TOUR PROGRAM
January - December 2020

A DIFFERENT VIEW

academytravel.com.au
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.

A full day on site at Pella

Tour leader Ben Churcher is co-director of the University of Sydney’s digs in Pella, Jordan. On our Israel & Jordan tour, he takes you on a personal tour of this fascinating site, where he has worked for over 20 years.

Private helicopter tour of Kamchatka’s snow-capped volcanoes

Take a breath-taking helicopter ride to this spectacular region, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. One of several highlights on our Siberia & the Russian Far East tour.

Best seats in the house at Glyndebourne

Academy Travel is a long-established corporate sponsor of the UK’s prestigious Glyndebourne Festival Opera. This guarantees you the very best seating for all performances we attend on our Munich & Glyndebourne Opera Festivals tour.
Tailored small group journeys

We’re delighted to present to you our latest tour brochure, listing all the tours we are offering in 2020. Inside you will find 73 tours travelling to over 40 countries.

Our expert-led tours explore a range of themes: archaeology, modern and ancient history, fine art, architecture and design, gardens and country estates, orchestral music and opera. Tours range in length from 4 days to 22 days and are designed to appeal to travellers who appreciate the depth of knowledge and research that goes into the planning and the delivery of our tours.

Each year we carefully curate a tour program based on the interests and feedback of our loyal cohort of Academy Travellers, some of whom have taken six, seven or eight tours with us. Our program for 2020 combines well-established and popular tours, as well as a range of new itineraries and new destinations. Some of the new tours for 2020 include land/cruise tours to Scandinavia and Croatia, several regional tours in the USA and an expanding range of residential study tours.

A good tour leader makes all the difference – developing your interest with solid knowledge, adding insight and dealing with unexpected events. We know you’ll be delighted with the intellectual calibre, energy and enthusiasm of our leaders – they are a defining aspect of what makes us different from other travel companies.

Thank you for taking a look at our 2020 program. We hope you find a tour that’s right for you.

Robert Veel, and the entire Academy Travel team.

About us

Academy Travel started in Sydney in 2004, and since then we have developed a wonderful network of colleagues around the world, who keep us up to date on what’s new and what’s trending in cultural travel. Our staff are located in Australia, Italy, Germany, Denmark, the UK and the United States, ensuring great support for our tour leaders.

> Expert tour leaders
> Maximum 20 in a group
> Carefully planned itineraries

Front: Sean Scully’s Opulent Ascension, 2019, transforms Venice’s 16th-century San Giorgio Maggiore church during the Biennale.

Brochure production: Damien Flint

Design: Pro Bono Publico

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.

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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 has 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...

My first tour with Academy Travel overturned all my preconceptions about group travel. In 2014, I travelled on the City of Rome tour which was fantastic – getting to know the many layers of this extraordinary city – and I have since enjoyed four other tours with Academy Travel.

The quality of the tour leaders is exceptional; generous in the way they share their knowledge – which is considerable – enthusiastic about the countries we visit and the cultures we encounter, they have made each of my tours memorable.

The joy of travelling with like-minded people, whether on a music, art or archaeology tour, and being guided by knowledgeable and engaging experts has, for me, spoiled the idea of solo travel.

Next stop is Japan, and after that I will work my way through northern Italy, the south of France and Iran with Academy.

Robyn Quigley

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.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Biography</th>
<th>See: Page(s)</th>
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<td>DR ANITA ARCHER</td>
<td>A specialist on Chinese art, with more than 20 years’ experience as an auctioneer and consultant in Australia and abroad.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR ANNA LEOVIC</td>
<td>An historian and educator, with a doctorate on the history of America’s pre-eminent fashion magazine, Vogue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANN MACARTHUR</td>
<td>One of Australia’s foremost experts in Japanese art and culture, she has over 20 years’ experience as a museum educator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEN CHURCHER</td>
<td>An educator and practicing archaeologist, who works both in Jordan and with Aboriginal sites in Australia.</td>
<td>71, 75</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHLOE SAYER</td>
<td>A specialist in the art and culture of Mexico, she has curated exhibitions and published numerous books on this vibrant country.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRIS BRADLEY</td>
<td>An historian specialising in the religion and art of the Middle East and North Africa, having spent several years in Arabia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR CHRISS CARTER</td>
<td>An indigenous and historical archaeologist, actively involved in research in the Atacama region of Chile.</td>
<td>84, 88</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHRISTOPHER MENZ</td>
<td>A former art museum director and curator, with expertise in the arts and music throughout Europe, the USA and Australia.</td>
<td>25, 28, 46, 51, 83</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELENA ORTEGA</td>
<td>A practicing painter and expert on the art of Spain, with degrees from the University of Sydney and the National Art School. See: Pages 29, 87, 91</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR ESTELLE LAZER</td>
<td>An archaeologist with an international reputation for her work on the human victims of Pompeii in southern Italy. See: Pages 17, 19, 40</td>
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<tr>
<td>GILLIAN HOVELL</td>
<td>A published historian and archaeologist, with extensive experience in lecturing and leading tours to the ancient world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERALD DESLANDES</td>
<td>A former curator and cultural historian, he spent 20 years as the director of five contemporary art galleries in the UK. See: Page 34</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR JENI RYDE</td>
<td>A linguist and art history specialist, with a PhD focusing on Tourism, Heritage and Renaissance Studies. See: Pages 13, 19, 38, 39, 45</td>
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<tr>
<td>DR JENNY LAWLESS</td>
<td>Former Inspector of History for the NSW Board of Studies, with expertise spanning Modern and Ancient History. See: Pages 40, 74</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DR JOHN TIDMARSH</td>
<td>An archaeologist, former lecturer and current Co-Director of the University of Sydney excavations at Pella in Jordan. See: Pages 31, 32, 70</td>
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</tbody>
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JUDY TENZING
An historian with a passion for and deep knowledge of the history, music, textiles and literature of South Asia.
See: Page 81

ROBERT GAY
One of Australia’s leading music tour leaders and music educators, he has designed and led more than 90 tours.
See: Pages 48, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58

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, 18, 26, 37, 79, 85

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 53

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

ROBERT VEEL
A cultural historian and founding director of Academy Travel, with a strong interest in visual arts, architecture and music.
See: Pages 16, 24, 33, 80, 86

DR MATTHEW DAL SANTO
A writer, historian and foreign affairs commentator, with Honours degrees from both Sydney and Cambridge Universities.
See: Pages 27, 43, 73

DR ROYNA MCNAMARA
A musician, educator and conductor, with degrees from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Sydney.
See: Pages 50, 54

DR MATTHEW LAING
A political scientist and expert in US history, with a doctorate on the history of the United States presidency.
See: Pages 44, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66

DR STEPHEN WILKINSON
Chairman of the International Institute for the Study of Cuba, he holds a PhD on the subject of Cuban literature.

DR LUCIO GAHLIN
An Egyptologist with a wealth of experience as an educator, researcher, archaeologist and museum curator.
See: Page 69

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

DR MATTHEW OLIVIA
A graduate of the University of Sydney and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she taught musicology for 13 years.

STUART BARRIE
A social historian and founding director of Academy Travel, with strong interests in the history and architecture of the USA.
See: Page 65

MICHAEL TURNER
A garden and art historian, formerly the Senior Curator of the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney.
See: Pages 30, 42

SUE ROLLIN
An archaeologist, historian, author and linguist, formerly a tutor and lecturer in Ancient Near Eastern history.
See: Page 72

DR MINDY MACLEOD
A specialist in Swedish and Old Norse language and literature with two masters degrees and a PhD on runic epigraphy.
See: Page 41

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 90

DR NICK GORDON
A cultural historian with a PhD in History, and practicing painter who brings this passion to the visual arts.
See: Pages 15, 20, 21, 23, 92

DR TOM FORD
A specialist in classical music, with a PhD on Mozart, he is currently PR and media manager for Universal Music Australia.
See: Page 49

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

Venice’s Piazza San Marco, with a view towards the Basilica and Campanile.
Enjoy the fascinating history, art and culture of Italy, from the Romans to the Renaissance and beyond, with special meals and private visits not available on most tours.

OVERVIEW
Experience the wonders of Italy in style, from the splendour of the ancient world in Rome and the Bay of Naples to the 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.

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
- Feast on fine food and wine as we explore Umbria’s rolling hills and rural villages
- Private after-hours tour of St Mark’s Basilica to witness the illumination of the mosaics

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 in Naples. Travel to Rome, with walking tours through its historic piazzas, art galleries, classical sites and Vatican Museums.
**Days 8–11:** Four nights in Umbria, exploring its medieval villages and hidden valleys.
**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.
OVERVIEW
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.
From prehistoric icemen to the brilliance of Renaissance art and the tragedy of World War I, all set in the majestic landscapes of Friuli, the Dolomites and the Veneto.

OVERVIEW
The mountains and foothills of north-east Italy have long served as a natural frontier between northern Europe and the Mediterranean, yet the diverse and proudly distinct cultures that have emerged from this history remain relatively unknown. From prehistoric Ötzi the Ice Man to the Lombards in Cividale, the emergence of the Renaissance in Venetian art and architecture, and the tragedy of World War I, go beyond the well-worn tourist trails of Italy on this new 16-day tour to Friuli, the Veneto and the Dolomites.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Undiscovered history in north-east Italy, from Ötzi the prehistoric Ice Man to Lombard Cividale
> Giotto’s technical brilliance and colourful innovation in Padua’s Scrovegni Chapel
> Villas and gardens of the Venetian terraferma, from Palladio and the Brenta Canal to baroque exuberance at the Villa Barbarigo Valsanzibio
> Spectacular scenery around Cortina d’Ampezzo and Bolzano, two charming towns nestled in the Dolomites
> On the trail of Venice’s greatest painters: Titian in Pieve di Cadore, Giorgione in Castelfranco, Tiepolo in Udine
> Iconic Italian gastronomy, from prosecco and prosciutto to the northern cuisine of the Dolomites

DEPARTURES
September 9-24, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,910 pp, twin share
$1,780 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Nick Gordon “Was very interesting, personable and well-informed.” – Venice Biennale, June 2019

INCLUSIONS
15 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 8 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

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

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Long coaching days; some uneven surfaces; some steep hill/mountain towns.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Venice airport and concludes in our hotel in Padua. Emirates and Qatar offer flights in and out of Venice from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
OVERVIEW
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!

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.

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

OVERVIEW
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.

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

ITINERARY

Days 1–3: Group flight from Rome and arrive in Lecce, explore the town, Otranto.
Days 4–5: Tour Brindisi and Taranto, see the ‘sassi’ of Matera.
Days 6–9: In Trani, visit Roman and medieval sites including Barletta. Visit Cannae and Castel del Monte and enjoy a full day excursion to Barie and Bitonto.
Days 10–11: Visit Venosa and Melfi as we travel to Vietri sul Mare and spend a day at Paestum.
Days 12–16: 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.

DEPARTURES
Feb 27 – Mar 13, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,880 pp, twin share
$1,920 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 personnel, 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.

Take the road less travelled through southern Italy – brimming with ancient and medieval sites and outstanding natural scenery.
Survey the lesser-known cultural centres of northern Italy’s Renaissance courts, from Leonardo in Milan to Mantegna’s Mantua and stunning Urbino.

OVERVIEW
Travel to some of Italy’s lesser-visited destinations and discover Renaissance princes’ magnificent reinterpretations of ancient Roman glory. From Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper in Milan, to Mantegna’s celebrated Camera degli Sposi in Mantua and the enigmatic Piero della Francesca in Urbino, we survey iconic masterworks of the Italian Renaissance. The tour takes in the best of these regions at a gentle pace, including full day trips to enjoy Ravenna’s glittering Byzantine mosaics and historic Ferrara, and meals in some fine gastronomic establishments – all in the beautiful landscapes of northern Italy.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Leonardo da Vinci’s Milan: The Last Supper, Codex Atlanticus and his impact on subsequent painters
> Magical Urbino, perched on a remote hill and proud custodian of three masterworks of Piero della Francesca
> The Gonzaga in Mantua, from Mantegna’s Camera degli Sposi to Giulio Romano’s mischievous Mannerism in Palazzo Te
> A full day in Ravenna, preserving the best examples of Byzantine mosaic from the 5th and 6th centuries
> Northern Italy’s iconic terroir, from the DOC wines of vine-covered hills to truffles, pasta fresca and balsamic vinegar

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 3, 4 and 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Some long coaching days; some uneven surfaces; some hilltop towns.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Milan and ends in our hotel in Bologna. Emirates offers flights into Milan and out of Bologna from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS
Jewels of the Mediterranean

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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

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.
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.

**DEPARTURES**
May 9-22, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$7,370 pp, twin share
$1,610 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
Dr Nick Gordon “Gave us such insight into the culture of Italian life as well as politics, religion and food! Such a good, caring man.” – 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
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes

**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.

**OVERVIEW**
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.

**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, discover 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.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
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.

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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.
EUROPE & RUSSIA

Our range of cultural tours to Europe and Russia is designed to explore the history, art and architecture of the continent in a way that is more relaxed than most European trips, but at the same time offering depth and focus.

A view over Granada, Andalusia, from the 13th-century palace complex of the Alhambra, meaning “red city” in Arabic.
ART ALONG THE RHINE
Strasbourg to Cologne

OVERVIEW
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.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Magnificent medieval architecture: Charlemagne’s Palace 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 abbey

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 Necker.
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.
The adjoining regions of Bohemia and Bavaria have a shared cultural heritage that goes well beyond a reputation for excellent beer! This new itinerary provides the opportunity to explore each region in depth, appreciating the cross-currents of art, history, commerce and culture that make this corner of Europe so rewarding. From the turreted castles of Prague and Bohemia, travel through hills and forests to Franconia, in northern Bavaria, with its numerous artistic treasures. A few days on Lake Constance in southern Bavaria and time in the capital, Munich, complete the picture.

**DEPARTURES**
Sep 25 – Oct 11, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**
$10,640 pp, twin share
$2,410 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**
Robert Veel
"Has an excellent knowledge of his subject but is willing to allow others to add information when it is given.” – Venice: City, Republic & Empire, March 2019

**INCLUSIONS**
16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 8 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best available tickets to three concerts, entrance fees and tipping.

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

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
★ ★ Grade 2: Frequent walking tours; some hills to climb; three long coach journeys.

**START & FINISH**
The tour begins at our hotel in Prague and ends at our hotel in Munich. Emirates and Qatar offer suitable connections into Prague and out of Munich from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

**HIGHLIGHTS**
- Prague’s outstanding art collections, housed in the city’s historic palaces
- UNESCO World Heritage sites in southern Bohemia, including Český Krumlov and a selection of castles
- Scenic drives through Bohemia’s forests along the Moldau River, and to the spa town of Karlsbad
- Bamberg, one of Germany’s best-preserved cities, a gateway to the artistic treasures of Würzburg and Bayreuth
- Two days amid the superb scenery of Lindau Island and the traditional culture of the Bavarian Alps
- The world-class art collections of Munich, medieval to modern
- At least three performances of orchestral and vocal music in historic venues

**OVERVIEW**
The adjoining regions of Bohemia and Bavaria have a shared cultural heritage that goes well beyond a reputation for excellent beer! This new itinerary provides the opportunity to explore each region in depth, appreciating the cross-currents of art, history, commerce and culture that make this corner of Europe so rewarding. From the turreted castles of Prague and Bohemia, travel through hills and forests to Franconia, in northern Bavaria, with its numerous artistic treasures. A few days on Lake Constance in southern Bavaria and time in the capital, Munich, complete the picture.

**ITINERARY**
Days 1–4: In Prague, take walking tours of the city’s baroque and Art Nouveau architecture, visit excellent galleries and attend a concert.
Days 5–7: Staying in a traditional village, visit the beautiful Bohemian town of Český Krumlov and visit the pilgrimage site of Vyšší Brod.
Days 8–11: Travel to UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bamberg and visit Bayreuth, indelibly associated with the composer Richard Wagner.
Days 12–13: Travel the Romantic Road south to Lindau Island on Lake Constance.
Days 14–17: Journey through the Bavarian Alps to Munich, to explore the city’s remarkable art and music.
Take an in-depth look at one of Europe’s most cultured and dynamic capitals, and explore nearby Leipzig and Dresden.

OVERVIEW

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 enjoy the Dresden Festival.

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.

DEPARTURES
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 our hotel in Antibes. 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.

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.

OVERVIEW
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.

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 6–8: Tour Lyon’s Roman ruins, enjoy 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.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Explore Croatia’s history, beautiful towns and stunning coastlines in style, including 7 nights cruising on the 19-cabin MV Antaris.

OVERVIEW
Croatia is blessed with a landscape of extraordinary beauty and some of Europe’s most dazzling coastlines. Its history too is everywhere apparent, from Greek and Roman colonies to imperial palaces, Byzantine mosaics, medieval fortresses, Venetian Renaissance towns, and the resurgence of its cities after the ill-fated experiment of Yugoslavia. Discover Croatia’s extraordinary past at the meeting point of Venetian, Habsburg and Ottoman empires on this new 16-day tour. Land-based exploration of Zagreb and Istria is combined with a private cruise of the fabled Dalmatian coast aboard the luxuriously-appointed, 19-cabin MV Antaris.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Seven nights on the luxury 19-cabin MV Antaris, dining al fresco and swimming in the crystalline Adriatic
› Zagreb and Varaždin, Croatia’s new and old capitals, with their architectural gems and beautifully curated galleries
› Outstanding Roman and Byzantine sites in the Mediterranean, including dazzling mosaics in Poreč and Diocletian’s opulent palace at Split
› The gracious former Venetian enclaves of Rovinj, Zadar, Trogir and Korčula
› UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dubrovnik, with its marble streets and elegant Romanesque churches
› The spectacular Bay of Kotor, a limestone fjord in Montenegro, Croatia’s Orthodox southern neighbour

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Arrive Zagreb and explore the city. Day trip to Varaždin.
Days 4–6: Travel to Poreč (Istria) via Ljubljana in neighbouring Slovenia. Walking tours of the spectacular Byzantine mosaics at Euphrasian Basilica and the Roman amphitheatre at Pula.
Day 7: Travel via Rovinj to the Austro-Hungarian resort town of Opatija. Board the MV Antaris.
Days 8–14: Cruise along the Dalmatian Riviera, stopping at Pag, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Korčula and Dubrovnik.
Days 15–16: Disembark MV Antaris. Excursion to Kotor (Montenegro). In Dubrovnik, explore its marble-lined streets and charming back alleys.
Germany & The Netherlands
Art & Music

OVERVIEW
Travel with Australian Book Review, Australia’s leading cultural magazine, and relish the extraordinary art, architecture and history of Germany and The Netherlands, attending performances at world-class venues in congenial company. This 14-day tour travels from Frankfurt, birthplace of famed writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, to Cologne, Hamburg and Amsterdam, some of western Europe’s most dynamic cities. In each city, we explore rich histories and fabulous art collections, from Dutch Golden Age brilliance to Germany’s modern and contemporary masters. Four fine performances round out the touring program.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Seven centuries of European art, from medieval treasures to modern works by German artists, including Gerhard Richter, Josef Beuys and Anselm Kiefer
> Rembrandt and Vermeer’s masterworks at Amsterdam’s recently renovated Rijksmuseum
> The Dutch Golden Age at the Mauritshuis, The Hague
> Lübeck, medieval capital of the Hanseatic League, and its distinguished Gothic in brick
> Fascinating contemporary art collections, including Paul Klee and Salvador Dalí at Düsseldorf’s K20 museum
> Four performances, including a concert at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, one of Europe’s premier concert halls

DEPARTURES
September 16-29, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,970 pp, twin share
$1,890 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Christopher Menz. “Was a delightful tour leader. His knowledge and enthusiasm greatly contributed to my enjoyment of the trip.” – Berlin & Beyond, May 2019

INCLUSIONS
13 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
Medieval to Modern History
Music & Theatre
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Historic towns with some uneven surfaces; evening performances; coach travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Frankfurt and ends with a group transfer to Amsterdam airport. Qatar, Singapore and Emirates offer direct flights into Frankfurt and out of Amsterdam from most Australian cities.

ITINERARY
Days 1–2: Arrive in Frankfurt, explore the city’s art collections at the Städel Museum and take a walking tour including the Goethehaus.
Days 3–6: Travel to Cologne via Bonn to visit the Kunstmuseum. Admire Cologne Cathedral and visit Augustusburg Castle. Day trip to Düsseldorf to visit the contemporary art museum K-20.
Days 7–9: In Hamburg, attend a performance at the Elbphilharmonie concert hall and visit the Kunsthalle Hamburg. Day trip to Lübeck.
Days 10–14: Travel to Amsterdam. Take a city walking tour, visit the Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum and survey the masters at the Rijksmuseum. Spend the day at The Hague to visit the Mauritshuis.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
Travel through the Moorish kingdoms of Andalusia, explore imperial Madrid and be energised by modernista Barcelona.

OVERVIEW
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 travel 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 Mesquita (mosque), a blend of Visigothic and Islamic art
> The mighty cathedral and wandering the fascinating lanes of Seville, the city of Carmen and Don Juan
> The art collections of the Prado, Reina Sofia 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 Albaicín and Flemish art in the magnificent cathedral.
Days 4–6: In Cordoba, explore the Mesquita and Moorish sophistication at Medina Azahara.
Days 10–13: In Madrid, tour the Prado, Reina Sofia 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 Gaudí’s flourishing Modernisme.
Great Gardens of Cornwall & Devon

DePARTURES
June 1-10, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$7,495 pp, twin share
$1,950 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Michael Turner "Is a passionate expert in gardens and garden history... charming, amiable and helpful in every way." – Great Gardens of Cornwall & Devon, June 2019

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.

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

OVERVIEW
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.

KEY GARDENS VISITED
- Godolphin House, with its medieval gardens
- Scilly’s Tresco Abbey Gardens
- The Lost Gardens of Heligan, tended by generations of the Tremayne family
- Sir Tim Smit’s Eden Project, an extraordinary exercise in conservation
- Bannerman’s masterpiece, Trematon Castle
- Wildside, Buckland Monachorum: a visionary nursery and garden
- Lanhydrock in Cornwall: from the Middle Ages to World War I
- Montacute House, a masterpiece of Elizabethan Renaissance architecture
- Rosemoor: the showpiece of the Royal Horticultural Society

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

**OVERVIEW**

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.

**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.
Greece
From the Peloponnese to the Cyclades

OVERVIEW
Go beyond Greece’s resort island exterior and discover the emergence of Western Europe’s great city-states through their archaeology. This new 19-day tour begins in Athens, before going back in time to the Mycenaean kings of the Peloponnese, the great classical sites of Olympia and Delphi, and the sprawling Minoan palaces of Crete. The tour continues to Greece’s most beguiling islands: Santorini with its Bronze Age city preserved by volcanic ash, tiny Delos, whose wealth arose from the Hellenistic slave trade, and Mykonos, with its whitewashed houses and narrow winding streets.

DEPARTURES
Sep 26 – Oct 14, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,970 pp, twin share
$2,290 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
18 nights’ accommodation in 3 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 12 lunches or dinners. Athens-Heraklion and Mykonos-Athens flights, ferries between Crete and Santorini and Santorini to Mykonos. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Negotiate steps and slopes; standing for long periods in the open at archaeological site; travel by boat.

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

ITINERARY
Days 4–7: Drive to Nauplio to visit Mycenae, the theatre at Epidaurus, Tiryns and the Palace of Nestor at Pylos.
Days 8–10: Travel to the Sanctuary of Zeus at Olympia and continue to Delphi.
Days 11–13: Drive to Athens and fly to Heraklion, investigate the Archaeological Museum and palaces of Knossos and Phaistos.
Days 14–15: Take the ferry to Santorini and explore Akrotiri’s remarkable excavations.
Days 16–19: Travel to Mykonos by ferry, enjoy a daytrip to Delos before flying to Athens.

Explore Greece’s ancient cultures through its archaeology, from the Minoans on Crete and Santorini to Mycenean and classical sites in the Peloponnese and Athens.
Discover the Byzantine and Ottoman worlds, whose dazzling churches, palaces and mosques captured the imagination of Western Europe throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

OVERVIEW
The two great medieval cities of Istanbul and Venice, straddling East and West, are indissolubly linked through their shared history, mercantile culture, art and outstanding physical beauty. Explore the links between these two powerful civilisations in depth, on our 15-day journey. We begin in Istanbul, imperial capital of both the Byzantines and the Ottoman Turks, Venice’s implacable enemy. We then fly to Italy, spending two nights in Ravenna, Byzantium’s capital in the West, before spending six nights in Venice, whose unique art and culture is profoundly influenced by its links to the East.

HIGHLIGHTS
› Cruise up the Bosphorus to visit the Sultan Mehmet II fortress
› Sumptuous Ottoman craftsmanship at the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
› Constantinople’s mosques, decorated with Iznik’s famed blue tiles
› Two nights in Ravenna, with its lavish imperial mosaics
› The revolutions of the Italian Renaissance, at Giotto’s Scrovegni Chapel in Padua
› Private after-hours tour of St Mark’s Basilica, for the illumination of the mosaics
› The art of Carpaccio, Bellini, Titian and Tintoretto in Venice’s palaces, confraternities and churches
› Lunch at the legendary Locanda Cipriani on Torcello island

ITINERARY
Days 1-6: In Istanbul, survey the mosaics in Hagia Sophia and the Great Palace Museum, cruise the mighty Bosphorus and admire Ottoman architecture and decorative arts at the Blue Mosque and Topkapı.
Days 7-8: Fly to Venice, travelling first to Ravenna for its stunning mosaics.
Days 9-15: Return to Venice via Padua’s extraordinary Scrovegni Chapel. In Venice, examine the extensive connections with the East at St Mark’s Basilica, the Correr, Jewish Ghetto and Accademia gallery. Explore the island monasteries of San Lazzaro and San Giorgio and cruise the Venetian lagoon, visiting Burano and Torcello.
MODERN ART IN THE UK
With Frieze, The British Art Show & The Liverpool Biennale

OVERVIEW
Explore the spectacular world of modern and contemporary art in the UK in London, Edinburgh and northern England. This tour also provides you with a once-in-a-decade opportunity: the coincidence of the UK’s three leading visual arts events: Frieze Art Fair, the British Art Show and the Liverpool Biennale. Visits to major art museums, leading commercial galleries and these great shows have been carefully curated by Gerald Deslandes, who has lived amongst and worked in the British art world for more than 20 years, with unique access to curators and artists.

HIGHLIGHTS
- The greats of British art, from Turner to Hepworth, Moore and beyond at major museums and sculpture parks in London, Edinburgh and Leeds
- Frieze Art Fair: one of the world’s most important art fairs, showcasing art from antiquity to the present
- The British Art Show and the Liverpool Biennale: the most significant and future-defining exhibitions of contemporary art in the UK
- Edinburgh: Explore the art of Scotland and enjoy this cultural capital
- Behind the scenes: talks with curators and artists and an insider’s guide to world-leading commercial galleries

ITINERARY
Days 1–5: Arrive London, visit Frieze, enjoy expert guidance at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, explore contemporary architecture at Canary Wharf, visit leading commercial galleries.
Days 6–8: View Scottish art in Edinburgh, from the National Galleries to new art spaces, such as the Fruitmarket Gallery and the new Jupiter Artland.
Days 9–14: Travel to Manchester via the Lake District; explore the British Art Show and new museums in Manchester. Visit Leeds and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, enjoy dinner at the Hepworth Whitfield Gallery. Experience the Liverpool Biennale and its public display of major works.

DEPARTURES
October 3-16, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$8,930 pp, twin share
$2,900 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Gerald Deslandes “Was fantastic as a leader and very obliging and always there to help.” – Sicily & Aeolian Islands, March 2019

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

THEMES
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Gallery visits and days at art fairs; some long coaching days.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in London and ends in our hotel in Manchester. Emirates and Qatar fly into London and out of Manchester from most Australian cities.

Explore the best of British Art and experience three great art fairs: Frieze, the British Art Show and the Liverpool Biennale.
**OVERVIEW**

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 the Great’s palaces and select performances.

**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.

**DEPARTURES**

Sep 25 – Oct 11, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**

$13,680 pp, twin share
$2,590 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Geoff Winestock joins our program in 2020. Geoff is a son of refugees from the former Soviet Union. He currently works as a journalist and previously lived in Moscow for seven years.

**INCLUSIONS**

16 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 11 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, including business class rail travel, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Medieval to Modern History
- Art, Architecture & Design

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

Grade 2: Some historic buildings with limited accessibility.

**START & FINISH**

The tour begins at the Airhotel Domodedovo Airport, Moscow, and ends at our hotel in St Petersburg. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct flights into Moscow and out of St Petersburg from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
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.

DEPARTURES
January 9-23, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$10,945 pp, twin share
$1,680 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Michael Adcock “Was a patient and inspiring leader who worked tirelessly to make it a happy experience for us.” – Paris Study Tour, July 2018

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 7 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, including business class rail between Moscow and St Petersburg, all entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
 Medieval to Modern History
 Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
 ★ ★ Grade 2: Cold climatic conditions including snow; shortened daylight hours.

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

OVERVIEW
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.

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.
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.

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.
NAPLES TO BARCELONA
With nine nights aboard the Sea Cloud II

OVERVIEW
Explore the history and culture of the Western Mediterranean in style, featuring a 9-night cruise on the luxury 50-cabin sailing yacht Sea Cloud II. As well as the ancient Roman past of the “Mare Nostrum”, travellers will encounter the masterpieces of the great Mediterranean ports – from Caravaggio in Naples, to the super yachts of Monaco, Picasso in Antibes and Gaudí’s Barcelona. All this takes place in a setting of remarkable beauty – the dramatic mountains of Italy’s Tyrrhenian coast, the rich colours of southern France, and the exuberance of Valencia and Catalonia.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Cruising for 9 nights aboard Sea Cloud II, a very different experience to mainstream cruising, with outstanding service, food and wine
> Three days exploring Naples, once a thriving Spanish outpost and now one of Italy’s most dynamic cities
> Great art, medieval to modern: sculpture in Pisa, Caravaggio’s Naples, Picasso in southern France and Gaudí’s Barcelona
> The fascinating Roman histories of Herculaneum, World Heritage-listed Tarragona and Caesar Augusta, today’s Zaragoza
> The Mediterranean’s modern face, from super cars and super yachts in Monaco to stunning contemporary architecture in Marseilles and Barcelona

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: Group transfer from Rome to Naples. Explore the Angevin and Spanish cities, Caravaggio’s masterpieces and the fascinating history of Roman Herculaneum from our hotel in the elegant Chiaia neighbourhood.
Days 4–12: Board Sea Cloud II in Naples for a 9-night cruise, with disembarkation in Valencia. Ports-of-call permit excursions to Pisa, Monaco, Marseille, Antibes, Barcelona and Tarragona, plus a full day to relax at sea.
Days 13–16: Disembark and explore Valencia and Zaragoza’s Roman history, admiring masterpieces by Goya and sampling the famous local paella. Travel to Barcelona, to survey the city’s layers of Roman, medieval and Modernista history.

DEPARTURES
October 16-31, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$16,960 pp, twin share
$9,610 single supp.

Based on a category E-grade cabin, Academy Travel’s usual choice for the Sea Cloud II. Discount to F-grade cabin available for solo travellers.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Kathleen Olive “I have nothing but the highest praise for Kathleen - she is smart, incredibly articulate, passionate and organised.” – Art Cities of Tuscany, January 2019

INCLUSIONS
6 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels, all breakfasts and 4 lunches or dinners. 9 nights aboard the Sea Cloud II, with all meals onboard and shore excursions. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping, including the group tip for cruise staff.

SEA CLOUD II
The Sea Cloud II is a luxurious 3-masted barque, traditionally crafted in teak, but with modern features. White cloth sails and understated elegance create a unique environment that is at once nostalgic and luxurious. Although most of the journey takes place under motor, when the conditions are right the crew climb the rigging to set the square sails and jibs and you can experience the thrill of ocean yachting.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes
Small Ship & Land Tours

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 2: Lengthy cruise component; archaeological sites.

START & FINISH
The tour begins with a group transfer to Naples from Rome Fiumicino airport and ends in our hotel in Barcelona. Emirates and Qatar offer flights into Rome and out of Barcelona. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL
Bilbao to Lisbon

DEPARTURES
May 3–21, 2020
Sep 18 – Oct 6, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,820 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.

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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 cider. Excursion to Picos de Europa.
Days 11–13: Arrive in spectacular Santiago de Compostela and enjoy seafood and wine in Rias 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.

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

OVERVIEW

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.

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 river between the undulating hills of the Douro Valley, making up one of the world’s oldest wine regions
> Cutting-edge contemporary architecture: Rem Koolhaas, Álvaro Siza Vieira and Porto’s Fundação Serralves

DEPARTURES

October 8-21, 2020

TOUR PRICE

$8,980 pp, twin share
$1,850 single supp.

TOUR LEADER

Dr Jeni Ryde “Is an excellent tour leader, well prepared and organised, very knowledgeable about the sites visited and sensitive to the different needs and interests or tour participants.” – Portugal, September 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

Archaeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade 2: Steps, slopes and uneven surfaces at archaeological and historic sites.

START & FINISH

The tour begins at our hotel in Lisbon and finishes at our hotel in Porto. Emirates has the best connections into Lisbon and out of Porto from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
SARDINIA & CORSICA
From the Stone Age to Napoleon

DEPARTURES
March 20 – April 4, 2020
Sep 25 – Oct 10, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,190 pp, twin share
$2,010 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Estelle Lazer (Mar)
“She was extremely knowledgeable and a wonderful guide.” – Puglia to Pompeii, March 2019

Dr Jenny Lawless (Sep)
“Thanks Jeni for your fabulous tour leading and great company. I really had a ball. I have enough wonderful memories to keep me going for quite a while.” – Greece, Teacher Professional Development tour, 2018

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.

OVERVIEW
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

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.
Delve into Scandinavia’s Viking archaeology, maritime history and inspirational coastal scenery, exploring the modern art and architecture with 5 nights on the famed Hurtigruten Line.

OVERVIEW
Scandinavia has long celebrated its marvellous natural environment – snow-capped mountains, vast forests, sublime fjords and waterways. The relationship of Scandinavians to their environment has shaped their history, from Viking explorers to maritime empires, and its unique modern design aesthetic that enjoys enduring popularity around the world.

This tour combines Viking archaeology, maritime history and some of the best of Scandinavia’s scenery with an exploration of the modern art and architecture it has inspired. A highlight is a 5-night cruise on the renowned Hurtigruten Line from inside the Arctic Circle to Bergen.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Five nights on the Hurtigruten Line, exploring Norway’s stunning fjords and rugged arctic coastline on a cruise from the Arctic Circle to Bergen
- Scandinavia’s beautiful waterfront cities: Stockholm’s archipelago, Oslo’s architectural revival and Bergen’s historic harbour
- Stockholm’s Vasa museum, a testament to the country’s former maritime glory
- Historic Uppsala, Sweden’s spiritual and intellectual heartland
- Fine art collections, from the Viking period through to the works of Edvard Munch
- The Scandinavian design aesthetic of Arne Jacobsen, Jørn Utzon and Henning Larsen

ITINERARY
- Days 1–4: Explore Stockholm’s Viking and maritime history, cruise the archipelago and travel to medieval Uppsala.
- Days 5–7: Travel via Örebro’s royal fortifications to Oslo. Explore the National and Munch Museums and Norway’s seafaring history at Bygdøy’s maritime institutions.
- Days 8–12: Fly to Kirkenes and board the MS Richard With for a spectacular southbound voyage, following Norway’s coastline through the Arctic Circle to Bergen.
- Days 13–14: Discover the legacy of the Hanseatic trading routes in World Heritage-listed Bryggen.
- Days 15–17: Fly to Copenhagen and uncover the Scandinavian aesthetic at the Design Museum.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
- Grade 2: Boat travel; varying climatic conditions; walking tours.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Stockholm and ends at our hotel in Copenhagen.

FIND OUT MORE
Scotland’s Gardens & Castles
From Edinburgh to the Highlands

DEPARTURES
July 1-15, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,470 pp, twin share
$2,890 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Michael Turner “His talks with his encyclopaedic knowledge of gardens and their history were a splendid bonus.” – Great Gardens of Cornwall and Devon, June 2019

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels. All breakfasts, 7 lunches or dinners and a Scottish whisky tasting. Inverness-Kirkwall-Inverness flights, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes
Gardens & Country Houses

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

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Edinburgh and ends at our hotel in Pitlochry, with a group transfer to Edinburgh on the final day of the tour. Emirates and Qatar offer direct flights into and out of Edinburgh. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Explore the gardens and castles of Scotland with their dramatic landscapes, rich heritage and culture, from Edinburgh to the Highlands, the Great Lochs and the West Coast.

OVERVIEW
Scotland is a country of dramatic landscapes, sublime beauty and haunting history, and this new 15-day tour takes you to some of its most beautiful gardens and castles. Explore the northern nation’s rich heritage and culture, from castles to farmsteads, small loch-side houses and gardens at their summer best. The tour begins in the vibrant city of Edinburgh and continues to the wild and magnificent Highlands, before surveying the castles of Inverness, the great lochs, the picturesque Isle of Skye, dramatic Orkney Islands and Pitlochry’s Balmoral Castle.

HIGHLIGHTS
> The beauty and culture of Edinburgh, Scotland’s capital and centre of arts and entertainment
> The finest gardens at their summer best: Broadwoodside, Drummond Castle, Inverewe and Dunvegan Castle
> Great, historic estates: Floors Castle, Cawdor Castle, the tiny Eilean Donan Castle, Blair Castle and Balmoral
> The Isle of Skye, famed for its rugged landscapes, picturesque villages, medieval castles and whisky
> The grand landscapes of Scotland, its rivers, glens and mountains, villages and lochs; a cruise on Loch Ness and a ride aboard the Jacobite Steam Train

ITINERARY

Days 1–4: Edinburgh and surrounds: the Royal Botanic Garden, Floors Castle, Abbotsford House and Broadwoodside.
Days 5–7: In Inverness, visit Drummond Castle, the gardens of Cawdor Castle, Inverewe and Durnamuck.
Days 8–9: From Kirkwall, discover the hauntingly beautiful landscape.
Days 10–12: Cruise Loch Ness to the tiny castle of Eilean Donan. Explore the Isle of Skye, including Dunvegan Castle and garden.
Days 13–14: Travel by ferry to reach Mallaig to board the Jacobite Steam Train. From Pitlochry, visit Balmoral.
Day 15: Coach to Edinburgh.

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

OVERVIEW
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. We board the legendary Trans-Siberian for Ulan Ude, the centre of Russian Buddhism and gateway for Old Believer villages of the steppe. From here we fly via the surprisingly elegant border town of Khabarovsk to the wild and remote peninsula of Kamchatka, to explore its extraordinary landscape and the culture of its indigenous, husky-raising people. The tour ends in the bustling Pacific port of Vladivostok.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Irkutsk, a Cossack town where the exiled Decembrists sought to recreate the cultural life of St Petersburg
- The immensity and tranquillity of Siberia’s Lake Baikal, with its stunning vistas of pine-studded islands
- A journey on the legendary Trans-Siberian Railway around the shores of Lake Baikal
- The heart of Russian Buddhism at Ulan Ude’s resurgent datsans and monasteries
- Private helicopter and walking tour of Kamchatka’s snow-capped volcanoes and the stupendous Valley of Geysers
- Meet Kamchatka’s indigenous people, the husky-raising Koryak
- The outstanding local seafood in the bustling Pacific port of Vladivostok

ITINERARY
Days 1–2: Arrive Irkutsk, hear tales of exile at the Decembrist Museum.
Days 3–4: Travel to Olkhon Island on Lake Baikal, where we meet with a local shaman.
Day 5: Return to Irkutsk and retrace Siberia’s Civil War history at the Znamensky Monastery.
Day 6–9: Board the Trans-Siberian Railway around the shores of Lake Baikal.
Day 10–11: Fly to Khabarovsk and tour the city. Cruise Amur River.
Days 12–14: Fly to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Marvel at volcanoes and geysers by helicopter.
Days 15–16: Fly to Vladivostok, a vibrant Pacific port closed to foreigners until 1991.
STOCKHOLM TO ST PETERSBURG
A Baltic Journey

DEPARTURES
Aug 24 – Sep 9, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$11,845 pp, twin share
$2,980 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing
“I thoroughly enjoyed his talks and expertise, he was always happy to impart his advice on any question we had.”
– New York, March 2019

INCLUSIONS
16 nights’ accommodation in 4 and 5-star hotels, including 1 night aboard a ferry. All breakfasts and 12 lunches or dinners. All ground, ferry and train transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Long-distance travel; overnight accommodation on board a boat.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Stockholm and ends at our hotel in St Petersburg. Emirates and Qatar Airlines offer direct flights into Stockholm and out of St Petersburg from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

OVERVIEW
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

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Explore Stockholm’s royal and maritime history, modern architecture and design.
Day 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.

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.
OVERVIEW
Take a step back in time and explore medieval Italy through its beautifully preserved towns, abbeys and hidden gems. This 16-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.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Medieval masterpieces in little-visited sites, from the Abbey of St Maurice to Pisa’s Museo di San Matteo
- Sublme 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 and San Gimignano

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: 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 4–6: Explore the Val d’Aosta, visit Pavia, and enjoy the medieval hamlets and cuisine of Emilia-Romagna.
Days 7–12: Travel through the landscapes and towns of medieval Tuscany, from our bases in Pisa and Pienza. Enjoy the glories of Gothic Siena.
Days 13–16: 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.

DEPARTURES
June 1-16, 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
15 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 our hotel in Rome. Qatar Airways, Emirates and Etihad Airways offer the best connections into Geneva and out of Rome from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
VIENNA
History, Art & Music in The Imperial City

DEPARTURES
April 17-28, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,290 pp, twin share
$1,670 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Christopher Menz
“Went out of his way to ensure the tour participants were fully informed every day of the tour – much appreciated!” – Prague, Budapest & Vienna, September 2018

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in a central 4-star hotel. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees, including best available tickets to 3 performances, 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 central Vienna. Emirates and Qatar Airways offer direct flights between Vienna and most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Explore the city that ruled central Europe for 500 years, a mecca for musicians, artists, architects and intellectuals.

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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 Klosterneuberg, 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.


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

Michael Mayer’s sumptuous staging for Act II, Scene 2 of Verdi’s La Traviata at New York’s Met Opera.
BUDAPEST TO THE BALTIC
A Musical Journey

OVERVIEW
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.

DEPARTURES
May 28 – June 13, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,850 pp, twin share
$2,270 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Robert Gay “Is fantastic. I loved his lectures. His enthusiasm really made this trip. If I went on another music trip, I would want Robert to be the tour leader.” – Wagner’s Ring Cycle in Munich, July 2018

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

THEMES
 Medieval to Modern History
 Music & Theatre

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

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Budapest and ends at our hotel in Riga. Finnair has the best routing into Budapest and out of Riga from most Australia cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

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.

OVERVIEW
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.

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: In Budapest, with performances and walking tours of Buda and Pest, visits to the Liszt museum 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.


PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:

Budapest
> Concert by the National Philharmonic Orchestra at the historic Liszt Academy
> Wagner’s Parsifal by the Hungarian State Opera at the Erkel Theatre
> Chamber music by Brahms and Fauré played by the Budapest Festival Orchestra

Krakow
> A performance at the Krakow Philharmonie or the Krakow Opera House

Warsaw
> Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra plays Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony
> Massenet’s Werther by the Polish National Opera at the Wielki Theatre

Riga
> Three performances at the Riga Opera Festival

FIND OUT MORE
Celebrate Beethoven’s 250th birthday, travelling from Bonn to Vienna, with nine outstanding concerts and music-themed sightseeing.

OVERVIEW
Ludwig van Beethoven, arguably the greatest composer of all time, was born in the German city of Bonn in 1770, and throughout 2020 orchestras around the world are celebrating his 250th anniversary. Our special tour includes the Beethoven Festival in Bonn, a complete cycle of his piano concertos in Dresden, the Dvořák Festival in Prague and of course Vienna, where Beethoven spent the greater part of his working life. Background talks, visits to important historical sites and nine top-flight performances provide a detailed and stimulating portrait of this great artist.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:
Beethoven Festival, Bonn
> Sir Antonio Pappano conducting the Orchestra Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and pianist Igor Levit in a concert of Busoni and Beethoven
> Pianists Hinrich Alpers and Boris Bloch playing Franz Liszt’s virtuosic transcriptions of Beethoven’s Second and Fifth Symphonies

Dresden
> A complete cycle of the Beethoven piano concertos and the ‘Appassionata’ sonata, given over three concerts, by Chopin competition-winning pianist Seong-Jin Cho and the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Marek Janowski

Dvořák Festival, Prague
> An opera at the historic Estates Theatre, where Mozart’s Don Giovanni premiered
> An orchestral concert in the splendid Art Nouveau Smetana Hall

Vienna
> An opera at the Vienna State Opera
> A concert at either the Golden Hall of the Musikverein or the Konzerthaus

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: In Bonn, visit Beethoven’s birthplace, attend two concerts at the Beethoven Festival and tour nearby Cologne.
Days 4–7: Travel to Dresden, attending a complete cycle of Beethoven’s piano concertos over three nights, and visiting nearby Leipzig, where Bach and Mendelsohn lived and worked.
Days 8–10: Travel to Prague for the annual Dvořák Festival. Explore Mozart and Beethoven’s sojourns in Prague and visit aristocratic villas and castles near the city.
Days 11–15: In Vienna, visit the places where Beethoven lived and worked, travel to the artistic retreat at nearby Baden bei Wien and attend performances at world-famous venues.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
September 7-21, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$9,600 pp, twin share
$1,800 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Tom Ford “He is fabulous, informed & entertaining.” – Bonn to Vienna, May 2016
INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees, including best seats available to the performances listed, and tipping.
THEMES
 Medieval to Modern History
 Music & Theatre
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Walking tours; frequent evening concerts; two long coach journeys.
START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Bonn and ends in our hotel in Vienna. Emirates offers daily flights into Dusseldorf, near Bonn, and out of Vienna from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
ITALIAN SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVALS
From the Lakes to Lucca

OVERVIEW
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 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.

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.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:
Lake Como Bellagio Music Festival
> We attend two performances
The Arena di Verona
> Verdi’s Aida staged in the magnificent Verona Arena
Private Recital – Vicenza
> An evening of Italian Renaissance and Baroque Chamber Music
Private recital – Cremona
> Violin recital in the Violin Museum
Lucca and Puccini Festival
> An evening of Puccini’s operatic arias in the Church of San Giovanni, Lucca
Puccini Festival
> Puccini’s operas performed by the shores of beautiful Lake Massaciucoli

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

THEMES
Music & Theatre
Inspiring Landscapes
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Step in and out of boats; historic towns; evening performances.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at Milan Malpensa airport and ends at our hotel in Lucca. Qatar, Singapore, Emirates and Etihad airlines all offer connections to Milan Malpensa airport from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
July 21 – August 12, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$10,350 pp, twin share
$2,100 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Royna McNamara led our inaugural Italian Summer Music Festivals tour 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.

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

OVERVIEW
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.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:

London
- The National Theatre’s new two-part production of My Brilliant Friend
- Sir Simon Rattle conducting the London Symphony Orchestra
- Verdi’s La Traviata at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

Paris
- Offenbach’s The Tales of Hoffmann at the Opéra Bastille
- An ‘opera ballet’ of Debussy’s L’aprés-midi d’un faune and Ravel’s L’enfant et les sortilèges at the Palais Garnier
- Riccardo Chailly conducting Beethoven and Mussorgsky with Milan’s La Scala Orchestra at Jean Nouvel’s Philharmonie concert hall

ITINERARY
Days 1–7: In London, we enjoy winter blockbusters at the Queen’s Gallery and Tate Britain; explore the vast British Museum; and visit smaller galleries, including the Royal Academy, Wallace Collection and Apsley House. Day trip to Cambridge to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum and King’s College.

Days 8–15: In Paris, admire the greats without the crowds at the Louvre and Musée d’Orsay. Appreciate Paris’ smaller galleries, including the Rodin Museum, the renovated Picasso Museum, the elegant Musée Nissim de Camondo, Frank Gehry’s Fondation Louis Vuitton and Le Corbusier’s Villa Savoye.

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
January 16–30, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,450 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

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 7 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.

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.
MUNICH & GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA FESTIVALS

The world’s two best summer opera festivals, together!
German tradition and unrivalled quality in Munich; sparkle, innovation and the English summer at Glyndebourne.

OVERVIEW
Through its special connections in Munich and Glyndebourne, Academy Travel is pleased to once 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 festivals, with superb productions, excellent singers and the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the pit.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:
Munich Opera Festival
> Four performances by the Bavarian State Opera as part of Munich’s traditional Summer Festival. The festival offers an impressive range of operas with a star-studded cast of singers, including a recital by tenor Jonas Kaufmann.

Glyndebourne Opera Festival
> Three operas at Glyndebourne, as part of the prestigious summer opera music festival set on this historic estate located in the heart of Sussex’s South Downs. Glyndebourne never fails to dazzle, each year producing imaginative operatic productions of the highest standard, with a stellar cast of performers.

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. Munich-London flight, all ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees and tipping.

DEPARTURES
July 9-20, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$12,280 pp, twin share
$2,490 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 6 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 hotel in Munich and ends at Victoria Rail Station in London. Emirates, Etihad and Singapore Airlines all offer suitable connections to these cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
**OVERVIEW**
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.

**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:** J.P. 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 Massenet’s *Werther*, with farewell dinner at Grand Tier restaurant.
- **Day 12:** Free morning in New York.

**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.

> Handel’s *Agrippina* – brand new David McVicar production starring Joyce DiDonato, Brenda Rae and Iestyn Davies.
> Verdi’s *La Traviata* – new 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

**INCLUSIONS**
- 11 nights’ accommodation in premiere plus rooms at the 4-star Warwick Hotel. All breakfasts, 5 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.

**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.

**THEMES**
Music & Theatre
Residential Tours

**FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**
Grade 1: Only one hotel; long evening performances.

**START & FINISH**
The 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.
Experience eight outstanding performances at Italy’s most famous and historic theatres, and discover the beautiful lakes and art-filled small cities of northern Italy.

OVERVIEW
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 La Fenice in Venice, La Scala in Milan, Florence’s Maggio Musicale 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 Turin, Milan, Parma, Venice and Florence, this musical journey is rounded out with visits to world-class museums and fine dining.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:
Turin
- Puccini’s La Bohème at the Teatro Regio di Torino, with Bolshoi star Dinara Alieva as Mimi
Milan
- A new production of Richard Strauss’s Salome, conducted by music director Riccardo Chailly
- Rossini’s Il turco in Italia at La Scala, with acclaimed soprano Rosa Feola
Parma
- Debussy’s ground-breaking Pelléas et Mélisande at the Teatro Regio
Venice
- A concert of Venetian chamber music performed by the Interpreti Veneziani
- A new production Bizet’s Carmen at La Fenice, with the well-known Spanish director Calixto Bieito making his directorial debut in Venice
Florence
- Francesco Micheli’s new production of Verdi’s ever-popular La Traviata at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale
- Pier Luigi Pizzi’s production of Handel’s baroque masterpiece Rinaldo

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Walking tours; frequent evening concerts; long coach journeys.

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees, including best seats available to the performances listed, and tipping.

THEMES
Music & Theatre

DEPARTURES
March 15-29, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$10,630 pp, twin share
$1,800 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Royna McNamara led our inaugural Italian Summer Music Festivals tour 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.

FIND OUT MORE

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: In Turin, attend an opera at Teatro Regio and marvel at the Egyptian Museum.
Days 4–6: Travel to Milan, attend two operas at La Scala, and enjoy an excursion to Lake Como.
Days 7–8: Explore Parma, one of Emilia-Romagna’s refined centres and attend an opera at Teatro Regio di Parma.
Days 9–11: Journey to Venice via Mantua, attend a concert of chamber music at the Chiesa di San Vidal and an opera at La Fenice.
Days 12–15: Travel to Florence for two operas at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale, Florence’s premier theatre, with time to sample the city’s artistic glories.
Celebrate Christmas and New Year with the best of European opera, ballet and orchestral music in the great musical capitals of Central Europe.

OVERVIEW
Academy Travel is delighted to offer its musical Christmas and New Year tour. This 15-day tour visits three of the great musical capitals of Central Europe – Salzburg, Prague and Vienna – each of which will be decked in their festive season finery. The itinerary begins in Salzburg, Mozart’s birthplace and a delightful alpine city, followed by Prague, where we explore its rich musical heritage, then progress to our final base, Vienna, which combines an unrivalled musical heritage with spectacular New Year celebrations. Nine performances – of opera, ballet and orchestral music – are included.

PERFORMANCES
Best available tickets to:
**In Salzburg**
> Two performances, including an opera at the Landestheater

**In Prague**
> Two performances at the National Theatre
> A performance at the Estates Theatre

**In Vienna/Bratislava**
> An opera at the Vienna State Opera
> The Vienna Symphony Orchestra’s New Year’s Eve concert at the Konzerthaus
> The New Year’s Day concert at the Reduta Concert Hall in Bratislava
> A ballet at the Vienna State Opera

ITINERARY
**Days 1–4:** In Salzburg, visit Mozart’s family home. Excursion to the Salzkammergut district. Performances at the Landestheater.
**Days 5–9:** In Prague, explore the Castle District and Municipal House. Enjoy performances at the Estates Theatre and National Theatre.
**Days 10–15:** In Vienna, visit the Beethoven Museum and survey the collections of the Kunsthistorisches Museum. Marvel at the spectacular view of the fireworks over a New Year’s Eve dinner; take a day trip to Bratislava for a New Year’s Day concert at the fine Reduta Concert Hall. Excursion to Baden for lunch in a typical winery. Two performances at the celebrated Vienna State Opera.
TWO MUSICAL CITIES
Hamburg & Berlin

OVERVIEW
Music lies at the heart of German culture, and it is no surprise that it is home to some of the most renowned composers, conductors, singers and instrumentalists in the world. Our new Hamburg and Berlin itinerary gives you the opportunity to immerse yourself in this heritage. The program is built around eight outstanding performances in celebrated venues, including the exciting new Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg and the newly-renovated Staatsoper Unter Den Linden in Berlin. The performances are complemented by visits to excellent city museums and day trips to Lübeck and Potsdam.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Eight performances of opera, orchestral music and ballet
> Detailed background talks by one of Australia’s most experienced music educators
> A day at Berlin’s Museum Island, home to fabulous collections of Egyptian, Babylonian and classical antiquities
> Germany’s maritime past, in Hamburg’s historic districts and the Hanseatic port of Lübeck
> Fine collections of Old and Modern Masters at Hamburg’s Kunsthalle and Berlin’s Gemäldegalerie
> Modern Berlin, from the remains of the Wall and Check-Point Charlie to lunch at Käfer’s, under Norman Foster’s Reichstag dome, with views across Berlin

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, all entrance fees and tipping.

DEPARTURES
October 7-19, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,280 pp, twin share
$1,870 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Robert Gay “Was an outstanding tour leader, concerned with everyone’s comfort. His extensive and detailed knowledge of opera was stimulating.” – Opera in Northern Italy, March 2019

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★ Grade 2: Historic towns with some uneven surfaces; evening performances; coach travel.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Hamburg and ends in our hotel in Berlin. Emirates offers the best connections into Hamburg and out of Berlin from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
WAGNER’S RING CYCLE IN CHICAGO

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.

OVERVIEW
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, 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.

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 Frank Lloyd Wright’s architecture in Oak Park, including Unity Temple and his Home and Studio
> 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

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.
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.

TOUR PRICE
$10,840 pp, twin share
$2,130 single supp.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
April 26 – May 4, 2020

TOUR LEADER
Robert Gay “Made an outstanding contribution to my enjoyment of the tour, he is so knowledgeable and has such a caring warm personality.” - Wagner’s Ring Cycle in New York, April 2019

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.

 academytravel.com.au  I  9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney)  I  info@academytravel.com.au
WAGNER’S RING CYCLE IN PARIS

OVERVIEW
The opportunity to see a new production of Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen by one of the world’s great opera companies is always an exciting prospect. November 2020 sees the culmination of years of planning and preparation at the Opéra Bastille in Paris, combining the talents of renowned director Calixto Bieito, music director Philippe Jordan, an outstanding cast and the splendid orchestra and chorus of the Opéra de Paris. Based in a boutique 4-star hotel not far from the Opéra Bastille, the itinerary includes a carefully curated selection of some of Paris’s best smaller galleries and museums.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Guaranteed top category ‘optima’ (premium) tickets to all four performances of Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen
> Extensive background talks on the Ring by one of Australia’s most experienced music educators
> Paris’s small galleries and museums, including the Fondation Louis Vuitton, the Musée Marmottan Monet, and the Musée d’Art Moderne
> Empress Joséphine’s fine Chateau Malmaison, with its historic collector’s garden
> Four excellent dinners with accompanying wines, plus interval drinks

INCLUSIONS
9 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.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: Only one hotel; long evening performances.

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.

Experience one of the greatest achievements in European music history, Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen, and enjoy Paris’s exceptional art and fine dining.
Discover the complex cultures of the USA through its extraordinary art, architecture and history or enjoy the best of New York – outstanding performances, fine dining, and private visits to breathtaking museums and collections.

The colours of fall along Central Park’s Mall in New York.
AMERICA’S TWO CAPITALS
Washington & New York

DEPARTURES
Sep 27 – Oct 10, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,950 pp, twin share
$2,900 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing “Was able to give such a valuable insight into New York and our visits were all, without fail, a joy to be on.” – New York, March 2019

INCLUSIONS
13 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 4 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, best available tickets to five performances, entrance fees and tipping.

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

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: Moderate walking on mostly even surfaces, with nearly all sites highly accessible.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our hotel in Washington D.C. and ends at our hotel in New York. Qantas, American Airlines, Air New Zealand and Air Canada offer suitable connections to and from the USA from most Australian capital cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

OVERVIEW
The great scholar Lewis Mumford once wrote “the chief function of the city is to convert power into form and energy into culture.” Nowhere is this truer than in the twin capitals of the United States, Washington and New York, two remarkably different cities that became icons of the 20th-century. This new 14-day residential-style tour investigates the development of these political, economic and cultural capitals of the modern world, while enjoying the very best of art, performance and design these cities have to offer.

HIGHLIGHTS
> America’s history in a nutshell, from Dutch New Amsterdam to Gettysburg, Wall Street and beyond
> The story of America told by its art: in-depth tours of the National Gallery of Art, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian and Metropolitan Museum, and a before-hours tour of MoMA
> Five performances, including the Kennedy Center, Ford’s Theatre and the Metropolitan Opera
> America’s lesser-known urban history: Harlem’s African American community and jazz, the immigrant worlds of Brooklyn and the Lower East Side
> Prepare for the 2020 presidential elections: special in-depth lectures

ITINERARY
Days 7–14: Explore New York’s personal histories on Wall Street, Ellis Island and the Lower East Side. Admire the Gilded Age at the Frick, Metropolitan Museum and Met Opera. New York’s cultural chutzpah, from Midtown Art Deco to the Harlem Renaissance. Celebrate the modern at MoMA and Hudson Yards.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
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.

OVERVIEW
Nowhere does Christmas and New Year’s Eve like New York City does. Experience both on this exciting 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
- A performance by the world-leading Metropolitan Opera
- The traditional New Year’s Eve concert by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra
- An evening at Carnegie Hall, New York’s premiere destination for musical performances
- 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 2020-21 season

Art, Architecture and History
- A private viewing of the Museum of Modern Art with a museum lecturer
- Expert-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
- 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

INCLUSIONS
12 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Warwick Hotel located in midtown Manhattan. All breakfasts and 4 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.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
Dec 21, 2020 – Jan 2, 2021
TOUR PRICE
$10,320 pp, twin share
$3,280 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

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FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
Chicago to Fallingwater

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
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

INCLUDEDS
12 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. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

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 10–13: 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.

OVERVIEW
Follow the Frank Lloyd Wright trail and discover the life and architecture of the greatest American architect. This 13-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.

KEY SITES VISITED
See over 15 masterworks spanning seven decades of incredible creativity
> Wright’s Home and Studio (1889)
> Darwin Martin Complex (1903), where we’ll enjoy a private lunch
> 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)

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
New York
Art, Architecture, History & Theatre

OVERVIEW
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, Chelsea, Midtown, 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.

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

HIGHLIGHTS
Seven outstanding performances
> Smash-hit musical Hamilton, based on the life of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton
> Wagner’s dramatically-charged opera The Flying Dutchman at the Metropolitan Opera at the Lincoln Center
> Kent Nagano leading the Montreal Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, performing Schumann and Shostakovich
> The New York Philharmonic performing Bartok, Berlioz and Lalo, led by the international violin virtuoso Frank Huang
> Three other selections from the best of New York’s Broadway and Jazz

Art, architecture and history
> Exclusive, before-hours visits to three galleries: the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum, and the Neue Galerie with expert lecturers
> 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, Central Park, Chelsea and the High Line
> The culture and history of Brooklyn, including the stunning Brooklyn Bridge and Brooklyn Heights

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, see Wagner 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.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
March 17-29, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$9,950 pp, twin share
$2,930 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing “His explanations were very informative and explained many aspects of modern day attitudes of not only New York, but also the US population. Most helpful.” – New York, March 2019
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.

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NEW YORK
The Art of Fashion

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
May 5-15, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,120 pp, twin share
$2,660 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Anna Lebovic joins our program in 2020. Anna is a cultural historian with extensive experience as a researcher and educator. Her doctorate was the first academic history of America’s pre-eminent fashion magazine, Vogue.

INCLUSIONS
10 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Warwick Hotel located in midtown Manhattan. All breakfasts and 7 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 and United Airlines offer the most direct regular flights to and from New York, with stopovers in either Los Angeles or Dallas Fort Worth. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

OVERVIEW
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 breakfast at Blue Box Café, in the iconic Fifth Avenue Tiffany’s store, lunch at the Loeb Boathouse in Central Park, afternoon tea at the Russian Tea Rooms and dinner at the Michelin 3-star Le Bernardin

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

Fashion and design from its earliest beginnings to the modern day, with fine dining and high culture, in the inimitable New York City.
THANKSGIVING IN NEW YORK
Music, Theatre, Art & Food

DEPARTURES
Nov 22 – Dec 3, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$10,780 pp, twin share
$3,420 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Stuart Barrie “You have a fabulous tour guide in Stuart who was enthusiastic and very flexible in meeting any demands of his troops!” - Modern Architecture, October 2018

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation at the 4-star Warwick Hotel located in midtown Manhattan. All breakfasts and 4 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.

OVERVIEW
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 seven 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
› A performance by the renowned Metropolitan Opera, at the Lincoln Center
› A performance by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall
› The 10th Annual Christmas Concert at Carnegie Hall
› The Rockettes’ Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall at Rockefeller Center
› A new stage play from the Broadway 2020-2021 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
› Expert-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

Celebrate Thanksgiving in New York – a time for food, reflection and good company – while experiencing the very best this iconic city has to offer.
The South
Charleston to Memphis

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

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
October 11-26, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$9,880 pp, twin share
$3,100 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Laing “Was a pleasure to travel with as our tour guide. He interacts equally and collegiately with everyone in the group, goes out of his way to assist with any reasonable individual request.”
– New York, March 2019

INCLUSIONS
14 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 6 lunches or dinners. Charleston-New Orleans internal flight, all ground transport, best seats available to the performances listed, entrance fees, and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Art, Architecture & Design
Gardens & Country Houses

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ Grade 1: Moderate walking on mostly even surfaces, with nearly all sites highly accessible.

START & FINISH
The tour begins in our hotel in Charleston and ends in our hotel in Memphis. Qantas, American Airlines, Air New Zealand and Air Canada offer suitable connections to and from the USA, from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

GO BEYOND THE STEREOTYPES AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS THAT MAKES THE SOUTH UNIQUE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, FROM FOOD AND MUSIC TO CULTURE AND PEOPLES.

OVERVIEW
The South is not just a geographical distinction in the United States: it is a unique culture within the nation. Southerners’ hospitality is legendary, as is their cuisine, music, literature and style, with its fusion of French, Spanish and American cultures. But there is a troubled history of race, cultural clashes and a spirit of independence behind today’s Southern culture, which further distinguishes Southerners from their northern cousins. This 15-day tour of the South samples the best this fascinating region has to offer, whilst exploring its deeper history.

HIGHLIGHTS
> The Antebellum South: private tours of plantations, manor houses and colonial Charleston
> The South’s incredible music, from blues and soul to rockabilly and jazz
> The unique mixture of French, Spanish and American culture in New Orleans, from the French Quarter to post-Katrina recovery
> Follow the Mississippi, lifeblood of the South, and stay in an Antebellum mansion in Natchez
> Signature meals showcasing the South’s distinctive cuisine, from Low County to Cajun and Creole
> The South’s complex history, with special lectures and tours including the Whitney Plantation and the National Civil Rights Museum

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: In Charleston, visit Nathaniel Russell House and Drayton Hall, enjoy a harbour cruise. Day trip to Savannah, Georgia, including the Bonaventure Cemetery and Beaufort.
Days 11–12: Transfer to Natchez Antebellum mansion, touring a working cotton plantation and Vicksburg Civil War battlefield.

USA

Charleston (4)
New Orleans (5)
St Francisville/Vicksburg
Natchez (2)
Memphis (3)
Savannah
AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST & CENTRAL ASIA

Academy Travel’s tours to Africa, Middle East & Central Asia 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.

Morocco’s Hassan II Mosque, in Casablanca, is a showcase of the very best Moroccan artisanship: hand-carved stone and wood, intricate marble flooring and inlay, gilded cedar ceilings and exquisite tilework.
EGYPT
Beyond the Nile

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
March 15 – April 4, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$12,885 pp, twin share
$2,295 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
20 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.

MS FARAH NILE CRUISE
Please see opposite page for the MS Farah description.

MS PRINCE ABBAS LAKE NASSER
The Mövenpick MS Prince Abbas is a modern 5-star cruise ship, with all 65 cabins outside facing. The Mövenpick group pride themselves on quality service, with well-appointed cabins and an onboard restaurant where some of the best traditional and international specialties are served.

THEMES
Archeology & Ancient History
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes
Small Ship & Land Tours

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

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

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

OVERVIEW
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 21-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.

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 Ramessum 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

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 16–21: 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
From the Great Pyramid to Abu Simbel

**OVERVIEW**
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.

**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 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.

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.

**DEPARTURES**
Jan 16 – Feb 2, 2020

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

**TOUR LEADER**
Lucia Gahlin “My recommendation to Academy Travel is... don't let Lucia out of your sight! She is excellent in every way. Incredible knowledge, beautiful personality and a wonderful speaking voice.” – Egypt, January 2018

**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.

**MS FARAH NILE CRUISE**
The MS Farah is a 5-star luxury cruise ship, with all 62 cabins outside facing. The interior is simply luxurious, with hand polished Mediterranean stone floors, natural dark wood furniture and handmade Egyptian cotton sheets. Onboard, the MS Farah features a sun deck, bar and pool, relaxing lounges and individual cabanas, for a perfect way to enjoy the Nile floating by. WiFi onboard is complimentary throughout.

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

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

**START & FINISH**
The tour begins and ends at our 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.
Max 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders

OVERVIEW

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 22-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

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.

INCLUSIONS

21 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

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 15–16: In Yazd, visit Pasargadae and the Zoroastrian fire temples.
Days 17–20: Visit the Maidan and Chetel Sotun palaces and the Armenian Quarter in Isfahan.
Days 21–22: Return to Tehran via the merchant houses and water gardens of Kashan.
Israel & Jordan
A Cradle of Civilisation

OVERVIEW
Jordan and Israel are at one of the great crossroads of civilisation 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 7–8: Visit Bethlehem, Roman Caesarea and Megiddo; the battle site of Armageddon.
Days 9–10: Discover Acre’s pivotal place in history, Hellenistic Hippos overlooking Lake Tiberius, Nazareth and Capernaum.
Days 11–13: In Amman, visit Gadara, the Australian dig site at Pella and Roman Jerash.
Days 14–16: Spend two days exploring Petra.
Days 17–20: Stay in Wadi Rum and travel to the Crusader castles along the King’s Highway to the Dead Sea and Amman.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Walk in the footsteps of Jesus, encounter Saladin and the Crusaders’ medieval struggle, discover the Australian Light Horse in Jerusalem’s Old City
- Roman, Byzantine and Medieval remains in Jerusalem
- The unique rose-red city of Petra
- A full day on site at the University of Sydney’s excavations at Pella, Jordan
- Jericho and Megiddo: the intriguing histories of some of the world’s oldest cities
- The Martian-like landscape of Wadi Rum, where T. E. Lawrence became a legend
- The celebrated food and hospitality of the Middle East

DEPARTURES
March 14 – April 2, 2020

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

TOUR LEADER
Ben Churcher “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
- 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.

FIND OUT MORE
academytravel.com.au  |  9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney)  |  info@academytravel.com.au
Journey beyond the kasbahs to discover Morocco’s rich architectural heritage, fascinating history, vibrant traditions, stunning landscapes and unique gastronomy.

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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 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
The Caucasus
Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan

OVERVIEW
The Caucasus is an intoxicating mix of unique local cultures with the legacy of some of the world’s most powerful empires. Discover a kaleidoscope of colours, styles and traditions against a spectacular, ever-changing backdrop of towering mountains and dusty plains, vineyards, forest and semi-desert. This new 16-day tour immerses you in the intriguing cultures of this region, its stunning landscapes and fabulous cuisines. Discover the story of survival at the junction of the Middle East, Black Sea and Eurasian steppe, where Persians, Romans, Arabs, Turks and Russians have all left their mark.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Exceptional UNESCO World Heritage-listed sites: from 12,000-year-old petroglyphs to medieval palaces and rock-hewn monasteries
> Baku, where Islamic traditions mix with high-rise modernity on the Caspian Sea
> The vine-covered hills of Tsinandali, where the vine has been cultivated for 7,000 years
> Georgia’s celebrated gastronomy, from ancient vineyards to the fine restaurants of Old Tbilisi
> The peaks and valleys of the Greater Caucasus and the 14th-century church of Tsminda Sameba at Kazbegi
> Cave churches at Haghpat and Geghard in ancient Armenia, the world’s oldest Christian country

ITINERARY
Days 1–3: Arrive Baku. Explore the old town and Gobustan’s World Heritage-listed rock art.
Days 4–6: Take the Silk Road to Sheki’s caravanserais. In Georgia, visit Tsinandali village and picturesque Signagi.
Days 7–8: In the high Caucasus, spend a night in Kazbegi National Park. Marvel at Uplistsikhe’s cave town and visit Stalin’s birthplace at Gori.
Days 9–11: Visit Tbilisi’s museums, the Narikala Fortress and Mtkskhet cathedral.
Days 12–16: In Armenia, visit Haghpat’s 10th-century monastery and continue to Yerevan.
Explore the Matenadaran Museum, survey Garni’s Greco-Roman temple, Geghard and Lake Sevan.

FIND OUT MORE
DEPARTURES
October 11–26, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$11,875 pp, twin share
$1,820 single supp.
TOUR LEADER
Dr Matthew Dal Santo
“It was a privilege to travel with him, for a country as complex as Russia this was particularly important and I greatly valued his enthusiasm and willingness to share his knowledge.”
— Moscow & St Petersburg, September 2018
INCLUSIONS
15 nights’ accommodation in 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 10 lunches and 8 dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.
THEMES
Medieval to Modern History
Inspiring Landscapes
FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
Grade 3: Challenging archaeological sites; uneven surfaces and many stairs; considerable on-site walking; potentially hot and dusty conditions.
START & FINISH
The tour begins at Baku International Airport and ends in our hotel in Yerevan. Qatar and Emirates offer the best flight options into Baku and out of Yerevan from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

Discover the fascinating history of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which lie at one of the great crossroads of trade, faith and culture.
Turkey
Classical, Byzantine & Ottoman

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
October 13–30, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,570 pp, twin share
$1,745 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Jenny Lawless
“Was outstanding in both professional & personal matters, a delight to travel with.” – Greece, April 2019

INCLUSIONS
17 nights’ accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels. All breakfasts and 23 lunches or dinners, including picnic lunches. Istanbul-Ankara flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

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

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★ ★ Grade 2: Negotiate steps and slopes; standing for long periods in the open at archaeological sites; coach travel.

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

Discover Turkey’s layers of history, religion and culture, from the Byzantine and Ottoman to classical and ancient sites, and the vibrancy of modern-day Istanbul.

OVERVIEW
Turkey has for centuries been at the crossroads of religions and cultures. It is the place where the East meets the West, and its layers of Neolithic, Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history have endowed it with a wealth of unique historical, religious and archaeological sites, often found in places of breathtaking natural beauty. This 18-day journey follows a comprehensive path through Turkey’s rich past, from Istanbul, one of the great cities of the world, to the Aegean coastal towns of Kuşadası and Assos, the unique landscape of Cappadocia and moving ANZAC sites at Gallipoli, before returning to Istanbul.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Istanbul’s major Byzantine and Ottoman sites and museums: Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapı Palace and the Archaeological Museum
- Ankara’s Museum of Anatolian Civilisations, housing artefacts from every significant archaeological site in Anatolia
- Cappadocia’s ‘moonscape’ of caves and rock-cut churches covered with frescoes
- The excavations at Çatalhüyük, a significant Neolithic site dating back 9000 years
- The well-preserved classical city of Ephesus and the Hellenistic and Roman sites at Aphrodisias, Priene, Miletus and Didyma
- The Gallipoli Peninsula, including Anzac Cove and Lone Pine
- The archaeological sites of Assos and Troy

ITINERARY
Days 1–4: Explore Istanbul, visiting Hagia Sophia, the city walls, Topkapı Palace and the Archaeological Museum.
Days 5–7: Fly to Ankara, visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and marvel at cave churches and unique landscapes in Cappadocia.
Days 8–9: Examine the Neolithic site of Çatalhüyük and Pamukkale’s travertine terraces.
Days 10–12: On the Aegean coast, visit ancient Ephesus and Roman and Hellenistic sites at Aphrodisias, Priene, Miletus and Didyma.
Days 13–14: Two nights in Assos, visiting Pergamum and Troy.
Days 15–18: Return to Istanbul via Gallipoli.
UZBEKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN
A Journey Through Central Asia

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

OVERVIEW
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

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.

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.

DEPARTURES
May 8–24, 2020
October 13–30, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$8,975 pp, twin share
$1,380 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Chris Bradley (May)
“He was excellent, with great historical insight. Couldn’t have been better.” – Iran, April 2018

Ben Churcher (Oct)
“Was an excellent tour leader – congenial, organised, erudite and flexible.” – Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan, May 2019

MORE      MAY      OCT

academytravel.com.au | 9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney) | info@academytravel.com.au
Asia offers a stimulating range of experiences and a wealth of culture, from little-visited ancient temples and historic sites to striking contemporary art, architecture and design in the region’s vibrant capitals.

A walking path leads through thousands of vermilion torii gates at the Fushimi Inari Shrine in southern Kyoto, Japan.
Hong Kong & Shanghai
Contemporary Art in China

Overview
Hong Kong and Shanghai are two of China’s most cosmopolitan cities, and their thriving art cultures and complex histories have made them ideal locations for the exchange of ideas between very different worlds. Discover the art and culture of these two cities on this 9-day tour, exploring contemporary art and architecture, gallery districts, culinary traditions and major private 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 commercial galleries showcase their wares.

Highlights
- Art Basel in Hong Kong: the leading art fair in the Asia-Pacific region
- Shanghai’s cutting-edge private collections and galleries, such as the Long Museum, The Yun, and the Rockbund Art Museum
- Renowned art districts with their fantastic, evolving exhibitions, from the West Bund and M50 in Shanghai to Hong Kong’s new M+ and Tai Kwun
- Architecture in Shanghai: Art Deco to contemporary
- Hong Kong’s thriving food culture, markets and haute cuisine
- A glorious past, including Suzhou’s World Heritage-listed Ming dynasty gardens and Aurora Museum’s private collection of Chinese antiquities

Itinerary
Days 1–3: Arrive in Hong Kong, drinks and dinner with a view over the city skyline. Appreciate world-class art at Art Basel Hong Kong, enjoy Hong Kong’s vibrant food culture, visit Tai Kwun and Hong Kong’s commercial gallery district, as well as Sotheby’s spring exhibition.
Day 4: Visit M+ in Hong Kong. Flight to Shanghai.
Days 5–6: Shanghai’s art and architecture, from traditional art at the Ando-designed Aurora Museum to contemporary and modern art in private collections along the new West Bund art precinct.
Days 7–9: Suzhou’s Ming dynasty gardens. Art Deco Shanghai, including a tour of the Peace Hotel and Bund waterfront.

Find Out More
Departures
March 18-26, 2020
Tour Price
$5,880 pp, twin share
$1,210 single supp.
Tour Leader
Dr Anita Archer joins our program in 2020. Anita holds a PhD on the Chinese art market from Melbourne University and has more than 20 years’ experience as an auctioneer and consultant in Australia, London, Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing.
Inclusions
8 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; busy modern metropolises.
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.
OVERVIEW

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.

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

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

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

★★ Grade 2: Some uneven garden paths; 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.

Please note: The tour details listed here are for the May 2020 tour. Please see our website for November 2020 tour details.

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

OVERVIEW

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.

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

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.

**Days 11–14:** Appreciate the seasonal beauty of Koraku-en Garden. Take the bullet train to Kyoto, to discover its gardens and shrines.
SINGAPORE
Art, Architecture & Culture

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
January 23-26, 2020

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

TOUR LEADER
Robert Veel “We thought he was a delightful tour leader... who surprised us every day with an extra visit or treat.” – City of Rome, April 2019

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.

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

OVERVIEW
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. The itinerary combines Singapore’s complex heritage, tropical gardens, the visual arts and vibrant food culture. Enjoy five-star accommodation close to venues we visit, and a varied program designed to appeal to cultural travellers.

HIGHLIGHTS
> 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

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: Visit to the Singapore Botanic Gardens, with their stunning orchid collection, followed by a contemporary architecture tour and visits to cutting edge galleries.
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.

Maximum 20 in a group | Carefully planned itineraries | Expert tour leaders
An overlooked jewel among Asia’s destinations, with a thriving arts scene, a vibrant traditional culture with cosmopolitan influences from Europe, Japan and mainland China.

**OVERVIEW**

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.

**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 Japanese-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 Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall and the extensive collection at the National Palace Museum.

**FIND OUT MORE**

**DEPARTURES**

March 3–13, 2020

**TOUR PRICE**

$7,480 pp, twin share
$2,180 single supp.

**TOUR LEADER**

Judy Tenzing “Was helpful and enthusiastic throughout the tour.” – Taiwan, April 2018

**INCLUSIONS**

10 nights’ accommodation in 4 to 5-star hotels. All breakfasts and 8 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

**THEMES**

- Art, Architecture & Design
- 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 Cathay Dragon offer flights into Kaohsiung and out of Taipei via Hong Kong. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
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.

Broken Hill’s Sculpture Symposium with works carved from stone, set amongst the outback landscape.
Adelaide & Surrounds
Art, History & Food

OVERVIEW
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 tour leader 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 Heysen
> 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
> Enjoy a performance in one of Adelaide's concert venues

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. Enjoy lunch followed by a performance.

COMPACT AND REFINED, ADELAIDE HAS MUCH TO OFFER THE CULTURAL TRAVELLER. EXPLORE IT WITH THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FIND OUT MORE

DEPARTURES
November 18-23, 2020

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.

academytravel.com.au | 9235 0023 (1800 639 699 outside Sydney) | info@academytravel.com.au
FLINDERS RANGES
Along the Heysen Trail

OVERVIEW

The Heysen Trail, stretching some 1200kms from Adelaide to the Flinders Ranges, forms one of Australia’s iconic outback journeys. This new tour surveys Hans Heysen’s works at the Art Gallery of South Australia and his former home and studio, The Cedars. We then explore the trail named in his honour, seeing the landscapes and geological features that inspired his art, journeying from the Clare and Barossa Valleys to Arkaroola and Wilpena Pound. Visit historic ruins left by the first European settlers, observe wildlife and marvel at fantastic arrays of Aboriginal rock art, guided by the sites’ traditional owners.

DEPARTURES

October 12-23, 2020

TOUR PRICE

$6,595 pp, twin share
$1,390 single supp.

TOUR LEADER

Dr Chris Carter “Was an excellent tour leader.” — Lake Mungo, Broken Hill & Beyond, October 2018

INCLUSIONS

11 nights’ accommodation in hotels, country style motels and a working cattle station. All breakfasts and 16 meals, including picnics. All ground transport by minibus and 4WD, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES

Archaeology & Ancient History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

★★ ★ Grade 3: Off-road touring, early starts, long walks and climbs, rough surfaces and stony ground; outback toilets and homestead accommodation with shared facilities.

START & FINISH

The tour begins at Adelaide airport and ends at our hotel in Adelaide. Contact us for quotes, bookings and flight schedules into and out of Adelaide from your destination.

Please note: Small group tour with limited numbers.

HIGHLIGHTS

> Discover Hans Heysen’s enduring outback landscapes at the Art Gallery of South Australia and The Cedars, his studio in Hahndorf
> Travel to the Barossa Valley and follow the Clare Valley Riesling trail, enjoying regional produce and fine wines in beautiful surroundings
> Walk though Bararranna Gorge, and journey through ancient seabeds and razor-back ridges in 4WDs at Arkaroola
> Uncover 600 million years of geology, following in the footsteps of Douglas Mawson’s research
> Special access to Indigenous cultural heritage, historic sites and activities with a traditional owner, at Wilpena Pound

ITINERARY

Days 1–2: Arrive Adelaide. Tour the Art Gallery of South Australia and the Heysens’ studio at The Cedars in Hahndorf.
Days 3–4: Enjoy lunch at a Barossa winery, tour Martindale Hall and follow Clare Valley’s Riesling trail through classic Heysen landscapes.
Days 5–7: Drive to Arkaroola. Walk through Bararranna Gorge and discover Arkaroola’s geological history in 4WD vehicles.
Days 8–10: See the rock engravings at Red Gorge with a traditional owner. Continue to Wilpena Pound, climb to Rawnsley Bluff and tour Brachina Gorge with an Aboriginal ranger.
Days 11–12: Enjoy a farewell dinner in a fine Adelaide restaurant before departure.

Take the road less travelled and experience stunning outback landscapes, Indigenous culture and unique geological formations of the Flinders Ranges.
Experience world-famous sculpture parks, remarkable art and architecture, striking landscapes shaped by dramatic volcanic activity, and Maori culture, integral to Kiwi life today.

OVERVIEW
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.

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 and 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

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
History, Art & Landscape

OVERVIEW
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.

DEPARTURES
Nov 28 – Dec 5, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$4,875 pp, twin share
$1,090 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Robert Veel
“His knowledge of all aspects of the places we visited was excellent and he had a relaxed, friendly manner which gave the appearance that everything happened effortlessly.” – New Zealand, March 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.

HIGHLIGHTS
> Tasmania’s colonial sites, including Clarendon Estate and World Heritage-listed Port Arthur
> Leading public and private 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 Tamar Valley and hills towards 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.

Enjoy Tasmania’s internationally-recognised pristine landscapes and vibrant visual arts scene, underpinned by a complex history.
Get to know Victoria’s fabulous regional galleries and the complex history of the state, from colony to the goldfields and beyond.

OVERVIEW
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.

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

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.
TO THE EDGE OF THE OUTBACK
Mungo, Broken Hill & Beyond

OVERVIEW
Delve into Australia’s deep history, from Indigenous settlement and the spiritual connection to Country, to colonial journeys and the development of the historic backbone of Australia’s economy, agriculture and industry. This 10-day tour travels from Mildura, along the Murray River to Lake Mungo National Park, and on to Broken Hill. It combines travel through iconic Outback and rural landscapes, with visits to national parks, Indigenous cultural sites and historic landmarks, including Bindara Station on the Darling River and Daydream mine in Broken Hill.

DEPARTURES
Oct 26 – Nov 4, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$4,795 pp, twin share
$POA single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Dr Chris Carter “Was a great tour leader and worked harmoniously to give us wonderful insight into the natural history, European settlements and indigenous history of the region.” – Lake Mungo, Broken Hill & Beyond, October 2018

INCLUSIONS
9 nights’ accommodation in local country accommodation, motels, cabins and a working cattle station. All breakfasts and 11 lunches or dinners. All ground transport by minibus, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Archaeology & Ancient History
Inspiring Landscapes

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS
★★★★ Grade 3: Off road touring; archaeological sites; uneven surfaces; homestead accommodation with shared facilities.

START & FINISH
The tour begins at our motel in Mildura and ends at the hotel in Broken Hill. Contact us for quotes, bookings and flight schedules into Mildura and out of Broken Hill from your destination.

Please note: Small group tour with limited numbers.

EXPLORE 50,000 years of Indigenous heritage and colonial settlement, from the Murray Darling to Outback landscapes, in national parks, cattle stations and frontier towns.

HIGHLIGHTS
> An indulgent degustation dinner at Stefano’s much-acclaimed restaurant in Mildura
> Cruise the Murray-Darling aboard the historic steam-driven paddle boat Melbourne
> Survey the dramatic Walls of China, climb the sand dunes at Vigars Well and explore the extraordinary archaeology of the ancient Lake Mungo National Park
> Special access to Indigenous cultural and historic sites with a traditional owner at Mutawintji National Park
> Experience the life of the 19th-century Cornish miner, underground at Daydream mine
> A wealth of art in Broken Hill, where galleries outnumber pubs

ITINERARY
Days 1–2: Dine at Stefano’s Restaurant and visit Rio Vista in Mildura.
Days 3–4: See the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth, cruise the mighty Murray. Explore Lake Mungo National Park, and watch the sun setting over the Walls of China.
Day 5: Return to Mungo and explore its archaeology, before driving via Poocarrie to gracious Bindara Station on the Darling.
Days 6–7: In Broken Hill, visit art galleries and the strikingly modern Miners Memorial.
Day 8: Explore Mutawintji National Park and admire the ancient rock art.
Days 9–10: Go underground at Daydream mine.

Maximum 20 in a group  I  Carefully planned itineraries  I  Expert tour leaders
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 neighbourhood of Trastevere, the 13th rione of Rome, on the west bank of the Tiber, south of Vatican City.
BERLIN
Study Tour

OVERVIEW
Complex, conflicted and evolving: Berlin is a unique city with an infamous past and a vibrant present. Divided for more than a generation, the reunification of the city signalled a modern-day renaissance, creating one of Europe’s most interesting and diverse capital cities with a thriving contemporary cultural scene. This 12-day study tour provides a detailed examination of Berlin’s history, through museum and gallery visits, walking tours and background lectures. Accommodation is in centrally-located, self-contained apartments, providing an ideal base for independent exploration for those with a passion for modern history and the arts.

DEPARTURES
October 19-30, 2020

TOUR PRICE
$4,950 pp, twin share
$1,775 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Thomas Abbott “Was a marvellous guide and I feel he got to know each of us well.” - Berlin & Beyond, May 2018

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in 4-star, centrally located, self-catering 1-bedroom apartments. All breakfasts and 3 dinners. Unlimited public transport card, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to 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 apartments in Berlin. Qatar offers direct flights into and out of Berlin from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

HIGHLIGHTS
- The extraordinary Museum Island, a unique ensemble of five museums with iconic artefacts
- The Third Reich’s lingering impact, in the architecture and memorials that colour the city’s landscape
- The Cold War Capital, where history was part of daily life in the divided city
- Contemporary Berlin, including the KW Institute for Modern Art, cutting-edge galleries and street art
- The German Baroque at Charlottenburg and Sanssouci palaces, and their modern histories
- Live like a local: the freedom and flexibility of a fully-equipped apartment
- In-depth lectures, providing a crucial context for this fascinating city

Explore of one of Europe’s most enigmatic cities in depth, where an understanding of a complex past leads to an appreciation of modern, progressive Berlin.

ITINERARY


Days 5: Charlottenburg and Museum Bergguren.

Days 6–7: Examine the rise of the Third Reich and WWII Berlin, including a Third Reich walking tour, visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial, and thematic museums.

Day 8: Excursion to Potsdam and stunning Sanssouci Palace.

Days 9–11: Survey the impact of the Cold War, a city and people divided by the Wall, Berlin’s extraordinary revival post-reunification, and its contemporary cool.
Madrid
Study Tour

OVERVIEW
Madrid's history is as compelling as it is unique. It is the only European capital with Islamic roots; still visible in its Arab walls and Mudéjar architecture. The historic capital of the Spanish Empire, whose vast palaces were funded by New World gold, it remains the centre of modern Spain, and has a turbulent history marked by conflicts from Napoleon to Franco and the Civil War. Explore Madrid's fascinating history, exceptional collections of Old and Modern masters, and spectacular architecture on this new study tour, which includes day trips to Toledo, Chincón and Segovia.

ITINERARY
Days 4–5: The power of the Habsburgs at Madrid’s Palacio Real. Excursion to Toledo.
Days 6–7: Background lecture, full day in the Prado. Day trip to Escorial palace and Segovia.
Days 8–9: A wealth of art at the Thyssen-Bornemisza, the Reina Sofia and Espacio Miró. Performance at Circulo Bellas Artes on the art deco rooftop terrace with its spectacular views.
Days 10–12: Sunday markets, the Sorolla Museum’s lush Belle Époque. Excursion to medieval Chinchón, with a wine-tasting.

HIGHLIGHTS
› World-class art galleries, including the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen-Bornemisza
› Toledo, the Visigothic capital where three cultures once lived in a peaceful state of convivencia
› Spanish royal power: the palaces of Madrid, the Escorial and their gardens
› Segovia’s awe-inspiring Roman aqueduct and Gothic cathedral, and the charm of the Middle Ages in Chinchón’s beautiful plaza
› The Iberian Peninsula’s ancient past in Madrid’s superb archaeological museum
› Detailed lecture series, providing extensive context for the city and its art
› Local experiences, from the best markets to tapas bars and performing arts centres

DEPARTURES
September 4-15, 2020
TOUR PRICE
$4,680 pp, twin share
$890 single supp.

TOUR LEADER
Elena Ortega “Her understanding of contemporary Spain was particularly valuable on this tour.” – Grand Tour of Spain, March 2019

INCLUSIONS
11 nights’ accommodation in 3-star hotel with superior rooms. All breakfasts and 3 lunches or dinners. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

THEMES
Medieval to 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 Madrid. Emirates, Etihad, Qatar and Cathay Pacific all offer suitable connections to Madrid from most Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.
Rome Study Tour

OVERVIEW
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.

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 to 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.

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.

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.

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
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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.
UPCOMING TOUR PROGRAM

Planning is well underway for our 2021 tour program. The following pages list our preliminary range of journeys, including many of our popular repeat tours, with more to be added in the coming year. Additional tours will be listed on our website throughout 2020, as well as tour leader and travel date information for all offerings.

The Astronomical Clock, or Prague Orloj, mounted on the southern wall of the Old Town Hall in Prague’s Old Town Square. This medieval astronomical clock was first installed in 1410 and is the oldest clock still operating.
UPCOMING TOUR PROGRAM
January – December 2021

Art Cities of Tuscany: Pisa, Siena & Florence
January 2021
Beyond Rome: History, Archaeology and Gardens in Central Italy
April 2021
Easter in Rome
March 2021
Lakes & Villas of Northern Italy
April 2021
Puglia to Pompeii: Classical Southern Italy
March & October 2021
Sardinia & Corsica: From the Stone Age to Napoleon
March & October 2021
Sicily & the Aeolian Islands
March & October 2021
The Venice Biennale: Modern & Contemporary Art in Venice & Beyond
June 2021
Venice: City, Republic & Empire
March & October 2021

Art Basel, Alsace & the Black Forest
June 2021
Berlin & Beyond: Berlin, Dresden & Leipzig
May & October 2021
Burgundy Provence & the Riviera: Medieval & Modern
May 2021
Easter in Malta
March 2021
Gardens of Southern England
June 2021
Grand Tour of Spain: Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Madrid & Barcelona
September 2021
Great Gardens of Cornwall and Devon
June 2021
Greece: By Land & Sea
November 2021
Greece: Classical & Bronze Age
April 2021
High Art in the Low Countries: Brussels, Bruges, Delft, Amsterdam
May 2021
Northern Spain & Portugal: Bilbao to Lisbon
April & October 2021
Portugal
September 2021

Portugal & Western Spain: Guimaraes to Salamanca
May 2021
Scotland’s Castles & Gardens: From Edinburgh to the Highlands
July 2021
Siberia & the Russian Far East
July 2021
Sea Cloud II Cruise & Tour
September 2021
St Petersburg & Moscow
September 2021
St Petersburg & Moscow: The Silver Age
January 2021
Stockholm to St Petersburg: A Baltic Journey
August 2021
The Eastern Balkans: Albania, Macedonia, Romania & Bulgaria
October 2021
Vienna To Venice: The Crossroads of History
September 2021
Yorkshire to The Lake District: Gardens of a Passionate Mind
June 2021

European Summer Music Festivals
August 2021
Italian Summer Music Festivals: From the Lakes to Lucca
July 2021
London & Paris: Art & Music
January 2021
Music in Scandinavia
May 2021
Opera in New York
March 2021
Opera in Northern Italy
March 2021
Berlin: Study Tour
October 2021

Havana: Study Tour
January 2021

Istanbul: Study Tour
September 2021

Italian Art Study Tour
October 2021

Jerusalem: Study Tour
April 2021

Kolkata to Darjeeling
January 2021

Paris: Study Tour
April 2021

Shanghai: Study Tour
October 2021

South Korea
April 2021

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Set on an outcrop jutting over the ocean and with a 210m-tall minaret, the Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca, Morocco, is the largest mosque in Africa and the 3rd largest in the world.