Special experiences

Private viewings, exclusive events, behind-the-scenes visits, sold-out performances... many of our tours feature events which are not regularly available on group tours. Here’s a selection from the current catalogue.

13
Private viewing of St Mark’s
Skip the crowds and enjoy our private after-hours visit, with the mosaics illuminated just for our group.

58
Hamilton
The award-winning Broadway musical is still the must-see performance for visitors to New York. It’s included in many of our New York long-stay tours.

78
Gibbs Farm
This world-class sculpture park north of Auckland, with pieces by Anish Kapoor, Richard Serra, Sol LeWitt, Andy Goldsworthy and many others – open to a limited number of people just four days per year – is a highlight of our New Zealand tour.

Aperitifs with The Leopard
Private visit to the palazzo-home of Prince Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, author of the Sicilian literary masterpiece The Leopard, featured on our Palermo and Naples tour.
Tailored small group journeys

Thank you for taking a look at the Academy Travel program for July 2019 to June 2020. We are proud to offer 66 different itineraries covering 42 countries.

The aim of every Academy Travel tour is to provide a rewarding, in-depth travel experience. We do this by recruiting highly qualified, experienced and enthusiastic tour leaders, carefully planning every step of your journey and limiting our groups to just 20 like-minded travellers.

All of our tours explore particular areas of interest, and our tour leaders’ expertise covers a range of academic disciplines. These include archaeology and ancient history, medieval to modern history, fine arts and design, music and theatre. Look for the icons next to each tour.

This brochure is just the beginning. On our website you can find full details of tours, blog articles written by our tour leaders, details of our public lecture program and regular updates on upcoming tours and events.

If you’re thinking about travelling, we hope you find an Academy Travel tour that’s right for you.

Robert Veel, and the entire Academy Travel team.

About us

Academy Travel was established in 2004, and over time we have developed an unrivalled network of contacts around the world. We’ve our own offices in Rome, staff in the UK and USA and trusted, specialist guides and destination managers in other countries, most of whom we’ve been working with for over a decade.
Carefully crafted itineraries

A well-thought-through itinerary can make all the difference to your travel. Have you ever stopped to consider why itineraries always seem to include some sites and not others? Has careful thought gone into it, or is it just a grab-bag of sites chosen because ‘everyone has always done it that way’? Working closely with our expert tour leaders, we create itineraries which explore destinations in a meaningful way and include not just the obvious, well-known sites, but also less touristed but equally rewarding gems and places that are a little off the beaten path.

Some room for spontaneity and individual discovery is also important. A satisfying journey will always comprise things you were planning to see and do, and things that are new or just ‘pop-up’: an excellent new museum, a great performance or the simple local restaurant that serves exceptional food. You can’t script these things, but you can ensure that there is time and space in the itinerary for them to happen. That’s why we prefer long stays and leave time in the program for individual exploration and relaxation. We include all breakfasts, but there are plenty of free evenings to discover local restaurants, or just relax.

The right sized group

Our tours have an average group size of 17 and a maximum size of 20. We find this is large enough for travellers to find like-minded companions within the group but still small enough for us to provide personalised service, learn about your interests and incorporate them into the experience.

The right time of year

In these days of increasing tourism, choosing the right time of year and even the right time of day is essential. If you look through our program you will notice that many of our tours take place in the ‘shoulder’ and even low seasons, especially for popular destinations. We also take care to avoid big cities on the weekend, where possible, and major public holidays, when sites can be overcrowded.

The right hotel

Location, location, location. In order to avoid unnecessary transfers and allow for individual exploration, we select comfortable, centrally-located hotels wherever possible. Most of the hotels we use are 4-star, with the occasional splurge on 5-star. We prefer smaller hotels if available, and we are constantly researching and reviewing our choices.
TOUR THEMES

While we ensure that our tours cater to a wide range of interests, individual tours often have one or more areas of particular focus, designed to appeal to travellers with specialised interests. Look out for the following icons in this brochure and on our website.

ARCHAEOLOGY & ANCIENT HISTORY

MEDIEVAL TO MODERN HISTORY

MUSIC & THEATRE

ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

INSPIRING LANDSCAPES

GARDENS & COUNTRY HOUSES

TOUR STYLES

We also offer a distinctive range of tours which break the mould of the ‘road trip’. Look out for the following icons in this brochure and on our website.

RESIDENTIAL TOURS

Before the age of mass tourism travellers spent weeks, not days, at their destination. Our residential tours take you into a world of ‘slow travel’, with 7 to 14-day sojourns in some of the world’s great cultural cities. There’s plenty to see and do in these places, and at the end of your stay you’ll really feel like you’ve got to know them. Residential tours also offer the greatest opportunity for you to explore individual interests or even take a few days off from planned group activities. Very few companies offer residential tours, because they require a truly expert leader and a profound knowledge of the destination.

STUDY TOURS

Many of our tour leaders are great teachers, having worked in universities in Australia and abroad. For those looking to investigate in even greater depth than our regular tours, we offer a limited number of study tours to select destinations. Study tours are usually also residential, and are comprised of lectures, morning walking tours and site visits and optional afternoon and evening activities. In order to keep the price reasonable, study tours tend to use public transport, and there are fewer group meals, performances and private visits.

SMALL SHIP & LAND TOURS

The last two decades have seen an explosion in ocean cruising, but for many travellers the idea of a 1,000+ passenger vessel and a string of one-day stops in tourist ports does not make for a satisfying journey. That is why we have introduced a small number of itineraries around the Mediterranean that combine an 8-10 day land itinerary with a small-ship cruise, usually six or seven nights. The land-based component gives you the depth and pace of our other tours, while the cruise gives you the benefit of not having to pack and unpack while exploring places best visited by sea. The ships we choose range from 35-85 passengers, with varying levels of comfort.
Like-minded travellers

A key component of the Academy Travel experience is you. Over the years we’ve been fortunate to have built a loyal clientele of interested and interesting travellers – people who want more from life than just a checklist of ‘must see’ destinations.

Academy Travellers come from all over Australia, and increasingly from overseas. Most travellers are 55 or older, with the average age in the mid-60s. Academy Travel presents itself as a ‘cultural’ tour company, so it’s not surprising that many Academy Travellers have a strong interest in areas such as history, archaeology, fine art, architecture and design, gardens and music. Repeat clients say that they enjoy the relaxed style of our tours, the expert leaders and the friendly groups.

No special qualifications are required to join our tours, just a desire to incorporate genuine intellectual insight into your travels.

Your fitness

In order to get the most from your travels and keep up with the group, a reasonable level of fitness is required. Each destination makes specific requirements, so you should check carefully with our travel managers if you are in doubt about your ability to fully participate. To help guide you, we have graded our tours.

★ ★★ GRADE 1 – REASONABLE FITNESS
A reasonable level of fitness is required. You will need to be able to walk for a few hours at a gentle pace, remain standing in museums and galleries, get on and off coaches, trains and boats unassisted. Residential and long stay tours are sometimes Grade 1 because you can more easily choose to take time out from the itinerary than on other tours.

★ ★★★ GRADE 2 – GOOD FITNESS
The most common grading for our tours. Grade 2 itineraries have all the requirements of Grade 1, plus a number of sites that require extra fitness – moving around uneven archaeological sites, climbing hills to enter towns or historic sites, walks of five kilometres or more. You need to have good mobility and aerobic fitness.

★ ★★★★ GRADE 3 – EXCELLENT FITNESS
A Grade 3 tour is one where more than a third of the days on the itinerary include quite physically demanding activities. Unless you have excellent mobility and endurance, you will not get value from a Grade 3 tour and should not travel.

Look out for the star grading and key requirements on each tour.
Travelling with Academy...

We have been on four Academy tours since 2015, and have a fifth planned for later in 2019. These trips have proven to be wonderfully enriching experiences. Academy’s core strength has always been the imaginative and cohesive itineraries. The itineraries go well beyond the usual tourist trail, and offer insights and experiences which simply aren’t available elsewhere – experiences such as a private night visit to St Mark’s Basilica in Venice; a snowcat ride to the top of an Icelandic glacier; seeking out an almost never seen Caravaggio fresco in a private Roman palace; sailing around Sicily on the luxurious Sea Cloud II; and visits to hidden monasteries, palaces and extraordinary private homes in destinations diverse as Helsinki, Rome, Valletta and Kyoto.

These enriching itineraries are complemented by the exemplary tour leaders – not only experts in their field, but empathetic, well organised people who provide wonderful insights and engender real enthusiasm among the travelling group.

The tour numbers are capped at 20, which engenders a really collegiate feel on tour. We have made lifelong friends from amongst our fellow travellers.

Marianne and Mark Schultz

Mark and Marianne aboard the Sea Cloud II, as they sailed into Palermo on the 2016 Caravaggio tour.
A wealth of knowledge
Passionate, prepared and professional, our tour leaders bring a world of experience and a wealth of knowledge to your travels. They have solid postgraduate qualifications, university level teaching and research experience, and a thorough knowledge of destinations.

If you are thinking about travelling with us, we encourage you to find out as much as possible about your tour leader. Our website contains extended biographies and details of upcoming public lectures by our tour leaders. We also publish blogs and interviews by our tour leaders, so you can get a feel for their knowledge and approach to their subject area.

CHRISTOPHER MENZ
A former art museum director and curator, with expertise in the arts and music throughout Europe, the USA and Australia.
See: Pages 25, 39, 45 & 76

GILLIAN HOVELL
A published historian and archaeologist, with extensive experience in lecturing and leading tours to the ancient world.
See: Page 19

JUDY TENZING
An historian with a passion for and deep knowledge of the history, music, textiles and literature of South Asia.
See: Page 71

DR MATTHEW DAL SANTO
A writer, historian and foreign affairs commentator, with Honours degrees from both Sydney and Cambridge Universities.
See: Pages 31 & 36

DR MIKALA TAI
A curator, researcher, academic and director of the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney.

ROBERT VEEL
A cultural historian and founding director of Academy Travel, with a strong interest in visual arts, architecture and music.
See: Pages 15, 16, 37, 70 & 77

STUART BARRIE
A social historian and founding director of Academy Travel, with strong interests in the history and architecture of the USA.
See: Page 60

DR ANNA LEBOVIC
An historian and educator, with a doctorate on the history of America’s pre-eminent fashion magazine, Vogue.
See: Page 59

CHLOË SAYER
A specialist in the art and culture of Mexico, she has curated exhibitions and published numerous books on this vibrant country.
See: Page 57

ELENA ORTEGA
A practicing painter and expert on the art of Spain, with degrees from the University of Sydney and the National Art School.
See: Page 27

DR JENI RYDE
A linguist and art history specialist, with a PhD focusing on Tourism, Heritage and Renaissance Studies.
See: Pages 13, 19, 27, 32, 33 & 38

DR KATHLEEN OLIVE
A literary and cultural historian with a PhD from the University of Sydney, with particular expertise in Italy, Spain and Japan.
See: Pages 14, 19, 26, 34, 74, 78 & 82

DR MATTHEW LAING
A political scientist and expert in US history, with a doctorate on the history of the United States presidency.
See: Pages 35, 52, 54, 55 & 58

DR NICK GORDON
A cultural historian with a PhD in History, and practicing painter who brings this passion to the visual arts.
See: Pages 20, 21, 22, 24, 40, 79 & 85

ROYNA MCNAMARA
A musician, educator and conductor, with degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Sydney.
See: Pages 44 & 48

SUE ROLLIN
An archaeologist, historian, author and linguist, formerly a tutor and lecturer in Ancient Near Eastern history.
See: Page 66

Maximum 20 in a group  |  Carefully planned itineraries  |  Expert tour leaders
ANN MACARTHUR
One of Australia’s foremost experts in Japanese art and culture, she has over 20 years’ experience as a museum educator. See: Page 69

CHRIS BRADLEY
An historian specialising in the religion and art of the Middle East and North Africa, having spent several years in Arabia. See: Pages 62 & 72

DR ESTELLE LAZER
An archaeologist with an international reputation for her work on the human victims of Pompeii in southern Italy. See: Pages 17, 18 & 34

DR JENNY LAWLESS
Former Inspector of History for the NSW Board of Studies, with expertise spanning Modern and Ancient History. See: Page 83

LINDY MONTGOMERY
A graduate of the University of Sydney and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she taught musicology for 13 years.

DR MICHAEL ADCOCK
An historian who specialises in 18th to 20th century Europe and the political role of art in times of rapid social change. See: Pages 41 & 84

ROBERT GAY
One of Australia’s leading music tour leaders and music educators, he has designed and led more than 90 tours. See: Pages 43, 46, 49 & 50

DR STEPHEN WILKINSON
Chairman of the International Institute for the Study of Cuba, he holds a PHD on the subject of Cuban literature. See: Page 53

THOMAS ABBOTT
Specialises in the music, art and architecture of Germany, studied in the USA and Paris, and has lived in Berlin since 1987. See: Page 25

BEN CHURCHER
An educator and practicing archaeologist, who works both in Jordan and with Aboriginal sites in Australia. See: Pages 65 & 73

DR CHRIS CARTER
An indigenous and historical archaeologist, actively involved in research in the Atacama region of Chile. See: Page 56

GERALD DESLANDES
A former curator and cultural historian, he spent 20 years as the director of five contemporary art galleries in the UK.

DR JOHN TIDMARSH
An archaeologist, former lecturer and current Co-Director of the University of Sydney excavations at Pella in Jordan. See: Pages 29, 30 & 64

LUCIA GAHLIN
An Egyptologist with a wealth of experience as an educator, researcher, archaeologist and museum curator. See: Page 63

MICHAEL TURNER
A garden and art historian, formerly the Senior Curator of the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney. See: Page 28

DR ROBERT MITCHELL
A highly experienced tour leader and singer, he is a veteran of almost 5,000 performances in over 120 operas. See: Page 47

DR SOPHIE OOSTERWIJK
A Dutch art historian who specialises in Medieval, Flemish and Dutch art, with a PhD in Art History from the University of Leicester.

DR TOM FORD
A specialist in classical music, with a PhD on Mozart, he is currently PR and media manager [classics / jazz] for Universal Music Australia.
Where to from here?

Express your interest
We announce tours up to 24 months before departure. If you register your interest we will keep you updated on plans, let you know when bookings are open, and update you on any changes.

Website listing
As soon as we have confirmed a tour’s dates, price, tour leader and itinerary we will publish it on our website. At this point the tour becomes open for booking.

Detailed itinerary
Around 12 months before departure we will publish a detailed itinerary with precise details of the daily program, accommodation, land travel and included meals, performances etc. We will publish this on our website and send a copy to those who have expressed interest.

Reading list, lectures, blogs, tour notes
We’ll send you a reading/viewing list for your tour and let you know if your tour leader is presenting a public lecture or has published a blog. Your pre-departure materials will include detailed tour notes.

Booking
In order to guarantee a place on a tour you need to complete an online or paper booking form and submit it, together with a $500 per person deposit. We will confirm your place on the tour immediately and follow up with a welcome letter and other materials.

Hold a place
If you want to join a tour, but need to consult fellow travellers, organise flights or check with family, we can hold a place for you, obligation free, for up to seven days. Please note that this is not a confirmed booking. Some tours fill extremely quickly, making this a handy feature.

Updates
If there are any changes to an itinerary, we will let you know as soon as possible. For music and theatre tours, we will send you updates on performances as soon as they are available.

Final payment
Full and final payment is due two months before the tour starts. Payment can be made by direct deposit or by credit card, subject to bank fees.

Travel documents
We’ll send you personal travel and transfer documents, a daily schedule, hotel and emergency contacts about a month before the tour starts.

Evaluation
About a month after the tour we’ll send you an online evaluation form. Your opinions on our tours are vital for us to identify issues and ensure the ongoing quality of our tours. Our tour leaders and managers also submit detailed reports.

The best bit.
Meet our team

LYNSEY JENKINS – CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER
If you call our office or make a general email enquiry, Lynsey is likely to be the first person you deal with. Lynsey manages our client records and enjoys watching the customer journey from enquiry to evaluation. Born and raised in England, Lynsey recently travelled on our Singapore Art Week tour.

JAMAL FAIRBROTHER – GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
After travelling the world, five years ago New Zealand-born Jamal decided to join the travel industry and has settled down to life at Academy Travel. He still enjoys adventure destinations and recently travelled to Sicily with an Academy Travel group.

REBECCA FUSSELL – GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
An enthusiastic traveller before she joined the industry, Rebecca has a thorough knowledge of Europe, including some of its remote corners such as Montenegro, Bulgaria and Romania. She enjoys art and architecture, but also the charm of small villages, hiking, and local food.

KATHY WARDROP – GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
Kathy has decades of experience as a travel manager, but also enjoys personal travel. Most recently she has walked a large section of the Camino de Santiago in Spain and has taken a cultural trip to New York. A self-confessed ‘detail freak’, Kathy enjoys talking to clients about their individual plans.

JEMMA YORK – GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
Jemma has worked as a travel manager for 10 years. Her most recent adventures took her to Italy, Israel, Jordan and Malta. Jemma also has an excellent knowledge of Central and South America.

HANNAH KLEBOE – GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
Hannah has been with Academy Travel for 10 years, but with two young children, she’s working behind the scenes for a while. Hannah’s passion is for the Ibero-Hispanic world. As well as working with travellers, she develops our tours to Spain, Portugal and Latin America.

Have you thought about?
Academy Travel is more than just a tour operator. We are also a full-service travel agency who can assist you with all aspects of your travel.

FLIGHTS
We can book you on our recommended airline for a tour, or the airline of your choice.

TRANSFERS
If you book your flights with Academy Travel, we will arrange complimentary transfers to the tour starting point. These may be individual or group, coach, hire car or taxi.

PRE-TOUR ARRIVAL
In order to relax and recover after the long flight, many travellers choose to arrive at the destination a few days before the tour gets underway. We can arrange flights, pre-tour accommodation and transfers for this.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL
Our staff have a great knowledge of the destinations we work in. We are happy to plan and book additional travel before or after your Academy Travel tour, and can suggest activities and accommodation that match your needs and interests.

INSURANCE
We work with the major Australian travel insurance providers. Regular travellers should also investigate annual policies. Comprehensive insurance is a ‘must have’ for pre-paid group travel.
ITALY

Academy Travel began by offering small-group cultural tours to Italy, and these remain a cornerstone of our operations.

Country road through Tuscany’s rolling hills.
Experience the wonders of Italy in style, from the splendour of the ancient world in Rome and the Bay of Naples to the great masterpieces of the Renaissance in Florence and the unique art and architecture of Venice. The great sites of Italy, including Pompeii and the Vatican Museums, are complemented by less-visited glories, such as the mosaics of Ravenna and the medieval towns of Umbria, and exclusive experiences such as a private viewing of St Mark’s Basilica. Enjoy Italy’s renowned regional specialities and fine wines at carefully selected restaurants.

**ITINERARY**

Day 1: Arrive in Rome and transfer to Naples.

Days 2–4: Explore the Bay of Naples, with walking tours and visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum and Paestum.

Days 5–7: Visit the Archaeological Museum at the Colosseum and Forum, and the collections of the Vatican Museums.

Days 8–11: Four nights in Umbria, exploring its medieval villages and hidden valleys, and the world of St Francis of Assisi.

Days 12–14: Travel via Gothic Siena to Florence, surveying key sites of the Italian Renaissance.

Days 15–18: On to romantic Venice, via Ravenna’s brilliant Byzantine mosaics.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Europe’s premier archaeological sites at Pompeii and Herculaneum; splendid Greek temples at Paestum
- Outstanding Roman antiquities at the Naples Archaeological Museum
- Classical and Renaissance Rome at the Colosseum and Forum, and the collections of the Vatican Museums
- Italy’s leading art museums, including the Galleria Borghese, Florence’s Uffizi and the Accademia in Venice
- An elegant al fresco lunch at the celebrated Locanda Cipriani, on the Venetian island of Torcello
- Private after-hours tour of St Mark’s Basilica to witness the illumination of the mosaics

**DEPARTURES**

April 14 – May 1, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**

$9,545 pp, twin share

$2,170 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Dr Jeni Ryde “Was a most enthusiastic and caring leader. She always ensured that we knew where we were by providing appropriate maps. She made useful suggestions for activities in our spare time also.”

– Grand Tour of Spain, April 2017

**INCLUSIONS**

17 nights’ accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 9 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

Archaeology & Ancient History

Medieval to Modern History

Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

Grade 2: Challenging slopes and steps at archaeological sites; cobblestone streets; bridges and boats in Venice.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at Rome Fiumicino Airport and ends at Venice Marco Polo airport. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct flights into Rome for our group transfer to Sorrento, and out of Venice for this tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
The villas and gardens of the Italian lakes are as spectacular as the alpine landscape surrounding them. This 15-day tour visits many of the finest villas and gardens of northern Italy, from the shores of Lake Como, with their elegant villas and exuberant displays of springtime blooms, to the Renaissance country villas and town houses of Andrea Palladio in the Veneto. The tour concludes on Lake Maggiore, best known for the baroque splendour of Isola Bella, and enjoys the lakes, villas and gastronomy of the region at a gentle pace.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The villas and gardens of Lake Como in bloom: Villa Melzi, Villa Carlotta and Villa Balbianello
- Asolo and Mantua: the surprising histories of their Renaissance courts
- Elegant Vicenza and Palladio's extraordinary vision for its palaces and country villas
- The fascinating towns of Lake Garda, the little-visited Lake Lugano and tranquil Lake Orta
- Excellent regional cuisine and wine, including lunches at Villa d’Este and in scenic Valdobbiadene, home of prosecco
- The Borromean Islands: baroque masterpieces on Lake Maggiore

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** Explore Lake Como by boat, visiting Villa Balbianello and Villa Melzi, with lunch at the Villa d’Este. Day trip from Bellagio to Lugano.

**Days 5–6:** From Vicenza, discover Mantegna and Giulio Romano’s Mantua, and Palladio’s town houses and theatre.

**Days 7–9:** In fairytale Asolo, enjoy fine gastronomy in the Valdobbiadene and Veronese and Palladio’s country villas.

**Days 10–11:** On Lake Garda, explore the Italian villa tradition from ancient to modern.

**Days 12–15:** Travel to Stresa via Lake Iseo. Experience the extraordinary villas and gardens of Lake Maggiore and enjoy the tranquillity of Lake Orta.
Academy Travel is proud to offer a tour that explores the islands of the Mediterranean in style, featuring a seven-day cruise on the luxury 50-cabin sailing yacht Sea Cloud II. As well as the ancient sites, travellers will encounter masterpieces of medieval Arab, Norman and Byzantine society and the exuberant baroque art and architecture of later periods. All this takes place in a setting of remarkable beauty – the spare, rocky shores of Malta, the dramatic mountains and volcanoes of Sicily and the countless bays and cliffs of the coastline.

A luxurious way to sample over 4,000 years of history, art and architecture on these islands, crossroads of the Mediterranean.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Cruising for six nights aboard Sea Cloud II, a very different experience to mainstream cruising, with outstanding service, fine food and wine
- Exploring the city-fortress of Valletta, constructed by the Knights of St John
- Touring the Neolithic temple complex at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra
- Caravaggio’s paintings in Malta and Sicily
- Sailing around the volcanoes of Stromboli and Vulcano, viewing active eruptions
- Outstanding archaeological museums in Siracusa and Agrigento
- The UNESCO World Heritage mosaics of Monreale and the Palatine Chapel in Palermo

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–5:** Arrive Valletta, tour Malta’s main sites, including the Neolithic complex of Hagar Qim and the medieval walled town of Mdina. **Days 5–11:** Six-night cruise on Sea Cloud II, disembarking in Siracusa. Ports-of-call include Trapani, Palermo, Lipari and Taormina, plus a full day at sea. **Days 11–12:** Explore Siracusa’s archaeological sites and baroque architecture. **Days 13–14:** Travel to Agrigento’s Greek temples via the Roman villa at Piazza Armerina. **Days 15–17:** Explore Palermo, including Monreale and the Palatine Chapel. Depart with a group flight to Rome.
Explore the extraordinary art and culture of Palermo and Naples on this 14-day tour, from their Greek origins to the Normans and Bourbons. The tour begins in Palermo, a capital whose vibrance is evident everywhere from the fusion of Greek, Arabic, Norman, Italian and Spanish cultures to its wonderful cuisine, and includes day trips to Segesta and Cefalù. The tour then explores the art and archaeology of the Bay of Naples, visiting Herculaneum and Paestum, the stunning Amalfi Coast and the impressive collections at Capodimonte Museum and the National Archaeological Museum. A feast for the senses!

DEPARTURES
January 7-20, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$6,650 pp, twin share
$1,150 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Robert Veel
"Was an outstanding leader. His passion for history, breadth of knowledge and sense of humour were very special and contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the tour. A true professional." – Sardinia & Corsica, September 2018.

INCLUSIONS
13 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 8 lunches or dinners. Palermo-Naples overnight ferry, Rome-Palermo flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Only two hotels; challenging archaeological sites; overnight ferry.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Rome Fiumicino airport. Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways offer direct flights to Rome for our continuing group flight to Palermo, and return coach from Naples. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Visit Italy’s two southern capitals, each an ancient and remarkable mix of cultures, spanning more than 3,000 years of European civilisation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Well-preserved ancient sites: Segesta, Paestum and Herculaneum
- Impressive Arab-Norman mosaics, including Monreale's splendid cathedral
- Little-visited but world-famous artworks in Caravaggio’s Naples and the Capodimonte Museum
- Private visit to Palazzo Lanza Tomasi, home of Prince Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, author of the Sicilian literary masterpiece The Leopard
- Palermo and Naples’ delightful cuisines, including tastings of regional specialties and excellent local wines
- Off-season travel: low visitor numbers and mild weather

ITINERARY

Day 1: Group flight from Rome to Palermo.
Days 2–6: Explore Palermo, including its World Heritage-listed Arab-Norman mosaics. Visit the home of author Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (The Leopard); Greek temples and Byzantine mosaics on day trips to Segesta and Cefalù.
Days 7–13: Travel to Naples, explore the exceptional collections at the National Archaeological Museum and Capodimonte. Visit Roman Herculaneum and travel along the spectacular Amalfi coast to Greek Paestum. Get to know Caravaggio and enjoy a performance at the historic Teatro San Carlo.
Day 14: Transfer to Rome airport for flights home.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
The eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD79 and recent archaeological excavations have given humanity an unrivalled window on the ancient world. This 7-day exploration of the key archaeological sites of the Bay of Naples is led by internationally-acclaimed archaeologist Dr Estelle Lazer. Background lectures and daily excursions will give participants a comprehensive understanding of the Roman world. The tour is based in a 4-star hotel in the seaside town of Sorrento, and includes time to enjoy the scenery of the Bay of Naples, travel the Amalfi Coast and sample some of the delightful cuisine of the region.

Explore world-class sites with a world-class expert, while enjoying the delights of one of Italy’s most beautiful regions.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Detailed, expert-led site visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum and several Roman villas
> Special access to houses in Pompeii that are closed to the general public
> An internationally acclaimed archaeologist’s insights into the ancient world, gained through cutting-edge forensic science
> The jaw-dropping beauty of the Amalfi Coast and the atmospheric 6th-century BC Greek ruins at Paestum
> Regional delicacies at outstanding local restaurants, including mozzarella at a Campanian buffalo farm
> Six nights in a centrally-located four-star hotel in the attractive town of Sorrento

ITINERARY
Day 1: Arrive Naples airport or station. Transfer by coach to hotel. Lecture and welcome drinks.
Day 2: Full day in Pompeii, including special access to sites unavailable to most.
Day 3: Naples Archaeological Museum and a walking tour of Naples.
Day 4: The Amalfi coast and on to the Greek colony of Paestum. Buffalo mozzarella lunch.
Day 5: Visit Herculaneum and the Villa Oplontis, to see how the upper crust of Roman society lived.
Day 6: Visits to the villas at Stabiae and Boscoreale, a Roman farmer’s domain.
Day 7: Return transfer to Naples.

DEPARTURES
November 4-10, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$3,990 pp, twin share
$600 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Estelle Lazer “Her great depth of knowledge in archaeology, enhanced and enriched my appreciation of the sites, culture and overall sense of place.” – Sicily & Aeolian Islands September 2018.

INCLUSIONS
6 nights’ accommodation in a 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 3 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Only one hotel; challenging archaeological sites.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Naples airport or Naples central station. Emirates, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways offer direct flights to Rome from most Australian cities, connecting to direct flights and trains to Naples. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
PUGLIA TO POMPEII
Classical Southern Italy

DEPARTURES
Oct 17 – Nov 1, 2019
Feb 27 – Mar 13, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,370 pp, twin share
$1,750 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Estelle Lazer “Has a great knowledge of the sites, a passion to pass on her interests, a great rapport with travellers, other guides and site personal, boundless energy and a lovely sense of humour.”
– Puglia to Pompeii, October 2018

INCLUSIONS
16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 9 lunches or dinners. Rome-Brindisi flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Challenging archaeological sites; uneven surfaces and stairs.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Rome Fiumicino airport. Emirates, Etihad, Qatar and Singapore Airlines offer the best connections to Rome for our continuing group flight to Brindisi, and with our return coach from Naples. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› The medieval castles and cathedrals of Puglia, built by Norman and German rulers
› The battlefield of Cannae, where Hannibal defeated the Romans in 216 BC
› The unique ‘sassi’ cave dwellings in the ancient city of Matera, one of Italy’s most remote cities
› The hidden artistic and architectural gems of Naples, seen by relatively few tourists
› Europe’s premier archaeological sites, including Paestum, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Oplontis
› Capodimonte, the Bourbon royal palace housing a remarkable collection of fine art

Take ‘the road less travelled’ through Puglia and Basilicata and on to the stunning scenery and renowned archaeological sites of the Bay of Naples. This tour begins with the fascinating history of southern Italy, from the cave-dwelling people of Matera to ancient Greek colonies, Norman castles and cathedrals, and elegant Southern Baroque architecture in Lecce. It then continues to the Bay of Naples, justly lauded in antiquity for its superb scenery and relaxed lifestyle, and today a wonderland of art and archaeology, from Pompeii and Herculaneum to Caravaggio and his followers.

Take the road less travelled through southern Italy – brimming with ancient and medieval sites and outstanding natural scenery.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Group flight from Rome and arrive in Lecce, explore the town, Otranto and Brindisi.
Days 4–5: Tour Taranto, see the ‘sassi’ of Matera.
Days 6–8: In Trani, visit Roman and medieval sites and sections of the Appian Way.
Days 9–11: Travel to Vietri sul Mare and spend a day at Paestum. Drive part of the Amalfi Coast to the hill-top town of Ravello.
Days 12–17: Explore the city of Naples, including the National Archaeological Museum. Visit key archaeological sites at Pompeii, Herculaneum and Oplontis, as well as Capodimonte. Coach to Rome.
Optional post-tour extension to Capri and Amalfi (October 2019 only).

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Sicily and the Aeolian Islands have a remarkable history and culture that is a blend of Mediterranean civilisations. From the well-preserved remains of Greek and Roman cities and temples, to Norman cathedrals with fine Byzantine mosaics and Arab-influenced cuisine, the island’s unique and varied history is tangible. This 17-day tour has been designed to give the first-time visitor an overview of Sicily’s diverse and fascinating past, its art and traditions, and shows how the extraordinary landscape – volcanoes, rugged coastlines and the jewel-like sea – has shaped the island’s vibrant history and culture.

From Greek temples to medieval mosaics, Sicily showcases more than 3,000 years of Mediterranean civilisation, all set amid active volcanoes and glorious coastlines.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- A scenic private boat trip of the Aeolian Islands, from Lipari to Stromboli and Panarea
- Outstanding archaeological museums in Siracusa, Agrigento and Lipari
- The Sicilian Baroque architecture of Noto and Ragusa that evolved in the 17th and 18th centuries
- The exceptionally well-preserved 4th-century mosaics in the imperial Roman villa at Piazza Armerina
- The UNESCO World Heritage-listed mosaics in the cathedral of Monreale and Palatine Chapel in Palermo, undertaken by Byzantine masters for their Norman rulers
- An excursion to the summit of Mt Etna

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** Group flight from Rome. Arrive in Siracusa, tour archaeological sites and the old town. Day trip to Noto and Ragusa.

**Days 5–6:** Travel to the Greek temples at Agrigento via the Roman villa at Piazza Armerina.

**Days 7–10:** Explore the capital Palermo, including Monreale, the Norman Palace and Palatine Chapel. Visit the tiny island of Mozia.

**Days 11–13:** Continue on to Cefalù en route to the Aeolian Islands. Take a private boat trip from Lipari to Stromboli and Panarea.

**Days 14–17:** From Taormina visit the Greco-Roman theatre and Mount Etna, before taking a group flight to Rome.

Optional pre-tour extension to Malta.
The Venice Biennale & Film Festival

During the Biennale, the fine Renaissance palaces of Venice open as centres of modern and contemporary art, showcasing many of the world’s best artists in a kind of ‘Art Olympics’. We explore the 2019 Biennale from our quiet hotel in the heart of the city, exploring art exhibitions by day and visiting the International Film Festival in the evening. The tour also coincides with Venice’s annual gondola race along the Grand Canal – an event by and for Venetians – and is rounded out with fine dining, Venice’s less-visited gems and tranquil islands.

DEPARTURES
Aug 29 – Sep 6, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$5,840 pp, twin share
$1,610 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Nick Gordon “Is a fabulous tour guide, tirelessly patient and impressively knowledgeable. He significantly improved my enjoyment of the sites.” – Venice Biennale, June 2017

INCLUSIONS
8 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Hotel Al Codega in central Venice. All breakfasts, 4 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, unlimited use of the public waterbus system, entrance fees, tickets to selected films and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: One hotel; walking tours with stairs and bridges; stepping in and out of boats; some late nights.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Hotel Al Codega, Venice. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer the best connections between Venice and most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› The best of today’s art in one extraordinary city, including visits to the Giardini Biennale, Arsenale, and exhibitions in historic buildings throughout the city
› Excellent modern art collections, including the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and Ca’ Pesaro
› Four evenings at the Venice Film Festival, arriving in style by private launch
› Tranquil lagoon islands, including lunch at Torcello’s legendary Locanda Cipriani
› The glorious pageantry of Venice, a stage for social performance from the Middle Ages to today
› Special exhibitions and retrospectives coinciding with the Biennale

Experience the world’s largest contemporary art biennale and enjoy the best of international cinema on this 9-day tour to Venice.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Settle in to our hotel in central Venice, explore the national pavilions in the Giardini Biennale and Arsenale, visit the best exhibitions throughout the city, and visit the Venice Film Festival.

Days 4–6: Witness the Regata Storica; visit special exhibitions timed to coincide with the Biennale; take in films in competition at the Film Festival; and discover Venice’s less-visited gems, including San Lazzaro degli Armeni.

Days 7–9: Continue exploring the Biennale, Film Festival and Venice’s modern and contemporary galleries. Visit Torcello, one of the oldest settlements in the lagoon, and enjoy lunch at Locanda Cipriani.
Umbria and southern Tuscany are home to some of Italy’s most beautiful medieval towns, such as Montefalco and Pienza, and elegant regional centres, including Perugia, Arezzo and Spoleto. The region brims with history, from Etruscan and Roman archaeological sites to magnificent Renaissance masterpieces by Giotto, Perugino, Piero della Francesca, Benozzo Gozzoli and Filippo Lippi. Discover Italy’s green heart and enjoy its rich artisanal and culinary traditions on this new 14-day tour, taking in the best this less-touristed region has to offer the cultural traveller.

Take the road less travelled to some of Italy’s most beautiful and historic medieval towns, and enjoy a wealth of ancient sites, Renaissance art, superb regional food and wine and living artisanal traditions.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Beautiful medieval hill towns, including Spoleto, Orvieto and Montefalco
> Roman Carsulae and Etruscan Rosselae, splendid ancient towns off the tourist track
> The rich artisanal traditions of Perugia, from stained glass to textiles, and Deruta’s renowned Majolica pottery
> Italian art from medieval masterpieces to Renaissance gems, many of which are still in situ
> Elegant regional centres and wonderful wine regions, from the soft, rich reds of Montefalco to the acclaimed wines of Montalcino
> Vision and vitality, from Renaissance Pienza to Iris Origo’s garden at La Foce

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Transfer by coach from Rome to Spoleto, explore Umbria’s ancient heritage and medieval and Renaissance life in Spoleto.
Days 4–7: Explore medieval hill towns, including Spello, Montefalco and Assisi, and their Renaissance masterpieces. Discover the artisanal traditions of Perugia and Deruta: ceramics, textiles and stained glass.
Days 8–10: Visit Lake Trasimene and Cortona, explore Arezzo and encounter the art and life of Piero della Francesca at Monterchi and Sansepolcro.
Days 11–14: Visit Iris Origo’s La Foce, Etruscan Rosselae, Renaissance Pienza and Orvieto. Transfer to Rome airport for departure.

DEPARTURES
May 9–22, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$7,190 pp, twin share
$1,410 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Nick Gordon “Gave us such insight into the culture of Italian life as well as politics, religion and food!” – Easter in Umbria & Tuscany, March 2018.
INCLUSIONS
13 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.
THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes
Art, Architecture and Design
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Walking tours of hill towns; uneven surfaces.
START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Rome Fiumicino airport. Emirates, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific, Qatar and Singapore Airlines offer the best connections to Rome from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

FIND OUT MORE
Venice City, Republic & Empire

Unpack your bags for 15 days and discover the city that ruled the Mediterranean for 1,000 years. From a family-run four-star hotel just a few minutes from St Mark’s Square, this tour explores the art, history and culture of Venice, and uncovers the depth of Venice’s influence with day trips to Ravenna, Padua and the Palladian villas of the Veneto. The tour also takes in quiet lagoon islands, including Byzantine Torcello and Armenian San Lazzaro, and dines at some of Venice’s best restaurants. The off-season travel period means fewer crowds and cruise ships.

**DEPARTURES**
March 4-18, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$7,230 pp, twin share
$1,610 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
Dr Nick Gordon “Is the consummate tour leader and provided us with a trip rich in experiences. His in-depth knowledge of the history and culture of the region and especially his understanding of art made this a great learning experience.” – Florence, Ravenna & Venice, April 2018

**INCLUSIONS**
14 nights’ accommodation in one central 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, unlimited use of the public waterbus service, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**
- Medieval to Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design
- Residential Tours

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
Grade 1: One hotel; walking tours with stairs and bridges; stepping in and out of boats.

**START & FINISH**
The tour begins and ends at Hotel Al Codega, Venice. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer the best connections between Australian cities and Venice. Contact us for bookings and quotes.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- A legendary lunch at Locanda Cipriani on the island of Torcello
- Glittering 5th and 6th-century mosaics in Ravenna, echoes of the Ostrogoths and of Byzantium
- The baroque surrounds of opera at Venice’s rebuilt La Fenice
- The colours of Carpaccio, Bellini, Titian and Veronese in palaces and churches
- The most complete cycle of Giotto’s work, in Padua’s Scrovegni Chapel
- Outstanding contemporary art at the Ca’ d’Oro and the Punta della Dogana
- Harmonious Palladian villas of the Renaissance in and around Vicenza

**Unpack your bags and explore the history, art and architecture of the city that ruled the Mediterranean for more than 1,000 years. Timed to avoid the crowds.**

**ITINERARY**
Days 1–3: Orient yourself with a trip around the lagoon, to Burano and Torcello, and visits to key state history museums.
Day 4: Day trip to Ravenna.
Day 5: Explore medieval and early Renaissance Venice – the world of merchants and Crusades.
Day 6: Day trip to Padua.
Days 7–10: Tour the Ghetto’s synagogues, admire fine art in the Accademia, Frari and Scuola di San Rocco. Baroque exuberance in fine house museums.
Day 11: Day trip to Vicenza and Palladio’s villas.
Days 12–15: Modern art at the Guggenheim, glass on Murano. The islands of San Lazzaro and San Giorgio Maggiore.

**Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders**
Our range of cultural tours to Europe and Russia are designed to explore the history, art and architecture of the continent in a way that is more relaxed than most Europe trips, but at the same time offering depth and focus.

Lake Bled in the Julian Alps, north western Slovenia.
The Rhine has been one of Europe’s principal trade routes for millennia, and the wealth it brought is clear in the soaring Gothic cathedrals of Strasbourg and Cologne, stunning collections of Old Masters and modern art, and playful garden palaces. Behind this rich cultural legacy, however, is a complex history that is easily missed on a superficial visit: Roman settlement at Cologne, Charlemagne’s capital at Aachen, medieval abbeys, Renaissance intellectual centres such as Gutenberg’s Mainz, and the birth of modern Germany in Goethe’s Frankfurt. Delve into the riches of the Rhine and its fascinating history on this 13-day tour.

DEPARTURES
June 17-29, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$7,980 pp, twin share
$1,910 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Nick Gordon “Is a very kind person who quietly and efficiently handles everything, including all that wonderful knowledge imparted with such good grace.” – Art Along the Rhine, June 2017

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinner. All ground transport, entrances fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture and Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Coach travel; walking tours; step in and out of boats.

START & FINISH
The tour starts at Zurich airport and finishes at Dusseldorf airport. Emirates and Singapore Airlines offer direct flights between Australian cities and Zurich and Dusseldorf for the beginning and end of this tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
Magnificent medieval architecture: Charlemagne’s Palatine Chapel in Aachen, Gothic cathedrals in Strasbourg and Cologne
Old Masters at Strasbourg’s Museum of Fine Arts and Frankfurt’s Staedel
Western Germany’s finest modern art, including Cologne’s Museum Ludwig, Dusseldorf’s Kunstsammlung and Baden-Baden’s Freider Burda
The little-told story of the Northern Renaissance: Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany’s oldest university in Heidelberg
Varied landscapes, from Alsace’s vine-covered hills to the scenic Middle Rhine, its spectacular riverside castles and medieval abbeys

An alternative to the crowded, cliched Rhine cruise, this itinerary gives you the time to properly explore elegant riverine cities from Strasbourg to Aachen, enjoy their wealth of art and understand their complex history.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Transfer from Zurich airport to Strasbourg, explore the medieval city and its excellent collections; day trip to Colmar.
Days 4–5: Visit Baden-Baden; discover Speyer, where Holy Roman Emperors are entombed; and enjoy Heidelberg, the beautiful university town on the river Neckar.
Days 6–8: Rococo palaces, Renaissance Mainz, Frankfurt’s exceptional art galleries.
Days 9–13: Cruise the Middle Rhine, lined with spectacular medieval castles, then uncover Cologne’s history from Roman origins to thriving modern culture. Day trip to Dusseldorf, the pre- eminent centre of modern German art, then explore Charlemagne’s capital at Aachen.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Berlin is one of the most interesting and diverse of all the great capitals of Europe, and is enjoying a major cultural renaissance. This two-week residential-style tour takes an in-depth look at Berlin, and the nearby cities of Potsdam, Dresden and Leipzig. The tour visits many of Berlin’s internationally renowned cultural institutions, enjoys fine performances in historic venues, and traces the history and development of Berlin from its earliest days through the glory days of the Prussian and German Empires, to the darker days of the 20th century and its rebirth after 1989.

HIGHLIGHTS
▷ An extraordinary range of museums and art galleries, including Berlin’s Museum Island and Gemäldegalerie
▷ Extended stays in Berlin, exploring historic neighbourhoods in the East and West
▷ Rococo architecture and garden design at Frederick the Great’s Sanssouci Palace at Potsdam
▷ Renaissance Leipzig’s old town, Goethe’s “little Paris”, and the scenic countryside surrounding it
▷ Elegantly restored Dresden and the impressive art collections at the Zwinger Palace
▷ Farewell meal atop the Reichstag with views across Berlin

ITINERARY
Days 1–5: Arrive in Berlin, tour the city and cruise the Spree River from Charlottenburg Palace. Spend two days visiting Museum Island, explore Potsdam and see the world-class Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Days 6–7: Travel to Leipzig to visit the Museum of Fine Arts and the Grassi Museum.

Days 8–9: In Dresden, tour the Old Masters Picture Gallery at the Zwinger Palace and admire the Pillnitz Palace.

For centuries, Burgundy, Provence and the Riviera have seduced travellers through a blend of medieval and modern cultures that is both sophisticated and delightful. This 16-day tour begins in Burgundy, a region renowned for its charming villages, vineyards and the birth of majestic Romanesque architecture. Travelling south through cosmopolitan Lyon and the Côte d’Azur, we admire fine Roman ruins, including the Pont du Gard, meet the medieval popes in Avignon and visit exceptional art galleries showcasing the exuberant atmosphere and inspirational modern colour of the French Riviera.

**Departs May 28 – June 12, 2020**

**Tour Price**

$9,270 pp, twin share

$2,200 single supp.

**Tour Leader**

Dr Kathleen Olive “Travel leader extraordinaire! With her knowledge, insight and humour our visits to sites were enhanced. Her sense of story is a delight!” – Burgundy, Provence & the Riviera, June 2018

**Inclusions**

15 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 7 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**Themes**

- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Medieval to Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design

**Fitness Requirements**

🌟🌟 Grade 2: Some standing in art galleries; some long coaching days.

**Start & Finish**

The tour begins at Geneva airport and ends at the Royal Antibes Hotel. Emirates and Qantas offer the best connections for this tour, flying into Geneva and out of Nice from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

**Highlights**

- Atmospheric Romanesque architecture, at Cluny, Vézelay and Berzé-la-Ville
- Well-preserved Roman Gaul in Lyon, Arles and Nîmes, and the celebrated aqueduct of Pont du Gard
- Cosmopolitan Lyon: vibrant cuisine, world-class museums and engaging street art
- Pretty Avignon and the medieval world of the popes and courtiers
- A world of modern art: Van Gogh in Arles; Picasso, Matisse and Chagall on the Riviera
- Lifestyles of the rich and famous at Cap Ferrat’s extravagant Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild
- France’s premier gastronomic regions, from fine wines in Burgundy to Riviera haute cuisine

**Itinerary**

**Days 1–5:** Arrive Dijon; tour Cluny, Vézelay and Autun. Visit Beaune’s Hôtel Dieu, home to Rogier van der Weyden’s Last Judgement, and Dijon’s Palace of the Dukes of Burgundy.

**Days 6–8:** Tour Lyon’s Roman ruins, admire contemporary Lyonnais art and cuisine.

**Days 9–11:** Explore the papal palace in Avignon, the Roman ruins of Nîmes and the extraordinary Pont du Gard, and walk in Van Gogh’s footsteps in Arles.

**Days 12–16:** Travel to Antibes via Cézanne’s Aix-en-Provence. Discover the glittering Côte d’Azur at the turn of the 20th century, from the grand villas of the wealthy to museums dedicated to Chagall and Matisse.

Explore the art, architecture and gastronomy of France, from the birth of the Romanesque at Autun and Cluny, to the drama of modern art on the French Riviera.
Take a comprehensive tour of Spain and discover its fascinating history, art and traditions. The tour begins by exploring Granada, Cordoba and Seville – great medieval cities whose cosmopolitanism is preserved in their Moorish architecture – and then travels forward in time to Madrid, capital of a unified Spain whose impressive palaces and museums reflect the power of an empire that once spanned the Atlantic. The tour concludes with three days in exuberant Barcelona, home to Spain’s finest modernist art and architecture. The tour also showcases the outstanding culinary traditions of each region.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The 13th-century Alhambra in Granada, a complex of palaces and water gardens
- Cordoba’s renowned Mesquina (mosque), a blend of Visigothic and Islamic art
- Visiting the mighty cathedral and wandering the lanes of Seville, the city of Carmen and Don Juan
- The art collections of the Prado and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums in Madrid
- Philip II’s monastery-palace of El Escorial, the epitome of Spanish imperial power
- Segovia’s ancient Roman aqueduct, proudly dominating this historic town
- Antoni Gaudí’s Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, in the context of his other works

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** Discover Granada, from the Alhambra to the lime-washed alleyways of the Albaicin and Flemish art in the magnificent cathedral.

**Days 4–6:** In Cordoba, explore the Mesquina and Moorish sophistication at Medina Azahara.

**Days 7–9:** Three nights in Seville. Visit the Alcázar, dazzling seat of the Christian kings, and relax in atmospheric plazas.

**Days 10–13:** In Madrid, tour the Prado and Thyssen-Bornemisza, Philip II’s El Escorial and Segovia’s Roman aqueduct.

**Days 14–17:** Travel to Barcelona, centre of Catalanian art and culture, from the Romanesque at MNAC to Gaudi’s flourishing Modernisme.

**DEPARTURES**

October 13–29, 2019
April 12–28, 2020

**TOUR PRICE FROM**

$8,980 pp, twin share
$2,290 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Dr Jeni Ryde (Oct) “is a great tour leader, she has excellent knowledge of Spain, its language and its culture. Jeni is also fun and makes every experience enjoyable and joyous.” – Grand Tour of Spain, September 2018

Elena Ortega (Apr) returns to our program in 2020. Elena is Spanish-born but has lived in Australia since 1992. She has a passion for Fine Arts, European history and literature.

**INCLUSIONS**

- 16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 10 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Medieval to Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

Grade 2: Train travel; archaeological sites and walking tours with some stairs.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at our hotel in Granada and ends at our hotel in Barcelona. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer the best connections in and out of Barcelona from most Australian cities. A connecting Vueling flight is required from Barcelona to Granada to begin the tour, which will coincide with airport-hotel transfers. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
GREAT GARDENS OF CORNWALL & DEVON

From small private gardens to great estates, from rediscovered 18th and 19th-century masterpieces to world-famous, ultra-modern concept gardens, enjoy the great gardens of Cornwall and Devon in their English summer glory. This 10-day tour also takes you to the gardens of some of the most famous names in modern garden and landscape design, including Sir Tim Smit and Isabel and Julian Bannerman. The beauty of the gardens is complemented by their situation: the dramatic coastline of Cornwall, the curious microclimate of the Isles of Scilly and the wild moors of Devon.

INCLUSIONS
9 nights’ accommodation in a combination of boutique and 4 and 5-star hotels. London-Newquay-London flights, all breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees to sites and gardens and tipping.

THEMES
Inspiring Landscapes
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Uneven garden pathways; countryside and coastal walks.

START & FINISH
The tour starts and ends at London Heathrow airport. Qantas and Cathay Pacific offer direct flights to London from most Australian cities that connect with our included flight to Newquay on the first day of the tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Group flight from London. From Marazion, visit St Michael’s Mount and Godolphin House. Fly to the Isles of Scilly; admire Tresco Abbey Gardens’ exotics.

Days 4–5: Travel to St Austell in Cornwall, via the Eden Project’s biomes. Explore Victorian Lanhydrock House, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Wileys’ extraordinary Wildside in Buckland Monachorum.

Days 6–10: Travel to Devon’s vast Dartmoor National Park; visit Lutyen’s garden at Castle Drogo, the Elizabethan Montacute, the Tudor mansion of Barrington Court, and the Royal Horticultural Society’s Rosemoor’s rose garden. Group flight to London.

Visit small private gardens, great estates, rediscovered 18th and 19th-century masterpieces and ultra-modern concept gardens.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Explore Ancient Greece on this 19-day tour, focussing on two of the most remarkable eras: the Aegean Bronze Age and the rule of the Macedonian kings, Philip and Alexander the Great. The tour begins with the sprawling palaces of the Minoans on Crete and then continues to Athens and the Peloponnese, entering the world of Mycenaean kings with their forbidding palaces and monumental burials. It then visits the great classical sites of Olympia and Delphi before arriving at Thessaloniki, gateway to ancient Macedon.

Explore Greece’s oldest sites, steeped in mythology and history, journeying from the island of Crete to Thessaloniki and the north.

HIGHLIGHTS
- The palace of Minos at Knossos, the legendary Minotaur’s lair
- The incomparable museums, Acropolis and Agora of Athens
- The palaces of Agamemnon at Mycenae, the citadel of Tiryns and the beautifully preserved Palace of Nestor at Pylos
- Enchanting Delphi, home of the oracle
- Meteora, whose stone pinnacles are crowned by Byzantine monasteries
- The Macedonian capital of Pella, birthplace of Alexander, with its opulent houses and fine mosaics
- Vergina, where Alexander’s father Philip was assassinated, and his spectacular tomb discovered unplundered in 1977

ITINERARY
- **Day 1:** Arrive in Athens.
- **Days 2–4:** Fly to Heraklion and explore the palaces of Knossos, Malia and Phaistos.
- **Days 5–6:** Return to Athens, admire the acropolis and the Archaeological Museum.
- **Days 7–8:** Drive to Nafplio to visit Mycenae, Epidaurus and Tiryns.
- **Days 9–10:** The Palace of Nestor and the Venetian castle at Methoni.
- **Day 11:** The Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia.
- **Days 12–13:** Continue to Delphi.
- **Day 14:** Travel to Volos via Thermopylae.
- **Days 15–19:** Drive to Meteora. In Thessaloniki explore Macedonian Pella and Vergina.

Departures: May 3–21, 2020
Tour Price:
- $9,975 pp, twin share
- $2,095 single supp.

Tour Leader:
Dr John Tidmarsh
“Was an excellent presenter and made site visits more memorable as we understood what we were seeing and the background behind them.”
- Greece, May 2018

Inclusions:
- 18 nights’ accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 12 lunches or dinners. Athens-Heraklion-Athens flights, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

Themes:
- Archaeology & Ancient History

Fitness Requirements:
- Grade 2: Negotiate steps and slopes and standing for long periods in the open at archaeological sites.

Start & Finish:
The tour begins at Athens Airport and ends at our hotel in Thessaloniki. Qatar Airways offers direct flights into Athens and out of Thessaloniki from several Australian ports. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

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Greece
From Antiquity to Byzantium

DEPARTURES
November 3-19, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$9,645 pp, twin share
$1,785 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr John Tidmarsh
“I enjoyed the tour very much and John’s insights
and breadth of knowledge
were very interesting. I enjoyed the
small towns we toured, lots of fun.”
– Greece, May 2018

INCLUSIONS
9 nights’ accommodation in 4 and
5-star hotels, all breakfasts and 5
lunches or dinners, 7 nights aboard
the MS Galileo, with full board and
shore excursions. Athens-Crete-
Athens flight, all ground transport,
entrance fees and tipping.

MS GALILEO
The MS Galileo is a charming
25 cabin, 3-masted sailing ship,
boasting classic interiors and served
by a crew of 16. This ship is compact
in design, with a lounge and dining
room, and outdoor bar and sundeck.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Small Ship & Land Tours
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Challenging
archaeological sites; stepping in and
out of boats.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at the
Athens hotel. Emirates, Qatar and
Etihad Airlines have direct flights
daily into and out of Athens from
most Australian cities. Contact
us for quotes and bookings.

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: Arrive Athens. Fly to Heraklion
and explore the Palace of Minos at Knossos,
Archanes and Phaistos.
Days 5–6: Travel to Chania via Venetian
Rethymno and the Australian Infantry Forces
sites at Souda Bay. Embark on the MS Galileo.
Days 7–12: Circumnavigate the Peloponnese,
calling in at historic Epidaurus, Mycenae,
Cythion, Pylus, Olympia and Delphi. Sail
through the narrow Corinth Canal to Piraesus.
Day 13: Disembark the Galileo, return to Athens.
Days 14–17: Survey Athens, Acropolis and
Agora; investigate the National Archaeological
Museum and superlative Benaki and Cycladic
museums.

Explore the extraordinary world of ancient Greece, from the sprawling palaces of Minoan
Crete and the citadels and monumental tombs of the Mycenaens to the incomparable
museums of Athens and the emergence of the Byzantines at the end of Antiquity. This
17-day tour by land and sea takes you from Crete to the Peloponnese, Olympia, Delphi and
Athens, visiting archaeological sites and museums, and enjoying the dramatic landscapes
– mountains, spectacular coastlines and rocky islands – of the Greek world. Get to know
the deep history of the cultures that made Greece the cradle of western civilisation.

A relaxed way to explore Crete, Athens and the
Peloponnese, visiting the
key Bronze Age and
classical sites for which
Greece is famous.

FIND OUT MORE

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Delve into an incredible wealth of culture, history and art on this comprehensive 17-day tour. The tour begins by exploring Russia’s medieval heart – Vladimir, Suzdal and Sergiev Posad – in the Golden Ring, before travelling to its modern capitals, Moscow and St Petersburg. The remarkable history of these cities, immortalised in iconic landmarks such as the Kremlin, is equalled by their extraordinary collections of art, at the Hermitage and the Tretyakov Gallery, and leading cultural institutions, such as the Bolshoi. The tour is rounded out with a day trip to Catherine’s Great’s palaces and select performances.

Discover Russia’s culture and art through its rich and tumultuous history, from the medieval Kievan Rus to the tsars and Perestroika.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Evocative Red Square and the treasures of the State Armoury in Moscow
- Explore the Kremlin, seat of the tsars, headquarters of the USSR and residence of Vladimir Putin
- Russian Masterpieces at the Tretyakov Gallery
- Visits to St Petersburg’s cultural highlights, including the Hermitage and Fabergé Museums, Yusupov Palace and the Church of the Spilled Blood
- Wander through the magnificent palaces of Catherine the Great
- Historic Suzdal, with its wooden architecture and churches of the Golden Ring

**ITINERARY**

Day 1: Arrive into Moscow Domodedovo Airport.

Days 2–4: Travel to Sergiev Posad and visit the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius. Continue to the charming Golden Ring town of Suzdal for three nights; visit historic Vladimir.

Days 5–10: Explore Moscow, from revolutionary history at Red Square, to the churches and museums of the Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery, and legendary Bolshoi Theatre.

Day 11: Travel by fast train to St Petersburg.

Days 12–17: Marvel at St Petersburg’s extraordinary landmarks, galleries, churches, palaces and museums, including a day trip to Catherine’s palaces at Pushkin.
Northern Spain & Portugal
Bilbao to Lisbon

Northern Spain and Portugal have distinctive cultures and preserve the keystones of Europe’s history. This 19-day tour explores these regions in depth, from the Romanesque chapels, cathedrals and cloisters in Castilla, León and Asturias that bear witness to the Christian reconquest of the Iberian peninsula, to the devotion of pilgrims on the Camino. We continue to the Age of Discovery in Lisbon – once the centre of the world’s first global trading empire – and the modern revival epitomised by Bilbao’s stunning contemporary architecture. The tour is complemented by visits to premier wine regions and dining in some of Spain’s finest restaurants.

DEPARTURES
May 3-21, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,420 pp, twin share
$2,295 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Jeni Ryde "Is an excellent tour leader, very professional and helpful to all our group. A pleasure to travel with and we would be happy to travel with her again on another tour.” – Northern Spain & Portugal, April 2018.

INCLUSIONS
18 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 10 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★★ Grade 3: Walking tours with some uneven paths and stairs; some sites at high elevation above sea level.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Bilbao and ends at our hotel in Lisbon. Emirates offer a service into Barcelona and home from Lisbon. A connecting flight with Vueling airlines is necessary from Barcelona to Bilbao to start the tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Frank Gehry’s extraordinary design at the Guggenheim in Bilbao
› Wine-tasting at the avant-garde Bodega Ysios winery in the Rioja
› The exquisite Romanesque and Gothic churches and cathedrals along the Camino
› A mountain walk and lunch in the clear air of the majestic Picos de Europa in Asturias
› Fine tapas in San Sebastián, and Spain’s most renowned seafood restaurant in Galicia
› An exceptional range of museums and galleries in Lisbon
› A visit to Sintra exploring exquisite palaces decorated with tiles

Extend your knowledge of the Iberian Peninsula, visiting medieval and modern sites, and exploring Portugal’s Age of Discovery.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: In Bilbao, visit Gehry’s Guggenheim, the Museum of Fine Arts and San Sebastián.
Days 4–7: Explore the Rioja wine region, plus Burgos and León on the Camino trail: their Gothic cathedrals and Romanesque churches.
Days 8–10: Discover elegant Oviedo, walk its well preserved old town and sample the local ciders.
Days 11–13: Arrive in spectacular Santiago de Compostela and enjoy seafood and wine in Rías Baixas.
Days 14–19: Travel to Portugal, with two nights in Porto and ample time in vibrant Lisbon, surveying leading art galleries and the Age of Discovery.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Discover Portugal on this comprehensive 14-day tour. Portugal has a remarkable history, from Roman colonies to medieval Moorish-influenced art and architecture, to a glorious Golden Age when Lisbon was the centre of the world’s first global commercial empire. Its history has left it with extraordinary cultural wealth, including prehistoric megaliths and rock art, World Heritage-listed cities, and fine medieval and Renaissance architecture. The great monuments of its past are situated among a striking landscape of turquoise coastlines, rugged mountains and picturesque towns, and are complemented by its vibrant modern culture and architecture.

An in-depth look at the remarkable cultural heritage of Europe’s Atlantic-facing nation, a beguiling mix of history, seafaring and great natural beauty.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Exceptional Old Masters at the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian
> Exquisite palaces on rocky outcrops: a full day in fairytale Sintra
> Technical skill and stunning colours in the National Tile Museum’s extraordinary azulejos
> Walk in the footprints of dinosaurs alongside the Atlantic at Cabo Espichel
> A full day cruising the Douro and two nights in Pinhão
> Cutting-edge contemporary architecture: Rem Koolhaas, Álvaro Siza Vieira and Porto’s Fundação Serralves

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: Explore Lisbon’s Age of Discovery, admire the Museu Gulbenkian’s masterpieces. Enjoy an excursion to Sintra.
Days 5–7: In Evora, prehistoric archaeology at Cabo Espichel, megalithic Almendres Cromlech, and the ever-present Romans.
Days 8–9: Tomar’s World Heritage-listed Convento de Cristo; Coimbra, medieval capital; and 1st-century mosaics at Conimbriga’s Roman villa.
Days 10–11: Two nights in Pinhão and the Coa valley’s prehistoric rock art.
Days 12–14: Cruise the Douro to Porto, the City of Bridges. Discover Porto’s historic centre and colourful Ribeira district.
Sardinia & Corsica
From the Stone Age to Napoleon

Sardinia and Corsica each have a unique history, stretching back 5,000 years. In spite of centuries of invasion and occupation, each island has maintained a distinctive culture, reflecting both their current status as part of modern Italy and France, and millennia of ancient and diverse Mediterranean influences. This tour showcases the very best of each island – from prehistoric archaeological sites, to Romanesque architecture, and the history of Napoleon – and explores how their history has been shaped by the superb mountainous landscapes and coastlines, living on in the distinctive cuisines and local traditions.

DEPARTURES
October 11-26, 2019
March 20 – April 4, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,450 pp, twin share
$1,850 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Kathleen Olive (Oct) “An excellent and well researched tour to 2 very interesting and different islands. The lectures were an important part in understanding the past and present situation.” – Sardinia & Corsica, September 2018
Dr Estelle Lazer (Mar) “Was terrific – knowledgeable and with a nice sense of humour. She was thoughtful of everyone and nothing was a bother to her.” – Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, October 2017

INCLUSIONS
15 nights’ accommodation in a combination of boutique and 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 10 lunches or dinners. Rome-Cagliari flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ ★ Grade 3: Boat travel; challenging archaeological sites; varying landscapes.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Rome Fiumicino airport and ends at the hotel in Bastia. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct flights to Rome for our continuing group flight to Cagliari, and from Nice with a connecting flight from Bastia. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Sardinia and Corsica each have a unique history, stretching back 5,000 years. In spite of centuries of invasion and occupation, each island has maintained a distinctive culture, reflecting both their current status as part of modern Italy and France, and millennia of ancient and diverse Mediterranean influences. This tour showcases the very best of each island – from prehistoric archaeological sites, to Romanesque architecture, and the history of Napoleon – and explores how their history has been shaped by the superb mountainous landscapes and coastlines, living on in the distinctive cuisines and local traditions.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Key Bronze Age and Roman sites in Sardinia, particularly Nuraghic towers, tombs and fortress-villages
› Distinctive Pisan Romanesque architecture on both islands
› Bonifacio, a citadel perched on southern Corsica’s precipitous limestone cliffs
› Ajaccio, Napoleon’s birthplace, and the Musée Fesch, the extraordinary art collection acquired by his uncle
› Scenic drives along Sardinia’s west coast and the high mountains of central Corsica, plus the Scandola Nature Reserve
› The fresh and distinctive food and wine of the islands

From the Bronze Age to Napoleon, these less-visited islands of the Western Mediterranean combine ancient cultures, dramatic history and breathtaking scenery.

ITINERARY

Days 1–3: Group flight from Rome. Stay in the resort town of Pula, visit sites at Nora and Su Nuraxi.

Days 4–5: Travel to Santa Caterina, visit the Punic-Roman site Tharros.

Days 6–8: Explore Alghero’s Catalan influences, take a boat trip to the ‘Grotte di Nettuno’ and enjoy a wine tasting.

Days 9–10: Marvel at the Costa Smeralda on the way to the ferry for Corsica. Explore Bonifacio.


Days 14–16: Admire vestiges of Pisan rule in the Romanesque architecture outside Bastia, a picturesque port.
From Vikings and mythology to the emergence of a modern culture, expressed through cutting-edge architecture and design, Scandinavia is home to distinctive cultural traditions whose influence has extended far beyond its borders. This 15-day tour takes you from Copenhagen to Oslo, Bergen and Iceland, and goes behind the clichés to uncover the connections between their histories and highly innovative societies. Discover how the natural environment — from southern Sweden’s golden fields, to Norway’s fjords, and the pristine coastlines and volcanic landscapes of Iceland — permeates Scandinavian art, architecture and design.

Explore Scandinavia’s history, from the voyages of the Vikings to contemporary Nordic design, and experience Iceland’s extraordinary landscapes and pristine coastlines.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Jørn Utzon’s Bagsvaerd Church and Henning Larsen’s Opera House in Copenhagen
- Modern art at the Astrup Fearnley Museum and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
- Helsingør Castle, the setting of Elsinore for Shakespeare’s Hamlet
- Norway’s stunning fjords and the unsettling art of Edvard Munch
- Evocative southern Sweden, from the World Heritage-listed cathedral of Lund to the mysterious standing stones of Ales
- The dramatic landscapes of Iceland, including the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, where Jules Verne set his Journey to the Centre of the Earth

ITINERARY

Days 1–5: Explore Copenhagen and its surrounds, including Elsinore Castle, Utzon’s Bagsvaerd Church and the exceptional Louisiana Art Museum. Enjoy a day trip to Wallander-country visiting Lund and the standing stones of Ales.

Days 6–9: Discover Oslo with its modern architecture, fine art collections and Viking history. Explore the natural beauty of the Norwegian Fjords and relax in Bergen.

Embark on a journey of a lifetime to one of the world’s last travel frontiers. This 16-day tour reveals the cultural and geographic wonders of Siberia and the Russian Far East. We begin in Irkutsk, a Cossack settlement and the cultural capital of Siberia, and then travel to the beautiful Lake Baikal, sacred to the indigenous Buryat people, and Ulan-Ude, a culturally Mongolian town that is the centre of Russian Buddhism. From here we take the Trans-Siberian railway to Vladivostok and then continue to Kamchatka, to explore its extraordinary landscape and the culture of its indigenous reindeer-herding and husky-raising people.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Marvel at the immensity and tranquillity of Siberia’s Lake Baikal, with its stunning vistas of pine-studded islands
- Journey across the Eastern Siberian steppe on the Trans-Siberian Railway
- Private helicopter and walking tour of Kamchatka’s snow-capped volcanoes and the stupendous Valley of Geysers
- Reflect on the pathos of Irkutsk, a miniature St Petersburg recreated by exiled Decembrists
- Explore the heart of Russian Buddhism at Ulan-Ude’s central datsan
- Meet Kamchatka’s indigenous people, the reindeer-herding Koryak

Experience one of the world’s final travel frontiers, from its awe-inspiring landscapes and unique wildlife to a cultural kaleidoscope of indigenous peoples and exiled dissidents.

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** Arrive Irkutsk, hear tales of exile at the Decembrist Museum. On Lake Baikal, meet with a shaman on Olkhon Island.

**Day 5:** Return to Irkutsk and retrace Siberia’s Soviet history at the Znamensky Monastery.

**Day 6:** Board the Trans-Siberian Railway to cross East Siberia’s vast steppe.

**Days 7–9:** Encounter Russian Buddhism in Ulan-Ude and visit the ‘Old Believers,’ Orthodox dissidents expelled in the 17th century.

**Days 10–13:** Fly to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Marvel at volcanoes and geysers; relax in Nalychevo’s thermal springs.

**Days 14–16:** Fly to Vladivostok, a vibrant Pacific port closed to foreigners until 1991.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Explore the eastern Baltic in depth, from the days of the medieval Hanseatic trade network and the centuries of struggle for dominance between Sweden and Russia, into the modern era, where great design and architecture make for compelling destinations. This 17-day tour from Stockholm to St Petersburg combines visits to excellent collections, historical and architectural walking tours, and the quiet beauty of the Baltic landscape. The itinerary includes two crossings of the Baltic, a train journey into Russia from Helsinki, and a performance at the Riga Opera House.

HIGHLIGHTS

> Stockholm’s Vasa Museum, a testament to the country’s former maritime glory, and the historic capital of Uppsala
> The beauty of the Stockholm archipelago, surrounding the city and admired on our Baltic crossing
> Great Art Nouveau architecture in Riga, and the medieval old town of Tallinn
> Stunning modern and contemporary buildings in Helsinki, including Alvar Aalto’s Nordic modernism
> The glories of imperial Russia in St Petersburg: palaces, gardens, cathedrals and great art galleries
> A performance at the Riga Opera House

Travel the Baltic by ferry and train, exploring the mix of Nordic, German and Russian influences that have forged a unique cultural identity expressed in art, architecture, music and design.

ITINERARY

**Days 1–3**: Explore Stockholm’s royal and maritime history, modern architecture and design.
**Days 3–4**: Overnight ferry to Riga.
**Days 5–6**: In Riga, investigate the heritage of this former Hanseatic port and enjoy a performance at the Riga Opera House.
**Days 7–8**: Drive to Tallinn, the superbly preserved Estonian capital, and tour the old town.
**Days 9–12**: Ferry to Helsinki. Visit Russian and Swedish imperial sites and sample Finland’s remarkable design and architectural scene.
**Days 13–17**: Train from Helsinki to St Petersburg. Visit galleries and palaces from Russia’s imperial period and explore the country’s extraordinary history.
Switzerland to Rome
A Journey Through Medieval Italy

Take a step back in time and explore medieval Italy through its beautifully preserved towns, abbeys and hidden gems. This 17-day journey follows the Via Francigena, the pilgrimage and trade route linking Europe to Rome, from the shores of Lake Geneva, across the spectacular Great St Bernard Pass and into the Val d’Aosta. As it continues to Rome through Lucca, Siena, San Gimignano and Orvieto, the path, once travelled by the pilgrims and merchants of the Middle Ages, has been largely bypassed by modernity, allowing a unique view on medieval and Renaissance Italy.

DEPARTURES
May 31 – June 16, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,480 pp, twin share
$1,880 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Jeni Ryde “Is an excellent tour leader. Very professional and helpful to all of our group. A pleasure to travel with and we would be happy to travel with her again on another tour.” – Northern Spain & Portugal, May 2018

INCLUSIONS
16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 9 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Historic towns with some uneven surfaces and stairs; some sites at high elevation above sea level; coach travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Geneva airport and ends at Rome Fiumicino airport. Qatar Airways, Emirates and Etihad Airways offer the best connections to Geneva and home from Rome. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Medieval masterpieces in little-visited sites, from the Abbey of St Maurice to Pisa’s Museo di San Matteo
› Sublime alpine scenery at Lake Geneva, the Great St Bernard Pass and Val d’Aosta
› The great artists of the Italian Renaissance: Duccio in Siena, Benozzo Gozzoli in San Gimignano, Signorelli in Orvieto
› Historic Rome beyond the tourist trail, from Roman ruins and medieval mosaics at San Clemente to the spectacular Museum of the High Middle Ages
› The hill towns and landscapes of southern Tuscany: Siena, Pienza, San Gimignano

Travel in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims and merchants from the shores of Lake Geneva, across the Alps and on to the gates of Rome.

ITINERARY

Days 1–4: Arrive Geneva and transfer to Montreux on the shores of Lake Geneva. Explore lakeside towns, then cross the Great St Bernard Pass to the Val d’Aosta.

Days 5–7: Explore the Val d’Aosta, visit Pavia, and enjoy the medieval hamlets and cuisine of Emilia-Romagna.

Days 8–13: Travel through the landscapes and towns of medieval Tuscany, from our bases in Pisa and Pienza. Enjoy the glories of Gothic Siena.

Days 14–17: Visit Orvieto’s splendid cathedral and discover the less-visited sites of medieval Rome, including San Clemente and the Museum of the High Middle Ages.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Vienna’s contribution to the arts is exceptional: in music alone, the Habsburg capital has been home to Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Strauss. But Vienna was also home to other pioneers, such as Sigmund Freud, Gustav Klimt and Otto Wagner, and superb collections of fine and decorative arts, acquired and commissioned by the Habsburgs during their 500-year rule. This new residential-style tour explores the history, music and culture of the city in depth, from the beginnings of the Habsburg Empire through its classical period and into its troubled 20th century.

Explore the city that ruled central Europe for 500 years, a mecca for musicians, artists, architects and intellectuals and still a vibrant cultural centre, European but with a distinctly oriental feel.

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** Arrive and explore Habsburg Vienna. Cruise up the Danube to Melk Abbey and enjoy a performance.

**Days 5–8:** Explore classical Vienna, including Klosterneuburg, house museums devoted to Beethoven and Schubert, the Upper Belvedere Palace and Esterhazy Palace at Eisenstadt, where Haydn lived and worked. Enjoy another fine performance.

**Days 9–12:** Discover Vienna in the 20th century, including Gustav Klimt’s atelier and Vienna’s renowned Jugendstil architecture. Day trip to Bratislava and the striking contemporary art of its Danubiana Museum. Performance and private visit of the Liechtenstein Garden Palace.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- The exceptional art collections of the Habsburgs, including the Imperial Treasury, the Kunsthistorisches, Leopold and Albertina museums
- Three performances, including at the State Opera and the Vienna Musikverein
- Private visit to the Liechtenstein Garden Palace, one of Europe’s largest and finest private collections of Old Masters
- Day trips along the Danube to Bratislava and Melk Abbey and its fine wine region
- Vienna’s other museums, from the Museum of Musical Instruments, to house museums devoted to Beethoven and Schubert, the Third Man Museum, and Gustav Klimt’s villa
Explore Europe’s extraordinary history and archaeology at one of its great cultural crossroads. This new 17-day tour begins in Vienna, the heart of the Habsburg Empire, and takes you through the Austrian Alps to Slovenia – whose beauty and archaeology reveal a different side of Europe’s deep history – and onwards to the Adriatic coast: Trieste, Istria and Venice. The extraordinary history and diverse cultures of the region are everywhere apparent, from the great art and architecture of imperial capitals, to exceptional archaeology collections, the fusion of Roman and barbarian cultures, and the tragedy of World War I.

DEPARTURES
September 8-24, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$8,230 pp, twin share
$1,830 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Nick Gordon “Was an excellent and friendly leader with great knowledge of his subject.” – Switzerland to Rome, September 2019.

INCLUSIONS
16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Walking tours; coach travel; archaeological sites.

START & FINISH
The tour starts at the Hotel Royal in Vienna and finishes at Hotel Al Codega in Venice. Qatar and Emirates offer direct flights into Vienna and out of Venice from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Ljubljana: a delightful European capital, with a relaxed café society, Art Nouveau architecture and fine art collections
› The world’s oldest musical instrument: the Neanderthal flute in Slovenia’s National Museum, now 60,000 years old!
› Fascinating and little-visited Friuli, from Roman Aquileia to the Lombards’ best-preserved art and architecture in Cividale
› Fairytale Lake Bled and Postojna Cave, the stunning natural beauty of Slovenia
› Trieste and Istria, a meeting place for Slavic, Venetian and Austrian cultures
› Private after-hours visit to St Mark’s Basilica in Venice

Explore the broader Habsburg world, linking the Germanic north to the Slavic and Italian south, a crossroads where cultures intermingle and great empires rose and fell.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Explore Vienna, from the Habsburgs’ grand palaces to their exceptional collections at the Kunsthistorisches and Royal Treasury.
Days 4–5: Tour southern Austria, including Graz’ UNESCO-listed Eggenberg Palace, Styria’s vineyards and the Austrian Alps.
Days 6–9: Discover Slovenia, from delightful Ljubljana to Lake Bled and the Postojna Caves.
Days 10–13: Explore cosmopolitan Trieste, the Istrian coast from Piran to Poreč, and Friuli, including Cividale and the dramatic alpine border between Kobarid and Gorizia.
Days 14–17: Visit Aquileia and Grado; enjoy Venice, including a private visit to St Mark’s Basilica.
Winter in Moscow & St Petersburg

Winter has a special place in Russian culture, permeating its literature, performing arts and national story of triumph through hardship. This 15-day tour explores the incredible wealth of culture, history and art in St Petersburg and Moscow at a time of year that brings quintessential elements of Russian culture to the fore. Experience Russia at its most magnificent, from the palaces of Catherine the Great, to superb fine and decorative art collections, including the Hermitage, Fabergé Museum and Tretyakov Gallery, and its cutting-edge contemporary and performing arts scene.

Swap the Australian summer for the charm and the chill of these exceptional cities, visiting during the Christmas festival season, when the locals get out and enjoy life.

HIGHLIGHTS

› The essence and beauty of Russia in winter
› The joy of the Russian Orthodox festive season and delight of Moscow’s amazing Christmas lights
› Cathedrals of the Kremlin, sites of the coronation and funeral processions of the tsars
› The treasures housed in the State Armoury and Diamond Fund
› Masterpieces of Russian and European art at the Tretyakov Gallery
› Art and architecture in St Petersburg, including the Hermitage, Fabergé Museum and the Yusupov Palace
› The magnificent palaces of Catherine the Great

ITINERARY

Days 1–3: Arrive into Moscow. Tour Red Square. Admire the Christmas decorations and see the Tretyakov collections.
Day 4: Day trip to Kuskovo Park and Estate and Pushkin Galleries.
Days 5–7: Tour the Bolshoi, Kremlin, State Armoury and Diamond Fund. Visit the Tolstoy House Museum and Russian Icon Museum.
Day 8: Travel by fast train to St Petersburg.
Days 9–11: Explore St Petersburg’s extraordinary landmarks, cathedrals, palaces and museums, including a full day at the Hermitage.
Days 12–15: Day trips to Catherine’s palaces at Pushkin, Pavlovsk Park and the surprising collection at the Hermitage Storage Facility.
MUSIC & THEATRE

Our music and theatre tours are planned around top-flight international performances in world-famous venues, providing experiences that are simply not available in Australia.

Verdi’s much-loved Aida at the Metropolitan Opera, New York.
From Liszt, Lehár, Bartók and Chopin to modern-era performers such as Leopold Stokowski, Andris Nelsons, Lucia Popp, Emanuel Ax and Arthur Rubinstein, Central Europe and the Baltic States have a fine musical heritage. Inspired by the landscape and traditions of the region, this musical history is also influenced by the neighbouring Germanic and Russian worlds. Take a trip from Budapest through the Tatra Mountains and north to the shores of the Baltic, enjoying performances at a range of historic venues in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and Latvia, culminating with three performances at the Riga Opera Festival.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to eight outstanding performances are included. The performance program will be announced from September 2019 onwards.

Budapest
- An opera at the Budapest Opera House
- A performance at the Liszt Academy

Krakow
- A concert at the Krakow Philharmonic or an opera at the Krakow Opera House

Warsaw
- A concert at the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra or an opera at the Warsaw Opera House
- Open-air Chopin concert at Łazienki Park

Riga
- Three performances at the Riga Opera Festival

From Franz Liszt and Hungarian folk music to the phenomenal vocal soloists and choirs of Latvia, explore the landscape, traditions and music from Central Europe to the Baltic.

ITINERARY

Days 1–4: In Budapest, with performances and walking tours of Buda and Pest, visits to the Bartok and Liszt museums, and the Empress Elizabeth’s castle at Gödöllő.

Day 5: Travel north through Slovakia, with a night in the Tatra Mountains.

Days 6–8: In Poland stay in Krakow, enjoying a performance and walking tours.

Days 9–12: In Warsaw, tour the Royal Route, visit Wilanów Palace and attend performances, including a Chopin concert in Łazienki Park.

Immerse yourself in Italy’s extraordinary musical heritage at Summer Music Festivals in Verona, Lucca and Lake Como, where you experience Italy’s wonderful operatic and instrumental repertoire. Italian music is inseparable from the landscapes and history that have inspired it, and this new tour takes you behind the scenes of the great Italian composers, through visits to the diverse landscapes and provincial centres where they walked and worked, and a series of pre-performance talks. The tour is rounded off by fine dining in Emilia-Romagna, Italy’s premier culinary region, and a tour along the prosecco trail in the Veneto.

**PERFORMANCES**

**Lake Como Bellagio Music Festival**
- We attend two performances

**The Arena di Verona**
- Verdi’s *Il Traviatore* staged in the magnificent Verona Arena

**Private Recital – Oblivion Soave Trio**
- An evening of Italian Renaissance and Baroque Chamber Music

**Private recital – Cremona**
- Violin recital in the Violin Museum

**Puccini Festival**
- Puccini’s *La Bohème* performed by the shores of beautiful Lake Massaciuccoli

**Lucca and Puccini Festival**
- An evening of Puccini’s operatic arias in the Church of San Giovanni, Lucca

Enjoy spectacular performances in historic venues and small-scale chamber concerts in some of Italy’s most scenic locations.

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** In Bellagio, explore Lake Como’s spectacular villas; enjoy lunch at Villa d’Este.
- Attend the Lake Como Bellagio Music Festival.

**Days 4–6:** In Vicenza, survey Palladio’s elegant villas. Attend an opera at Verona’s Roman arena. Savour wine and gastronomy on the Valdobbiadene’s “Prosecco Road”.

**Days 7–9:** From Cremona, discover Stradivari’s birthplace, Monteverdi’s Mantua and Verdi’s Parma.

**Days 10–13:** In elegant Lucca, deepen your appreciation of Puccini’s work with walking tours, a visit to the Museo Villa Puccini and operatic performances at both Torre del Lago’s Puccini Festival and the Lucca Festival.
London and Paris come alive in the wintertime with blockbuster exhibitions and excellent performance programs designed for lovers of art and music when the tourist numbers are low. Explore two of the world’s great cultural capitals, from their celebrated collections to their less-visited galleries and house museums, and appreciate the range of performances on offer, from grand opera and orchestral concerts to well-reviewed stage plays and recitals. A week in each city, staying in the centre, allows you ample time to unwind and enjoy the best of times with like-minded travellers.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Seven great performances including The Royal Opera House, Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra, Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffman* at the Paris Opera, and a Debussy/Ravel double bill of ballet and opera
- World-class museums including the Louvre and Musée d’Orsay, British Museum and Tate Britain
- Intimate house museums and galleries, including London’s Wallace Collection and Paris’s Musée Nissim de Camondo
- Day trips to Cambridge and the Chateau de Malmaison just outside Paris

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–7:** In London, admire winter blockbusters at the British Museum and Tate Britain; attend a Covent Garden opera, orchestral concert and two plays, one Shakespearean and one in the West End. Visit smaller galleries, from the Royal Academy to the Wallace Collection, Queen’s Gallery and Apsley House; enjoy a day trip to Cambridge to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum and King’s College.

**Days 8–15:** In Paris, enjoy the greats without the crowds at the Louvre and Musée d’Orsay. Explore the Rodin Museum, renovated Picasso Museum and elegant Musée Nissim de Camondo. Attend performances at the Philharmonie de Paris, Palais Garnier and Opéra Bastille.

**ENJOY EXTENDED STAYS IN LONDON AND PARIS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CULTURAL SEASON, WITH GALLERIES, OPERA HOUSES AND CONCERT HALLS ALL AT THEIR WINTER BEST.**

**DEPARTURES**

**January 16–30, 2020**

**TOUR PRICE**

$8,950 pp, twin share  
$2,625 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Christopher Menz. “Every day was well planned and Christopher steered us through it with enthusiasm. The itinerary was loaded with exciting, emotive and sensory experiences. An excellent tour in all respects.”  
- London & Paris, January 2019

**INCLUDED**

14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, including Eurostar London-Paris, entrance fees, including best seats available to the performances listed, and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Medieval to Modern History  
- Music & Theatre  
- Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

Grade 2: Historic towns with some uneven surfaces; coach travel.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at our hotel in London and ends at Paris’s Charles de Gaulle airport. Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways, Etihad Airways and Emirates all offer direct services into London and out of Paris’s Charles de Gaulle airport. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
Munich & Glyndebourne Opera Festivals

Through its special connections in Munich and at Glyndebourne, Academy Travel is pleased to again offer entrée to difficult-to-access performances at two of the world’s leading opera festivals. Each year in Munich, the Bavarian State Opera presents all its new productions for the season over three weeks. The festival draws an impressive roster of singers, such as sopranos Anna Netrebko and Anja Harteros, and tenor Jonas Kaufmann. Established in 1934, Glyndebourne is the doyen of English country-house opera festivals, with superb productions, excellent singers and the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the pit.

DEPARTURES
July 2-13, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$11,980 pp, twin share
$1,970 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Robert Gay
“This was an opera themed tour but the inclusion of visits to major points of interest at the same time is what continues to attract us to Academy Travel, giving us an all-round experience.” – Munich & Glyndebourne Opera Festivals, July 2018

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 8 lunches or dinners. Munich-London flight, all ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Music & Theatre

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: Only two hotels; evening performances.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our Munich hotel and ends at London Heathrow airport. Emirates, Qatar, Singapore and Etihad Airlines offer the best connections into Munich and onwards from London for this tour, with minimal transit time. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to seven outstanding performances, with six operas and one vocal recital.

Munich Opera Festival
> Bellini’s masterpiece Norma at the Bavarian State Opera, starring Sonya Yoncheva in the title role and Riccardo Massi as Pollione
> Mozart’s Le nozze di Figaro at the Bavarian State Opera, starring Alex Esposito as Figaro
> A new production of Strauss’s Salome at the Bavarian State Opera, starring Marlis Petersen in the title role and conducted by Kirill Petrenko
> Song recital by bass-baritone Erwin Schrott at the Bavarian State Opera

Glyndebourne Opera Festival
> A new production of Berlioz’s La damnation de Faust, with Allan Clayton as Faust and Christopher Purves as Méphistophélés, conducted by Glyndebourne’s musical director Robin Ticciati
> Dvořák’s masterpiece Rusalka, with Sally Matthews as the heroine and Patricia Bardon as Jeibaba, conducted by Robin Ticciati
> Massenet’s rarely-staged Cendrillon (Cinderella) with Danielle de Niese as the heroine and Kate Lindsey as her Prince Charming, conducted by John Wilson

Academy Travel is a sponsor of Glyndebourne, giving us access to the best tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

ITINERARY
Days 1–7: Munich, attend four fine operas by the Bavarian State Opera. Visit the superlative Alte Pinakothek; admire historic social housing in Augsburg, established by the Fuggers in the 16th century; and enjoy the iconic villages of the Romantic Road, crucial to modern Germany’s national identity.

Day 8: Fly to London and transfer to seaside city of Brighton.

Days 9–12: Attend afternoon performances at Glyndebourne, with long interval dinners. During the day, explore the charming coastal city of Brighton, including the famous pavilion and encounter Bloomsbury Group intrigue at bohemian Charleston.

The world’s two best summer opera festivals, together in one program. German tradition and unrivalled quality in Munich; sparkle, innovation and the English summer at Glyndebourne.
Sir Bryn Terfel, Joyce DiDonato, Javier Camarena, Vittorio Grigolo, and Australian Nicole Car – the stars of the operatic firmament come out in a star-studded line-up at New York’s Metropolitan Opera, unrivalled by any other opera company anywhere in the world! Academy Travel is delighted to offer a 12-day program that includes six outstanding performances at the Met, plus a Broadway play and a Carnegie Hall concert. We’ve secured seats in the Grand Tier for all performances, complemented by background talks and visits to a select range of galleries and museums.

PERFORMANCES

Six operas, a stage play and a Carnegie Hall concert are included. Details of the play and the concert will be available in November 2019.

- Handel’s *Agrippina* – brand new David McVicar production starring Joyce DiDonato, Brenda Rae and Iestyn Davies.
- Verdi’s *La Traviata* – new 2019 production with star tenor Vittorio Grigolo as Alfredo and upcoming soprano Lisette Oropesa as Violetta.
- Mozart’s *Così fan tutte* – 2018 production starring Australian soprano Nicole Car.
- Rossini’s comedy *La Cenerentola* – with Javier Camarena, the new star tenor of the international operatic scene.
- Wagner’s *The Flying Dutchman* – brand new production conducted by Valery Gergiev with Sir Bryn Terfel as the Dutchman and star German soprano Anja Kampe making her Met Opera debut.
- Opening night of Massenet’s *Werther*, with an all-star cast including Joyce DiDonato, Piotr Beczala and Aida Garifullina, led by the Met’s music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Catch the very best of the 2020 season at the Met Opera, with new productions and star singers in all performances.

ITINERARY

**Day 1:** Meet for welcome drinks.
**Day 2:** Midtown walking tour. *Agrippina*.
**Day 3:** Neue Museum private visit and a stroll in Central Park. Broadway theatre matinée.
**Days 4–5:** The Cloisters and Harlem. *La Traviata*.
**Day 6:** Frick Collection. *Così fan tutte*.
**Day 7:** JP Morgan Library. *La Cenerentola*.
**Day 8:** MoMA private viewing, lunch at The Modern, Carnegie Hall concert.
**Days 9-10:** Harlem Gospel (optional), The High Line and Chelsea. *The Flying Dutchman* matinée.
**Day 11:** Opening night of *Werther*, with farewell dinner at Grand Tier restaurant.
**Day 12:** Free morning. Airport transfers.

DEPARTURES
March 6-17, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$10,890 pp, twin share
$2,200 single supp.

TOUR LEADER

Dr Robert Mitchell joins our program in 2020. He is both a highly experienced music tour leader and singer. Over a three-decade career with Opera Australia he has sung in over 5,000 performances, on stage with Sutherland, Pavarotti, Te Kanawa and Kaufmann.

INCLUSIONS

11 nights’ accommodation in premiere plus rooms at the 4-star Warwick Hotel. All breakfasts, 2 lunches and a dinner. Grand Tier Prime seating to all performances at the Met opera, best available tickets to a Broadway play and a concert at Carnegie Hall. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES

Music & Theatre
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade 1: Only one hotel; long evening performances.

START & FINISH

Tour begins and ends at our New York hotel. Qantas, Delta and United Airlines offer direct regular flights to and from New York, with stopovers in either Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

academytravel.com.au  I  9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney)  I  info@academytravel.com.au
Opera in Northern Italy
Venice, Milan, Parma & Turin

Opera is an iconic Italian art form, and where better to enjoy it than the place of its birth? This 15-day tour takes you to eight performances at historic venues – including Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Teatro alla Scala in Milan and the Teatro Regio in Turin. The performances are complemented by visits to the places where the composers lived and worked, allowing you to appreciate the history and the personalities behind the music. Staying in Venice, Milan, Parma and Turin, this musical journey is rounded out with visits to world-class museums and fine dining.

DEPARTURES
March 26 – April 9, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,595 pp, twin share
$2,360 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Royna McNamara joins our program in 2019. She is a musician, educator & conductor. Royna has a passion for travel and has spent extended periods of time in Spain and Italy.

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 7 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Music & Theatre

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Evening performances; stepping in and out of boats.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Venice and ends at Milan Malpensa airport. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct flights into Venice and onwards from Milan Malpensa airport. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

PERFORMANCES
Full details available August 2019.

In Venice
› Concert of chamber music at the Chiesa di San Vidal
› Two operas at Teatro La Fenice

In Milan
› Two operas at Teatro alla Scala

In Parma
› An opera at Teatro Regio di Parma, home of the renowned annual Verdi Festival

In Modena
› An opera at Teatro Comunale di Modena

In Turin
› An opera at Teatro Regio

Experience eight outstanding performances at Italy’s most famous and historic theatres, including La Fenice and La Scala, and discover the beautiful lakes and art-filled small cities of northern Italy.

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: In Venice, attend operas at La Fenice, explore Venice’s historic architecture and marvel at Titian and Bellini in the Accademia.
Days 5–8: Travel to Milan via Donizetti’s Bergamo, an elegant hillside town. Attend operas at La Scala, admire masterpieces by Piero della Francesca, Veronese and Caravaggio at the Brera, enjoy lunch at Lake Como’s stunning Villa d’Este.
Days 9–11: In Parma, investigate Verdi’s early years and visit his Villa Sant’Agata. Explore Renaissance Parma and medieval Modena, two of Emilia-Romagna’s refined centres.
Days 12–15: In Turin, attend an opera at Teatro Regio and marvel at the Egyptian Museum.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Academy Travel is proud to present this new 17-day program, offering performances of the highest calibre in four of Europe’s great cultural centres: Venice, Milan, Madrid and Barcelona. The tour takes you to nine performances, including at Teatro la Fenice in Venice and Teatro alla Scala in Milan, the Teatro Real in Madrid and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. The performance program is complemented by explorations of the unique art and architecture of Venice, the vibrant modern city of Milan, Old Masters at the Prado, and the modernista architecture of Barcelona.

**PERFORMANCES**

**Venice**
- Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* at Teatro La Fenice
- Rossini’s *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Teatro La Fenice
- A recital of songs by Barbara Strozzi and Handel, by the specialist ensemble La Venexiana

**Milan**
- Donizetti’s delightful comic opera *L’elisir d’Amore* at Teatro alla Scala, with stars Rosa Feola and Vittorio Grigolo
- Adam’s *Giselle*, performed by the renowned La Scala Ballet

**Madrid**
- A performance at the Teatro Real, now regarded as one of Europe’s finest opera houses both for its high musical standards and innovative productions. Performance details available April 2019.
- A concert by the Orquesta Nacional de España, Spain’s leading orchestra

**Barcelona**
- Puccini’s *Turandot* at the Gran Teatre del Liceo
- A performance at the Palau de la Música Catalana, one of Barcelona’s finest modernista-style buildings

Enjoy the very best of European opera, ballet and orchestral music at world-class opera houses and concert halls in Venice, Milan, Madrid and Barcelona.

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** In Venice, attend operas at La Fenice, explore the city’s remarkable architecture and art collections. Contemporary art at the Venice Biennale.

**Days 5–8:** Travel to Milan via Verdi’s birthplace of Busseto. Attend the opera and ballet at La Scala, visit the Brera gallery and take a day trip to Donizetti’s Bergamo.

**Days 9–12:** Fly to Madrid, attend performances at the Teatro Real. Admire art at the Prado, and take a day trip Segovia.

**Days 13–17:** Take the fast train to Barcelona, attend an opera, and visit the National Museum of Catalonian Art and the Fundació Joan Miró. Day trip to Tarragona.
Wagner’s tetralogy, Der Ring des Nibelungen, is considered by many to be the pinnacle of the Western music tradition. It combines intense, heroic drama with orchestral and vocal writing that is both vast in scale and deeply moving. A special journey to see The Ring is a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. Once again Academy Travel has secured top-grade seats for a production, this time the Chicago Lyric Opera’s production. Housed in a fine Art Deco auditorium, the Lyric Opera is one of America’s finest houses, regularly hosting the world’s leading singers. The 2020 Ring promises to be no exception.

DEPARTURES
April 26 – May 4, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$10,840 pp, twin share
$2,130 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Robert Gay “Our tour guide, Robert was brilliant! His knowledge of the music/operas was extraordinary. Robert managed a large group with finesse and ease. Robert was extremely helpful and friendly with all of us. The best tour guide ever!” – Wagner’s Munich Ring Cycle, July 2018
INCLUSIONS
8 nights’ accommodation in a 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 4 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees and tipping.
THEMES
Music & Theatre
Residential Tours
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: Only one hotel; long evening performances.
START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Chicago. Qantas offers the most direct regular flights to and from Chicago, with stopovers in either Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Wagner’s Ring Cycle in Chicago

HIGHLIGHTS
› All four operas in the Ring Cycle, Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung
› The renowned Art Institute of Chicago, including lunch and expert guidance by an art lecturer and historian
› A full day exploring Wright’s architecture in Oak Park, including Robie House and Unity Temple, Wright’s only remaining public Prairie-style building
› Walking and river tours exploring Chicago’s incredible architectural legacy and its ever-changing skyline
› A private reception at the sumptuous Richard H. Driehaus Museum, showcasing the art and design of Louis Comfort Tiffany and Chicago’s Gilded Age

Experience one of the greatest achievements in Western Music: Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen. A trip to the Ring Cycle is the musical pilgrimage of a lifetime.

ITINERARY
Day 1: Arrive in Chicago and settle in. Meet fellow participants over drinks and canapes.
Days 2–3: Two in-depth morning talks, welcome lunch, an architectural walking tour of Chicago’s downtown and Das Rheingold.
Day 4: Morning talk and Die Walküre.
Day 5: An exploration of the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, including Robie House.
Day 6: Morning talk and Siegfried.
Day 7: Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. Afternoon river cruise.
Day 8: Morning talk and Götterdämmerung, followed by farewell dinner.
Day 9: Free morning.
THE AMERICAS

Explore the complex mosaic of people and cultures in central America, the USA, New England and French Canada or enjoy the best of the best in New York – outstanding performances, private visits to breathtaking museums and collections.
Christmas in New York
Music, Theatre, Art & Food

DEPARTURES
Dec 21, 2019 – Jan 2, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,950 pp, twin share
$2,930 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing “Is a fantastic leader, so well informed and comfortable in NYC. A soundless operation.” – Thanksgiving in New York, November 2018

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Warwick Hotel located in midtown Manhattan. All breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available to included performances, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Music & Theatre
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: One hotel; walking tours; cold weather.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in New York. Qantas, Delta and United Airlines offer direct regular flights to and from New York, with stopovers in Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Nowhere does Christmas and New Year’s Eve like New York City does. Experience both on this exciting new 13-day tour, combining the culture, art and architecture of New York with the vibrant atmosphere of the holiday season: from the Rockettes’ Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall to a traditional New Year’s Eve performance by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Lincoln Center. These performances, in addition to opera, theatre, exceptional museums, New York’s stunning architecture and fine dining at Michelin-starred restaurants, round out this unique experience.

HIGHLIGHTS
The itinerary includes eight performances, some of the world’s top art and history museums, and dining in a selection of the city’s best restaurants.

Performances
▷ The smash-hit Broadway Musical Hamilton
▷ Richard Strauss’ beloved Der Rosenkavalier, performed by the world-leading Metropolitan Opera
▷ A traditional New Year’s Eve performance by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra
▷ The New York String Orchestra performing Bach, Bartok and Brahms at world-famous Carnegie Hall
▷ The Radio City Rockettes’ Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall
▷ George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker, performed by the New York Ballet
▷ An evening of jazz at ‘Jazz at the Lincoln Center’
▷ A new production of a stage play from the Broadway 2019-20 season

Art, Architecture and History
▷ A private viewing of the Museum of Modern Art with a museum lecturer
▷ Curator-led tour of The Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s exquisite medieval collection
▷ Charming small galleries, including the Frick Collection and the Neue Galerie

Experience New York in its festive brilliance, seeing the best shows of the season, visiting great small galleries and capping it all off with New Year’s Eve in the city that never sleeps.

▷ Architectural tours of Midtown, Downtown and Chelsea, featuring Beaux-Arts, Art Deco and Post-Modern masterpieces

Fine Dining
▷ Lunch at the Michelin two-star restaurant The Modern, inside the Museum of Modern Art
▷ The best of New American cuisine at the Michelin one-star Gramercy Tavern
▷ A grand Christmas lunch and leisurely afternoon at one of New York’s top restaurants

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Cuba
Then & Now

From the rum that fuels salsa dancing to beautiful bays and magnificent colonial architecture, Cuba enthrals with its exuberant politics and culture. Yet this island nation has long struggled to find its place in the world. Its complex history, from invasion, colonial slavery and genocide to populist revolution and a difficult relationship with its superpower neighbour, Cuba is simply unique. The indomitable spirit of the people has kept the country alive through sheer ingenuity and determination, which charm and seduce on this journey of a lifetime. Explore the beguiling island of Cuba on this 15-day tour.

Go beyond Fidel Castro and Che Guevara to explore Cuba’s rich Afro-Caribbean culture, expressed in music, literature and architecture, and forged through the crucible of colonial and revolutionary history.

HIGHLIGHTS

› Cruising Havana’s Malecon seafront in a classic car
› Discovering Cuba’s economic, political and artistic scene with organised talks and tours with magazine editors, artists, writers and an economist
› Revolutionary sites in Santa Clara and Santiago de Cuba, associated with Che Guevara and Fidel Castro
› The Spanish colonial influence in Cienfuegos, Trinidad and Camaguey
› Afro-Caribbean culture, a legacy of the slave trade, and its influence on Cuban music and culture
› Travelling the tobacco route through Pina Del Rio and Viñales

ITINERARY

Day 1–3: Explore Havana’s history, architecture and culture, including Hemingway’s favourite haunts and the city’s squares and waterfront.

Days 4–5: Che Guavara at Santa Clara and visit colonial Cienfuegos and Trinidad.

Days 6–7: Drive through cane fields where slaves once laboured, to Camaguey.

Days 8–10: In Santiago De Cuba, explore this melting pot of Afro-Caribbean cultures, where Castro was born and revolutionaries are buried.


Days 14–15: Discover Havana’s vibrant arts and crafts scene.

DEPARTURES
Feb 29 – Mar 14, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,975 pp, twin share
$1,245 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Stephen Wilkinson returns to our program in 2020. Stephen is chairman of the International Institute for the Study of Cuba and holds a PhD in Hispanic Studies.

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 21 lunches or dinners. Santiago de Cuba-Havana flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 3: Historic sites with some uneven surfaces; limited facilities; 1 night stop-overs.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Havana. Qantas, Virgin, United, Delta and American Airlines offer direct flights to the USA with onward connections through Mexico to Havana. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

academytravel.com.au | 9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney) | info@academytravel.com.au
Follow the Frank Lloyd Wright trail and discover the life and architecture of the greatest American architect. This 12-day tour takes in over 15 of Wright’s most acclaimed buildings. It traces his development from his beginnings in Chicago and his Prairie style homes, to his tragic yet inspirational home in Spring Green, Wisconsin, the Darwin Martin complex in Buffalo, and Fallingwater, the most perfect embodiment of his architectural principles. The tour features private guided visits to homes and major galleries, a day trip to Niagara Falls, and places Wright in the context of modern America’s fascinating history and culture.

DEPARTURES
October 12-23, 2019
May 17-29, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,970 pp, twin share
$1,640 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing
“This was an excellent tour. Matthew went beyond the norm. Everything moved smoothly – most enjoyable.”
Frank Lloyd Wright: Chicago to Fallingwater, May 2018

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. Madison-Buffalo flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Walking tours with some uneven surfaces and stairs; coach travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Chicago and ends at Pittsburgh International Airport. Qantas offers the most direct flights into Chicago and onwards from Pittsburgh.

NOTE: The October 2019 tour duration is 12 days and the May 2020 tour duration is 13 days.

KEY SITES VISITED
See over 15 masterworks spanning seven decades of incredible creativity
> Wright’s Home and Studio (1889)
> Darwin Martin Complex (1903)
> Unity Temple (1905), a beautiful experiment in modern materials
> Robie House (1909), a landmark of the Prairie-Style
> Taliesin (1911-1925), Wright’s Wisconsin estate and architectural school
> SC Johnson Wax Headquarters (1936)
> Jacobs House I (1937)
> Fallingwater (1939), Wright’s unrivaled masterpiece at which we’ll have a private, before-hours visit
> Kentuck Knob (1953)

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: In Chicago, visit Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago, Wright’s Home and Studio, Robie House and Farnsworth House.
Day 5: Coach to Milwaukee to see Johnson Wax Administration Building, Research Tower, Wingspread and his late work, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.
Days 6–7: Continue to Madison for a full estate tour of Taliesin and to visit the first Usonian home, Jacobs House I.
Days 8–9: Fly to Buffalo to view the Darwin Martin House, Graycliff and to tour Niagara Falls.
Days 10–12: Coach to Pittsburgh to see iconic Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob.

Follow the life and works of Frank Lloyd Wright, one of the greatest all-time geniuses of architecture, on a trail through America’s Midwest.
Maple trees and covered bridges, apple orchards and watermills, rugged coastlines and solitary lighthouses – few areas of North America are as breathtakingly beautiful as French Canada and New England in the autumn. This new 16-day tour takes you to the best these regions have to offer, from the stone ramparts and elegant chateaux of Quebec to the brilliant autumn colours, spectacular art and incredible literary legacy of New England. Stays in Quebec City, Montreal and Boston are complemented by day trips to Ottawa, Hartford, Newport and Cape Cod, with plenty of time to enjoy the beauty of the countryside.

French monasteries, Shaker villages, red barns, covered bridges and colonial towns: see the timeless beauty of New England and Quebec ablaze in autumn colour.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Spectacular autumnal colours along the scenic byways and bridges of Vermont and Massachusetts
- Stunning French-inspired architecture, including Montreal’s Notre-Dame and Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City
- Iconic sites of early American history, such as Boston’s Freedom Trail, Paul Revere’s ride in Lexington and Concord, and the Mayflower landing site at Plymouth Rock
- Art and craft in the Berkshires: the Clark Museum of Art, the Norman Rockwell Museum and an authentic Shaker village
- Newport, Rhode Island’s stately homes, including the Vanderbilt mansion

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** Quebec City, exploring one of North America’s oldest settlements. Follow the St Lawrence River to Montreal.

**Days 4–6:** In Montreal, encounter French Canadian culture, from Gothic cathedrals to modern food, performance and architecture. Day trip to Ottawa.

**Days 7–10:** New England’s Fall colour, from picturesque Burlington, Vermont, to the Berkshires’ vibrant arts scene. Day trip to Hartford, home of Twain, Beecher Stowe and the outstanding Wadsworth Atheneum.

**Days 11–16:** To Boston via Lexington and Concord. Enjoy day trips to the Gilded Age mansions of Newport, Rhode Island and Cape Cod.

**DEPARTURES**

Sep 22 – Oct 7, 2019

**TOUR PRICE**

$10,740 pp, twin share

$3,460 single suppl.

**INCLUSIONS**

15 nights’ accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 7 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Medieval to Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design
- Inspiring Landscapes

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

Grade 2: Coach travel; walking tours of historic towns with some uneven surfaces and stairs.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at our hotel in Quebec City and ends at our hotel in Boston. Air Canada fly direct to Vancouver, with connections to Quebec City from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
Explore the ancient civilisation of the Maya, visiting the pyramids, temples and tombs of this mysterious culture’s heartland in Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. This new 16-day tour takes you to a range of spectacular sites, voyaging up rivers, crossing spectacular volcanic lakes, driving through jungles, and even boating through a cave system. The diverse ecosystems in which the Maya flourished, such as the Barrier Reef of Belize and the Rio Dulce, which we follow into Guatemala, are also a highlight – as are the thriving contemporary towns and cities of this less-touristed region.

DEPARTURES
November 13-28, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$9,250 pp, twin share
$1,565 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Chris Carter “Was a fantastic tour leader. Always pleasant, very knowledgeable and funny – just a delight!” – Chile, Argentina & Peru, September 2017

INCLUSIONS
15 nights’ accommodation in selected hotels ranging from 3 to 5 stars. All breakfasts and 14 lunches or dinners. Guatemala City-Flores flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 3: Challenging archaeological sites and mountain paths; boats and canoes.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Guatemala International Airport and ends at our hotel in Guatemala City. Qantas and American Airlines offer flights into and out of Guatemala City, via Los Angeles, from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Marvel at the massive pyramids and the elaborately decorated temples and cities of the Maya
> Colonial Antigua, the historic capital of Guatemala
> Spectacular Lake Atitlán and its surrounding villages, where Mayan culture remains strong and traditional dress is worn
> Investigate the World Heritage sites of Tikal, Copán, Quiriguá and the Belize Barrier Reef
> Sail up the Rio Dulce Canyon beneath huge high cliffs and thick jungle, accompanied by the sounds of wildlife and birds

Get to know the Maya, the dominant civilization of Mesoamerica, and their architectural legacy set in the spectacular landscapes of Central America.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Arrive Guatemala, travel to Antigua and explore its museums, surrounding villages and coffee plantations.
Days 4–6: Visit Lake Atitlán. Return to Guatemala City and fly to Flores and see the Mayan citadel of Tikal.
Days 7–8: Admire the vast archaeological sites of Yaxha and Caracol.
Days 9–11: Discover the Mayan ceremonial site of Barton Creek in Belize and the ruins at Lamanai. Relax on idyllic Caye Caulker.
Days 12–14: Sail the Rio Dulce to Castillo San Felipe. Investigate Quiriguá’s stone stelae and Copán’s ruins in Honduras.
Days 15–16: Return to Guatemala City.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Discover the history and culture of Mexico, from ancient civilisations to colourful folk traditions and the birth of a modern culture, epitomised by Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. This new 18-day tour begins in Mexico City and then travels through Oaxaca and on to the Yucatán Peninsula. It explores the multiple layers of Mexico’s history, taking you to the ancient sites of the Aztecs and Mayans, the fusion of cultures following Spanish colonisation at Puebla, and the survival of folk culture in Mexico’s villages. The tour is timed to coincide with the spectacular Days of the Dead celebrations in Oaxaca.

HIGHLIGHTS

› Teotihuacán’s vast and mysterious pyramid complex, dating from the 1st century BC
› The UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites of Monte Albán and Chichén Itzá
› Stay in the heart of Oaxaca city, during the Days of the Dead celebrations
› Colourful colonial architecture in Puebla and its exquisite tile-covered churches
› A boat trip through the jungle to the remote pyramids of Yaxchilán
› The contrasts of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, in life and art
› The natural beauty of Mexico’s highlands, Popocatépetl Volcano and Celestún’s flamingos

ITINERARY

Days 1–4: Mexico City and the Aztec precinct. Diego Rivera’s murals in Coyoacán, Teotihuacán’s pyramids.
Days 5–10: Travel to picturesque Puebla and on to flower-festooned Oaxaca for the Days of the Dead. Archaeology at Mitla and Monte Albán; the market town of Ocotlán de Morelos.
Days 15–18: The Yucatán Peninsula from a historic hacienda, the Maya at Uxmal and Chichén Itzá, a boat trip to view flamingos and colonial Merida.

INCLUSIONS

› 17 nights’ accommodation in 3 or 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 12 lunches or dinners.
› Oaxaca-San Cristóbal flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES

› Archaeology & Ancient History
› Art, Architecture & Design
› Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

› Grade 2: Challenging archaeological sites; limited facilities.

START & FINISH

The tour begins at our hotel in Mexico City and ends at our hotel in Merida. Qantas and United Airlines offer flights to and from Mexico City, with connections through the USA. A connecting flight from Merida to Mexico City is required at the end of the tour with Aeromexico. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

FIND OUT MORE
Wake up in the city that never sleeps – 12 times! This residential tour to New York combines a carefully-selected range of performances – from jazz to Broadway, orchestral music and opera – with private visits to a selection of the city’s best museums and galleries, and dining in some of its finest restaurants. It also explores the fascinating history and architecture of the city through walking tours of its renowned neighbourhoods: Brooklyn, Soho, Chelsea, Downtown, the Upper East Side and Central Park. Accommodation is in spacious premier-plus rooms at the Warwick Hotel, perfect for attending theatres and visiting galleries.

DEPARTURES
March 17-29, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,950 pp, twin share
$2,930 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing
“Matthew’s organisation skills are excellent and his ability to impart his knowledge of New York and the US is high in calibre.” – New York music, theatre, art & food, March 2018

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Warwick Hotel located in midtown Manhattan. All breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Music & Theatre
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 1: One hotel; walking tours.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in New York. Qantas, Delta and United Airlines offer the most direct regular flights to and from New York, with stopovers in Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
Seven outstanding performances
> Puccini’s Tosca at the Metropolitan Opera led by Russian diva Anna Netrebko
> Smash-hit musical Hamilton, based on the life of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton
> Concerts at the world-famous Carnegie Hall and by the New York Philharmonic
> Three other selections from the best of New York’s Broadway and Jazz

Art, architecture and history
> Exclusive, before-hours visits to three incredible galleries: the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Neue Galerie with expert lecturer
> Small gallery visits to the Frick Collection, Whitney Museum and The Cloisters
> A sweep of the city’s incredible history, including the Dutch in New Amsterdam and the immigrant experience on the Lower East Side and Ellis Island
> Architectural walking tours of the Financial District, Midtown, SoHo, Chelsea and the High Line
> The art, architecture and history of Brooklyn, including the stunning Brooklyn Bridge

The Big Apple: a global powerhouse of finance, ideas, culture and art. Understand this iconic city of the modern era as never before.

ITINERARY
Days 1–2: Walking tours of New Amsterdam and Downtown; musical Hamilton.
Day 3: Tour Central Park, lunch at the Boathouse Restaurant, visit to the Frick Collection.
Day 4: Midtown architectural tour, visit the United Nations and a hit Broadway play.
Days 5–6: Visit Neue Galerie, Guggenheim, walk the High Line, Tosca at the Met.
Day 7: Met Museum of Art, and The Cloisters.
Days 8–9: The Lower East Side, J.P. Morgan Library and Jazz at the Lincoln.
Day 10: Private viewing of MoMA.
Day 11–13: Walk the Brooklyn Bridge and performance at Carnegie Hall.
Haute couture and fine dining in the Big Apple – this new 11-day tour explores the vibrant fashion, dining and design scene of New York City against the backdrop of the world-famous Met Gala, the highlight of the fashion year. Through the world of high fashion, take a social and historical journey to discover the uniquely American sense of style, how it continues to influence trends globally, and how New Yorkers in their fashionable finery at great restaurants and performances define the image of New York City as a global cultural capital.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- An exploration of the American fashion scene in New York, the evolution of its unique style and global influence
- The Costume Institute’s special new exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, launched at the 2020 Met Gala
- A private before-hours tour of the Museum of Modern Art
- Four incredible performances, including offerings by the New York City Ballet and Metropolitan Opera
- Fine dining in some of the city’s best restaurants, featuring the Michelin 3-star Le Bernardin, 2-star Gramercy Tavern, and the Loeb Boathouse in Central Park

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** Midtown Manhattan, including Breakfast at Tiffany’s, the Frick Collection and the NYC Ballet.

**Days 4–5:** Behind the scenes of American fashion: expert guided tours of the Garment District, Jewish quarter and Lower East Side.

**Days 6–7:** Private tour of MoMA, high tea at the Russian Tea Room and performances at the Met Opera and Carnegie Hall.

**Days 8–9:** Chelsea, SoHo, Greenwich Village, Metropolitan Museum’s Costume Institute and Met Gala exhibition.

**Days 10–11:** The Fashion Institute of Technology, Neue Galerie, Guggenheim Museum and dinner at the Michelin 3-star Le Bernardin.
Enjoy an American Thanksgiving and a host of other events on this special holiday tour. As well as the regular offerings on our New York performing arts tours – opera, symphony, private visits to galleries such as MoMA – we’ve included seasonal events that are only on offer at this special time of year, such as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and legendary Rockettes’ performances. There’s also some great new season stage drama and musicals on offer. Accommodation, as always, is in spacious premium plus rooms in the perfectly located Warwick Hotel on 54th Street.

HIGHLIGHTS

The itinerary includes eight performances, some of the world’s top art and history museums and dining in a selection of the city’s best restaurants.

Performances

> The smash hit musical Hamilton on the life of New York’s founding father
> The Metropolitan Opera’s production of Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro
> Daniil Trifonov plays Scriabin’s Piano Concerto at the Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall
> 9th Annual Christmas Concert at Carnegie Hall
> New York Ballet performing George Balanchine’s arrangement of The Nutcracker
> The Rockettes’ Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall at Rockefeller Center
> A new stage play from the Broadway 2019-2020 season
> An evening of jazz at Dizzy’s Club

Art, Architecture and History

> A private out-of-hours viewing of the Museum of Modern Art with a museum lecturer
> Excursion to Philip Johnson’s Glass House, north of the city
> Curator-led tour of The Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s exquisite medieval collection on the northern tip of Manhattan
> Charming small galleries, including The Frick Collection and The Neue Galerie
> Architectural walking tours of Midtown, Downtown, SoHo and Chelsea, featuring Beaux-Arts, Art Deco and postmodern masterpieces
> Lectures on the history, architecture and culture of the city

Fine Dining

> Degustation dinner at the Michelin three-star restaurant Eleven Madison Park
> Lunch at the Michelin two-star restaurant The Modern, inside the Museum of Modern Art
> A traditional all-American Thanksgiving meal at one of New York’s leading restaurants

Celebrating Thanksgiving in New York – a time for food, reflection and good company – while experiencing the very best this iconic city has to offer.
AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Academy Travel’s tours to Africa and the Middle East have a strong focus on ancient history and archaeology. Many tours are led by experienced archaeologists, several of whom have worked on sites in the region.

The ancient city of Aït Benhaddou, situated along the former caravan route between the Sahara and Marrakech in present-day Morocco.
Egypt: Beyond the Nile

Witness some of the most iconic ancient structures the world has ever seen and delve deeper into Egypt’s fascinating history, from Pharaohs to Greek Ptolemaic rulers, the Romans, Coptic Christianity’s biblical legacy and on to the arrival of Islam in the 7th century. This new 19-day tour takes you to Cairo’s pyramids and museums, Luxor’s temples and the Valley of the Kings, and then down the Nile to Abu Simbel and a cruise on modern-day Lake Nasser. The tour culminates in Alexandria at the Nile River Delta with the modern Biblioteca and visits to Australian World War II sites and graves at El Alamein.

DEPARTURES
March 15 – April 2, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,985 pp, twin share
$2,125 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Chris Bradley “Is an outstanding tour and people organiser. He gave us terrific information during the trip that set the context of what we were seeing and deepened our understanding.” – Iran, April 2018.

INCLUSIONS
18 nights’ accommodation in 4 to 5-star hotels, including a 4-night Nile River cruise and a 3-night Lake Nasser cruise. All breakfasts and many lunches or dinners. Cairo-Luxor and Abu Simbel-Alexandria flights, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
- Medieval to Modern History
- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Challenging archaeological sites; stepping in and out of boats.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Cairo and ends at Cairo Airport. Emirates and Etihad Airlines have direct flights into and out of Cairo from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Cairo’s unforgettable pyramids and Sphinx, the Step Pyramid of Djoser and the Egyptian and Islamic museums
- Luxor’s impressive Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, Nobles and Queens, the Ramesseum and Luxor Museum
- Cruise the Nile to Aswan, stopping at Kom Ombo and Edfu
- Egypt’s modern engineering marvel: Aswan High Dam
- Abu Simbel and the temples of Lake Nasser
- Alexandria’s waterfront Biblioteca, a reimagining of its ancient library
- Moving World War II sites, graves and museum at El Alamein

Uncover the Nile’s vital role in shaping Egyptian history from Lake Nasser, Luxor and Cairo’s pharaohs, to the river delta at Alexandria.

ITINERARY

Days 1–4: Cairo’s iconic sites and museums at Giza, Saqqara and Memphis.
Days 5–8: Fly to Luxor and explore the complex of temples and museums, as well as monuments and tombs on the West Bank at the Valley of the King, Queens and Nobles.
Days 9–12: Travel to Aswan aboard a luxury Nile cruise, stopping at Kom Ombo, Edfu, Elephantine Island and Philae Temple.
Days 13–15: Cruise Lake Nasser from Abu Simbel, to visit Nubian temples on the western shore.
Days 16–19: Fly to Alexandria. Visit Greco-Roman sites, the New Library and WWII sites at El Alamein. Return to Cairo for departure.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Explore 4000 years of history in the land of pharaohs, rock-cut tombs, pyramids and magnificent temples. This 18-day tour travels the full length of the Nile Valley visiting awe-inspiring sites from one of the world’s most iconic civilisations, such as the pyramids of Giza, the great museums of Cairo, the Temple of Karnak and Luxor. The tour also takes in some rarely-visited sites, including a tour of the active excavations at Middle Kingdom Amarna – Akhenaten and Nefertiti’s capital – and cruises up the Nile from Luxor to Aswan visiting the temples of Upper Egypt.

**Follow history and legend along the life-giving waters of the Nile, to discover the 4000-year history of one of the world’s great civilisations.**

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Explore Old Kingdom sites and New Kingdom tombs at Saqqara, including the Step Pyramid of Djoser
- Admire Giza’s iconic Great Pyramid and the Sphinx
- Experience Middle Kingdom sites in Amarna, rarely visited by tourists, with visits to working archaeological sites
- Visit Luxor’s museums and the Valley of the Kings and Nobles, the Luxor Museum and Karnak Temple
- Cruising the Nile from Luxor to Aswan, stopping at temples and sites along the journey
- Marvel at the Ramses II Temple at Abu Simbel

**ITINERARY**
- **Days 1–4:** Arrive Cairo and explore the museums, pyramids and tombs at Saqqara and Giza.
- **Days 5–7:** Drive to Minya and see Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hasan, Amarna and Abydos.
- **Days 8–11:** Travel to Luxor and visit the Valley of the Kings and Queens, the Temple of Hatshepsut and the Ramesseum.
- **Days 12–14:** Visit Karnak Temple and the Luxor Museum. Cruise up the Nile, stopping at Luxor Temple, Edfu and Kom Ombo.
- **Days 15–16:** Arrive in Aswan and visit the Temple of Philae, Aswan Dam and Elephantine Island.
- **Days 17–18:** Fly to Abu Simbel and on to Cairo for departure.

**DEPARTURES**
- Sep 26 – Oct 13, 2019
- Jan 16 – Feb 2, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
- $9,985 pp, twin share
- $1,475 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
- Lucia Gahlin

**INCLUSIONS**
- 17 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels, including a 4-night Nile River cruise on a 5-star ship.
- All breakfasts, 15 lunches and 11 dinners. Aswan-Abu Simbel and Abu Simbel-Cairo flights, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**
- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Inspiring Landscapes

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
- Grade 2: Challenging archaeological sites; stepping in and out of boats.

**START & FINISH**
- The tour begins and ends at the hotel in Cairo. Emirates and Etihad Airlines offer direct flights into and out of Cairo from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

academytravel.com.au | 9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney) | info@academytravel.com.au
Travel through the marvellous mountain and desert landscapes of Persia and visit some of the most remarkable monuments in the ancient and Islamic worlds. This 23-day tour explores the art and history of Iran, from Tabriz and Tehran in the north, to Isfahan and Shiraz in the south. The tour visits ancient Achaemenid palaces and royal tombs, mysterious Sasanian fire temples, and enchanting mud-brick cities on the desert fringes, and explores Islamic Iran with its enchanting gardens, caravanserais, bazaars and stunning mosques. Throughout we encounter the unsurpassed friendliness and hospitality of the Iranian people.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Tehran’s wonderful museums and palaces including the Golestan Palace complex
› Tabriz’s Ottoman-influenced turquoise mosque and Grand Bazaar
› The Caspian Sea and northern Iran
› Sasanian watchtowers, palaces and fire temples at Takht-e Soleiman
› Wandering through the gardens of Shiraz, where Persia’s poets are celebrated
› Classical sites of Persepolis and Pasargadae
› Evocative Zoroastrian and medieval sites in the desert city of Yazd
› UNESCO World Heritage-listed Isfahan, centre of the ‘renaissance’ Safavid period

From Alexander and Darius to the caravan cities of the Silk Road: discover the enduring legacy of Persia and its empires.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Explore Tehran’s palaces and museums.
Days 4–7: Drive to the Caspian Sea, then to Tabriz to visit the Blue Mosque, Azerbaijan Museum and the troglodyte village of Kandovan.
Days 8–9: Travel to Zanjan and examine the Sasanian ruins of Takht-e Soleiman.
Days 10–14: Investigate Bishapur, Persepolis and Firuzabad from Shiraz.
Days 15–17: In Yazd, visit Pasargadae and the Zoroastrian fire temples.
Days 18–21: Visit the Maidan and Chetel Sotun palaces and the Armenian Quarter in Isfahan.
Days 22–23: Return to Tehran via the merchant houses and water gardens of Kashan.

INCLUSIONS
22 nights’ accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels. Breakfasts and dinners daily and 19 lunches. Tehran-Shiraz flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Archaeological sites; desert landscapes; coach travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Tehran. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer daily flights from most Australian cities into Tehran. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

NOTE: The October 2019 tour duration is 23 days and the April 2020 tour duration is 22 days.
Jordan and Israel are at one of the great crossroads of civilization and are bursting with archaeological and historical gems: the world’s first villages, mighty Bronze Age cities, sites reaching back to the origins of Judaism and Christianity, Crusader castles and splendid Islamic monuments. Discover the awe-inspiring history of this region on this new 20-day tour, combining celebrated sites such as Jerusalem and Petra and lesser-known locations that bring out the historical and cultural diversity of these countries. This tour is a must for anyone interested in the history and archaeology of the Near East.

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–2:** Visit Amman’s historical sites.

**Days 3–6:** Walk through Jerusalem’s Old City. Visit Masada, Jericho and Qumran.

**Days 7–8:** Visit Bethlehem, Roman Caesarea and Megiddo; the battle site of Armageddon.

**Days 9–10:** Discover Akko’s pivotal place in history, Hellenistic Hippos overlooking Lake Tiberias, Nazareth and Capernaum.

**Days 11–13:** In Amman, visit Gadara, the Australian dig site at Pella, Roman Jerash and Ajlun Castle.

**Days 14–16:** Spend two days exploring Petra.

**Days 17–20:** Stay in Wadi Rum and travel Crusader castles along the King’s Highway to the Dead Sea and Amman.

**FIND OUT MORE**

**DEPARTURES**
March 14 – April 2, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$12,485 pp, twin share
$3,310 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

**Ben Churcher**  
“Ben has a deep knowledge of the history of countries from Western China to Morocco. I will certainly be travelling with Academy again and also look forward to travelling with Ben as a tour leader.” — Morocco, March 2018

**INCLUSIONS**

19 nights’ accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and numerous lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Medieval to Modern History
- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Inspiring Landscapes

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

**Grade 2:** Challenging archaeological sites; overnight in a tented desert camp; cobblestones and uneven ground.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Amman. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct daily flights into and out of Amman from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
Morocco's exotic culture and stunning landscapes have attracted travellers for centuries. Beyond the kasbahs, however, lies a fascinating history of successive European, African and Arabic empires, each of which has left traces of their love of this corner of Africa. This comprehensive 20-day tour travels from colonial Casablanca and the Mediterranean coast to the Islamic architecture and Berber towns of the interior. Experience Morocco’s rich history and cosmopolitan culture, from the ruins of Roman Volubilis, to the medinas of Rabat and Fes, the gardens and souks of Marrakesh and the oases of the Drâa Valley.

**DEPARTURES**
March 31 – April 19, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$10,725 pp, twin share
$2,850 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
Sue Rollin "Our tour leader Sue was excellent. The tour was well paced and well-pitched." – Morocco & Southern Spain, October 2017

**INCLUSIONS**
19 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels and riads. All breakfasts and 21 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**
- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Inspiring Landscapes
- Medieval to Modern History

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
★★★★ Grade 3: Challenging archaeological sites; desert landscapes; long days and coach travel.

**START & FINISH**
The tour begins at Casablanca’s Mohammed V International Airport and ends at our hotel in Casablanca. Emirates and Etihad Airways offer the best connections into and out of Casablanca for this tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- The European gateway of Tangier, a unique melting pot straddling the Atlantic and Mediterranean
- Fes’ narrow alleys and colourful souks, its walled medina suspended in time
- The impressive ruins of Volubilis
- Sensory overload in Marrakesh’s bustling Jemaa el-Fnaa, crowded with colourful water-sellers and performers
- Stunning scenery, from the sublime Atlas mountains to picturesque valleys dotted with kasbahs and lush palmeries
- Essaouira and the Atlantic: freshly caught seafood by the pretty harbour, local crafts in the medina

**Journey beyond the kasbahs to discover Morocco’s rich architectural heritage, fascinating history, vibrant traditions, stunning landscapes and unique gastronomy.**

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** Arrive Casablanca, travel to Rabat. Roman Chellah, Mohammed V’s Mausoleum and the kasbah.

**Days 4–6:** Ancient Lixus; tour Tangier; traverse the Rif Mountains to colourful Chefchaouen.

**Days 7–10:** Fes’ Batha Museum, el Bali medina and Roman Volubilis. Admire Middle Atlas forests before arrival in alpine Ifrane.

**Days 11–13:** Marrakesh’s tombs, palaces and madrasas. Visit the Jardin Majorelle.

**Days 14–16:** Ait Benhaddou and Ouarzazate. The lush Drâa Valley and fortified Taroudant.

**Days 17–18:** Survey the Atlantic from Essaouira.

**Days 19–20:** Explore Casablanca’s grand Mosque.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
ASIA

Asia offers a stimulating range of experiences and a wealth of culture, from little-visited ancient temples and archaeological sites along the Silk Road to striking contemporary art, architecture and design in the region’s vibrant capitals.

Mount Fuji, Japan’s highest volcano, reflecting in lake Kawaguchi.
Hong Kong and Shanghai are two of China’s most cosmopolitan cities, and their thriving arts’ cultures and complex histories have made them locations for the exchange of ideas between very different worlds. Discover the art and culture of these two cities on this 8-day tour, exploring their traditional and contemporary art and architecture, private gallery districts, culinary traditions and major collections. The tour also includes guided visits to Art Basel in Hong Kong, the premier contemporary art event in the Asia-Pacific region, in which more than 200 private galleries showcase their wares.

**DEPARTURES**
March 18-25, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$5,180 pp, twin share
$1,240 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
To be advised.

**INCLUSIONS**
7 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 4 lunches or dinners. Hong Kong-Shanghai flight, all ground transport, entrance fees (including access to Art Basel Hong Kong) and tipping.

**THEMES**
Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
★ Grade 1: Challenging conditions in Shanghai for those with respiratory difficulties.

**START & FINISH**
The tour starts in our hotel in Hong Kong and ends at the hotel in Shanghai. Qantas offers direct flights into Hong Kong and out of Shanghai from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Guided visits to Art Basel in Hong Kong, the leading art fair in the Asia-Pacific region
- Shanghai’s premier galleries and museums, including the Rockbund Art Museum, China Art Museum, and Nanshi Power Station of Art
- Explore renowned art districts, such as the Bund and M50, with their fantastic and evolving exhibitions
- Take a step back in time at traditional temples and gardens, including the Po Lin Monastery and Ming Dynasty Yuyuan Gardens
- Experience Hong Kong’s thriving food culture, from markets to haute cuisine

**ITINERARY**

**Day 1:** Arrive in Hong Kong, tour the city by coach.

**Days 2–3:** Appreciate world-class art at Art Basel Hong Kong, visit the Po Lin Monastery and the Tian Tan Buddha, and enjoy Hong Kong’s vibrant food culture.

**Day 4:** Fly to Shanghai, tour the city by coach and admire traditional Chinese garden design at the Yuyuan Gardens.

**Days 5–6:** Explore Shanghai’s art and architecture, including traditional art at the China Art Museum, and contemporary and modern art in the Bund and M50 arts districts, home to cutting-edge galleries.

**Days 7–8:** Take a day trip to a traditional and ancient Chinese water town.

Hong Kong and Shanghai are two of China’s most cosmopolitan cities, and their thriving arts’ cultures and complex histories have made them locations for the exchange of ideas between very different worlds. Discover the art and culture of these two cities on this 8-day tour, exploring their traditional and contemporary art and architecture, private gallery districts, culinary traditions and major collections. The tour also includes guided visits to Art Basel in Hong Kong, the premier contemporary art event in the Asia-Pacific region, in which more than 200 private galleries showcase their wares.
The richness of Japan’s history and art is immediate and tangible, but the culture that produced it often seems impenetrable. Move beyond appearances on this popular 16-day tour and gain comprehensive insight into the beauty and mystique of this wonderful land, from its Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples and Zen gardens to its hypermodern cities and contemporary quirks. Explore old and new world Tokyo, understand the devastation at Hiroshima, and enjoy a week in Kyoto, discovering its temples, museums and traditions, with day trips to Nara, the ancient capital, and the bamboo groves of Arashiyama.

Unpack the many layers of tradition, history and culture that have fascinated generations of visitors to this once-isolated nation.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Hyper-modern Tokyo's bright lights and a staggering range of museums
- Kyoto's Zen temples and stone gardens, colourful geisha and historic arts and crafts
- Kanazawa’s famed Kenrokuen, one of Japan’s most significant and seasonal gardens
- The moving display of human resilience at Hiroshima’s Peace Memorial
- Speeding through the countryside on the Shinkansen or bullet train
- Soaring bamboo groves in Arashiyama and Japan’s early capital, Nara
- Kaiseki dining: a multi-course, seasonal meal perfectly complemented by traditional Japanese architecture

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–4:** Explore Tokyo’s Koishikawa-Korakuen garden, Senso-ji Temple, Nezu and Ota museums and Ginza’s exclusive boutiques.

**Days 5–6:** Bullet train to Kanazawa; visit the Samurai district, teahouses and Kenrokuen garden.

**Days 7–8:** In Hiroshima, visit the Peace Memorial and Miyajima’s Itsukushima shrine.

**Days 9–12:** Bullet train to Kyoto. Stroll through the geisha district, encounter Zen Buddhism in temples, shrines and gardens, and participate in a traditional tea ceremony.

**Days 13–14:** Day trips to Arashiyama and Nara.

**Days 15–16:** Discover Nishiki market and Kyoto’s many traditional crafts.
In the last 20 years the island-nation of Singapore has transformed itself from a bustling commercial city into a vibrant cultural one – a leading Asian centre of art, music and design. It boasts remarkable museums and galleries, a fine symphony orchestra and an energetic and outward-looking culture. Our tour has been timed to coincide with Singapore Art Week, held every January. The itinerary combines Singapore’s complex heritage, tropical gardens, the visual arts and an orchestral performance. Enjoy five-star accommodation close to venues we visit, and a varied program designed to appeal to cultural travellers.

**DEPARTURES**

January 23-26, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**

$2,950 pp, twin share
$860 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Robert Veel has travelled to Singapore many times, attended Singapore Art Week in 2017 and led our inaugural 2019 Singapore tour.

**INCLUSIONS**

3 nights’ accommodation in a 5-star hotel. All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 high tea. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

★ Grade 1: Only one hotel; humid weather.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Singapore. Singapore Airlines has several daily flights from Australian capital cities at times that coincide with the start and end of our tour. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

› Singapore Art Week, including visits to private collections and major exhibitions
› Singapore National Gallery, a vast and impressive museum of regional and international art
› Contemporary architecture – with buildings by Renzo Piano, I.M. Pei, Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid and Moshe Safdie, emblems of Singapore’s growth as a cultural centre
› Singapore’s complex history, from British rule to its transformation in the 21st century
› A performance by the fine Singapore Symphony Orchestra at the state-of-the-art Esplanade Concert Hall

Experience the transformation of Singapore from a trading port to a world-class venue for fine art, performing arts and architecture.

**ITINERARY**

Day 1: Meet your fellow travellers over welcome drinks.
Day 2: Visit the Asian Civilisations Museum and the main collection of the National Gallery followed by the Peranakan Museum.
Day 3: Morning visit to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, with their stunning orchid collection, followed by a contemporary architecture tour and Singapore Art Week galleries. Performance by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra.
Day 4: Special international exhibition at the National Gallery, then Fort Canning Park and a tour of the bunker where the Allies surrendered to Japan in WWII. Survey the Gardens by the Bay before high tea at the Fullerton.
Taiwan Cultural Treasures & Majestic Landscapes

Ancient temples, stunning mountain scenery, superb museums: Taiwan has much to fascinate the cultural traveller. This 11-day tour explores the many facets of Taiwan in depth, from the natural beauty of its interior and coastlines, to the thriving contemporary arts scene in Taipei and some of East Asia’s greatest cultural treasures. The island also has a rich history to be discovered, from Portuguese and Dutch colonists to the enduring influence of its powerful neighbours, China and Japan, and the survival of indigenous cultures and rich artisanal traditions that have been lost elsewhere.

An overlooked jewel among Asia’s diverse destinations, with a thriving arts scene, a visible and vibrant traditional culture with cosmopolitan influences from Europe, Japan and mainland China.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Historic ancient temples, colonial forts and Meiji-era architecture in Old Tainan
› The pristine environment of Sun Moon Lake, surrounded by an iconic landscape of steep mountain peaks
› The art of Taiwanese tea-making at an Assam tea farm
› The extraordinary Chung Tai Chan Monastery near Puli, headquarters of a popular Zen Buddhist order
› A spectacular drive hugging the Chingshui Cliffs and penetrating deep into the valley of Taroko Gorge
› Taipei’s National Palace Museum, a celebrated cultural institution, home to over 500,000 artefacts and artworks

ITINERARY

Days 1–2: Arrive into Kaohsiung and transfer to Tainan. Explore the city’s colonial past at Fort Zeelandia and its centuries-old Daoist temples.
Day 3: Admire Lugang’s temples and Meiji-era family mansions.
Days 4–6: Visit the National Museum of Fine Arts in Taichung and travel to Sun Moon Lake. Explore the lake’s surrounds and the Chung Tai Chan monastery and museum.
Day 7: Traverse the central range to Taroko Gorge and experience Taiwanese indigenous culture.
Days 8–11: Drive to Taipei. Ascend the Taipei 101 skyscraper; visit Chaing Kai Shek Memorial Hall and the extensive collection at the National Palace Museum.

DEPARTURES
March 3-13, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$6,980 pp, twin share
$2,180 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Judy Tenzing “Was excellent. The depth of knowledge about the country was always apparent as was her consideration for us travellers.” – Rajasthan, October 2016

INCLUSIONS
10 nights’ accommodation in 4 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 9 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Sites with stairs; high altitudes and winding mountain roads, boat travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Kaohsiung Airport with a transfer to Tainan, and ends at Taoyuan International Airport, Taipei. Cathay Pacific and partner Dragon Air offer flights into Kaohsiung and out of Taipei via Hong Kong. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan
A Journey Through Central Asia

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have long been the crossroads of civilisations and a vital link in the Silk Road. This 17-day tour explores the rich tapestry of history and cultures of this region, from the excellent archaeological sites and cities of the Achaemenids, Persians and Parthians, to the palaces, mosques and mausoleums of the emirs and Tamerlane’s capital, Samarkand. The tour takes you beyond these great civilisations of the past, allowing you to discover the distinctive culture of the ‘Stans’, from their traditional arts and crafts to the thriving cities of Central Asia.

HIGHLIGHTS
› The city walls of Khiva’s old town and its mosques, minarets and madrassas
› Fine Central Asian architecture and design at the World Heritage-listed site of Kunya Urgench
› The ruins of ancient Parthian kings dating from the 3rd century BC, at Nisa near Ashgabat
› The oasis city of Merv, with its outstanding archaeological sites from the Sassanid and Achaemenid periods
› Bukhara and the Samanid monuments of the last Persian dynasty to rule Central Asia
› Tamerlane’s Samarkand and Shahrisabz, the heart of the Silk Road

Follow the footsteps of travellers past, journeying through the Silk Road cities and villages that linked Europe and the Far East.

DEPARTURES
October 11-27, 2019
May 8-24, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,975 pp, twin share
$1,295 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Chris Bradley
“Chris’ experience in running trips was very clear. His talks were engaging, well-pitched, very informative and well prepared.” — Iran, April 2018

INCLUSIONS
16 nights’ accommodation in the best available hotels. All breakfasts, 10 lunches and 15 dinners. Three internal economy class flights, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★★ Grade 3: Challenging sites and facilities; varying hotel standards, long days.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Tashkent. Korean Airlines offers the best connections into Tashkent from most Australian cities. A stopover in Seoul is required in each direction. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Arrive in Tashkent and tour the Uzbek capital; fly to Khiva and explore the old town.
Day 4: Drive to Nukus and visit the Savitsky Collection.
Days 5–6: Cross into Turkmenistan and visit Kunya Urgench; fly to Ashgabat and visit the carpet museum and the ruins at Nisa.
Days 7–8: Fly to Mary and visit the oasis city at Merv.
Days 9–12: Return to Uzbekistan, and explore Bukhara, Samanid sites, mosques and palaces.
Days 13–15: Drive to Shahrisabz and see Tamerlane’s city of Samarkand.
Days 16–17: Return to Tashkent for flights home.

UZBEKISTAN
Khiva (2)
Khujand (2)
Nukus (2)
Tashkent (2)
TURKMENISTAN
Ashgabat (2)
Bukhara (4)
Samarkand (3)
Mary (2)

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Take a journey through western China, exploring its history, cultural diversity and extraordinary achievements. The region’s most famous monuments – the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors – are certainly highlights, but they are just a small part of what western China offers the cultural traveller. This 21-day tour explores the region in depth, revealing a wealth of treasures and giving you insight into the complex histories, peoples and cultures of China. The tour includes visits to the brilliantly decorated Buddhist monasteries at Mogao Grottoes, the Silk Road market towns of Turpan, Ürümqi and Kashgar, and Islamic Linxia.

Follow the Silk Road’s ancient caravan routes through western China and discover millennia of history, art and culture, preserved through successive dynasties.

HIGHLIGHTS
› The Great Wall outside Beijing, a lasting monument to the achievements of China
› The overwhelming sight of over 8000 Terracotta Warriors, lined up in rows ready for battle since the 3rd century BC
› Remarkable Buddhist sculptures and over 1000 square metres of murals, carved into the mountain face at the Maijishan Grottoes
› A day immersed in the bustling Sunday markets at Kashgar, and an encounter with Ürümqi’s well-preserved mummies
› The ubiquitous red sandstone of the Flaming Mountains Gorge in the Mutou Valley outside Turpan

ITINERARY
Days 1-3: In Beijing, explore the Forbidden City and visit the Great Wall.
Days 4-6: Fly to Xi’an to encounter the Terracotta Warriors and visit other sites.
Days 7-10: Admire Buddhist sculptures at Tianshui. Travel to Lanzhou; discover the Bingling Grottoes and Islamic Linxia. Survey the Gansu Museum; visit Tibetan Xiahe and the Labrang Lamasery.
Days 11-13: Fly to Dunhuang, view the famous Buddhist Caves.
Days 14-17: Cross the Taklamakan Desert to ancient Turpan. Meet Ürümqi’s mummies.
Days 18-21: Explore remote Kashgar, its vibrant markets and extraordinary mosque complex.
Japan is a land of many characters, its beauty reaching far beyond the cherry blossoms of springtime or the russet hues of the autumn leaves. Much is to be gained from travelling to Japan in the winter when Mt Fuji and the Japanese Alps are at their best, covered in a white blanket, and the snow monkeys warm themselves in the steaming hot springs. Colourful regional delicacies adorn seasonal tables, the galleries are quiet, the gardens austere in their beauty and the temples are true places for peaceful contemplation.

DEPARTURES
Jan 20 – Feb 2, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,495 pp, twin share
$2,595 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Kathleen Olive “Is a marvellous tour leader with the patience of a saint! Good fun and a good organizer.” – Japan, May 2018.

INCLUSIONS
13 nights in 3 to 5-star hotels, including a night in a traditional ryokan. All breakfasts, 7 lunches and 10 dinners. All ground transport, including Shinkansen trains, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Cold weather; temples and gardens; high speed train travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Tokyo and ends with a transfer to airports in Osaka. Qantas, Japan Airlines and ANA offer daily flights from Australia to Tokyo’s Haneda or Narita Airports, with return connections through Tokyo from Osaka. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Tokyo’s new museum dedicated to the woodblock prints of Hokusai, designed by architect Kazuyo Sejima of SANAA
› Mt Fuji and Itchiku Kubota’s stunning seasonal kimono project in the Japanese lake district
› Snow monkeys soaking in mountain hot springs, against the backdrop of the soaring Japanese Alps
› Samurai culture, Edo-era artisans and rural Japanese life in Takayama and Shirakawa-go
› Naoshima Art Island on the Inland Sea: world-class sculpture and Tadao Ando’s architecture
› Traditional arts and crafts in Kyoto, the cradle of Japanese culture

Swap the Australian summer for the tranquillity of Japan in winter, with snow and stunning alpine scenery adding to the art, architecture and history.

ITINERARY

Days 1–3: Explore a selection of Tokyo’s best galleries and museums.

Days 4–5: See Kamakura’s serene Great Buddha. Admire Mt Fuji, the Itchiku Kubota Kimono Museum and the Okada Museum in Hakone.

Days 6–8: Travel into the Japanese Alps to see snow monkeys, exploring historic Takayama and the village of Shirakawa-go.

Days 9–10: Admire Naoshima and Teshima’s site-specific artworks, set against the backdrop of Tadao Ando’s architecture on the Seto Sea.

Day 11–14: Appreciate the seasonal beauty of Koraku-en Garden. Take the bullet train to Kyoto, to discover its gardens, shrines and the stunning Miho Museum.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

You don’t have to leave our region to experience extraordinary art and cultures. Explore behind the scenes of private collections, meet with experts at galleries and museums, and get to know the custodians of our own history and culture.

Anish Kapoor’s Dismemberment, Site 1 at Gibbs Farm – an open-air sculpture park north of Auckland, New Zealand.
Adelaide & Surrounds
Art, History & Food

DEPARTURES
November 13-18, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$2,860 pp, twin share
$575 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Christopher Menz
“The tour and tour leader were excellent. The choice of sites and attractions was full of interest and enriched my understandings of their part of Australia.” – Adelaide & Surrounds, November 2018

INCLUSIONS
5 nights’ accommodation in a 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 3 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available for the performance, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 1: Only one hotel; gallery and museum visits.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Adelaide. Qantas and Virgin both fly into and out of Adelaide from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Adelaide has gained an international reputation for the arts, food and wine, since the progressive years of the 1960s. This six day tour explores the city’s art, history and food. It includes a guided visit of the Art Gallery of South Australia by Christopher Menz, a former director of the gallery, and takes in a number of collections at historic houses, including The Cedars, home of the Heysen family, Carrick Hill and Fermoy House. Day trips to the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley, to enjoy the region’s acclaimed food and wine, round out the tour.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Discover Adelaide’s heritage with a private visit of Ayers House and a guided walking tour of the city
› Uncover the fine art housed in the South Australian Art Gallery
› Visit Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills and tour The Cedars, the home and studio of Hans and Nora Heyson
› Explore the art collection at Carrick Hill house museum and garden
› Travel to the Barossa Valley and tour Seppeltsfield winery
› Tour Fermoy House and see the unique collection of David Roche
› Performance at Ukaria in the Adelaide Hills

Compact and refined, Adelaide has much to offer the cultural traveller. Explore it with the former director of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Adelaide and enjoy a welcome dinner in a fine Adelaide restaurant.
Day 2: Guided tour of Ayers House and history walk. Explore the Australian and William Morris collections at the Art Gallery of South Australia.
Day 3: Visit the David Roche Foundation and tour Fermoy House. Guided walk through the Botanic Gardens.
Day 4: Day trip to the Barossa Valley. Visit Tanunda and Seppeltsfield winery.
Days 5-6: Travel to Hahndorf and visit the Heysens’ studio at The Cedars. Lunch and concert at Ukaria Cultural Centre in the Adelaide Hills. Return via Mount Lofty and Carrick Hill historic house.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
Melbourne’s reputation as the cultural capital of Australia has been enhanced recently through the opening of a number of new private collections, many of which are in custom-designed house museums. This new five day tour takes you to the best of these, including Lyon Housemuseum, the Justin Art House Museum, the Johnston Collection and Buxton Contemporary. Private visits to these collections are complemented by a guided tour of the NGV’s spring blockbuster exhibition, visits to historic homes, including Como House, the Australian Tapestry Workshop, and the spectacular Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Lyon Housemuseum, one of Australia’s finest collections of contemporary art
› The Johnston Collection, exploring the life and collections of colourful antique dealer, William Johnston
› Como House and Garden, a beautifully preserved historic home of Melbourne’s 19th-century aristocracy
› Buxton Contemporary and Justin Art House Museum, two of the latest additions to Melbourne’s art scene
› The stunning Australian botanic gardens at Cranbourne

Discover the discreet charms of private Melbourne, from colonial landmarks to modern icons and contemporary house museums.

ITINERARY
Day 1: Assemble at Melbourne Airport, continue to the Australian Tapestry Workshop and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.
Day 2: Private guided tour of the Johnston Collection, a private tour of the MCG and visits to historic Como House and Garden and Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne’s newest gallery.
Day 3: Private guided tours of Lyon Housemuseum and the Justin Art House Museum, two excellent private collections of contemporary art.
Day 5: Depart Melbourne.
Delve into the art, architecture and nature of New Zealand’s North Island, from its Maori heritage to its privately-owned art collections and sculpture parks, on this 10-day tour. The tour begins in the harbourside capital of Wellington, before heading though classic farmland to Napier, then across the centre of the island to Lake Taupo and Rotorua, culminating in four days in and around Auckland. Experience how the dramatic mountain ranges, centres of volcanic activity, stunning coastlines and rolling green hills, are both setting and context for the art and culture of New Zealand.

DEPARTURES
March 12-21, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$6,870 pp, twin share
$1,650 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Kathleen Olive
“In addition to being immensely knowledgeable, Kathleen was so well organised, calm and patient. Her lectures were excellent and she had relevant advice about all the places we visited.” – Malta to Venice, September 2018
INCLUSIONS
9 nights’ accommodation in 4- and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.
THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Geothermal and rural environments; uneven paths.
START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Wellington and ends at Auckland Airport. Qantas and Air New Zealand have regular flights into Wellington and out of Auckland from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Internationally-renowned and privately-owned sculpture parks – Gibbs Farm, north of Auckland, and Connells Bay on beautiful Waiheke Island
> Remarkable landscape at Waimangu, with steaming geysers, hot springs
> Napier’s impressive Art Deco in harmonious public buildings, beach promenades and commercial and residential buildings
> Experience wonderful food and wine at Mudbrick restaurant on Waiheke Island
> Behind-the-scenes tour of Auckland’s Toi o Tamaki Art Gallery, New Zealand’s largest and most inspiring visual arts experience
> Scenic drives through mountains, volcanic landscapes and verdant countryside

Experience world-famous sculpture parks, remarkable art and architecture, striking landscapes shaped by dramatic volcanic activity, and the wealth of Maori culture, integral to Kiwi life today.

ITINERARY
Days 3–4: Cross the Rimutaka Mountains, visiting the Wairarapa wine region and exploring Art Deco architecture in Napier.
Days 5–6: From Rotorua, travel to Lake Taupo and witness Huka Falls. Take in the area’s volcanic landscape, including the Te Puia hot springs.
Days 7–10: In Auckland, enjoy visits to the Wallace Arts Centre, Gibbs Farm and Ayrlies Garden. Explore Waiheke Island and Connells Bay Sculpture Park.
Tasmania has a history, culture and landscape distinct from mainland Australia. This eight day tour offers unique insights into the island and its past, combining renowned attractions, such as the colonial Clarendon Estate and the World Heritage-listed convict site at Port Arthur, with sites of particular interest to the cultural traveller, such as the excellent Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) on the Derwent River, and a special focus on John Glover. These visits are carefully balanced with the experience of Tasmania’s pristine natural beauty, including a day trip along the Huon River Valley and a Freycinet Peninsula cruise.

Enjoy Tasmania’s internationally-recognised pristine landscapes and vibrant visual arts scene, underpinned by a complex history.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Tasmania’s colonial sites, including Clarendon Estate and World Heritage-listed Port Arthur
- Tasmania’s leading public art galleries in Launceston and Hobart
- Cruise from Coles Bay to Wineglass Bay, gaining a unique perspective of the Freycinet Peninsula’s sheer cliffs and abundant wildlife
- A day trip to the Huon River Valley, visiting pristine rainforests, gardens and wineries
- Fine regional wine and produce at some of Tasmania’s excellent restaurants and vineyards

**ITINERARY**

**Days 1–3:** The tour begins in Launceston, visiting historic homes and villages, exploring the farm of colonial artist John Glover and touring the Cradle Mountain region. We also visit wineries and the excellent Stillwater restaurant.

**Days 4–5:** Travel to the Freycinet Peninsula via colonial-era towns, and cruise Wineglass Bay.

**Days 6–8:** In Hobart we continue our exploration of colonial artists, enjoy day trips to the Huon Valley and the Tasman Peninsula, and visit David Walsh’s astonishing MONA.

**DEPARTURES**

Nov 30 – Dec 7, 2019

**TOUR PRICE**

$3,975 pp, twin share
$985 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Dr Nick Gordon “Was a wonderful tour leader. His knowledge of art, history and Italy greatly increased my enjoyment of the trip and sparked new interests for me to follow up.” – Florence, Ravenna & Venice, April 2018

**INCLUSIONS**

7 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

Art, Architecture & Design
Gardens & Country Houses

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

★ Grade 1: Relaxed pace; historic homes with stairs.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at Launceston Airport and ends at Hobart Airport. Qantas and Virgin fly into Launceston and out of Hobart from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
The small cities of the countryside and coastline surrounding Melbourne have a wealth of cultural sites to tempt visitors. Chief among them is an outstanding collection of regional and private galleries, with excellent collections of heritage and modern art. This new eight day tour gives art lovers the chance to sample a range of Australia’s best regional galleries, and then goes beyond the confines of the galleries to explore the landscapes and historic sites that give a broader context for understanding the art and history of Australia. The tour is rounded out with fine dining and visits to wineries.

DEPARTURES
April 29 – May 6, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$3,790 pp, twin share
$680 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
To be advised

INCLUSIONS
7 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 1: Walking tours; outdoor galleries; historic homes with stairs.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at Terminal 3, Melbourne Domestic Airport. Qantas and Virgin fly into and out of Melbourne from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Superlative regional galleries in the goldfields towns of Bendigo and Ballarat: two of regional Australia’s most dynamic and expansive collections
› The landscapes of the Yarra Valley, Dandenongs and Mornington Peninsula
› The McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery and TarraWarra Museum of Art, leading private collections of contemporary art
› Colonial Australia, at Barwon Park Mansion, the well-preserved Gold Rush town of Maldon and Goulburn Valley’s Tahbilk Winery
› Heide Museum of Modern Art, celebrating Sidney Nolan, Albert Tucker and the thoroughly modern Reed family

Get to know Victoria’s fabulous regional galleries and the complex history of Victoria, from colony to the goldfields and beyond.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Meet at Tullamarine and travel to the Yarra Valley; visit Heide Museum of Modern Art and TarraWarra; explore the Dandenongs and Mornington Peninsula.
Days 4: Enjoy the Bellarine Peninsula, from tranquil Queenscliff to Geelong, whose regional gallery has helped change the city’s reputation, and bluestone heritage at Barwon Park Mansion.
Days 5–6: Uncover Gold Rush history at Ballarat and Bendigo’s galleries.
Days 7–8: Day trip to the Goulburn Valley to visit Shepparton Regional Gallery and the historic Tahbilk Estate, one of Australia’s oldest wineries. Visit Castlemaine Art Gallery.
STUDY TOURS
Designed to provide in-depth intellectual stimulation for the independent traveller. Study Tours feature: daily background lectures; guided site visits; longer walking tours of historical cities and use of public transport for short journeys; time for individual exploration; and, self-contained accommodation where possible, allowing you to live like a local.
The great names of the Florentine Renaissance need no introduction: Giotto, Masaccio, Brunelleschi, Michelangelo. This new 14-day study tour provides a detailed examination of their works and of Tuscany’s cultural rebirth in the Middle Ages. Chart the impact of technology, luxury trade, self-government and a renewed interest in classical learning, and admire lesser-known masterworks in Pisa, Lucca, Prato and Fiesole. Explore the recent revival of Florence beyond mass tourism, with the redesign of iconic museums, and visit new collections of modern art and design.

HIGHLIGHTS

> World-famous collections: the renovated Uffizi Galleries, Brunelleschi’s dome, the new Museo degli Innocenti
> Florence’s lesser-known gems, from superb Last Supper frescoes to pietra dura mosaics and Galileo’s telescopes
> Excursions to Fiesole, Pisa, Prato and Lucca
> The Medici’s Florence: Fra Angelico at San Marco, Benozzo Gozzoli in the Medici Chapel, Michelangelo at San Lorenzo
> Detailed lecture series providing you with extensive knowledge of the city and its past
> Modern Florence: Italian modernists at the Collezione Casamonti, contemporary art at the Museo Ferragamo

Deepen your knowledge of the extraordinary masterpieces and masterminds of Renaissance Florence, and discover new collections showcasing the city’s more recent history.

ITINERARY

**Days 1–3:** Explore medieval innovation: superb sculpture at Orsanmichele and the Bargello, Brunelleschi’s dome and Giotto at Santa Croce.

**Day 4:** Excursion to Pisa.

**Days 5–7:** The Uffizi, and admire the Etruscans at archaeological museums in Florence and Fiesole. Investigate the Medici’s rise and their early patronage of Brunelleschi, Benozzo Gozzoli and Fra Angelico.

**Days 8–11:** Explore the Brancacci and Innocenti museums. Marvel at grand ducal commissions, from pietra dura, to Michelangelo’s Night and Day and Galileo’s discoveries.

**Days 12–14:** Florence’s new museums of art and contemporary design. Excursion to elegant Lucca.

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**Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders**
Istanbul – capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires – has accumulated an astounding wealth of history, art and architecture. This 13-day study tour explores this metropolis in depth, from the archaeology of the early city through the successive civilisations that have ruled there, and on to its modern incarnation as a multicultural metropolis spanning Europe and Asia. The tour also includes two nights in Çanakkale, to spend a full day exploring Gallipoli with excursions to Troy and Iznik. A series of background lectures, guided visits and historical walking tours are balanced with time for independent exploration.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Constantinople, including the Hippodrome, Underground Cistern and National Archaeological Museum
- Spectacular Byzantine and Ottoman sites, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi and Dolmabahçe palaces
- The superb collections of the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art and the Ottoman Military Museum
- Excursion to the little-known, car-free Princes’ Island of Heybeliada, and a Bosphorus cruise
- A full day exploring Gallipoli and an excursion to Troy

Take time out to explore one of the great cities of world history, a place of diverse and extraordinary history, art and architecture.

ITINERARY

Days 1–2: Orientation walk of Sultanahmet and cruise the Bosphorus. Early history at the Archaeological Museum.

Days 3–4: Hagia Sophia, Chora Church and the apotheosis of Ottoman culture at the Blue Mosque and the Military Museum.

Days 5–6: Islamic history at Topkapi Palace and the Turkish Museum of Islamic Art. Walk through Karakoy and climb Galata Tower.

Day 7: Dine by the water on the Princes’ Island of Heybeliada.

Days 8–10: Travel to Çanakkale and Troy, with a full day exploring the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Paris Study Tour

This 13-day study tour takes you well beyond the tourist’s Paris, to explore the history, art and architecture of this quintessential European city. Beginning with its Roman origins, we move to an exploration of Paris’ medieval glory and rebirth as the epicentre of modernism. A series of detailed background lectures, guided visits and historical walking tours are balanced with time for independent exploration. Accommodation is in a local neighbourhood conveniently close to the centre. Go beyond the typical tourist experience and explore the City of Light in all its glory.

DEPARTURES
June 28 – July 10, 2019

TOUR PRICE
$5,470 pp, twin share
$1,410 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Michael Adcock
“The tour was marvellous! Michael is a very caring tour leader, and his enthusiasm and knowledge of Paris and of French art his is remarkable.”
– Paris Study Tour, July 2018

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation in a 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 3 dinners. All ground transport, unlimited use of the public transport network, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval and Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Residential Tours
Study Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★★ Grade 3: Longer walking tours; faster pace; use of public transport; some uneven surfaces.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Paris. Qatar, Emirates and Etihad Airways offer the best connections into and out of Paris from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
• The glory of medieval Paris at Sainte-Chapelle and Notre Dame
• Guided visits of world-class museums including the Louvre, and many quieter museums, such as the excellent Musée Jacquemart-André and the Petit Palais
• Day trips to Versailles and Giverny, home of Monet’s garden
• Walking tours of key sites in the city’s history, such as Montmartre, the Marais, and Haussmann’s Opera district
• Icons of modern Paris, including the Musée Pompidou and the Picasso Museum
• Underground Paris: the Roman city and the Napoleonic Canal Saint Martin

A detailed exploration of Paris’ rich history and extraordinary artistic legacy, taking you well beyond the city of tourists.

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Arrive. Explore ancient and medieval Paris, from Roman settlement to the pinnacles of Gothic royal architecture. Cruise the Canal Saint Martin to Paris’s leafy inner suburbs.

Days 4–5: Explore the Louvre in depth and experience the extravagance of Louis XIV and his court at Versailles.

Days 6–8: Discover the 19th-century recreation of Paris, from Napoleon and Josephine to the birth of modern art; day trip to Monet’s gardens at Giverny; visits to Chateau Malmaison and the Marmottan.

Days 9–13: The cradle of modernism: the Musée d’Orsay, bohemian Montmartre and modern art at the Pompidou Centre and more.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Rome's contribution to Western culture is difficult to overestimate, but most visitors do not penetrate the city's complex, interwoven layers. This 12-day study tour provides you with a detailed examination of Rome's history, art and culture, from antiquity to the present, through daily background lectures, guided site visits and extended walking tours. The tour includes many sites that visitors overlook, such as Ostia Antica, Palazzo Massimo and Rome's spectacular mosaics from late antiquity. This tour is ideal for the independent traveller: group visits are carefully balanced with time for independent exploration.

An in-depth look at the layers of Roman history, art and architecture for the independent-minded traveller.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Superb collections of antiquities, including the Vatican Museums, the Capitoline Museums and Palazzo Massimo
- The spectacular works of Caravaggio and Bernini throughout the city and in the Galleria Borghese
- Excursions to Ostia Antica, Hadrian's Villa, and the masterful baroque Villa d'Este
- Rome in Late Antiquity, from Santa Costanza to the mosaics of Santa Prassede
- Walking tours visiting Rome's hidden gems and masterpieces by Raphael, Bramante and Borromini
- Modern Rome, including a visit to the house and studio of Giorgio de Chirico

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Explore Rome's origins and its extraordinary rise to greatness, through visits to archaeological sites, including Ostia Antica, and world-class museums, including Palazzo Massimo and the Capitoline collections.
Days 4–6: From imperial splendour to the coming of Christianity: Late Roman art to the birth of the 'new' medieval style. Explore underground Rome and witness how the city and its culture transformed from the 4th to 12th centuries.

INCLUSIONS
- 11 nights’ accommodation in a central 3-star hotel. All breakfasts and 4 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
- Archaeology & Ancient History
- Medieval and Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design
- Residential Tours
- Study Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 3: Longer walking tours; faster pace; use of public transport; some uneven surfaces.

START & FINISH
The tour begins and ends at our hotel in Rome. Emirates, Etihad Airways, Cathay Pacific, Qatar and Singapore Airlines offer the best connections into and out of Rome from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
UPCOMING TOUR PROGRAM
July – December, 2020

Maxim 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders

Art Cities of the Veneto
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr Nick Gordon

Renaissance Courts of Italy
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr Kathleen Olive

Sicily & the Aeolian Islands
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Estelle Lazer

Bavaria to Bohemia
September 2020
Tour leader: Robert Veel

Croatia: by land & sea
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Dal Santo

Gardens of Scotland
July 2020
Tour leader: Michael Turner

Greek Islands
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr John Tidmarsh

Istanbul & Venice
October 2020
Tour leader: Robert Veel

Madrid
September 2020
Tour leader: Elena Ortega

Modern Art in the UK
October 2020
Tour leader: Gerald Deslandes

Moscow to St Petersburg
September 2020

Naples to Barcelona:
aboard Sea Cloud II
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Kathleen Olive

Northern Spain & Portugal
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Jeni Ryde

Portugal
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Jeni Ryde

Scandinavia: nature & design
September 2020

Siberia & the Russian Far East
July 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Dal Santo

Ecuador & Galapagos
November 2020
Tour leader: Dr Chris Carter

French Canada & New England
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Laing

North East USA:
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Laing

Thanksgiving in New York
November 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Laing

A Musical Christmas & New Year in Europe
December 2020
Tour leader: Robert Gay

Beethoven 250
Anniversary Tour
September 2020
Tour leader: Dr Tom Ford

Salzburg, Bregenz & Lucerne Festivals
August 2020
Tour leader: Robert Gay

Two Musical Cities:
Berlin & Hamburg
October 2020
Tour leader: Robert Gay

ITALY
EUROPE & RUSSIA
MUSIC & THEATRE
THE AMERICAS
Armenia & Georgia
August 2020
Tour leader: Dr Matthew Dal Santo

Classical & Ottoman Turkey
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Jenny Lawless

Iran: off the beaten track
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr John Tidmarsh

Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan
October 2020
Tour leader: Ben Churcher

Japan Unmasked
November 2020
Tour leader: Ann MacArthur

Adelaide & Surrounds
November 2020
Tour leader: Christopher Menz

Flinders Ranges
October 2020
Tour leader: Dr Chris Carter

Melbourne Private Homes
October 2020

Tasmania
December 2020
Tour leader: Robert Veel

Yarra Valley to Bendigo: Victoria’s regional galleries
October 2020

Berlin: Study Tour
October 2020
Tour leader: Thomas Abbott

Paris: Study Tour
July 2020
Tour leader: Dr Michael Adcock

Register your interest for these tours today!

Contact us at info@academytravel.com.au or 02 9235 0023. We’ll notify you as soon as bookings are open and you will be among the first to receive a detailed tour itinerary.
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**July 2019 – June 2020**

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Right: Group in front of Trani Cathedral, on the Puglia to Pompeii March 2018 tour with Dr Jeni Ryde
Back cover: The avant-garde Bodega Ysios winery in the Rioja, Guardia, Spain