for dinner.

Day Six | Palermo - Lipari

Evidence of Palermo's rich history is everywhere you look. Arab and Norman architecture and design rub shoulders with the classical and Baroque. It is no surprise that its historic centre, along with the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale, has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, recognizing its unique Arab-Norman architectural style. Our ship moors in Palermo for the day before sailing towards Lipari later tonight.



Visit the wonderful Co-Cathedral of St. John in Valletta with its staggering Caravaggio masterpieces

Explore the beautiful island of Lipari with its rich archaeological finds dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods

Discover the stunning mosaics at Cappella Palatina in Palermo

Enjoy a full day at Pompeii where we admire the newly excavated House of the Leda alongside recently opened houses

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We spend the day exploring Palermo. First, we visit the **Archaeological Museum**, which houses one of the most significant collections of Punic and Ancient Greek art in all of Italy. Next, we visit a number of magnificent buildings from the time when Palermo was the richest port in western Europe. These include the church of **La Martorana** and the starkly contrasting **Chiesa di San Cataldo** with its soaring columns and stone vaults. After lunch, we visit **Palermo Cathedral** and the **Cappella Palatina**, representing a glorious blend of cultures - a western basilica, above which are glistening golden mosaics from Byzantium, all overlooked by an beautiful wooden ceiling in the classical Islamic style.

Day Seven | Lipari - Sorrento

This morning we awake in Lipari, the largest of the Aeolian islands. In Homer's epic poem, *The Odyssey*, Lipari was the home of Aeolus, the god of the winds, who helps Odysseus on his journey home from the Trojan War. Its position has always made it important to maritime trade, along with its precious resource: black volcanic obsidian which could be fashioned into weapons and utensils. Our ship lays at anchor here for the day before sailing overnight to Sorrento.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We spend the day on the delightful island of **Lipari** which, like all Mediterranean islands, was colonised by many different peoples over millennia. We walk up from the harbour to the Castello area where we visit the **Regional Aeolian Archaeological Museum**, whose rich collection of materials includes obsidian from the Neolithic period, as well as pottery from the island's Greek period. After lunch we explore the **Archaeological Park**, located in what once was the Acropolis of the colony founded by Cnidus in 580 BCE.

Day Eight | Sorrento

Arriving in Sorrento early this morning, the ship sets anchor for the day. This charming coastal town perched on cliffs above the Bay of Naples makes an excellent base for exploring nearby Pompeii. The town itself offers spectacular views across the bay to Naples and Mount Vesuvius, especially beautiful at sunset when the lights begin to twinkle across the water.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: After breakfast we drive to **Pompeii** and devote our entire day to this incredible site. Nowhere compares in revealing the details of daily life in a Roman town. We visit some of the most well-preserved buildings as well as an amphitheatre, theatre, forum, bathhouses, bars and brothels. Fountains in the street are worn where countless people rested their hands to take a drink and Roman graffiti still marks the walls. Travelling via the best routes to avoid crowds, we visit several villas that are newly reopened to the public.

Day Nine | Sorrento - Naples

We sail to Naples this morning where our cruise comes to an end. Disembarking after breakfast, we head to the **Archaeological Museum in Naples**, which exhibits the precious frescoes and mosaics discovered in the Vesuvian towns. The western wing has recently re-opened following a decades long renovation project. After lunch we explore two fascinating sites in **Naples**. Our first visit is to the church of Santa Chiara, burial place of the Angevin kings, and Bourbon dynasty. Next, we visit **San Lorenzo Maggiore** founded in the late 13th century as a Franciscan church on the site of the site of the basilica (covered hall) of the Roman Forum.

Day Ten | Naples

We disembark this morning and transfer to Naples airport for our return flight home.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times/and or any port restrictions.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Eireann Marshall

Dr Eireann Marshall is a Research Associate and Associate Lecturer with the Open University. She has published a number of articles on Ancient North Africa, and co-edited volumes on 'Death and Disease in the Ancient City' and 'Women's influence on Classical Civilisation'. Eireann has led many tours for Andante, including several to Ravenna, Venice, Pompeii, Sicily and Tunisia, and is bilingual in English and Italian.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 1 night at a hotel in Valetta, 7 nights onboard MY Variety Voyager & 1 night at a hotel in Naples

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MY Variety Voyager: welcome cocktail, house wine, local beer, and soft drinks are included when lunch and dinner are being served on board. Water, filter coffee and tea are available throughout the day.

Dates & prices per person

10th - 19th July	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
Lower Deck - C Cabin	\$10,105	N/A
Lower Deck - B Cabin	\$10,525	\$2,280
Middle Deck - A Cabin	\$11,085	\$2,690
Upper Deck - P Cabin	\$12,205	N/A

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 191 FOR MORE DETAIL

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Classical Highlights of Greece Cruise

Athens and the Peloponnese

10 DAYS FROM \$8,640pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

SMALL
SHIP
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MY Galileo - see page 190 for details

A wonderfully laid-back introduction to the ancient highlights of Greece's mainland, this tour combines a two-night stay in the shadow of the Acropolis with an enchanting cruise, circumnavigating the Peloponnese and closing the loop with a transit of the Corinth Canal. Included excursions range from tours of Epidaurus and Delphi to visits to fascinating museums filled with incredible artefacts.



Visit the ancient site of Epidaurus, renowned throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary

Explore the Palace of Nestor, the best-preserved complex of its kind from the late Bronze Age

Discover Olympia and visit the ancient stadium as well as the temples of Zeus and Hera, and the excellent museum dedicated to the Olympic Games

Enjoy a walking tour of Nafplion, wander around the remains of the Bronze Age city of Mycenae and take in the natural splendour of the Dirou Caves



Day One | Athens

Arrive independently in Athens and meet the group at our hotel, located in the very heart of the Greek capital, and enjoy our first dinner together as a group.

Day Two | Athens

A walking tour takes in the ancient wonders on our doorstep as a local expert introduces both the collection of temples, most famously the **Parthenon**, which comprises the **Acropolis** and the antiquities on display in the **Acropolis Museum**.

Day Three | Athens - Piraeus

This morning we head out on foot to the **Agora**, once the city's market centre, seat of government, mint, trial courts and the site of the best-preserved temple of Hephaestus, as well as the beautifully reconstructed Stoa Attalos, which is now the **Agora Museum**. After a light lunch, we proceed to the port of Piraeus to join our motor yacht. There is time to settle in before dinner and we sail onwards for Epidaurus.

Day Four | Epidaurus

Today we venture into **Epidaurus**. Early this morning, we drive to this ancient site, renowned throughout the Greek world as a healing sanctuary. Its 4th century BCE theatre is breathtaking and

acoustically so perfect that even today, 13,000 spectators can view performances without amplification. After lunch on board, we sail onwards to Nafplion.

Day Five | Nafplion (Mycenae) - Monemvasia

After breakfast, we enjoy a walking tour of **Nafplion** and visit the remains of the Bronze Age city of Mycenae, by legend the city of Agamemnon. Lunch on board follows and then we sail to Gythion via Monemvasia, with the chance to admire this Byzantine fortress town.

Day Six | Gythion (Mani)

Mani is Greece at its wildest and most beguiling. Few land tours can access this peninsula, immortalised by Patrick Leigh Fermor (and where the writer set up home), but small ships can. Our excursion takes in the natural splendour of **Cape Tenaro**, the Dirou Caves, and the charming town of **Areopolis**. After lunch on board, we sail onwards to Pylos.

Day Seven | Pylos

Pylos is home to some fascinating ruins, including the **Palace of Nestor**. The archaeological museum in Chora is particularly strong on Mycenaean history. After lunch on board, we sail overnight to Katakolon.

Day Eight | Katakolon

A full day of exploration awaits as we drive to **Olympia**, the legendary site of the original pan-Hellenic Olympic Games. Visit the ancient stadium, the temples of Zeus and Hera, and the museum dedicated to the Olympic Games of antiquity. Guests on this excursion will rejoin the boat at Patras before we sail on to Itea.

Day Nine | Itea (Delphi)

Our excursion for today takes us to **Delphi**, one of the most sacred sites of the ancient world. There is time to explore the complex of ruins and the museum. After lunch, our boat negotiates the **Corinth Canal** as it sails back to Piraeus.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Aristotle Koskinas

Aristotle studied classical archaeology at the University of Ioannina, Greece, and worked for the Greek Ministry of Culture for several years. He is an archaeologist and guide with several years of experience throughout Greece.



Day Ten | Piraeus - Athens

After breakfast we disembark and can make our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Local Guide in Athens who will also accompany us on board the cruise as our Tour Manager
- Onboard Guest Lecturer and the services of a Cruise Director provided by Variety Cruises
- Entry to all sites as per the itinerary
- Field Notes
- All taxes (including port taxes) & gratuities

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Athens & 7 nights aboard the MY Galileo

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MY Galileo: house wine, local beer and soft drinks are included when lunch and dinner are being served on board. Water, filter coffee and tea are available throughout the day.

Dates & prices per person

4th - 13th Nov	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
Lower Deck - C Cabin size 9.5-10m ²	\$8,640	N/A
Lower Deck - B Cabin size 11-14 m ²	\$8,920	\$2,185
Upper Deck - A Cabin size 12-13 m ²	\$9,340	\$2,735

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 190 FOR MORE DETAIL

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

Moorish Wonders of the Guadalquivir & Guadiana

Exploring Andalucía and the Algarve on a cruise

8 DAYS FROM \$5,310pp

Activity Level ●●●○○

RIVER
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MS La Belle de Cadix - see page 189 for details

Called the Baetis in the Roman period, the Guadalquivir is the most important river in Spain, not just because it is the country's only navigable river but because it flows through Andalucía, the heartbeat of Iberian history. The Guadiana, in turn, meets the Guadalquivir at the Gulf of Cadiz, thereby linking the historically rich Andalucía with the Algarve.



Admire the Alhambra, dubbed by Arabic poets 'the pearl set in emeralds' and a unique example of Moorish architecture transformed into a Renaissance palace in the 16th century

Explore Italica, the oldest Roman city outside of Italy, and home to stunningly preserved remains unencumbered by later periods

Examine the historic remains of Cádiz, including its extraordinary Phoenician and Roman remains

Visit unique Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, a colourful blend of Islamic and Renaissance architecture



Day One | Seville

We meet in Seville and time permitting, visit the **Metropol Parasol** in the city. Afterwards we join our ship, the MS Belle de Cadiz, in Seville.

Day Two | Seville

We wake up in Seville, the capital of Andalucía, which was once the ancient city of Hispalis and later became enormously wealthy for its crucial role in the Transatlantic trade.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we venture to Cordoba where we begin our exploration with the **Medina Azahara**, the 10th-century palace-city built in order to administer the capital. We continue to the city's **Jewish Quarter** where we see vestiges of the multi-cultural medieval city when the city gave rise to lush luminaries as Maimonides and Avverroes. We end our visit of Cordoba with the world-famous **Mezquita**, or Cathedral Mosque, erected in the 8th century.

Day Three | Seville - Isla Minima

Today our ship is moored in the vibrant city of Seville before it departs in the afternoon for the Isla Minima, set in the Marshlands of the Guadalquivir. Here we have a tour of an Andalusian hacienda before we sail to Cádiz.



Image: Cordoba

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit two of Seville's UNESCO listed sites, starting with the **Real Alcazar**, built in the 14th century, an important example of mudéjar architecture, which is blending of Moorish and Europe styles. We continue a short distance to the **Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See**, the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, built in order to signal the city's increased importance after the reconquista.

Day Four | Cádiz

This morning we are in Cádiz, the important port which lays claim to being one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in Europe. Located on a spit of land surrounded by sea, Cádiz retains an old quarter which bears the remains of its ancient past.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we explore the important city of Cadiz, founded by Phoenicians in the 9th-century BCE. We start with the **archaeological museum**, which contains an important collection of artefacts from the city's vast history, before proceeding to the **Roman theatre**, built in the 1st-century BCE and once one of the largest theatres in the empire. We end the morning with a visit to the **cathedral**, built in the city's heyday when the city was enriched by the Transatlantic trade. After lunch, we visit the archaeological site which contains the remains of the Phoenician settlement of **Gadir**.

Day Five | Alcoutim - Huelva

Today we join the Guadiana, which meets the Guadalquivir in Cadiz, and sail to Alcoutim, located in the Algarve, near the border. After a brief stay here, we sail the rest of the afternoon towards Huelva where we arrive in the evening.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we visit the 13th-century **Moorish castle at Alcoutim**, whose imposing position on the right bank of the tributary river of San Marcos made it an important site from the Neolithic period onwards. The current castle belongs to the period of the reconquista when the Portuguese crown undertook defensive measures to stamp their authority over lands they gained.

Day Six | Huelva - El Puerto de Santa Maria - Seville

We awake in Huelva, where we spend the morning before sailing in the afternoon towards El Puerto de Santa Maria in the province of Cadiz. In the evening we re-join the Guadalquivir and sail back to Seville.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Called on'u ba by the Phoenicians who settled here and later renamed Onoba by Greeks, Huelva was an important Phoenician trading post, exchanging precious metals and fish with cities throughout the Mediterranean. This morning we explore this city's important past at the important **Huelva Archaeological Museum**.

Day Seven | Granada

Having sailed through the night, we return to Seville and end our tour with one of the most impressive cities in Spain, Granada. In the morning we visit the

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Doru Bogdan

A researcher and lecturer at the University of Alba Iulia in Romania, Doru is a specialist in Roman archaeology and has also supervised an array of fascinating excavations.



incomparable **Alhambra**, first built as a fortress in the 9th century and turned into a palace fortress in the 14th century by the Emir of Granada. The Alhambra remains the most important witness to the great flourishing of the Muslim period of Andalucía, testament to the vibrant and cosmopolitan culture which made this part of the world unique.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Granada**, which sheds light on the city itself as well as on Andalusian history.

Day Eight | Seville

After disembarking the ship, we end our tour by visiting one of the most important Roman sites in Spain, **Italica**. The ancient city, founded in the 3rd century BCE, is one of the best preserved in Spain and includes an amphitheatre, a number of elite houses, as well as a Traianeum, a shrine to the important emperor who was born there. The visible remains today derive from the Hadrianic period when the city was enlarged and given the status of *colonia*. In the afternoon we make our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 7 nights aboard the MS La Belle de Cadix

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- MS La Belle de Cadix: welcome cocktail and all on board 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

3rd - 10th Sep	Twin/Dbl Share	\$S
Main Deck Outside Cabin with a porthole window	\$5,310	\$965
Middle Deck Outside Cabin with a window	\$5,645	\$965
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	\$5,925	\$965

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 191 FOR MORE DETAIL

or full details of this tour visit
andantetravels.com/aggc

Exploring the Archaeology of the Rhône

Greeks, Romans and Celts

9 DAYS FROM \$7,480pp

Activity Level ●●●●○

RIVER
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: MS Van Gogh - see page 188 for details

The Rhône was the major conduit of culture in France in Antiquity, transmitting Hellenic culture from Marseille, founded by Greeks in 600 BCE, to the cities along the historic river. This cruise examines the role the river played in the ancient world as a channel of trade and culture, and showcases France's most important archaeological and historical sites.

Day One | Lyon

We meet at our hotel and, time permitting, proceed this afternoon to the wonderful **Gallo-Roman Museum of Lyon-Fourvière**, as well as the adjacent Roman theatre built in the 1st century BC, which seated 10,000 people.

Day Two | Vienne

This morning we travel to Vienne, the erstwhile capital of the Allobroges made into a colonia by Julius Caesar. We explore its Roman remains,

including the well-preserved **Temple of Augustus and Livia**, built in the 1st century AD, and the nearby **Jardin Archéologique de Cybele**, which bears precious remnants of the ancient city and the **Roman Museum**. Later, we venture to the site of **Saint Romain en Gal** with its excellent museum. Here we find artefacts and mosaics from one of the largest Gallo - Roman settlements in the Rhone Valley. We return to Lyon to join our ship and sail to Macon in the evening.



Image: Martigues



Explore the exceptional amphitheatre and archaeological museum at Arles

Visit the Palais des Papes in Avignon, home to the Popes in the 14th century

View the iconic Pont du Gard, one of the world's most famous aqueducts

Examine the important site of Glanum with its famous Triumphal Arch and mausoleum

Enjoy exclusive Andante excursions during the cruise

Day Three | Mâcon - Trévoux

This morning, we wake in Mâcon, a city famous for its beautiful positioning on the Saône and which produces some of the world's finest wines. From here, we set off for our archaeological explorations. We return to the ship in Trévoux and enjoy another evening of dining and cruising.

Exclusive Andante excursion: Today we visit the **Roche de Solutré**, a prehistoric site that was the centre of Solutrean palaeolithic culture. Here, we also visit the **Prehistoric Museum** world before continuing to the world-famous abbey at Cluny, a Benedictine monastery that was destroyed during the French Revolution, but whose remains testify to its power and wealth.

Day Four | Lyon - Tain L'Hermitage

We wake up in Lyon and spend the morning there before our afternoon sailing to Tain L'Hermitage, famous for its wines as well as for Valrhona, one of the world's most important chocolatiers.

Exclusive Andante excursion: This morning we embark on a walking tour of Lyon. Here we explore the Jardin Archéologique, which preserves remains of the ancient Church of Sainte Croix, built on top of ancient remains, as well as the Church Saint Etienne, dating to the 4th century AD.

Day Five | Tain L'Hermitage - Le Pouzin - Avignon

We awake at the stunning little town of **Tain L'Hermitage**, famed for its wines, whose vineyards can be seen on the hills facing the river. After a little time at leisure here, we return to the ship and then sail south to the medieval city of Avignon. During this day of sailing, we can relax on board, and our Guide Lecturer will arrange a lecture for us as to what we can expect over the remaining days of the cruise.

Day Six | Avignon - Arles

This morning we wake up in Avignon, the historic city which became home to the Popes in the 14th century and which continued to be held by them

until the French revolution, ensuring that it was adorned by a series of artists working to make the city fit for the papacy. In the afternoon, we sail to Arles, ancient Arelate, which became a very important city in Gallia Narbonensis. In the evening we sail to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: We spend the morning exploring the **Palais des Papes**, the largest Gothic palace in Europe and decorated by important artists such as Simone Martini and Matteo Giovanetti. From there we drive to Arles to see the incredible **amphitheatre** and we also explore the important collection of artefacts at the **Museum of Ancient Arles**.

Day Seven | Arles - Martigues

We wake in Arles and disembark. We spend the morning exploring the stunning natural habitat of the **Camargue**, the largest wetland in Western Europe and famed for its wide variety of wetland birds and white horses. We rejoin the MS Camargue in Port St. Louis and enjoy a gala dinner this evening as the ship sails on to Martigues.

Exclusive Andante excursion: After lunch on board, we head out to explore the ancient remains of Marseille, the city which has remained important since its Greek foundation in the 7th-century BCE. Here we explore the **Museum of the Roman Docks** as well as the remains of the Greek walls and Roman docks in the **Jardin des Vestiges**.

Day Eight | Martigues - Glanum

This morning we disembark and set off for the stunning **Pont du Gard**, perhaps one of the most striking and well-preserved Roman ruins in France. Built in the 1st century AD, it carried water from Uzès to ancient Nemausus, a masterwork of Roman engineering, which remained largely intact because of its use as a customs bridge. In the afternoon, we visit the well-preserved site of **Glanum**, which was never as wealthy as Arelate or Nemausus but which, nonetheless, was able to produce showy remains as the Mausoleum of the Julii and the Triumphal Arch, built during the reign of Augustus.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

John Shepherd

An archaeologist who has worked around Europe, John is an ancient glass specialist.



Day Nine | St. Remy-de-Provence - Marseille

Time permitting, we have a walk around the charming town of St. Remy-de-Provence before we travel to Marseille airport to make our independent onwards journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Exclusive Andante excursions with entry to all sites as stated in the itinerary
- An excursion to the Camargue wetland 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 Fourviere Hotel or similar, 6 nights aboard the MS Camargue & 1 night at a hotel in St. Remy

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Camargue: welcome cocktail and all on board 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

28th Aug - 5th Sep Twin/Dbl Share \$5

Main Deck Outside Cabin with a window	\$7,480	\$1,155
Upper Deck Outside Cabin with a large floor to ceiling window	\$7,650	\$1,155

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 188 FOR MORE DETAIL

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

NEW
FOR 2026

Cruising the Nile

From Cairo to Aswan

17 DAYS

Activity Level ●●●○○

RIVER
CRUISE



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: Mövenpick Ms Darakum - see page 190 for details



Most Nile cruises take in the Upper Nile, but these trips are brief, with more time spent on the shore than at sail. Fewer vessels sail the whole route from Cairo to Aswan, taking in the country's most impressive archaeological discoveries and allowing time to relax, unwind and watch life on the river bank pass by. Led by Egyptologist Professor Paul Nicholson, our leisurely cruise glides along a distance of approximately 600 miles between Cairo and Aswan aboard MS Darakum and takes us to a range of sites that most tourists to this part of the world typically miss.



Explore Seti I's temple at Abydos, considered somewhat off the beaten track yet home to the most beautiful raised reliefs in the entire country

Discover to Tell el-Armana to visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten and the Temple of Aten

Admire the Nubian site of the temples at Abu Simbel, rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam

Experience Cairo, including the necropolis of Saqqara and the new Grand Egyptian Museum

Day One | Cairo

Meet the group at our hotel in Cairo, a buzzing, energetic metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital and a city that Egyptians admiringly refer to as 'the Mother of the World'

Day Two | Cairo

Our day starts at the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation**. The NMEC opened in 2017 and is the first of its kind to display the richness and diversity of Egyptian civilisation throughout the ages, from prehistoric times to the present day. The museum's exceptional collection includes the royal mummies, which are exhibited in a new interactive display using 21st century cutting-edge technology to go beneath the wrappings and reveal their secrets. After lunch we visit Coptic Cairo. At the end of a fulfilling day, we board our cruise boat.

Day Three | Cairo

A full day of site visits await, starting at Giza to admire the only surviving representative of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the **Great Pyramid**. It towers some 481 feet above the plateau and its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. Here we also see the Pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure as well as the enigmatic Sphinx. After lunch we visit the **Grand Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids within view. A huge undertaking which started over 20 years ago, the museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands on thousands of artefacts. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world.

Day Four | Cairo

We dedicate today to one of the most archaeologically important sites in Egypt - the necropolis of **Saqqara**. Some of the most important officials of Memphis were buried here and it was also the place of Egypt's first pyramid. We see the 3rd Dynasty Pharaoh Djoser's distinctive **Step Pyramid** complex and the Pyramid of Unas and in the afternoon explore the **Imhotep Museum**, now re-opened after two years of renovation.

Day Five | Cairo – Beni Suef

Today is spent sailing the long distance from Cairo to Beni Suef, where the ship overnights. Enjoy the chance to relax and reflect on our days spent in Cairo.

Day Six | Beni Suef – El-Minya

Another day sailing along the Nile. Spend the day at leisure and enjoy unforgettable sights as we cruise along this mighty waterway. Our ship overnights in El-Minya, ready for an early site visit the following day.

Day Seven | El-Minya

This morning we disembark and drive to **Tuna el Gebel**, the necropolis for the ancient town of Hermopolis at the edge of the western desert. It marks the boundary of Akhenaten's city some 11kms from the centre of Tell el-Amarna. After lunch we visit **Beni Hassan**, the cemetery site of tombs cut high in the desert cliff overlooking the Nile. The climb up to the tombs requires some effort but the view from the top is breath taking and the

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Prof. Paul Nicholson

Prof. Paul Nicholson is Professor Emeritus of Egyptian Archaeology at Cardiff University with many years of field experience having directed excavations in Egypt at sites such as Tell el-Amarna, Memphis, and Saqqara, as well as working with colleagues at sites such as Hatnub and Berenike. His research interests include ancient technology, sacred animal cults and the uses and history of photography in archaeology and Egyptology. He is co-editor (with Ian Shaw) of *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Technology* (2000), and author of *Brilliant Things for Akhenaten: The production of glass, vitreous materials and pottery at Amarna site O45.1* (2007), and *Working in Memphis: The production of faience at Roman period Kom Helul* (2013), as well as numerous papers on technology, animal cults at Saqqara, and photography in Egypt.



tombs are fabulous. These Middle Kingdom tombs belonged to the most important men of the local district, the provincial governors (or nomarchs) of the administrative district (or nome). The walls of the tombs are covered in scenes of daily life in extraordinary detail, including agriculture, crafts, fishing, fowling and hunting. Returning to the boat, we overnight in El-Minya.

Day Eight | El-Minya - Tell el-Armana - Assiut

We sail to **Tell el-Armana** early this morning and visit this incredible site before lunch. One of the most important archaeological sites in Egypt, it is usually ignored or given scant attention by tour operators because there are no monumental structures here. Amarna is, however, the most significant surviving city site from ancient Egypt, the majority having been built over by later settlements. It was also a new capital city, constructed by Amenhotep IV, beginning in the fifth year of his reign. The original name of the city was Akhenaten, the 'Horizon of the Aten', a title corresponding to the actions of the so-called 'heretic Pharaoh' Akhenaten as he later became to be known. The city itself was abandoned after the Pharaoh's death, only 20 years or so after its creation. Here, we visit the tombs of important priests Meryre and Panehesy as well as the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten and the Temple of Aten. We return to the ship mid-morning and sail on to Assiut, cruising through **Assiut's Lock** en route.

Continued...



Day Nine | Assiut - Sohag

Today is spent sailing from Assiut to Sohag, where we moor for the night.

Day Ten | Sohag - Nag Hammadi

We sail this morning to El Bayana for our visit to **Abydos**. This is one of the most sacred sites in Egypt and was identified as the burial place of Osiris. The main focus of our visit is the important cult temple of Seti I with its fabulous wall decorations, some of the finest of the New Kingdom. The temple is also the home of the only King List still to remain in situ in Egypt. King Lists were originally present in all such cult temples as a focus of worship for the ancestors of the ruler who had constructed the temple. They are therefore a valuable source of information for the history of the pharaohs – or at least they should be. However, the ancient Egyptians were not beyond re-writing history, airbrushing (or chiseling) out those aspects of their history which they found unpalatable. This afternoon we sail on to Nag Hammadi, where our ship moors for the night.

Day Eleven | Nag Hammadi - Quena - Luxor

This morning we sail to Quena and moor here while we visit **Denderah**, once the capital of the Sixth Upper Egyptian nome. Like Saqqara, it was the site of burials of sacred animals, particularly cows associated with the cult of the local goddess Hathor. It is the temple of Hathor which is the

focus of our visit. The roof of the temple includes a number of chapels, symbolic mortuary chapels for Osiris. One of these contained the famous Dendera Zodiac, which is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, but it is replicated here in situ by a circular plaster cast depicting the hours of the day and night as well as the journey of the sun, moon and stars across the sky. From the roof, the sacred lake, representing the waters of creation, can be clearly seen. In the afternoon we sail to Luxor where we spend the next two nights.

Day Twelve | Luxor

An early start allows a full day of site visits today as we make the most of our time in Luxor. During the morning we visit the **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III, which captivated the imaginations of curious travellers for millennia. We continue to nearby **Deir el-Bahari**, where we visit the impressive colonnaded **Temple of Queen Hatshepsut**, mortuary temple of the only female Pharaoh. Next, we visit the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to the public and we enter a selection of these, including the elaborately decorated tomb of Seti I,

which details the opening of the mouth ceremony. We also visit **Deir El Medina**, the village of the workers who constructed the tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

Day Thirteen | Luxor - Edfu

We spend our morning at **Karnak**, exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and arguably the largest religious complex in the world. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre and palace for the New Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1,500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans and early Christians, all have left their mark here. We also explore **Luxor Temple**, with its avenue of sphinxes, military reliefs and gorgeous papyrus columns. After lunch we sail to Edfu, where our ship moors overnight.

Day Fourteen | Edfu - Aswan

A very early start this morning as we go ashore to the **Temple of Edfu**, a beautiful Ptolemaic temple dedicated to Horus, the avenging falcon god. A late construction built between 237 and 57 BCE, this is one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient monuments but was built on top of much older ruins dating back to Ramses III. Returning to the boat, we set sail for **Kom Ombo**, which we visit this afternoon. The partially restored remains of **Kom**



Ombo's Ptolemaic temple stand dramatically above the Nile and the situation of this temple, overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque, even though the carvings of the temple itself are not of a particularly high standard. It is, however, peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor and their son Khonsu plus the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasetnofret and their son Panebtawy. Back on board, we continue sailing to Aswan.

Day Fifteen | Aswan

Today we explore the sites in and around Aswan, starting with the **High Dam** and continuing to the **Quarries**, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular 'Unfinished Obelisk', which had it been successfully removed from its site would have been the largest such obelisk ever quarried. We continue to the atmospheric ruins of **Philae**, the Ptolemaic Island temple, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines. Originally dedicated to the goddess Isis, this was the Byzantine Empire's last bastion of paganism. In the afternoon we visit **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan. Excavations have revealed that the mud brick town dates back to the Early Dynastic Period, as does the evidence of a shrine there, nestled among the great granite boulders of the First Cataract.

Day Sixteen | Aswan - Abu Simbel - Cairo

A very early start this morning as we fly to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan. Abu Simbel is at the edge of the desert and as temperatures can get very high during the day, the benefits of visiting in the cooler hours of the morning far outweigh the inconvenience of an early start. The site is quite simply spectacular and well worth the effort involved in getting there. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal pair and to awe the Nubians. In an effort to prevent the temples' destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe. After lunch in a local restaurant in Aswan, we take an afternoon flight to Cairo and enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

Day Seventeen | Cairo

We are conveniently located at our Cairo Airport hotel for our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- 2 nights at a hotel in Cairo & 14 nights aboard the Mövenpick MS Darakum

Culinary inclusions

- 16 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 16 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner
- MS Darakum: soft drinks are included when lunch and dinner are being served on board. Water, filter coffee and tea are available throughout the day.

Dates & prices per person

3rd - 19th Nov Twin/Dbl Share SS

Please visit our website or call for prices

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE SHIP INFO ON PAGE 190

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

The Archaeology of Upper Egypt

The Land of Ta Shemau

12 DAYS FROM \$11,600pp

Activity Level ●●●●○



YOUR CRUISE SHIP: Private Dahabiya boat charter



Upper Egypt, known historically as “Ta Shemau” or “The Land of Reeds,” stretches south from modern Cairo to Aswan. This region defined by the Nile River, with fertile green banks contrasting dramatically with the desert beyond, holds the greatest concentration of ancient monuments in Egypt. This specialised journey through Upper Egypt combines some of these most celebrated monuments with less common archaeological treasures, offering perspectives beyond the typical tourist route. Travelling between Esna and Aswan in a traditional dahabiya, we are able to access several sites which are inaccessible by bigger boats and enjoy the slow pace and wonderful scenes of life on the river at close hand.



Discover the ‘Valley of the Monkeys’ and the Tomb of Ay noted for its scenes of hunting in the marshes

Enjoy special access to the Tomb of Amenhotep III, a huge tomb in a secluded part of the Valley of the Kings

Explore Sehel Island, where we find some of the earliest and best-preserved examples of ancient Egyptian writing

Travel in a traditional dahabiya, much as Victorian explorers did over a century ago

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE

Dr Elizabeth Bloxam

Visiting Professor of Egyptology at North East Normal University in China, Elizabeth held an Honorary Senior Research Associate post at University College London for the last 10 years.



Day One | Luxor

Meet the group at our hotel in Luxor.

Day Two | Luxor

This morning we start by exploring the largest temple complex in Egypt, and some have argued, the largest religious complex in the world – the fabulous site of **Karnak**. In addition to its religious significance, it also served as a treasury, administrative centre, and palace for the New

Kingdom pharaohs. Added to by generation after generation of pharaohs over a period of 1,500 years, it's a dazzling maze of monumental gateways, obelisks, pillared halls and subsidiary shrines. From Hatshepsut, Seti I and Rameses II to the Ptolemies, Romans, and early Christians; all have left their mark here. After lunch we visit **Luxor Museum** and discover its fabulous collection of Egyptian artefacts.

Day Three | Luxor

Our focus today is on the **Valley of the Kings**. Here on the west bank is the necropolis area reserved for royal burials from around 2100 BCE, but it was the Pharaohs of the later New Kingdom period, who chose these once-remote desert valley sites for their grand rock-cut tombs. Of over 60 tombs discovered in the Valley of the Kings, only a small number are open to the public and we visit a *Continued...*



selection - the famous **Tomb of Tutankhamun**, the elaborately decorated **Tomb of Seti I**, which details the opening of the mouth ceremony and the rarely visited **Tomb of Ay**, tucked away in the West branch known as the Valley of the Monkeys. The tomb is decorated with scenes of the Pharaoh hunting for a birds and hippopotamus in the marshes, a highly unusual depiction for a royal tomb. We have also obtained a special permit to enter the **Tomb of Amenhotep III** which has recently been undergoing restoration.

Day Four | Luxor

This morning we explore the **Memorial Temple of Hatshepsut** at Deir el-Bahri, cradled by the dramatic natural sculptures of the neighbouring cliffs. The site is often regarded as one of the most spectacular and beautiful in Egypt although the temple to which visitors now come, is not the first on the site, nor is it entirely original in its architecture! Afterwards we make our way to **Medinet Habu**, arguably the best-preserved temple of the New Kingdom, filled as it is with a wealth of exemplary paintings, carvings and sculptures. Nearby we discover the seldom visited **Qasr El Aguz**, where there is a small temple dedicated to Thoth. After lunch we visit the **Ramesseum**, with its fallen colossus of Ramesses II, an astounding testament to the Pharaohs reign – and the inspiration behind Percy Bysshe Shelley's masterpiece *Ozymandias*. Our final visit of the day is to the **Colossi of Memnon**, two enormous statues of 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Amenhotep III which, captivated the imaginations of curious travellers for millennia.

Day Five | Luxor - Esna

We leave Luxor today and drive south to Esna. Here we explore the **Temple of Esna** (also known as the Temple of Khnum) dedicated to the ram-headed god Khnum, along with other deities including Neith and Heka. One of the few major surviving temples of the Graeco-Roman Period, the temple rests in a remarkable 9-metre deep depression, the result of 1,500 years of accumulated desert sand. Whilst the visible structure is impressive, it represents only a fraction of the original temple, which rivalled the grand temples of Edfu and Denderah in scale. After our site visit, we embark on our dahabiya private charter.

Day Six | Esna - El Kab - Edfu

Taking advantage of our small, flat-bottomed dahabiya, we moor at **El Kab** and make our way up to the row of tombs which line the ridge above the village. The tombs here are carved with important texts referring to the naval battles on the Nile between Egyptian forces from the city of Thebes and the invading Hyksos armies from the Near East. We continue to **Edfu**, a beautiful Ptolemaic temple dedicated to Horus, the avenging falcon god. This is one of Egypt's best-preserved ancient monuments, built on top of much older ruins dating back to Ramses III. The temple embodies the traditional architecture of ancient Egypt and is largely free of Hellenistic influence and several of the inscriptions found describe what is known as the "Sacred Drama." The story describes the conflict between Horus and Seth, as Horus seeks revenge for the murder of his father, Osiris.

Day Seven | Edfu – Aswan

We sail to Aswan, stopping at two key sites along the river. The first is **Gebel el-Silsila**, a site rich in tombs and shrines where we find evidence for ancient quarrying. The highlight here is a rock-cut temple known as the '**Speos of Horemheb**'. Next, we explore the partially restored remains of **Kom Ombo's Ptolemaic temple**, standing dramatically above the Nile. The situation of this temple, overlooking the river, is particularly picturesque and peculiar in its double dedication, reflected in its perfectly symmetrical layout. The eastern half of the temple was dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek, his wife Hathor, and their son Khonsu. The western half of the temple was dedicated to the falcon god Horus, his wife Tasenetnofret, and their son Panebtawy.

Day Eight | Abu Simbel

An early start this morning as we fly to the world-renowned Nubian site at **Abu Simbel**, 140 miles south-west of Aswan. Miraculously rescued from Lake Nasser's rising waters after the creation of the High Dam and rebuilt on the western bank, the two massive rock temples of Ramesses II and his favourite queen, Nefertari, were originally carved into the mountainside in 1244 BCE to honour the deified royal pair and to awe the Nubians. In an effort to prevent the temples' destruction, UNESCO embarked on its first-ever collaborative international rescue effort. This later became the catalyst for a World Heritage list that would help protect and promote over a thousand significant cultural and natural sites around the globe.



Day Nine | Aswan

Today starts with a visit to the **Quarries** at Aswan, famous as the source of pink granite which was widely used in many pharaonic monuments. We see the spectacular Unfinished Obelisk; had it been successfully removed from its site it would have been the largest such obelisk ever quarried. From here we continue to the atmospheric ruins of **Philae**, the Ptolemaic Island temple, a labyrinthine complex of chapels and shrines – which were originally dedicated to the goddess Isis – this was the Byzantine Empire's last bastion of paganism. To 19th-century travellers Philae was 'the pearl of the Nile' set on its own island, with just enough vegetation to make this the archetypal romantic ruin. Our last site visit of the day is to the **High Dam**.

Day Ten | Aswan - Cairo

We climb the steep stairway to the **Necropolis of Qubbet el-Hawa** ('Dome of the Winds') this morning, where we are rewarded by the Old and Middle Kingdom tombs of some of the prominent governors, household staff and officials of the southernmost region of Egypt. Later we discover **Sehel Island**, where there are thousands of inscriptions left by ancient travellers and in the afternoon we explore **Elephantine Island**, the location of the ancient town and temple in Aswan. This was the cult place of the ram-headed god Khnum, a creator god associated with the Nile

and the first cataract and potters. We explore the remains of the temples of Khnum and Satet, and their associated Nileometers (for measuring the Nile flood levels). At the end of the day, we take an evening flight to Cairo.

Day Eleven | Cairo

We spend our morning at the **Grand Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau with the pyramids within view. A huge undertaking which started over 20 years ago, the Museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands on thousands of artefacts. Costing nearly a billion dollars in its creation, this is the biggest museum in the world. After lunch we enjoy a visit to the **Egyptian Museum** in Tharir Square, the oldest archaeological museum in the Middle East which still houses the largest collection of Pharaonic antiquities in the world, displaying extensive collections spanning from the Predynastic Period to the Greco-Roman Era. Whilst antiquities are slowly being moved to the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, there is still much to discover here including the gold mask of Tutankhamun and displays.

Day Twelve | Cairo

We return to Cairo Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

Please note that the itinerary can be subject to change before the cruise departs or during the cruise depending on adjusted sailing times and/or any port restrictions.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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

Included travel

- All local transport

Accommodation

- Accommodation in the Pavillon Winter Luxor Hotel, a private Dahabiya boat charter (4 nights) & Le Meridien Cairo Airport

Culinary inclusions

- 11 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 11 dinners
- At hotels: water with all meals, tea or coffee with dinner
- On the Dahabiya: water, soft drinks, juices, tea and coffee served throughout the day

Dates & prices per person

16th - 27th Nov	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
Outside Cabin – Twin/Dbl	\$11,600	\$1,680
Suite – Double	\$12,020	\$1,680

SEE DECK PLANS ON PAGE 191 FOR MORE DETAIL

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



Frequently asked questions

WILL I RECEIVE FINANCIAL PROTECTION WHEN I BOOK?

Yes, for all UK residents. All of our tours are fully bonded and protected via the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL scheme (flight-based holidays for UK residents) or through ABTOT (for holidays that don't include flights).

ARE YOUR TOURS SUSTAINABLE?

We work hard to ensure that our visits have a positive and respectful impact on the ancient places we go to. Our brochures and packing materials are made from recycled and sustainable sources, and we're always striving to improve on this where we can. We always buy local for treats and picnic lunches, and do our best to avoid single-use plastics on our tours where possible.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR?

We include as much as possible, from all sites listed in the itinerary, tips to local staff and breakfast, lunch and dinner (more often than not with wine at dinner). We like to think of everything and you shouldn't need much spending money other than for souvenirs, drinks at the bar and the occasional independent meal.

WHAT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED TO ENJOY A TOUR?

All you need in order to enjoy a tour with Andante Travels is a passion for travel and a curiosity for the past. These are itineraries that everyone can enjoy, and are accessible for all interest levels.

DO YOU ACCEPT LATE BOOKINGS?

While we always recommend that you book as early as possible, we do understand that sometimes the spirit of adventure is too strong to ignore and often do take late bookings! Our Specialist Travel Executives are happy to help with late availability, should you require their assistance. It is, however, worth bearing in mind that the best prices will only ever be available to early bookers, so it does pay to plan ahead.

CAN I TAILOR MY TOUR?

Sometimes our guests want to add little extras to their tours to make their time away a bit more special. If you wish to stay for a few extra days after your tour ends, we can book your flights accordingly or arrange local flights where possible for an additional fee. You may also wish to upgrade your flights or room, just call us to discuss.

WILL A STAFF MEMBER BE ON HAND AT ALL TIMES?

Absolutely. When you travel with us, you are looked after round the clock. In the event of an emergency, our team members will help you both on tour and from our UK office. We are experts in dealing with the unexpected and we are on call 24 hours a day to support you and the tour staff accompanying your trip.

WHAT KIND OF GUEST GOES ON ANDANTE TRAVELS TOURS?

Over the past 40 years, our groups have contained people of all ages and from all walks of life. Parties are a mixture of solo travellers and those holidaying with partners or friends. The majority are people whose families have grown up, leaving them with time to pursue their own interests, but there is usually a spread of ages. The atmosphere on our tours is easy-going, informal and, of course, fun.

HOW ACTIVE ARE THE TOURS?

We have a simple grading system from one to five in place, which should help you decide whether or not a tour is suitable (see page 5). You'll find this featured at the top of each tour page. If you would like more information about a particular itinerary, please just give us a call.

DO I NEED TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Yes, we have a duty of care for all of our guests and we must ensure that you are covered for any necessary medical issues or repatriation needs as we will not be able to cover these costs or access your personal funds. Your insurance will also need to cover you in the event that you have to cancel your trip.

NEW IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR 2025 TRAVEL TO EUROPE: EES & ETIAS

If you are travelling to Europe, new mandatory border checks (EES) and travel authorisation requirements (ETIAS) are likely to be introduced at some point from late 2025. Please read the information on page 218 carefully to understand how this may affect your journey and what pre-travel requirements you will need to make. **Further details can be found at <http://travel-europe.europa.eu>.**

Booking terms & conditions

Your package holiday booking is with Andante Travels, The Clock Tower, 4 Oakridge Office Park, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT.

Telephone: 01722 713800 email: tours@andantetravels.com

These Booking Conditions, together with our Privacy Policy and where your holiday is booked via our website, our Website Terms of Use, together with any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, form the basis of your contract with Andante Travels Limited, The Clock Tower, Unit 4 Oakridge Office Park, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, SP5 3HT, company number 1969761 ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Booking Conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- a. he/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- b. he/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- c. he/she is over 18 years of age and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- d. he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. BOOKING & PAYING FOR YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

A booking is made with us when you pay us a deposit (or full payment) and we issue you with a booking confirmation. We reserve the right to return your deposit (see the tables below) and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, and you are a resident of the UK, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document we send you are wrong, you must advise us immediately as changes cannot be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document.

DEPOSITS:

Holiday cost	UK guests deposit	US guests deposit
Up to £1,000 / \$1,000	£300 per person	\$300 per person
£1,001 to £2,500 / \$1,001 to \$2,500	£650 per person	\$650 per person
£2,501 to £5,000 / \$2,501 to \$5,000	£850 per person	\$850 per person
£5,001-£10,000 / \$5,001-\$10,000	£1,200 per person	\$1,200 per person
£10,001+ / \$10,001+	£1,700 per person	\$1,700 per person

Cruises - deposits for our cruises are £1,500 per person for UK guests and \$1,500 per person for US guests up to £10,000/\$10,000. Cruises £10,001/\$10,001 deposit amounts are in the above table.

The balance of the cost of your arrangements (including any applicable surcharge) is due not less than 14 weeks prior to scheduled departure. If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case we shall retain your deposit.

If you are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when flights are booked.

Ways to pay - We accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges. (Please note: If you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered in countries outside the EEA and the USA).

2. ACCURACY

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website [and in our brochures] are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before you make your booking.

3. INSURANCE

Adequate travel insurance is a condition of your contract with us and is compulsory for holidays outside of the UK. You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness. Details of a policy suitable to cover the arrangements you book are available by contacting Global Travel Insurance. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever

arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available.

4. PRICING

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increases which are a direct consequence of changes in:

- (i) the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
- (ii) the level of taxes or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and
- (iii) the exchange rates relevant to the package.

Such variations could include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other transport providers.

You will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this condition. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £100. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

5. JURISDICTION & APPLICABLE LAW

These Booking Conditions and any agreement to which they apply are governed in all respects by English law. We both agree that any dispute, claim or other matter which arises between us out of or in connection with your contract or booking will be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

6. CUTTING YOUR HOLIDAY SHORT

If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

7. IF YOU CHANGE YOUR BOOKING & TRANSFERS OF BOOKINGS

If you wish to change any part of your booking after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you must inform us in writing or by phone as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will do

our best to assist, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your requested change. Where we can meet a request, all changes will be subject to payment of an administration fee of £100 per person per change, as well as any costs and charges incurred by us and/or incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with condition 8.

Transfer of Booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- a. that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- b. we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- c. you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £100 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- d. the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in condition 8 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.

8. IF YOU CANCEL YOUR BOOKING BEFORE DEPARTURE

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing or by phone. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices and will be effective from the date on which we receive it.

Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

Since we incur costs in cancelling your arrangements, you will have to pay the cancellation charges as follows:

Period before departure	Cancellation Charge in which you notify us
98 days or more	deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
84 – 97 days	deposit plus 15% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
64 – 83 days	deposit plus 35% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
46 – 63 days	deposit plus 55% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
31 – 45 days	deposit plus 75% of the balance and any invoiced flight or hotel costs
0 - 30 days	100%

Study Days are non-refundable.

Please note that insurance premiums and amendments charges are not refundable in any circumstances.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Where possible, we will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any monies you have already paid to us.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract applicable to your holiday at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. You must be able to show at the time you wish to cancel that there is no reasonable possibility of your holiday going ahead, in order to rely on this clause.

For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which significantly affect travel to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract.

This condition 8 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

9. IF WE CHANGE OR CANCEL

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes: If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of what might be "significant changes" dependent upon the details of your booking include the following, when made before departure:

- (a) A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (b) A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (c) A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- (d) A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - I. The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - II. The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - III. The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - IV. The Midlands airports: Birmingham and East Midlands
 - V. The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - VI. The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - VII. The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- (e) A significant change to your itinerary.

Cancellation: Unless we absolutely have to, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 30 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Events Beyond Our Control or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- i (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- ii having a refund of all monies paid in respect to your package; or
- iii if available and where we offer one, accepting an offer of an alternative holiday (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer.

If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Insurance: If we cancel or make a significant change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- (a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- (b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

Please get in touch with us directly to discuss compensation.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- (a) where we make a minor change;
- (b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 60 days before departure;
- (c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- (d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- (e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- (f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Events Beyond Our Control (please see condition 10).

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

10. EVENTS BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Events Beyond our Control". For the purposes of these Booking Conditions, Events Beyond Our Control means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Examples include warfare and acts of terrorism (and threat thereof), civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

Guides - In the case of events beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

Flights - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

11. SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has

been specifically confirmed by us. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

12. DISABILITIES & MEDICAL PROBLEMS

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your booking, please provide us with full details before you make your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

13. COMPLAINTS

We make every effort to ensure that your holiday arrangements run smoothly but if you do have a problem during your holiday, please inform the tour manager or the relevant supplier immediately as they will endeavour to put things right. If this is not possible please contact the UK office or the emergency number on your final travel documentation.

If the problem cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must send formal written notice of your complaint to us at our office, ideally within 28 days of the end of your stay, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. Failure to follow the procedure set out in this condition may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint and will affect your rights under this contract.

14. YOUR BEHAVIOUR

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our opinion or in the opinion of any hotel manager or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any other customers or any third party, or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other arrangements immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

15. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided

to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.

(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

(a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected;

(b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

(c) Events Beyond Our Control (as defined in condition 10).

(4) We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:

(a) **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) **Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:**

i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. **You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package.** The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and

the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this condition that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

(a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;

(b) relate to any business;

(c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your holiday, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

16. EXCURSIONS

Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your contracted arrangements with us. For any excursion or other tour that you book, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

17. INSOLVENCY PROTECTION

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive [packages and ATOL protected flights] by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 4498, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

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

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are

unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection for our non-flight inclusive tours under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Andante Travels Limited, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

• Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Limited.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

You can find out more about ABTOT here:

<https://www.abtot.com/>

If you book arrangements other than package holidays from us, your monies will not be financially protected. Please ask us for further details.

18. ENTRY, PASSPORT, VISA & IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS, SAFETY & HEALTH FORMALITIES

We can only provide general information regarding entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements and safety and health formalities applicable to your package itinerary. It is your responsibility to check such requirements (in good time before departure), in order to make your decisions to fulfil such requirements regarding your destination and/or the country(ies) through which you may be transiting through.

Such information which you may need to check includes (but is not limited to) passport requirements including how valid your passport must be after return date, whether your passport must be machine readable or which visas/waivers may be required for entry such as ESTA for USA travel, ETIAS for EU travel and or the UK ETA if you are entering and exiting the United Kingdom.

You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant bodies as applicable. We have provided a few useful resources below, though **it is your responsibility to check and see if such a body would be relevant to yourself.**

- the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ("FCDO"; <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>) (applicable to UK residents);
- UK Passport Office (0870 5210410 or <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship>).
- Embassies, High Commission and/or Consulates;
- own doctor.

For UK residents booking European travel, you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC cannot be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

EES – European Entry and Exit system

All non-EU nationals travelling to a European country will be subject to checks at the border. The EES system replaces passport stamping and automates border control procedures collecting and recording the data in your passport, your date and place of entry and exit from a European country and also your facial image and fingerprints. In most cases these checks will be carried out upon arrival in the EU when arriving by air, however, due to the dual French and UK border arrangements

in Dover, these checks will take place in Dover for coach passengers, prior to boarding the ship for the cross channel sailing or at London St Pancras International and Paris Gare du Nord self-service pre-registration kiosk before going through the ticket gates if travelling via Eurostar.

European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)

During 2025 the rules of travel to Europe will change and there will be an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals. Travellers will be required to make an online application for and obtain an ETIAS travel authorisation to enter most EU countries, a fee of €7 will be charged. Once confirmed this is linked to your passport and will be valid for 3 years or until your passport expires if that is sooner. If you get a new passport, you will need a new ETIAS travel authorisation. You must carry the email confirming your successful ETIAS submission and unique ETIAS application number along with your passport when travelling as both documents will be checked at the border. ETIAS is not required for Crown Dependencies – Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, or the common travel areas of Northern and Southern Ireland. Further details can be found at travel-europe.europa.eu and we will update this page as exact dates and further details are released.

19. CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIERS

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

20. PROMPT ASSISTANCE

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

21. DELAYS, MISSED TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS & OTHER TRAVEL INFORMATION

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact our head office and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

Under UK Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at UK airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in condition 10 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been despatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know.

Please note the existence of a "UK Air Safety list" (available for inspection at <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/licensing/requirements-and-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/>) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats will be refunded.

Some of our tours involve transfers or transport between, for instance, mainland and an island. Where ferries, and similar, are disrupted you may need to engage your travel insurance dependent upon the situation.

22. ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport

when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

23. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Andante Travels Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://andantetravels.com/privacy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

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