



Mosque & Mausoleum of Sidi Ahmad al-Tijani by Chris Wood

ARCHITECTURE ARCHAEOLOGY ART HISTORY CULTURE HORTICULTURE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE GARDEN HISTORY

Newsletter September 2013

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in conjunction with the State Library of Victoria

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Stay In The Loop

Amber Fort, North India



Mughals, Rajputs & Villages: The Cultural Heritage of North India

29 December 2013 - 19 January 2014

Leaders: Prof. Bernard Hoffert

1 room
left

22 Days: Delhi (3 nights) • Jaipur (3 nights) • Bundi (1 night) • Bijaipur (1 night) • Udaipur (2 nights) • Kumbhalgarh (1 night) • Jodhpur (2 nights) • Jaisalmer (2 nights) • Bikaner (1 night) • Khimsar Fort (2 nights) • Jaipur (1 night) • Agra (2 nights).

Many Thanks to ASA and Bernard Hoffert for a full and varied trip to Rajasthan. We visited some amazing sites and heard about their historical significance. We stood in awe of the beauty and work done by the Moghul designer's courtesans. We stayed at a variety of heritage hotels each offering a different experience. On the lighter note, we took a camel ride through the desert to watch the sunset from the top of a dune, followed by a moonlight dinner and dancing around an open fire and had lunch in a garden overlooking the Yamuna River and Taj Mahal.

Sheena, Tour Participant 2011

Al-Maghrib al-Aqsa: Islamic Civilisation in Morocco

26 March - 13 April 2014

Limited
Room types

Lecturer: Iain Shearer

19 Days: Rabat (3 nights) • Tangier (1 night) • Chefchaouen (1 night) • Fes (4 nights) • Erfoud (1 night) • Tineghir (1 night) • Ouarzazate (3 nights) • Marrakesh (4 nights)

The scenery and people of Morocco are enough reason for going. The whole tour was a joy, from whichever point of view: social, cultural, historical, architectural, and archaeological, etc. including perfect hotels and restaurants all the way. Thank you all at ASA very much for making it possible.

Tour Participant 2012



Pottery in Morocco

Aphrodisias Temple Gateway by H. Broadbent



Turkey: Ages of Anatolia

28 April - 19 May 2014

Lecturers: Dr Susan Aykut & Dr Erin Gibson

Istanbul (3 nights) • Bursa (1 night) • Çanakkale (3 nights) • Kusadasi (3 nights) • Pamukkale (1 night) • Konya (2 nights) • Cappadocia (3 nights) • Ankara (2 nights) • Istanbul (3 nights)

I chose this tour because of its content & longer duration, allowing more time at sites. It exceeded my expectations with respect to the expertise of our tour leaders & the places we visited. I now have a greater understanding of this wonderful complex country. Congratulations and thanks to ASA for a great experience.

Rosemary, Participant 2013

Miravet



Barcelona to Valencia: Along the Orange Blossom Coast

21 April - 3 May 2014

Lecturer: Dr John Wreglesworth

**NEW
TOUR**

13 DAYS: Barcelona (4 nights)
• Tortosa (4 nights) • Valencia (4 nights)

This short program visits the beautiful cities of Valencia and Barcelona combined with visits to lovely villages, castles and small towns in the Catalan and Valencian countryside.

Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries

09 - 22 May 2014

Leader: Christopher Wood

14 DAYS Bucharest (3 nights) • Sibiu (3 nights)
• Baia Mare (1 night) • Borsa (1 night) • Guru
Humorului (2 nights) • Miercurea Ciuc (1 night) • Sinaia
(1 night) • Bucharest (1 night)

**Short
Program**

Peles Castle, Romania



Brasov Town Hall, Romania

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE in 2014

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ANDALUCIA

The entire region carries the legacy of layers of occupation over the centuries, and is indelibly stamped with a mixed Moorish and Catholic influence.

CORDOBA

The Moors made Cordoba the capital of al-Andalus. In the tenth century, Cordoba was considered to be one of the great cultural and architectural cities in the world. Although Cordoba has seen many changes since then, the architecture still stands today.

The main draw is the Mezquita, an extraordinary combination of mosque and cathedral. First a mosque, founded in 785, all arches and intricate carvings. In the 16th century, the building had a rather remarkable cathedral placed right in the middle of it.

Cordoba is also the only city in Andalucia that has a surviving medieval synagogue, located in the picturesque Juderia, the old Jewish quarter to the north of the Mezquita. This maze of medieval lanes is full of distinctive whitewashed buildings with flower-filled window boxes - a joy to wander around.

GRANADA

Dominating the skyline, sprawling along a hilltop overlooking Granada is the Moorish extravaganza that is the Alhambra.

This World Heritage site of fortress and palace is a constant presence, visible from many of Granada's streets and squares, enticing travellers to wind their way up the slopes and enter its walls. The Palacios Nazaries - the palaces built by the Nasrid dynasty - are stunning, airy and elegant, all arches and arabesques. The glorious gardens with their fountains add to the romance, while the grand Renaissance palace of Charles V provides a dramatic contrast. Then there is the view from the Alhambra - it is pretty impressive with all of Granada laid out below, backed by the snowy ridges of the Sierra Nevada.

There's much more to this Andalucian city. The Albayzin, the old Muslim quarter is an atmospheric place to wander about in, with cobblestone streets, wonderful carmines - mansions with traditional walled gardens - and teashops to pause in. Then there's the vast and imposing Gothic Cathedral, a riot of renaissance detail.

Andalucia: Christians & Muslims in Southern Spain

4 - 19 May 2014

with Dr John Wreglesworth

Hidden Treasures of Rome, Viterbo & Tivoli: from Antiquity to the Baroque

8 - 21 May 2014

Short
Program

14 DAYS: Rome (8 nights) • Viterbo (2 nights) • Tivoli (3 nights)

Rome, the Eternal City, teems with treasures few tourists ever see. **Emeritus Professor Frank Sear**, who lived in Rome for six years and knows the city intimately, will share with you some of the many sites not found on a standard itinerary.

The traditional foundation date of Rome is 753 BC, but archaeology has shown that humans were living on the site of the Eternal City 3300 years ago. The truth of the old adage that 'Rome was not built in a day' is borne out walking through its streets and piazzas and seeing how every century has left its imprint upon the city. But Rome is no dusty museum piece. Life there is as vibrant as it has always been. Although the city's long history stretches back to ancient Roman times, to the Early Christian basilicas with their dazzling mosaics, and papal Rome with its Renaissance and Baroque palaces, churches, piazzas and fountains, it is also a city of art with unrivalled collections of sculpture and painting.



Hadrian's Villa

The tour will also take us to Viterbo in the north, an ancient city with a 13th century papal palace. From here we will visit the Etruscan tombs at Cerveteri and Tarquinia, the celebrated 18th century gardens of the Villa Lante, and the imposing 16th century Villa Farnese by Vignola. Travelling south to Tivoli we find the vast villa built by Hadrian at Tivoli, the awe-inspiring fountains of the Villa d'Este, the wonderful medieval frescoes of St. Benedict's abbey at Subiaco and the two lakes, Nemi and Albano, the latter overlooked by the papal villa of Castelgandolfo.



Church of San-Clemente, Rome



Villa D'Este



Snapshot of Trieste

Unfamiliar territory even to many Italians, this multilingual border town and seaport proves both distinctive and distinguished.

Trieste is, as a mayor of the city once put it, “the eastern edge of Latinity and the southern extremity of Germanness.” Unfamiliar territory even to many Italians, it’s tucked away near the border of Slovenia. It looks out at the Gulf of Trieste and the blue waters of the Adriatic, and the rugged limestone heights of the Julian Alps tower over it from the north.

In this far corner of Italy, Trieste has long been overshadowed by the more regal and bejewelled city of Venice to the south. It was, in fact, because of two centuries of ongoing battles with the Venetian Republic, that the burghers of Trieste turned to Leopold III, the Duke of Austria, for protection and were incorporated into his empire in 1382.

Under the rule of the Habsburgs, Trieste enjoyed an era of vibrant cultural growth and economic expansion. As the main port for the Austrian Empire, the city became a hub of commerce and a magnet for architects, musicians, artists, soldiers and merchants. Part of Trieste’s charm is the layers of its past, evident in buildings like the ancient San Giusto cathedral. Built on the site of a Pagan temple, additions were made to the church over the years, starting as early as the sixth century. It now houses the remarkable apsidal mosaics depicting Our Lady of the Assumption and San Giusto that were laid by master Venetian craftsmen in the 12th and 13th centuries.

It’s a city that takes on multiple personalities as you walk from the quaint streets near the Serbian Orthodox church, reminiscent of Prague, to the grand streets of the Habsburgs, organized for their ornamented banks, office buildings and civic structures. The Teatro Giovanni Verdi, Trieste’s 200-year-old grand opera house, is another hallmark of a bygone era. Its Neoclassical façade is reminiscent of La Scala in Milan, and its opulent interior harkens back to the gilded age of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Architecture wasn’t the only import to Trieste. The Viennese café became a staple of the intellectual scene and fit right in with the gas lit mystique of the narrow cobblestone streets. James Joyce could often be found holding court with his literary set, including Italo Svevo, at any of a number of cafés like Caffè San Marco, Caffè Tommaseo and Caffè degli Specchi, that have been around since the 1800s. Another café, the Caffè Pasticceria Pirona, was Joyce’s favorite pasticceria, and he would spend hours there eating Austrian style pastries, or maybe thick slices of presnitz, and working on pages of Dubliners or Ulysses.

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The mood of Trieste is set in its bustling Viennese cafés, and written on the elegant Neoclassical façades. If you take an evening stroll along the pedestrian promenade next to the Canal Grande, or dine on the hearty regional cuisine in one of Trieste's many restaurants, you find an enchanting city with unique character and interesting flavours.



Small church of Villa Revoltella, Trieste

An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik

22 April - 7 May 2014

Lecturer: Christopher Wood

16 DAYS: ITALY Trieste (2 nights) • CROATIA Rovinj (2 nights) • Plitvice Lakes (1 night) • Zadar (2 nights) • Split (2 nights) • Hvar (2 nights) • Dubrovnik (4 nights).

Short Program
Limited Places



Canal street, Trieste



La Chèvre d'Or Jardin

Sixty years ago, in the dark brown earth of Biot reminiscent of the ochre tones of Tuscany, a garden was born echoing all things Italian: Century old Olive trees, pebble terraces, bubbling fountains, orange tree lined paths, fields of Agapanthus (African Lilies), the majestic Cypress trees.

Omnipresent scents deepened to the songs of cicadas and the gurgling water; the shaded gazebos and vaulted verandas tempered the summer heat and provide shade to exotic plants. The garden of the Chèvre d'Or (Golden Goat) was created in 1948 by Nicole and Pierre Champin, who were inspired by their friend Charles de Noailles, the botanist Basil Leng and the architect Emilio Terry. Since 1999 Antoinette and Alexander Redelé-Dutilh have been in search of harmony and balance here, alternating between nature and culture, with this renaissance, the garden never stops evolving and being enriched.

The Chèvre d'Or garden spreads over almost a hectare of land, on a hill facing the medieval village of BIOT, close to Antibes, and has been laid out over ten restanques (old agricultural terracing). The natural management and the permanent and omnipresent layers of mulch, increase and enrich the soil life, retain water and enable a less intensive, part-time maintenance. From the vaulted entrance, the mosaic pebbled terraces and the pools of water lilies, we embrace the central Italian inspired perspective: the avenue of orange, mandarin and grapefruit trees under-planted with Leadwort, which tumbles over a wall, embellished with a fountain and topped with a double row of majestic Cypress trees.

Half way along on the right, steps cut through two fields of blue African lilies, contrasted by shimmers of silver from an old olive tree. The Orangerie, with a small pool to the side, full of Lotus flowers and Water Lilies, dominates the garden and shades fragile plants such as Thunbergia grandiflora, Monstera, Rubber plants, Vitis voigneriana, Brugmansia, and Cactus plants. There, a lawn spreads out in front of the famous 'green room', bordered by box, topped with a line of pleached olive trees, and watched over by a huge Magnolia delavayi.

At the end of the central avenue, a beautiful stone staircase rises up towards a succession of different terraced gardens to the right and left in soft tones, blending with the never ending shades of green.

The yellow garden of Freylinia and Punica, the blue Ceanothus border, the sliver tinted garden of Lavander and Helichrysum, the white Buddleia garden, the wild flower meadow, and the border of old roses with the blue-green of the Brahea armata palm, and the view of the distant sea. A small waterfall drips from the old water basin and flows away towards the Iris spuriae.

La Promenade des Hollandais, divides the white border of Photinia, Exochorda, Dombeya, Viburnum and Osteomeles, from the rose border of Hibiscus mutabilis and syriacus, Hydrangea quercifolia and Aesculus parviflora, and ends by joining the Rondpoint des Perspectives, crowned by a majestic white basin. A bit lower down the Pergola covered by a cascade of Wisteria multijuga macrobotrys and Leadwort borders the small Arboretum with Arbutus glandulosa, Podocarpus and Quercus glauca.

In the green garden right at the bottom, a winding Box makes an arabesque circle around a succession of pots crowned with Myrtus. Next to the rectangular fountain, Ficus pumila carpets a little stairway towards triangles of box, interplanted with peonies and orange trees. Wisteria Black Dragon, Rosa Banksiae and Bougainvillea run wild through the cypress trees, reaching up to the blue sky.

The garden of the Chèvre d'Or is a garden that overwhelms your senses, a place of dreams and fascination, and of inspiration and reflection, a truly exceptional experience.



Landscapes & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes National Park

12 - 31 May 2014

Leader: John Patrick

20 DAYS: Menton (2 nights) • Juan-les-Pins (5 nights) • Aix-en-Provence (4 nights) • Avignon (5 nights) • Florac (3 nights)



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CEVENNE NATIONAL PARK?

Location: France

Size: 353 square miles (913 square kilometers)

- **Peaks to Plains** In Cevennes National Park low mountains flow smoothly onto the plains of Languedoc, creating a patchwork of rocky heights, grasslands, forests, and farms. This is not a pure wilderness park but a classic landscape of traditional French life.
- **Many Villages** Cevennes is the only national park in France that has human settlements at its core—there are some 250 villages within its borders.
- **Prehistoric Inhabitation** People have lived here since at least 400,000 B.C. By about 2,500 B.C. they were erecting standing stones, called megaliths, which can still be seen today. Later, the Romans left their mark with enduring buildings, burial sites, and roads. Many churches from the Middle Ages also still stand, although most of that era's castles are in ruins.
- **Agricultural Woes** Agricultural crises plagued the area around the park beginning in the second half of the 19th century. Diseases devastated silkworms, which were then key to a local industry, and sweet chestnut trees, which had been introduced by the Romans. These and other economic problems led to an exodus and a significant population decline, which was exacerbated by the staggering death tolls of World War I.
- **Functional Farms** Today about 400 farms operate in the park's central zone and cover 25 percent of its land area. These enterprises are dominated by cattle and sheep grazing lands, and farmers produce meats and exceptional cheeses like Roquefort and Fédou.

Aven Armand Cave



● **Cave Attractions** Cevennes National Park is home to an outstanding trio of caves: Aven Armand, Dargilan, and Bramabiau, which have attracted visitors since the end of the 19th century. Aven Armand is large enough to hold Notre-Dame Cathedral and has more than 400 giant stalagmites. Dargilan, known as the “pink cave,” has a 21,528-square-foot (2,000-square-meter) calcite flow—the world's largest—and Bramabiau is essentially an underground canyon cut by the subterranean Bonheur River.

● **Wild Wonders** Despite a strong human presence the park boasts plenty of purely natural wonders. The Tarn and Jonte gorges present dramatic vistas, where waterways have scoured canyons and created rock faces up to 1,640 feet (500 meters) high. Boaters often run the Tarn gorge, while fishermen favor the waters of the Jonte.

Bottom: Gorge in the Cevenne National Park—Top: Aven Armand Caves



Exploring the Black Sea: from the Black Sea to the Crimean War

5 - 20 November 2014

Lecturer: Christopher Wood

17 DAYS: Istanbul (5 nights) • On board the Aegean Odyssey - Voyages to Antiquity(11 nights)

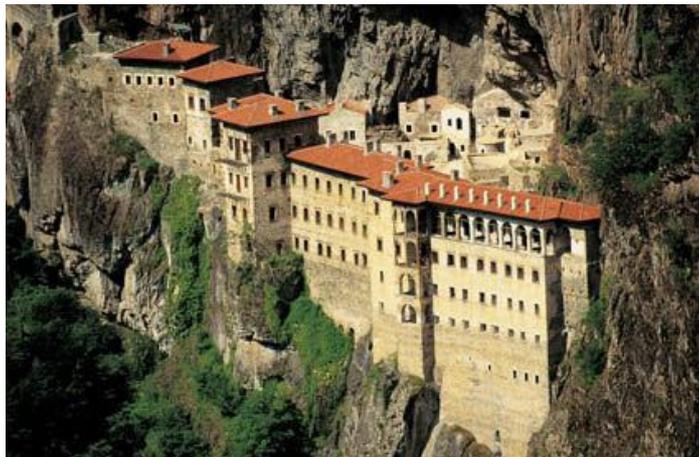


About The Tour: Cruising and Learning

For travellers who would prefer a more leisurely ASA program, this tour combines 5-days based in Istanbul with a 12-day Black Sea Cruise with Voyages to Antiquity. We take advantage of their small, luxury cruise ship, their official lecture program and on-shore excursions, which we supplement with our own exclusive ship-board talks and shore excursions. Our program in Istanbul before the cruise is designed to give you an orientation to Black Sea history and culture.



You don't need to be a military architect to appreciate the Ukraine's most impressive surviving fortress, perched on a massive cliff above the town of Sudak. In the 13th century the Genoese set up large trading posts in the eastern Crimea which thrived on commerce along the Silk Route to China and central Asia.



This spectacular monastery is perched on a mountain ledge, and with its forested background the mountainside monastery of Sumela is a magical destination and is being considered by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Construction began in 385AD when Barnabas, a monk from Athens, and his nephew Sophronios carved the first two rooms into sheer rock to house a miraculous icon of the Blessed Virgin they found in a mountain cave. Byzantine Emperor Justinian ordered an enlargement in the 6th century.



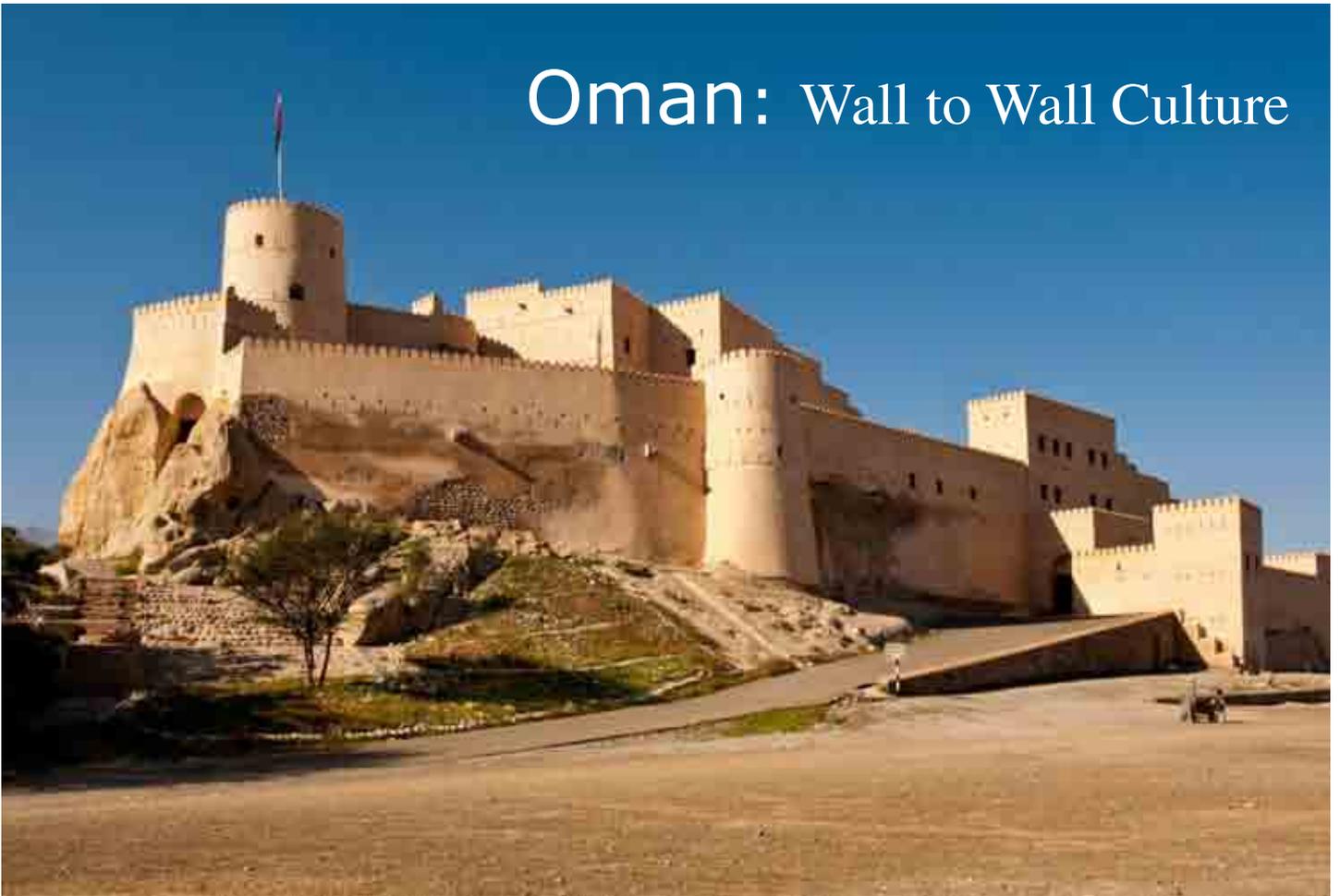
Vorontsov Palace in Alupka, enjoying panoramic views of the coast and Ai-Petri Mountain, the palace's stunning backdrop. Alupka Palace is also known as Vorontsov Palace because it was built for Count Mikhail Vorontsov, one of the richest men in 19th century Russia. The building was designed by English architect, Edward Blore, who designed parts of Buckingham Palace.



Step back in time when visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Old Nessebur, one of Bulgaria's most endearing towns. Over 3,000 years ago Thracians came to this rocky peninsula and founded a settlement called Menabria.

Oman: Wall to Wall Culture

Nakhla Fort, Oman



Oman is fast becoming a darling of the Arabian Peninsula and the reasons behind its rise as a travel destination are worth noting.

It is a neatly preserved slice of the Arabia of yesteryear as the country's well-defined culture has commendably resisted most invasive Western influences. This has much to do with the guiding hand of Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, an absolute monarch with a benevolent streak. Since his rule began in 1970, his reforms and liberal spending have seen the country prosper. It is now among the most highly developed, politically stable, and peaceful nations in the Middle East.

And that's to say nothing of the beauty of its cities and regional areas. Oman has a lengthy coastline dotted with alluring towns and a verdant southern province that acts as a counterpoint to the vast tracts of parched desert.

Muscat

Oman's capital is an immaculate low-rise city that is home to around 730,000 inhabitants. With its relatively small population and gleaming white and beige Islamic-led architecture, this is a place to put the traveller at ease. There is an abundance of green too, with parks scattered throughout and an imposing backdrop in the form of the brooding Al Hajar mountains.

The waterfront corniche is worth exploring on foot and your first stop after getting a feel for the city ought to be the staggering Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. This massive devotional structure can accommodate 20,000 worshippers and features some mind boggling feats of construction and design. The Royal Muscat Opera House is also a modern marvel, while a visit to the city's Old Quarter as well as the Muttrak souk and fish market should also be on the list.



Muscat Mosque, Oman

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Nizwa

The ancient capital of Oman, Nizwa is the very epitome of an oasis town, surrounded by oceans of sand. It is located in the central inland region of Ad Dakhiliyah and although it might sound like a startlingly remote place, in truth it can be reached from Muscat in about 90 minutes by car. This town of 70,000 inhabitants has served as a key trading post for centuries, linking the modern capital Muscat with the southern Dhofar region. Top of the list of sites to see should be Nizwa Fort, a splendid defensive structure built in the mid-17th century. It is one of the biggest forts on the Arabian Peninsula and the view from the central tower is worthy the tricky ascent. Another architectural feat worth exploring is Falaj Daris, a World Heritage listed irrigation channel that has been the lifeblood of this scorched town for 15 centuries. And for those who like to head off road, 4WD tours of the imposing Hajar Mountains can also be organised. Nizwa's other great commodity is dates, which grow in vast plantations on the city's outskirts. Be sure to taste a few before leaving town.



Nizwa, Oman, by K Hellstrom

Dhofar

This southernmost region of Oman provides visitors with one surprise after another. Firstly, it's an oasis of green surround by desert, as annual monsoonal rains turn the landscape into a flourishing Garden of Eden from June to September. This period, which is the ideal time to visit, see rain, fog and temperatures in the low 20s – hardly the climes you'd expect in the Arabian Peninsula. To truly soak it up, you should head to the springs at Ayn Jarziz and Ayn Razat, which lie outside Salalah, the region's capital. Similarly, the lush oasis of Wadi Dharbat is a great way to experience the greener side of Oman. For the culturally inclined, the small coastal town of Mirbat is an historic place, being the departure point in centuries past for ships exporting frankincense.



Musandam Peninsula

This northernmost piece of Omani territory is an enclave that juts out into the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. It's known as the Norway of Arabia, thanks to a series of remarkable fjords with sheer mountains that plunge straight into the sea.

Khasab is the capital of this region and its 17th century Portuguese-built castle is well worth a look. The town's harbour is also the embarkation point for dhow cruises, which show off the surrounding coastline and gives guests the opportunity to enjoy a swim and a bit of fishing. A trip to historic Telegraph Island, a crucial hub for the 19th century technological equivalent to the internet, is also worthwhile.

Oman: Arabia's Ancient Emporium 5 - 20 November 2014

Lecturer: Dr Erica Hunter

**Short
Program**

16 DAYS: Al Khasab, Musandam (2 nights) • Barr Al Jissah, Muscat (2 nights) • Nizwa (2 nights)
• Wahiba Sands (1 night) • Sur (2 nights) • Muscat (1 night)

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Richard Barley, Planting roots abroad

Australia's connection with Kew Royal Botanic Gardens was forged early. Within 15 years of Princess Augusta establishing a collection of plants around Kew Palace in 1759, Joseph Banks (fresh from his voyages to Australia, among other places) was unofficial advisor on this royal horticultural pursuit. Having himself collected eucalypts, *Acacias* and *Banksias* (his namesake), Banks proceeded to arrange for yet more Australian specimens to descend on Kew. Then, when in 1841 the first official director was appointed, it was William Hooker, another avid plant collector attuned to Australian flora. There were plant exchanges aplenty between Hooker and the then director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, Ferdinand von Mueller, only for the Australia-Kew ties to be cemented further when Hooker's son, Joseph, was appointed as Kew's second director.

As a child, Joseph Hooker had pored over the journeys of Captain James Cook and had even travelled to Australia to observe our flora with his own eyes. It was during his tenure at Kew that English naturalist and artist Marianne North donated to the gardens hundreds of her paintings of wild plants from afar, including Australia.

And now, more than a century after Joseph Hooker's death, Melbourne horticulturalist Richard Barley is packing up his 1926 home in Woodend to take up the newly created position of director of horticulture at Kew Gardens. Barley, who has been chief executive of Open Gardens Australia for three years and was before that director of Melbourne Gardens at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, starts the new post in a couple of weeks and describes it as the perfect job.

"Kew has played such a central role in the discovery of the world's flora - in collection, classification, growing and distribution. It has been a hub from the late 18th century to today," he says. "People in Australia look at horticulture as a career where the horizon is set low, but for any person interested in plants, there are places you can go and roles that can arise. I am a Victorian, I went to Burnley to study horticulture and through hard work and good fortune have landed my dream job in the world."

Barley's appointment follows other contemporary Australians landing employment at Kew. Plant conservation biologist Stephen Hopper was director of Kew for six years until last year, when he returned to the University of Western Australia. Scientist Tim Entwisle spent two years as director of conservation, living collections and estates at the institution before coming back to Australia this year to take up the post of director and chief executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

Barley says that with the onset of climate change, there is an even more critical need for "good levels of communication and collaboration" between people from all countries dealing with the world's flora.

"No part of the globe is isolated from any other part and it is important that people see they are not just operating in their own island," he says. While climate change has resulted in plant conservation becoming a more prominent feature at Kew, with a number of programs established to safeguard diversity, Barley says his position will be to guide and support all of Kew's endeavours. Since the first botanic gardens were established in Italy in the 1540s, their roles have been ever evolving and overlapping.

They might have started out as places of medicinal plant research but they have also played a central part in plant classification, in education, in the cultivation of economic plants (the rubber tree, for example) and as repositories for conservation. They are also landscapes for pleasure, and in this there is some crossover with private gardens.



dotted with mature oaks. "The private garden is about what owners wish to live with, and live in. It's a reflection of personalities and ways of life."

Barley's new garden in Britain will be the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens itself. Barley and his family are to live in a Georgian house next to the palace where Princess Augusta concocted the whole Kew Gardens idea.

from The Age Life & Style 29 June 2013 by Megan Backhouse

Barley, who finished up at Open Gardens Australia last week, says visiting private gardens, like botanic ones, is "an enriching experience, like going to a gallery". He sees Open Gardens Australia, which attracts about 200,000 people to 500 private gardens around the country each year, as another way to inspire people to value green elements in the urban landscape. "In a private garden you see the reflection of the personality of the garden-owner," says Barley, who himself has a relaxed 6000-square-metre garden

Garden Masterpieces of Italy & England & the Chelsea Flower Show

Featuring two horticultural experts

Richard Barley - Director of Kew Gardens' Horticulture, and former CEO of 'Open Gardens Australia'

John Patrick - Landscape architect & TV presenter for ABC's *Gardening Australia*

4 - 23 May 2014

20 DAYS IN ITALY AND ENGLAND:

Stresa (2 nights) • Bellagio (2 nights) • Florence (3 nights) • Siena (2 nights) • Lucca (1 night) • Oxford (5 nights) • Royal Tunbridge Wells (1 night) • London (3 nights)



All images from Kew Gardens, London

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Feature Hotel



Maids Head Hotel, Norwich

This beautiful hotel was originally built for the Cathedral adjacent to the hotel for Bishops travelling to the area, along with noble men and influential characters of the time. Being situated by the Norman Cathedral the hotel would have played a big part in local events of the area in its earlier history and was even used as a court for local hearings. Throughout its history the hotel has been a meeting place for the citizens of Norwich and travellers alike.

The Chefs create mouth-watering menus of local produce. The Jacobean oak panelled Maids Head Bar, surveilled by Norfolk famous sons and daughters including Horatio Nelson and Edith Cavell, serves a great choice of local real ales & cider as well as carefully selected international beers and lagers.

The Maids Head Hotel has a long history of famous guests and an interesting past:

1100: The Maids Head was built on the site of William the Conqueror's home. Originally named "The Murtle Fish" • **1287:** The Maids Head Bar was built • **1359:** Edward the 'Black Prince', the oldest son of King Edward III visited the Inn • **1520:** Cardinal Wolsey and Queen Catherine of Aragon stayed here. While Catherine sort council from the bishop of Norwich on how to conceive a boy for Henny VIII • **1525:** During the Kett's Rebellion, William Parr, the Marquis of Northampton, came to the City to bring the rebellion to an end. He took breakfast at the Maids Head. • **1536:** The Hotel now incorporates Thomas Anguish House which is today the hotels main reception and entrance area. • **1587:** Queen Elizabeth I visited Norwich and stayed at the Maids Head Hotel. To commemorate her visit the hotel was renamed "The Maids Head Hotel" • **1889:** Walter Rye took on the lease of the Hotel and turned his attention to restoring the building to its original state. • **1895:** Mr Henry L. Clark took over and installed electric lighting and electric bells • **1900:** During the Transvaal War The Maids Head became the headquarters for the 43rd and 44th Imperial Yeomanry Companies who volunteered their services for Queen and Country in the Boer War. • **1909:** Kind Edward VII visited the hotel.

Great Houses & Gardens of East Anglia

3 - 23 June 2014

Lecturers:

Richard & Margaret Heathcote

21 DAYS: Cambridge (4 nights) • King's Lynn (5 nights) • Norwich (5 nights) • Bury St Edmunds (6 nights)



Top: Old City where hotel is located , Bottom: Outdoor area

ASA, Melbourne Lectures in Association with the State Library of Victoria

Samarkand, Gur-i Amir, by Chris Wood



The Silk Route in World History

Sunday, 20 October 2013

Sunday, 27 October 2013

Saturday, 30 November 2013

Come to a series of illustrated lectures that explore the diverse economic, political, ethnic, religious, architectural and artistic interactions throughout the Silk Route.

The Silk Route – also known as the Silk Road – played a vital role in world history as an economic network. It was also an important zone where diverse peoples and their beliefs and cultures interacted.

These lectures address the Silk Route's history over millennia as well as its present role in the post-Soviet republics and the burgeoning powerhouse of China.



Sunday, 20 October 2013

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Mixed messages on the Silk Road

Speaker: Christopher Wood
Director, Australians Studying Abroad

This lecture explores the different ways in which the Silk Road today is portrayed to Western travellers and in Chinese tourism, as well as by the Central Asian republics in search of national narratives. It addresses the fascinating relationship of its past to its present from the perspective of world history.

[Book online for Mixed messages on the Silk Road](#)

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Venice, the Islamic world & the Silk Road

Speaker: Dr Stefano Carboni
Director, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Venice's prosperity over the centuries depended almost entirely on her role as Europe's gateway to the rich civilisations in the East, which were all accessible through the well-established Silk Road. The lecture will explore how exchange of cultural and artistic values blossomed along these routes, devoting special attention to Venice and the Islamic world in the Medieval period and Renaissance.

[Book online for Venice, the Islamic world & the Silk Road](#)

Sunday, 27 October 2013

1.00pm - 2.00pm

An Episode in the Great Game: a Russian playwright is murdered in Tehran in 1829

Dr Adrian Jones OAM
Assoc Professor of History La Trobe
University

How did Alexander Sergeevich Griboedov, author of *Woe from wit*, one of the finest classic farces in Russian literature, come to be murdered while on diplomatic service in Tehran?

[Book online for An episode in the great game](#)

2.30pm - 3.30pm

The Silk Route: a Buddhist Highway

Dr Alexander McKay
Former Lecturer, SOAS London

Discover how religions travelled freely on the Silk Road, with Indian Buddhist masters reaching China in the pre-Christian era, and oases like Dunhuang becoming Buddhist centres.

[Book online for The Silk Route: a Buddhist highway](#)



Saturday, 30 November 2013

1.00pm - 2.00pm

Power Dressing along the Silk Route: Robes, Robing and Statecraft

Dr Susan Scollay
State Library of Victoria Creative Fellow
2012-2013

This lecture explores the circulation of silk and associated goods along the greatest trade route in history. It addresses the symbolic value of luxurious robes and the widespread practice of ceremonial investiture.

[Book online for Power dressing along the Silk Route](#)

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Iran and the Silk Road

Iain Shearer
FRAS Research Associate, Institute of
Archaeology, University College London

From Cyrus the Great to Sogdian merchants and from Manichean priests to Parthian archers, Iranian speaking peoples have been integral to the development and utilisation of the great Silk Road. This lecture will examine the Silk Road from the perspective of Iranian speaking peoples and why these historic webs of networks could be as equally described as 'The Glass Road'.

[Book online for Iran & the Silk Road](#)



Individual or Series Bookings:

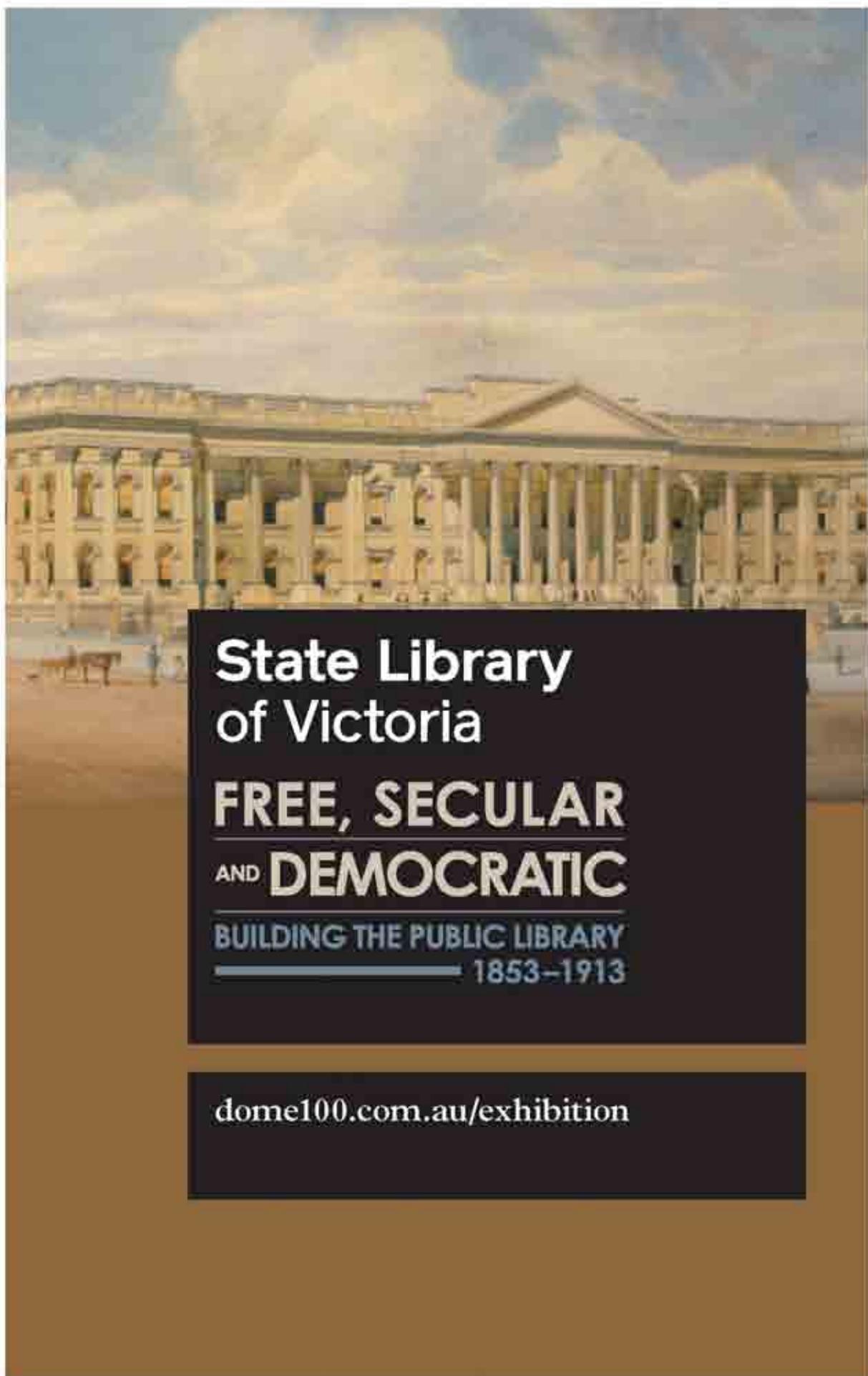
- \$20 for one lecture
- \$30 for a single afternoon of two lectures
- \$90 for the full series of six lectures.

Bookings are required for these lectures, and must be made via the State Library of Victoria. You may [book for the entire series](#) or for any of the individual lectures listed below. [Companion card](#) is accepted at State Library of Victoria events.

ASA would love to have you join us for these lectures but places are limited so please book early via the weblinks on our website www.asatours.com.au and click to 'Lectures & Events' or Phone State Library on 03 8664 7099 or Email inquiries@slv.vic.gov.au

ASA is pleased to offer these lectures in partnership with the State Library of Victoria.





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watercolour, gift of
Mr McEwan, 1965

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