



Tour Directory

2018/2019



TOUR CALENDAR

For Lectures, Special Events & Itineraries see:
www.asatours.com.au

Tour Price & Dates

Tour prices and dates are valid at time of publication of this brochure (May 2018), and are subject to change. All tour prices are in AUD, unless otherwise indicated.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018

28 Aug - 17 Sep	Discovering Le Grand Nord: Eastern Canada & Boston	7
04 Sep - 25 Sep	Crossroads of the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia	19
06 Sep - 24 Sep	Beyond Chocolate & Windmills: Cultural Treasures of the Low Countries	12
07 Sep - 25 Sep	Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal	10
11 Sep - 25 Sep	The Renaissance in Florence and Tuscany	14
11 Sep - 26 Sep	Cultural Landscapes of the Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne	13
18 Sep - 30 Sep	Berlin & Hamburg: Architecture and Design	27
20 Sep - 08 Oct	Art and Architecture in the USA: Chicago, Boston, New York	6
26 Sep - 05 Oct	Paris: The Great World City	12
27 Sep - 11 Oct	Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic	14
27 Sep - 11 Oct	Sicily and the Aeolian Islands	15

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018

01 Oct - 16 Oct	Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England	9
11 Oct - 26 Oct	Oman: Arabia's Ancient Emporium	22
12 Oct - 27 Oct	Southern Italy: Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast & the Treasures of Apulia	15
14 Oct - 03 Nov	Atacama to Patagonia: Chile's Natural World	7
17 Oct - 06 Nov	Iran: Art and Culture of the Persians	21
14 Nov - 29 Nov	Autumn & the Art of the Japanese Garden	25
17 Nov - 27 Nov	A Taste of Tasmania: Spring Gardens, Cradle Mountain & Gourmet Delights	24

DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019

28 Dec - 19 Jan	Ancient Kingdoms & Empires of Southern India	26
14 Jan - 25 Jan	Kingdoms of Coral, Karst & Cloves: A Voyage from Raja Ampat with SeaTrek Sailing Adventures	25
22 Jan - 12 Feb	Mughals, Rajputs & Villages: The Cultural Heritage of North India	26

MARCH - APRIL - MAY 2019

19 Mar - 09 Apr	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Morocco	23
23 Mar - 01 Apr	Victoria's Private Gardens and their Designers	24
27 Mar - 10 Apr	Cherry Blossom and the Art of the Japanese Garden	25
02 Apr - 24 Apr	Southern Charms and Comforts: A Literary Tour of the Deep South of the USA	7
14 Apr - 04 May	Roman Algeria, the Sahara & the M'Zab Valley	22
15 Apr - 01 May	Art and Architecture in California: Palm Springs, Los Angeles, The Big Sur & San Francisco	6
28 Apr - 15 May	An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik	17
29 Apr - 21 May	Gardens of Italy: The Italian Lakes, the Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria & Rome	13
01 May - 15 May	Bulgaria & the Black Sea: Painted Towns, Byzantine Monasteries & Thracian Treasures	16
05 May - 25 May	Landscapes, Art & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes	13
14 May - 24 May	Garden Masterpieces of England and the Chelsea Flower Show	9
14 May - 02 Jun	Gardens in Spanish Culture	11
15 May - 28 May	Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries	16
17 May - 06 Jun	A Journey through Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece and the Classical World	17
21 May - 03 Jun	Uzbekistan: The Silk Road Cities	21
24 May - 06 Jun	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands: Jersey, Guernsey, Herm, Burhou & Sark	9
28 May - 16 Jun	Great Castles, Country Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales	8
29 May - 10 Jun	Poland, the Heart of Europe: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun & Gdansk	16

JUNE - JULY 2019

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20 Jun - 04 Jul	A Designers Guide to the Gardens of England incl. the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show	8
22 Jun - 09 Jul	Iceland, Land of Ice and Fire: Myths, Legends and Landscapes	18

25 Jun - 09 Jul	Heritage Cities of the Baltic: Vilnius, Kaunas, Riga, Tartu & Tallinn	18
30 Jun - 15 Jul	Russia's Romantic Soul: Moscow, Novgorod & St Petersburg	19
24 Jul - 15 Aug	Once upon a time in Scandinavia: A Literary Tour of Sweden, Denmark & Norway	11

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2019

01 Sep - 22 Sep	The Silk Route: China & Kyrgyzstan	20
03 Sep - 16 Sep	Finland: Architecture and Design	27
03 Sep - 24 Sep	Crossroads of the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia	19
05 Sep - 23 Sep	Beyond Chocolate & Windmills: Cultural Treasures of the Low Countries	12
06 Sep - 24 Sep	Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal	10
09 Sep - 01 Oct	The Living Eden: Madagascar's Unique Flora & Fauna	23
10 Sep - 24 Sep	The Renaissance in Florence and Tuscany	14
11 Sep - 25 Sep	Art, Architecture and Music in Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg	11
12 Sep - 25 Oct	Paris: The Great World City	12
14 Sep - 25 Sep	Western Australia: Wildflowers, Wineries & Private Gardens of the South West	24
14 Sep - 03 Oct	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of South Africa	23
17 Sep - 29 Sep	Berlin & Hamburg: Architecture and Design	27
19 Sep - 08 Oct	Art and Architecture in the USA: Chicago, Boston, New York	6
24 Sep - 09 Oct	Cultural Landscapes of the Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne	13
26 Sep - 10 Oct	Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic	14
27 Sep - 18 Oct	Art and Culture in Spain	10

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

07 Oct - 22 Oct	Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England	9
12 Oct - 26 Oct	Southern Italy: Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast & the Treasures of Apulia	15
28 Oct - 09 Nov	Rome: Portrait of a City	14
29 Oct - 12 Nov	Sicily and the Aeolian Islands	15
30 Oct - 19 Nov	Iran: Art and Culture of the Persians	21
13 Nov - 28 Nov	Autumn & the Art of the Japanese Garden	25
16 Nov - 26 Nov	A Taste of Tasmania: Spring Gardens, Cradle Mountain & Gourmet Delights	24
26 Nov - 19 Dec	Egypt Explored: Across the Ages, from Alexandria to Abu Simbel	21

ABOUT ASA

ASA offers around 30-40 journeys each year to some 45 countries around the world. There is an average of 16-17 participants (and a maximum of 26) on any trip. A number of our tours, particularly our city-based tours, are limited to a maximum of 20 participants. ASA welcomes travellers from other countries. We already have regular travellers from New Zealand, Canada, Britain and the USA.

Why join an ASA Cultural Tour?

Broaden your understanding of human history in all its fascinating and colourful diversity on an ASA Cultural Tour. Expert lecturers will bring alive for you the monuments and sites included in the itinerary. They, and expert local guides, will provide comprehensive background talks and on-site commentaries, enriching your travel and cultural experience. ASA provides unique experiences not available to the ordinary traveller – access to private homes and palaces, talks by international experts, behind-the-scenes visits to museums, libraries, studios and archives. You will enjoy festivals, theatre performances, amazing dining experiences and other memorable highlights.

Why join an ASA Literary Tour?

Discover the places and people behind the books! Visiting places connected with literature brings the excitement of recognising homes and landscapes long familiar to the imagination, of connecting loved novels and poems with the lives and environments of their authors and seeing firsthand the countryside they described. An ASA Literary Tour includes writers' homes, seeing original manuscripts, theatre performances, museums, and much more. In gardens, ruins, castles, villages, churches and graveyards you will discover the effect of the environment on a writer and investigate the role played by a sense of place in literary creation.

Why join an ASA Cultural tour for Garden Lovers?

ASA garden tours are led by expert horticulturalists and offer the chance to visit exclusive and stunning gardens. They feature meetings with garden owners, head gardeners and internationally renowned landscape architects. Included in the garden tours are visits to stately homes and châteaux, to national parks, historic monuments, museums and vineyards. Many tours feature local festivals, some memorable culinary encounters, music and literary connections. You will discover the interactions between designers, artists, architects, writers and

landscape as you explore some of the most beautiful gardens in the world. A feast for the eye and the mind!

Well-researched, carefully crafted itineraries

True to ASA's pioneering role in the development of cultural tours, great thought and energy go into carefully researching our itineraries. These are always designed and developed in-house. Research begins with isolating a number of important themes to guide our teaching program. These are then taken into account when choosing guest lecturers, selecting site visits that tease out the themes, with special attention to privileged access to places that would not be available to most travellers. We also look for distinctive accommodation, interesting performances, and any fascinating festivals in the countries we visit. We prepare pre-tour resources, including reading material, and also research and write special handbooks for many tours, or find the most appropriate books to send to participants.

Special Events and privileged access to people and places

ASA's careful research and accumulated expertise offer you privileged access to places and experiences that are not available to most tourists. Tours often include visits to private palaces, villas, country houses and gardens hosted by their owners. They may include special 'behind the scenes' or 'out-of-hours' visits to famous museums and monuments that are usually packed during conventional visiting hours. We also have a huge network of local experts who have become 'friends of ASA'. Many are leaders in their field, like Eduardo Menco, Spain's most famous avant-garde gardener and garden writer.

Experienced, engaging, enthusiastic tour lecturers

ASA tour lecturers are noted not only for their broad knowledge and the expertise they bring to their tours, but also for their articulate, enthusiastic commitment to ASA's focus upon meaningful and enjoyable 'on the spot' learning. Our lecturers give comprehensive background talks and on-site commentaries in concert with international experts and local guides. Many of our lecturers have been leading tours from 10 to 30 years and over 40 years ASA has been privileged to work with some 500 local and international experts who are world leaders in their fields.

How our education programs work

Each tour demands a distinctive education program. On a number of tours your tour lecturer, or a local or international guest speaker, will give special illustrated talks in your hotel before or after a day's activities. These are supplemented or substituted by general talks or site briefings on your coach; these coach talks are especially important if an itinerary does not allow time for hotel lectures. We place special emphasis upon informed on-site commentary, which links the general themes of the tour and hotel talks to what you actually see. Where

available we use 'whisperers', individual units with earplugs that allow you to listen to the on-site commentary but also give you freedom to explore for yourself. These 'whisperers' are excellent when we are in a crowded site or if you are a little hard of hearing; ASA group members swear by them!

Educational and Practical Information

ASA is renowned for the wealth of educational and practical information published for tours. Handbooks and site notes written exclusively for ASA by experts often support a tour. Other tours are supported by compilations of important articles providing in-depth information. In some cases, we choose the most apposite reference books available, which you receive prior to departure. We also produce pre-tour reading lists and detailed practical information.

Accommodation

We take great care in selecting your accommodation. We prefer hotels in a very central location in walking distance to sites of interest and restaurants. Where possible we select hotels that complement the theme of each tour (including heritage hotels, boutique hotels with historical charm or 'design' themes). Examples include the famous Parador of Santiago de Compostela and the extraordinary London hotel designed by Philippe Starck.

Limited hotel changes

Wherever possible, tours hinge on a limited number of 'hubs' from which we make day trips. This means less moves and therefore less packing and unpacking and more time to achieve practical chores. It also allows you time to explore a place better, and enjoy personal interests, such as attending theatre and music performances.

Diverse culinary experiences

The full experience of a place involves all the senses: of sight, sound, fragrance, feel and taste. Our dedicated research team enjoys finding interesting ways to enhance your culinary delights. These may include Michelin-star restaurants, or establishments that are famous for their local cuisine, their design, and/or associations with famous people and events. On a range of tours you will enjoy visits to distinctive wineries or even foraging in local markets for a group picnic lunch.

Leisure time

All tours are planned to include leisure time. The amount of time varies from tour to tour, from half days at leisure to days that finish early. Leisure time occurs on days when interesting sites like museums are open or allows for visits to markets and souqs that lend themselves to individual exploration – or you may just want to sit in a café and 'people watch'.

LEADERS

Our professional and approachable lecturers are vital to ASA tours and are chosen with great care.

All our tour lecturers are experts in their fields (literature, art, gardens, history, architecture, etc), with many years of experience, publications and talks to their credit. They are adept in communicating their extensive knowledge, and eager to stimulate and enrich the travel experience for every tour participant. Each lecturer is also the tour leader, in charge of the itinerary and its educational content, providing you with information about the sites and museums you visit, while an expert tour manager takes care of the day-to-day logistics of the trip.

You will be joined on the tour by other guides with a specialised local knowledge – they add important information and colour to the itinerary. On an ASA tour you will be looked after all the way by experienced, caring, knowledgeable people who love to share with you their passion for cultural travel.



Juris Baltputnis

Born in West Germany to Latvian parents, Juris now resides in Riga. He studied Slavonic languages & Eastern European history, and completed a master's degree in Russian philology at the Uni. of Hamburg. Juris leads ASA's *Heritage Cities of the Baltic* tour.



Dr Joan Barclay Lloyd

Former Reader in Art History at LaTrobe University and world authority on Ancient Roman sites, Byzantine and medieval art. Joan now lives in Rome and continues to carry out research on the art and architecture of the city. Joan leads ASA's tour to Southern Italy.



Anneli Bojstad

Anneli has lived & worked in Spain for over 28 years writing on architecture, garden history & Spanish landscapes. She holds a BA in Art History (Stockholm Uni.) and a MA in Hispanic Studies (Complutense Uni., Madrid). She has led ASA's tours to Spain since 2008.



David Brand

David is an architect and heritage consultant, as well as a prominent inner Melbourne planning activist and city councillor. He teaches architectural & urban design and architectural history at the University of Melbourne. He leads ASA's *Art & Architecture in California* tour in 2019.



Shane Carmody

A library historian with a BA in History & Fine Arts, and a MA in History & Historical Urban Geography (Uni. of Toronto). Shane leads ASA's *Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England* with special access to private libraries & collections, and *Eastern Canada & Boston*.



Russell Casey

Russell is a dedicated traveller with a passion for the Middle East, Iran and Central Asia. He has studied French, German, Japanese, Arabic, Persian & Mandarin and has led ASA's Silk Road and Central Asian tours since 2009.



Stephen Crafti

A leading architecture and design writer with over 40 books & many articles for *The Age*, *Sydney Morning Herald* & *Wallpaper* magazine (London). He has pioneered ASA's new design tours to London, Paris, Tokyo, Belgium, Finland, Berlin & Hamburg.



Professor Tim Entwisle

Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Tim spent 2 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and 8 years as Executive Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust in Sydney. In 2019 he leads *Gardens in Spanish Culture*.



Jim Fogarty

Award-winning landscape designer and gardening media personality, with an extensive knowledge of contemporary garden design. A graduate of Burnley Horticultural College (Uni. Melb), Jim joined ASA in 2017. He leads garden tours to Japan and the UK.



Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works, both in Australia and overseas. She is currently leading literary tours to Scandinavia, USA & the UK.



Lucia Gahlin

A graduate of University College London, Lucia is an Honorary Research Associate of UCL's Institute of Archaeology. She has worked at Tell el-Amarna, Egypt, and at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, London. She has led tours to Egypt for 25 years.



Dr Christopher Gribbin

An Honorary Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Chris has a passion for the literature & architecture of the ancient world. He has run the University's Classics Summer School since 2002, and has led ASA's *An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik* since 2016.



Sabrina Hahn

ABC radio presenter & specialist in Australian & Mediterranean garden design, Sabrina has led many ASA garden tours to France, Italy, Spain & Morocco since 2008. In 2019 she leads garden tours to the UK & Western Australia.



Margaret Heathcote

Heritage architect with a Masters in Cultural Heritage (University of Leuven, Belgium) and former member of the London Philharmonia Chorus, Margaret brings her own special knowledge to tours with her husband, Richard.



Richard Heathcote

Director of Benefaction at Carrick Hill house & garden, author and ABC presenter, graduate of the Attingham Summer School & member of Royal Collections Studies group. He leads tours visiting stately homes & gardens in the UK.



David Henderson

Award-winning artist & Royal Academy graduate who paints for half the year in Europe. David brings an artist's eye & profound knowledge of European art to ASA tours, including *Paris: The Great World City*, and *Gardens of Italy*.



Emeritus Professor Bernard Hoffert

Art historian and artist, former World President of the International Assoc. of Art-UNESCO and Associate Dean of Art & Design, Monash Uni. Bernard established Monash art programs in Prato, Italy. He has led ASA tours to Europe & India since 1981.



Dr Adrian Jones, OAM

Associate Professor of History and the Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University. Adrian is a Harvard graduate and expert in Russian and Ottoman history. He joins ASA in 2019 to lead our tour to Russia.



Ann Keddle

An award-winning architect and landscape & urban designer, Ann has lectured at RMIT & Melbourne Universities. She has led ASA tours since 2004 including the Art and Architecture tour to the USA.

**Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom**

PhD in Education Sciences/Art History from the University of Seville, Spain, and a Master's degree in Contemporary Art History from the New University of Lisbon. Maria has lectured for ASA tours to Portugal since 2016.

**Professor Chris McAuliffe**

Professor in the School of Art & Design, ANU, Chris taught art history at Melbourne & Harvard. Former Director, Ian Potter Museum of Art (Uni. Melbourne), he has published widely on Australian & American art. He leads ASA's Art & Architecture tours to the USA.

**Associate Professor Alex McKay**

Seasoned traveller and well-published scholar from London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Alex enriches ASA's Silk Route (inc. China, Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan), Morocco and Oman tours with his profound experience and insights.

**Dr Katya Melamed**

Foremost Bulgarian Archaeologist specialising in burial practices from the Thracians to Christianity. Retired from the Bulgarian Inst. of Archaeology, she continues to direct excavations and publish widely in Bulgarian and English. ASA lecturer since 2005.

**Jeffrey Mellefont**

Research Associate, Australian National Maritime Museum & foundation staff member 1987–2014. He speaks Bahasa Indonesia & has published widely on the country's diverse maritime traditions. He leads ASA's small-ship cruises through the eastern Indonesian archipelago.

**Adrian Mialet**

History and art history graduate (University of Toulouse) and National Tour Guide for the prehistory museum of Les Eyzies & the caves of Lascaux II, Cap Blanc, Font de Gaume, Combarelles, Ariège & Cantal. Adrian has lectured for ASA since 2012.

**Davit Naskidashvili**

Lecturer, Institute of Archaeology, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State Uni. Davit, whose PhD focuses on the Greek colonisation of the Black Sea coast, has worked on archaeological sites in Azerbaijan & Georgia. He first joined ASA as a lecturer for the Caucasus in 2017.

**Professor Heather O'Donoghue**

Fellow of Linacre College, University of Oxford; and world authority on Old Norse-Icelandic literature, and its influence on later poets and authors. Heather has also published on contemporary fiction. She joins ASA in 2018 to lead our tour to Iceland.

**Dr Uldis Ozolins**

Born in Latvia, Uldis is a past Australasian President of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies and active researcher and commentator on contemporary Baltic issues. Uldis joined ASA as lecturer for *Heritage Cities of the Baltic* in 2004.

**John Patrick**

Garden designer, prolific author, radio and former TV presenter for *Gardening Australia*. John founded the Australian Open Garden Scheme. He initiated ASA's garden tours and has led over 40 tours to Europe, Asia & the USA since 2003.

**Dr Iva Rosario**

Czech-born Prague resident & world authority on Bohemian culture during the reign of Emperor Charles IV. Iva has lectured on ASA tours to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria & Poland since 1998.

**Stephen Ryan**

Horticulturalist, nurseryman, collector, prolific writer and award-winning broadcaster. Stephen has brought his profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in France & New Zealand since 2009. In 2019 he leads tours to Morocco & Madagascar.

**Emeritus Professor Frank Sear**

World-renowned architectural historian who directed the Australian Pompeii Project & Australian Roman Theatres Project (Italy, France & Jordan). Frank has lectured for ASA in Rome, Southern Italy, Sicily, Malta, Croatia & Greece since 2011.

**Dr Rudolf Thomann**

PhD (Hamburg) in Natural Sciences, Rudolf is an expert in Chile's flora and fauna & eco-tourism. He has completed environmental projects in the Andean Altiplano, Torres del Paine and San Pedro de Atacama. He first lectured for ASA in 2007.

**Deryn Thorpe**

Award-winning print and radio garden journalist, founder of Open Gardens WA and Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association. Deryn has led garden tours since 2004. She leads ASA garden tours to Tasmania and Victoria, as well as Europe.

**Paul Urquhart**

Author of several books incl. *The New Native*; former Editor of *Your Garden* & gardening editor of *House and Garden* and *Better Homes and Gardens*. Paul leads ASA's garden tour to the south of France in 2019.

**Dr Nicholas Vlahogiannis**

Senior Fellow in the School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, Uni of Melb. He taught Ancient History & Classical Studies at the University of Melbourne & University of Surrey (UK). An ASA lecturer since 1995, he leads our tour to Greece in 2019.

**John Weretka**

Musician and Melbourne University musicology and art history teacher with degrees in medieval history, musicology, art history, theology and Latin. John has led ASA's tours to Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands since 2015.

**Christopher Wood (Director)**

Founded ASA (1977) after teaching at Melbourne & La Trobe Universities. He has led over 160 tours, pioneered cultural tourism & written books, chapters & articles on architectural history & tourism. He currently leads tours to Romania.

**Steve Wood**

Australian horticultural talkback radio and gardening TV presenter with more than 40 years' experience in wholesale nursery production. Together with Sabrina Hahn, Steve will lead ASA's new tour to Western Australia in 2019.

LECTURE SERIES

Explore the world in illustrated public lectures hosted by Australians Studying Abroad. For all lectures, places are limited and people wishing to attend are advised to book well in advance. We cannot guarantee that you will be able to obtain seats at the door on the day. For details and reservations please visit www.asatours.com.au





ART & ARCHITECTURE IN CALIFORNIA PALM SPRINGS, LOS ANGELES, THE BIG SUR & SAN FRANCISCO

15 April - 1 May 2019

Lecturer: Prof. Chris McAuliffe



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$12,680.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$12,880.00 Land Content Only
\$2980.00 Single Supplement

Professor Chris McAuliffe (School of Art & Design, ANU) leads this tour, which focuses on California's world-famous museums, great urban and desert architecture, remarkable gardens, and magnificent coastlines. We begin with Palm Springs' stark desert landscape and exuberant heritage-listed modernist architecture, including a specially designed tour with Robert Imber, renowned local historian, author and founding member of the Palm Springs Modernism Committee. We gain rare access to extraordinary homes by noted architects, including Albert Frey's House II and the historic Sunnylands Estate designed by A. Quincy Jones. We enjoy fascinating art installations in natural and curated desert landscapes and retro-style accommodation at the Parker Palm Springs Hotel. In Los Angeles, we visit major art museums including the new Broad Art Museum, the Getty Center and Getty Villa, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the LA County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Huntington. We explore famed modernist homes designed by Charles and Ray Eames, Pierre Koenig and Rudolph Schindler; and Arts and Crafts masterpieces by Greene & Greene and Frank Lloyd Wright. We also visit Robert Irwin's unique artist-designed garden (Getty Centre) and the remarkable Huntington Desert Garden. We visit the remarkably eccentric Hearst Castle and tour coastal Monterey, Carmel and Big Sur that Jack Kerouac characterised as "fields the color of love and Spanish mysteries". Links to literature and cinema include John Steinbeck, Orson Welles and Fritz Lang. Australian landscape designer Bernard Trainor, whose gardens honour California's spirit, will present his inspirational projects in the Monterey Bay area. San Francisco's outstanding art collections include the Cantor Arts Center & Rodin Collection at Stanford, the newly expanded SFMOMA, and Herzog and de Meuron's de Young Museum. Golden Gate and Presidio parks offer urban history, Bay Area vistas and outdoor art. We end with Frank Lloyd Wright's space-age Marin County Civic Center; Thomas Church's definitive 'California Style' Modernist garden, El Novillero; and lunch at a winery in the Sonoma Valley.

17 DAYS Palm Springs (2 nights) • Los Angeles (6 nights) • Cambria (1 night) • Monterey (2 nights) • San Francisco (5 nights)

ART & ARCHITECTURE IN THE USA CHICAGO, BOSTON, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, WASHINGTON DC & 'FALLINGWATER'

20 September - 8 October 2018
19 September - 8 October 2019

Lecturer: Prof. Chris McAuliffe



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$12,180.00 Land Content Only
\$3890.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$12,480.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$12,680.00 Land Content Only
\$3980.00 Single Supplement

Chris McAuliffe (School of Art & Design, ANU) leads this tour, which focuses on art and architecture in four great American cities, with carefully planned walking tours to historic sites and visits to some of the world's finest museums. Most evenings are at leisure to take advantage of America's world-renowned performing arts venues and restaurants. We begin with Chicago's extraordinary 19th- and 20th-century architecture. Excursions include visits to Frank Lloyd Wright's studio and home in Oak Park and Mies van der Rohe's 1951 Farnsworth House in Plano. An architectural cruise on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan provides spectacular panoramas of the city. We visit the famous Chicago Art Institute, home to Georges Seurat's *La Grand Jatte* and the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art. In historic Boston we visit centres of learning and art. We take a tour of the Boston Public Library, the architecturally diverse MIT campus and Harvard University's Art Museums. We visit the Institute of Contemporary Art and the splendid Museum of Fine Arts. Our 6-day New York sojourn includes Central Park and the Rockefeller Center, the New York Public Library, Times Square, 9/11 Memorial Site and the High Line – an elevated freight rail line triumphantly transformed into a public park. We visit Manhattan's distinctive local neighbourhoods and some of the world's grandest museums: the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum, the new Whitney Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. We travel south to the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, with the world's finest collection of Impressionists and early Modernists, and visit the great national monuments and museums of Washington DC, including the National Gallery, Phillips Collection and Smithsonian Museum of American History. We end with a visit to Frank Lloyd Wright's most famous private house, *Fallingwater*, near Pittsburgh.

2018: 19 DAYS Chicago (4 nights) • Boston (3 nights) • New York (6 nights) • Washington DC (4 nights) • Farmington (1 night)

2019: 20 DAYS Chicago (4 nights) • Boston (3 nights) • New York (6 nights) • Washington DC (4 nights) • Farmington (1 night) • Pittsburgh (1 night)

SOUTHERN CHARMS & COMFORTS

A LITERARY TOUR OF THE DEEP SOUTH OF THE USA



2 - 24 April 2019

Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton

Leader: Russell Casey



The 'Deep South' – the words conjure up images of elegant plantation homes, cotton fields, Negro spirituals and Spanish moss dripping from the trees. However, the 'Deep South' is also famed for its writers. It is *Gone with the Wind* country, the land of Br'er Rabbit and the Tar-Baby, the place where Atticus Finch fought racism in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and where the maidservants of *The Help* find a voice and use it. Pulitzer and Nobel-prize winner William Faulkner was a product of Mississippi and this tour will include a visit to Rowan Oak, his refuge from the world. Margaret Mitchell worked as a reporter on the Atlanta papers, and the tales her grandmother told her on the porch inspired a fascination for the Civil War, which led her to create Scarlett O'Hara. This tour includes visits to the flat where she wrote her record-breaking novel; the region where she situated Tara; a *Gone with the Wind* museum; and libraries containing important Margaret Mitchell documents. Gracious Savannah is home to *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and was also where poet Conrad Aiken suffered tragedy in his childhood; Alice Walker grew up in Eatonton and drew on the history of that town for *The Color Purple*; and Tennessee Williams travelled on a streetcar named 'Desire' in New Orleans. Other writers explored during the tour include Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Eudora Welty, Richard Wright, Flannery O'Connor, Truman Capote, Erskine Caldwell and many more. Many excellent libraries will be welcoming us to view their collections – these include outstanding archives of papers and memorabilia by John Grisham, W.B. Yeats, and many other writers. There will even be a Presidential library to visit – that of Jimmy Carter in Georgia. Throughout the tour we will be joined by specialist guides and curators, and even by relatives of the writers we discuss. This is an historical tour as well as a literary one – there will be Civil War sites, places connected with slavery, museums and exhibitions about the race riots of the 1950s and 60s, grand plantation homes and colonial towns. There will be fine Southern food and hospitality, music and theatre and a rich variety of landscapes to enjoy.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$13,390.00 Land Content Only; \$2590.00 Single Supplement

23 DAYS GEORGIA Savannah (3 nights) • Milledgeville (2 nights) • Atlanta (4 nights) • Fayetteville (1 night) • ALABAMA Montgomery (3 nights) • MISSISSIPPI Columbus (2 nights) • Oxford (2 nights) • Jackson (1 night) • Natchez (2 nights) • LOUISIANA New Orleans (2 nights)

EASTERN CANADA & BOSTON

DISCOVERING LE GRAND NORD



28 August - 17 September 2018

Lecturer: Shane Carmody



Featuring a 7-day Holland America Cruise of Canada & New England

This tour travels through northeastern America during Fall so that you can enjoy the wonderful autumnal hues of the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Québec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the US states of Maine and Massachusetts. A special highlight is a seven-day Canada and New England cruise on the Holland America Line ship, *MS Veendam*. Sailing from Montréal, this voyage features magnificent coastal scenery and fascinating historic ports of call, including Sydney, Charlottetown and Halifax. It takes in natural wonders like the St Lawrence River, Prince Edward and Cape Breton Islands, and Acadia National Park. Savour the ambience of a number of distinctive cities: in Canada we visit Toronto, the country's leading modern commercial centre; Ottawa, its showcase capital with splendid monuments and public buildings; Montréal, a cosmopolitan metropolis with a distinct French feel; and Québec City, a UNESCO-listed city that remains a bastion of a rich and vibrant French-Canadian culture. In the US we visit Boston, crucible of the American War of Independence. We explore each of these cities' historic cores. We visit impressive historic sites, including the citadels of Québec and Halifax, and take a tour of Ottawa's Parliament Hill. Featuring throughout the program are visits to great museums, such as the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, the Musée de la Civilisation in Québec City, the Musée de l'Archeologie et d'Histoire de Montréal, the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. In Québec, local historian David Mendel will introduce his city in a morning lecture, followed by a walking tour of the old town and a special lunch at the exclusive Garrison Club. We also visit Niagara Falls, taste the famous Canadian Ice Wine at Inniskillin Winery and enjoy a leisurely afternoon tea at Ottawa's landmark Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$11,480.00 Land Content Only; \$3380.00 Single Supplement

21 DAYS Toronto (4 nights) • Ottawa (3 nights) • Québec City (2 nights) • Montréal (2 nights) • Cruise (7 nights) • Boston (2 nights)

ATACAMA TO PATAGONIA

CHILE'S NATURAL WORLD



14 October - 3 November 2018

Lecturers: John Patrick & Dr Rudolf Thomann



Chilean author Isabel Allende writes of her homeland: "This elongated country is like an island, separated on the north from the rest of the continent by the Atacama Desert – the driest in the world.... To the east rises the cordillera of the Andes, a formidable mass of rock and eternal snows, and to the west the abrupt coastline of the Pacific Ocean. Below, to the south, lie the solitudes of Antarctica. This nation of dramatic topography and diverse climates, studded with capricious obstacles and shaken by the sighs of hundreds of volcanoes, a geological miracle between the heights of the cordillera and the depths of the sea, is unified top to tail by the obstinate sense of nationhood of its inhabitants".

Join John Patrick, former presenter for ABC's *Gardening Australia*, and Chilean native Dr Rudolf Thomann, a natural scientist, as they explore the full range of this extraordinary country: the rock formations and prehistoric villages of the Atacama; its sublime Andean mountain scenery; the fertile centre with its sophisticated cities, Santiago, Valparaíso and Valdivia; the dramatic coastline and awe-inspiring southern mountain landscapes of Patagonia. We observe Chile's remarkable, diverse flora that has been celebrated in 400 years of manicured landscapes laid out by gardeners from Chile, Spain, Germany, England and France. In addition to privileged access to private gardens that reflect Chile's lively contemporary garden culture, we visit the eccentric houses of Chile's greatest poet, the colourful Pablo Neruda, hear marvellous stories which inspired Isabel Allende and visit fine museums displaying magnificent pre-Columbian art, historic villages, old Spanish fortresses and vibrant artisan markets. Like Charles Darwin, we shall explore great forests and experience Chile's unique flora and fauna within dramatic coastal and mountain settings. We shall meet the Mapuche, the indigenous people, and enjoy their music, dance, costumes and culture. As we journey through this enchanting country we sample distinctive cuisine and enjoy the fine wines for which Chile is famed.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$13,180.00 Land Content Only; \$3390.00 Single Supplement

6-Day Easter Island Extension: \$2980.00 Land Content Only; \$490.00 Single Supp

21 DAYS Santiago (4 nights) • Zapallar (2 nights) • Viña del Mar (2 nights) • San Pedro de Atacama (2 nights) • Santiago (1 night) • Pucón (2 nights) • Puerto Varas (3 nights) • Torres del Paine National Park (3 nights) • Santiago (1 night)



GREAT CASTLES, COUNTRY HOUSES & GARDENS OF YORKSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE & WALES

28 May - 16 June 2019

Lecturer: Richard Heathcote
Leader: Margaret Heathcote



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,180.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$11,380.00 Land Content Only
\$2190.00 Single Supplement

Richard Heathcote, Director of Benefaction at Carrick Hill, Adelaide, leads a tour through dramatic and picturesque locations to explore the ways in which British identity has been moulded by her histories and landscapes. We visit medieval castles, country houses and gardens, many by exclusive private invitation, from the late Middle Ages, Tudor, Elizabethan, Jacobean, and Georgian periods to the Arts and Crafts Movement. Dales and vales frame picturesque villages, spa towns and historic cities as we travel through more than half a dozen counties. History, laced with eccentricity, will be explored in our travels to the Sitwell family home at Renishaw, grand Chatsworth House, spectacular Fountains Abbey, Newby Hall, Castle Howard and Harewood House. We experience richly timbered Elizabethan dwellings like Little Moreton Hall, York's finest Georgian town house (Fairfax House) and sublime Minster. In Derbyshire we explore the stunning Peak District and James Bateman's amazing Victorian garden at Biddulph Grange; unearth the genesis of industrial England at Quarry Bank Mill; and dine at the Michelin-star Fischer's Baslow Hall. From medieval and Roman-walled Chester we visit the revitalised port city of Liverpool, where we view the Walker Art Gallery's world-class fine art collection. Our journey through the wild beauty of North Wales includes a cogwheel train to the summit of Mount Snowdon and a study of the region's rich archaeological heritage with visits to Anglesey Island – last stronghold of the Celtic Druids – and Edward I's magnificently preserved castles at Conwy, Harlech and Caernarfon. It is no surprise that so many great BBC series, including *Pride and Prejudice*, *Brideshead Revisited* and *All Creatures Great and Small* were filmed in places we visit, for this tour offers a stunning visual feast of the best of England with a dash of delightfully dramatic Wales. We stay in several heritage hotels including the Old Hall Hotel Buxton, Portmeiron village, designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and the National Trust's Bodysgallen Estate in Conwy county.

20 DAYS York (6 nights) • Buxton (4 nights) • Chester (3 nights) • Portmeiron (3 nights) • Conwy (3 nights)

Combine with Gardens of Italy (29 Apr - 21 May 19) • Landscapes, Art & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes (5 - 25 May 19) • Garden Masterpieces of England & the Chelsea Flower Show (14 - 24 May 19) • Romania (15 - 28 May 19) • Gardens of England incl. the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (20 Jun - 4 Jul 19)

A DESIGNER'S GUIDE TO THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND INCL. THE RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW

20 June - 4 July 2019

Lecturer: Jim Fogarty



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,790.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$10,990.00 Land Content Only
\$2780.00 Single Supplement

Award-winning Australian landscape architect Jim Fogarty leads this contemporary garden tour of southern England. We visit magnificent gardens near Oxford, Bath, Winchester, Brighton and Windsor and attend the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show with fireworks on the celebrated preview evening. Throughout, we discover exemplary gardens showcasing the modern romantic style of contemporary colour schemes and perennial herbaceous borders. This tour visits England's finest contemporary private gardens designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, including Broughton Grange, Brockhampton Cottage, Grendon Court, Moor Hatches Garden and his own gardens at Serge Hill & The Barn. We also explore traditional masterpieces that continue to inspire modern designers at Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate, Great Dixter, Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst, and Gertrude Jekyll's Manor House Garden. We visit Alasdair Forbes' incredible modern garden at Plaz Metaxu, a concept garden of poetic symbolism; and Dutch pioneer Piet Oudolf's work at world-famous Hauser and Wirth, where the art gallery and sculptures are set amongst swathes of Oudolf's new perennials. We compare Oudolf's naturalistic planting with Christopher Bradley-Hole's minimalism in two unique gardens at Bury Court. Juliette Mead cooks lunch for us at Moor Hatches, a Tom Stuart-Smith garden rarely opened to the public. On a special visit to Crockmore House Gardens we meet owner The Honourable Julia Kirkham with a visit to Orchard Dean Nursery, supplier of many of her plants. At Thorougham Court Garden, we visit Dr Christine Facer's modern science-inspired 'laboratory' garden. After we explore Tintern Abbey, Anne Wareham's modern Veddw Gardens on the Welsh borders welcome us with big confident sweeps of plants and hedging patterns. Be inspired by the exemplary plantings at Pettifers Garden, Bramdean House, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's Shute House and Marylyn Abbott's West Green House and Gardens. Mark Straver of Hortus Loci nursery tells us about growing plants for some of the world's greatest designers, and Andy Sturgeon, one of Britain's most acclaimed contemporary garden designers, explains what inspires his work. At Sussex Prairie Garden, wander through swathes of herbaceous perennials and at Waltham Place enjoy Henrik Gerritsen's Dutch influenced plantings sourced from Piet Oudolf's nursery in the Netherlands.

15 DAYS Oxford (3 nights) • Bath (3 nights) • Winchester (2 nights) • Brighton (3 nights) • Windsor (3 nights)

Combine with Great Castles, Country Houses & Gardens of Yorkshire, Derbyshire & Wales (28 May - 16 Jun 19)

NATURAL LANDSCAPES & GARDENS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS



24 May - 6 June 2019
Lecturer: Sabrina Hahn



Sabrina Hahn, horticulturalist, garden designer and gardening commentator on ABC 720 Perth, leads this unique tour exploring the history, gardening and horticultural heritage of the Channel Islands. Jersey, Guernsey, Herm, Alderney and Sark, remains of a vast primordial volcanic crater, are warmed by the Gulf Stream. They possess dynamic ecosystems, each with an incredible variety of flora and fauna; in spring the cliff-tops are covered with wildflowers and subtropical gardens are bursting with colour. The islands' distinctive histories, cultures and geography set them apart not only from France and England but also from each other. Although British citizens, the islands' inhabitants are not ruled by Westminster, having governed themselves since the 13th century. From Jersey, the 'Floral Island', we continue to Guernsey, our base to visit Sark, Burhou and Herm. We visit a wide variety of private gardens many featured in *Hidden Gardens of the Channel Islands* including Grey Gables, La Maison des Prés, St Ouen's Manor and Sark's La Seigneurie walled garden. The wildflower meadow at Le Noir Pré explodes into colour in May with over 40,000 orchids; we'll tour the Eric Young Orchid Foundation. We cruise from Alderney to view the Atlantic Puffin colony on Burhou Island. Among many guest speakers, Mike Stentiford introduces his island's abundant birdlife, Dr Lee Durrell discusses her husband Gerald's legacy at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and the conservator of the La Hougue Bie Museum shows us the 'Jersey Hoard', a vast collection of Iron Age and Roman coins. During World War II, the islands were occupied by Germany. We explore the Jersey War Tunnels, a 1-kilometre network built by POWs as an ammunition store and converted into an underground hospital. On Guernsey we visit Hauteville House, where Victor Hugo wrote *Les Misérables*. On Jersey we visit the Glass Church of St Matthew for which René Lalique created extraordinary doors, font, screen and altar. We sample Jersey's famous cheese, ice cream, hand-picked crab, Guernsey's *gâche* (a special bread made with raisins, sultanas and peel), and Sark's famous lobster.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$6790.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$6990.00 Land Content Only; \$1550.00 Single Supplement

14 DAYS Jersey (6 nights) • Guernsey (7 nights)

Combine with Gardens of Italy (29 Apr - 21 May 19) • Garden Masterpieces of England & the Chelsea Flower Show (14 - 24 May 19)

GARDEN MASTERPIECES OF ENGLAND AND THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW



14 - 24 May 2019
Lecturer: Sabrina Hahn



This exciting program combines a day at the renowned Chelsea Flower Show and a visit to the Garden Museum with a tour to some of England's finest country houses and gardens. Restored Bourton House won the prestigious HHA/Christie's 'Garden of the Year Award' in 2006. Sezincote's oriental gardens complement S.P. Cockerell's fascinating 'Indian' house. Designed by Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, Broughton Grange represents one of the most significant private contemporary gardens in Britain. Pettifers Garden stylishly combines the Dutch Wave movement with 'English prettiness' in a townhouse garden by owner Gina Price. Scientist and architect Christine Facer Hoffman has appended to her 17th-century house her own experimental garden that creates spatial narratives based upon number sequences found in nature. Rousham's interiors are extraordinarily well preserved; it's been owned by the Dormer family since 1635 and has fine landscaped gardens laid out by William Kent. Great Dixter is famous for its plantings established by Christopher Lloyd and Sissinghurst is the beloved masterpiece of Vita Sackville West. At West Green House Gardens Marylyn Abbott has reconciled her Australian gardening heritage, dominated by brilliant light, with England's softer, more muted atmosphere. Ightham Mote, meanwhile, is a wonderful example of a small medieval moated manor house, located within a peaceful garden surrounded by woodland. In these and other fine gardens we explore the initial influence of Italian formalism, 18th-century reactions against formal Italian and French modes by English landscape gardeners, the reversion to more formal styles in the second half of the 19th century, and the personal influences of that century's famous garden designers. Special highlights include a planned visit to Highgrove, where HRH The Prince of Wales has created some of the most inspired and innovative gardens in the United Kingdom and a tour of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture. We also enjoy lovely Cotswold villages such as Stow-on-the-Wold, stately Tunbridge Wells, and learn about the development of the English country house.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7290.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$7490.00 Land Content Only; \$1960.00 Single Supplement

11 DAYS Oxford (6 nights) • Royal Tunbridge Wells (1 night) • London (3 nights)

Combine with Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands (24 May - 6 Jun 19) • Great Castles, Country Houses & Gardens of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales (28 May - 16 Jun 19)

GREAT LIBRARIES & STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND



1 - 16 October 2018; 7 - 22 October 2019
Lecturer: Shane Carmody



Books are crucial expressions of English culture and the country's most distinguished architects have built fine libraries to house them. This tour visits England's greatest libraries, viewing their treasures and exploring their social, intellectual, religious and architectural settings. Private tours with librarians and curators introduce exceptional collections incorporating rare medieval manuscripts and priceless first editions. We discover ecclesiastical halls, university colleges, palaces and country houses, architectural masterpieces by Christopher Wren, William Kent, Sir John Soane, Sir Charles Barry and James Gibbs that incorporate libraries. In London we visit the British Library, the Guildhall Library and the House of Lords, Lambeth Palace and Westminster Abbey. Special highlights include our visit to Kew Gardens and its specialist botanical collections with Director of Horticulture Richard Barley, and a taste of literary London at our Welcome Dinner in the Garrick Club's Library. The club's membership is a roll call of great authors and it was the scene of a famous quarrel between two of its greatest – Dickens and Thackeray. We travel to East Anglia, visiting Anglesey Abbey and Lord Fairhaven's remarkable collection of rare and fine books; Ely Cathedral; and the great collections of the University of Cambridge. These include Magdalene College's Library of Samuel Pepys; St John's College's 17th-century reading room; Trinity College's Christopher Wren Library; the Fitzwilliam Museum's great art and illuminated manuscripts and the Parker Library's precious medieval books. We tour Oxford's Bodleian, Britain's oldest university library, and the Merton College Library. Special private visits to palaces and country houses include Ham House, an unchanged 17th-century residence with the earliest surviving private library, and Holkham Hall, William Kent's elegant Palladian country house. Wormsley Park, Sir Paul Getty's former home houses one of the finest private collections in the country and the Rothschilds' Waddesdon Manor has a remarkable collection of French books. We end our journey in grand style, with a visit to Windsor Castle and a special tour of Eton College's rare book and manuscript library.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$10,580.00 Land Content Only; \$2,890.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,490.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Dec 18)
\$10,690.00 Land Content Only; \$2990.00 Single Supplement

16 DAYS London (5 nights) • Cambridge (5 nights) • Oxford (4 nights) • Windsor (1 night)



SILVER COAST & GOLDEN RIVER ART, ARCHITECTURE & CULTURE OF PORTUGAL

7 - 25 September 2018
6 - 24 September 2019

Lecturer: Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$8490.00 Land Content Only
\$1990.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8590.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$8790.00 Land Content Only
\$1990.00 Single Supplement

Explore Portugal's eventful history, encompassing struggles against its powerful neighbour Spain, conquests by North African Muslims and the Christian reconquest, and learn how this tiny nation carved out a global empire. We wander through beautiful villages and fortress towns, explore grand palaces and gardens and visit fine churches and monasteries decorated in the unique 'Manueline' style; its encrustations of ropes, coral, anchors and seashells signify the country's imperial maritime past. We also encounter the intricate Portuguese Flamboyant Gothic in such masterpieces as royal tombs at Alcobaça and view walls of rich blue and white tiles, Portugal's counter to imports of Chinese porcelain. We journey through picturesque landscapes to explore Portugal's prehistoric monuments, a stone circle at Os Almendres and an Iron Age hill-fort at Citânia de Briteiros. We also gauge the impact of the Roman Empire at Évora and the abandoned city of Conímbriga, and at the imposing remains of Mérida, now across the frontier in Spain but formerly capital of Roman Portugal. The 12th-century cradle of the Portuguese kingdom is Guimarães, with pretty medieval houses and a fine castle. Captured from the Arabs by Christian crusaders in 1147, Lisbon has long been the nation's capital. This charming city, built on seven hills along the river Tagus (Rio Tejo), has two outstanding museums: the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Throughout our journey we visit romantic castles and ornate palaces: Marvão, Tomar, Queluz, Sintra and the Templar castle of Almourol. Highlights include the Baroque library in the University of Coimbra, and the Cistercian Abbey of Alcobaça, the country's greatest medieval architectural complex. Solar de Mateus is Portugal's best-known 18th-century manor house – it appears on the rosé wine label! We end in Porto, with its UNESCO World Heritage quayside on the river Douro, from which it exported its famous fortified wine. We sample Portugal's fine cuisine, enjoy a musical performance at one of Lisbon's splendid venues, and stay in charming heritage hotels. These include the Convento de São Paulo, a converted 10th-century monastery decorated with *azulejos* (glazed tiles); the Pousadas of Marvão and Guimarães; combined with 4/5-star heritage hotels in Coimbra, Lisbon and Porto.

19 DAYS Lisbon (6 nights) • Redondo (2 nights) • Marvão (1 night) • Tomar (3 nights) • Coimbra (1 night) • Guimarães (2 nights) • Porto (3 nights)

Combine with 2018: Paris (26 Sep - 5 Oct 18) • Venice (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18) • Sicily & Aeolian Is (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18); 2019: Midi Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19)

ART AND CULTURE IN SPAIN

27 September - 18 October 2019

Lecturer: Anneli Bojstad



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,290.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$11,490.00 Land Content Only
\$2750.00 Single Supplement

Author and art curator Anneli Bojstad presents a comprehensive view of Spain's unique history through its distinctive art and architecture. At the Great Mosque of Córdoba and in Granada's Alhambra we encounter medieval Islam's architectural treasures, and in Seville's great cathedral and alcázar we see how this Muslim heritage influenced Christian monarchs and their builders. In the whitewashed town of Ronda we visit the old Muslim baths and Spain's second oldest bullring. No one can truly comprehend the distinctive Iberian interaction of Judaism, Islam and Christianity without exploring Toledo's fascinating cathedral, churches, local mosques, ancient synagogues and palaces, monasteries and old houses. We also trace the importance of the Iberian peninsula during antiquity with visits to the Roman ruins of Itálica and Segovia's great aqueduct. Cervantes mocked the martial spirit of the Christian reconquest of Spain – we will see Consuegra's windmills, which Don Quixote took to be dragons. His eccentricities signify a unique, enduring gesturalism that grew from the Reconquista, which we further explore in Barcelona through the extraordinary architectural fantasies of Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Família and Casa Milà, and in Joan Miró's gestural automatist paintings in the Miró Foundation. We also attend a performance at the Palau de la Música Catalana, Montaner's Catalan modernista concert hall, a masterpiece with an impressive stained-glass skylight in shades of gold and blue. The quirkiness of Gaudí, Miró, Dalí and Picasso contrasts to a strain of literalism and realism which we'll trace in Seville's golden age paintings by Zurbarán and Murillo, and in the Prado's unforgettable masterpieces by Diego Velázquez. We see how Spain's visual genius moulded a modern sensibility through the prescient work of Goya and Picasso's heroic painting *Guernica*. Pablo Picasso was born in Málaga in 1881; we visit the museum dedicated to his work, and the new branch of Paris' famous Pompidou Centre, with a fine collection of 20th-century art, including works by Robert Delauney, Wassily Kandinsky, Fernand Léger, René Magritte and Frida Kahlo. We shall dine in a lovely old garden restaurant overlooking the Alhambra at sunset, and in Segovia and Toledo, experience Spanish hospitality at grand urban palaces as their owners welcome us into their homes.

22 DAYS Seville (4 nights) • Ronda (1 night) • Málaga (2 nights) • Granada (2 nights) • Toledo (3 nights) • Segovia (1 night) • Madrid (3 nights) • Barcelona (5 nights)

Combine with Caucasus (3 - 24 Sep 19) • Belgium & Netherlands (5 - 23 Sep 19) • Portugal (6 - 24 Sep 19) • Florence & Tuscany (10 - 24 Sep 19) • Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg (11 - 25 Sep 19)

GARDENS IN SPANISH CULTURE



14 May - 2 June 2019

Lecturers: Professor Tim Entwisle & Anneli Bojstad



Join Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and Anneli Bojstad, author of *Great Gardens of Spain*, on a tour which explores Spain's distinctive gardening tradition. This is a tradition which has been shaped both by the country's great climatic diversity and its powerful Islamic heritage. The tour places special emphasis upon meetings with Spain's top landscape designers and garden owners, showcasing a carefully curated selection of private gardens. Famed Spanish landscape designer Eduardo Menco, author of *Hidden Gardens of Spain*, will welcome us at his family farm in Extremadura. Talented design duo Miguel Urquijo and Renate Kastner will show us their restoration of a private palace garden in Toledo with magnificent views of the Cathedral, and an exciting new garden near the walled city of Ávila. In Madrid, Fernando Martos introduces his work, which combines the beauty of Spain's arid landscape with English planting ideas. We also visit a number of Spain's finest hidden gardens hosted by their owners, including El Romeral de San Marcos in Segovia, designed by pioneering landscape designer Leandro Silva; an outstanding Mediterranean classical garden in the province of Málaga; a romantic oasis garden in the outskirts of Madrid; a 16th-century private palace in Ronda; and the garden created by Eduardo Menco's grandmother, the Marquesa de Casa Valdés, author of acclaimed book *Spanish Gardens*. We enjoy Spanish hospitality and regional cuisine at local restaurants and private homes, including a 17th-century stately house in the heart of Seville, an organic family farm near Toledo, and a traditional Andalusian farmhouse with a lush semi-tropical garden on the outskirts of Málaga. Encounters with these intimate spaces are juxtaposed with visits to grand urban palaces and splendid historic gardens. In the Prado we view masterpieces by El Greco, Velázquez and Goya, and we explore a number of Spain's greatest monuments: Granada's Alhambra, Córdoba's Great Mosque, and Seville's Alcázar. The tour also coincides with the Córdoba Patio Festival, when many delightful Islamic courtyard gardens are opened for public view.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,780.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)

\$11,980.00 Land Content Only; \$1990.00 Single Supplement

20 DAYS Seville (3 nights) • Córdoba (2 nights) • Ronda (1 night) • Málaga (1 night) • Granada (3 nights) • Toledo (2 nights) • Jarandilla de la Vera (2 nights) • Segovia (2 nights) • Madrid (3 nights)

ONCE UPON A TIME IN SCANDINAVIA... A LITERARY TOUR OF SWEDEN, DENMARK & NORWAY



24 July - 15 August 2019

Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton

Leader: Russell Casey



Scandinavia is famed for fjords, mountains, beautiful capitals and architecture, but it also has a rich, unique literary heritage. This tour will take you to the homes of classic writers such as Hans Christian Andersen, Ibsen and Strindberg, but will also show you places associated with more modern authors – Astrid Lindgren, Roald Dahl, Karen Blixen and Selma Lagerlöf. Scandi Noir is world famous, and the tour will include Stieg Larsson (the Stockholm walking tour for his *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* has been voted by Lonely Planet the No. 1 Literary Walk in the World), Henning Mankell, Jo Nesbø and Hans Rosenfeldt. And you will have the opportunity to get to know Nobel Prize winning authors who may not be so familiar – Knut Hamsun and Sigrid Undset are two of them.

Visit fairy-tale castles, examine fabulous literary archives in libraries, see Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki raft and extraordinary Viking ships, take a boat trip amidst UNESCO World Heritage scenery, cross the Øresund Bridge that featured so memorably in TV's *The Bridge*, enjoy a memorable evening by a lake watching Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* with Grieg's music, explore Bergen with award-winning crime writer Gunnar Staalesen, and visit Elsinore, setting of the world's greatest play. You will dine where the Nobel Academy makes their final decision, feast on a banquet designed for a Nobel winner, enjoy guided walks in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Oslo, and sample pioneer feminist writer Hulda Garborg's favourite soup and Dahl's 'scrumdiddlyumptious' afternoon tea. There will even be an Australian link, as we explore Henry Lawson's roots. Art is included with Munch's *The Scream* and the superb Louisiana Museum of Modern Art.

Crimes and castles, legends and lovers, swans and statues, breathtaking scenery and so much more... discover Scandinavia through the eyes of its great writers and their works.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$14,780.00 Land Content Only; \$2560.00 Single Supplement

23 DAYS Stockholm (3 nights) • Eksjö (1 night) • Ystad (2 nights) • Odense (2 nights) • Copenhagen (3 nights) • Grimstad (3 nights) • Oslo (3 nights) • Vinstra (1 night) • Geiranger (1 night) • Balestrand (1 night) • Bergen (2 nights)

ART, ARCHITECTURE AND MUSIC IN BERLIN, DRESDEN & HAMBURG



11 - 25 September 2019

Lecturer: Dr Iva Rosario



On this tour, art historian, musician and musicologist, Dr Iva Rosario, investigates the powerful contrasts between German traditions, carefully preserved and restored, and ultra-modernity. We explore Berlin's, Dresden's and Hamburg's ongoing renewal in art and architecture, planning and performance, music and many other elements of contemporary urban life in precincts like Berlin's Potsdamer Platz and individual masterpieces like Hamburg's revolutionary Elbphilharmonie. German reunification unleashed a vibrant wave of creative energy, transforming great monuments, extensive art collections and the physical and cultural fabric of old Berlin, Dresden and Hamburg. Berlin's latest projects include the Humboldt Forum (replacing the communist Palace of the Republic); massive modernisation on Museum Island; and the Hamburger Bahnhof – the former railway station is now one of the world's most successful exhibition spaces for contemporary art. These newest developments build on earlier architectural adventures including Norman Foster's Reichstag Dome, Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum, and the Potsdamer Platz – a former war-ravaged wasteland revitalised by a range of projects designed by leading international architects including Renzo Piano, Arata Isozaki and Richard Rogers. With local experts we explore these new architectural projects and contrast them with grand heritage buildings including the beautiful Prussian palaces, Sanssouci and Charlottenburg, and the Saxon monarchy's exquisite Zwinger Palace. We discover magnificently renovated museums housing vast collections of ancient, European and modern art, including Berlin's Pergamon and Egyptian Museums, Gemäldegalerie, Alte Nationalgalerie, new Berggruen Museum and Bröhan Museum of decorative art and design, as well as Dresden's Gemäldegalerie des Altes Meister and Hamburg's vast Kunsthalle. We shall enjoy performances by the famous Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and at Semper's Opera and Hamburg's amazing Elbphilharmonie. We shall also take a cruise on Hamburg's historic Hanseatic harbour and sample the best of modern German cuisine at restaurants such as Berlin's fine Michelin-rated restaurant, Pauly Saal.

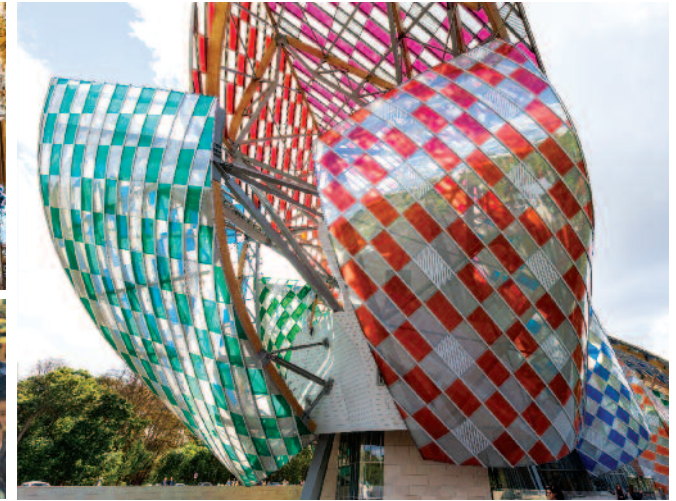
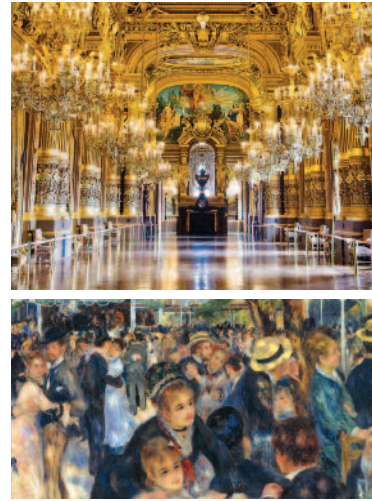
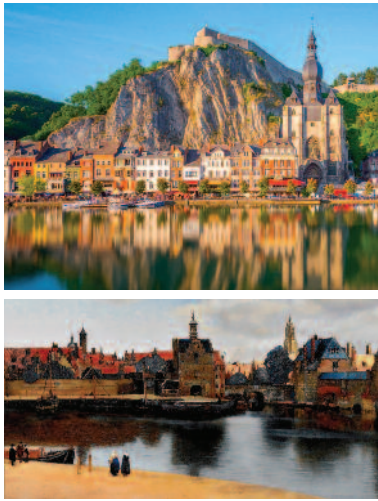
TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7690.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$7890.00 Land Content Only; \$1750.00 Single Supplement

15 DAYS Berlin (8 nights) • Dresden (3 nights) • Hamburg (3 nights)

Combine with Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct)



CULTURAL TREASURES OF THE LOW COUNTRIES BEYOND CHOCOLATE AND WINDMILLS

6 - 24 September 2018
5 - 23 September 2019

Lecturer: John Weretka



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$10,180.00 Land Content Only
\$2320.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,290.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$10,490.00 Land Content Only
\$2380.00 Single Supplement

Join music and art historian John Weretka for a journey from Brussels to Amsterdam, through history, art, architecture, music and design from the 14th century to the present. This tour features music performances in historic settings and a visit to the world's oldest and largest carillon school in Mechelen. We encounter majestic Flemish Gothic architecture in Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp; Baroque merchant palaces in Amsterdam; and Art Nouveau in Victor Horta's Brussels, including a private visit to his UNESCO-listed Hôtel Solvay. Beginning in Brussels' magnificent Grand Place, we visit the Royal Museums of Fine Art and the Magritte collection. In public galleries such as Amsterdam's newly restored Rijksmuseum, and private collections like Brussels' Musée David et Alice van Buuren, we view masterpieces by van Eyck, Bosch, Rubens, Rembrandt, Vermeer, van Gogh and Magritte. A drive through the Meuse Valley brings us to majestic gardens at Annevoie and Freÿr Castle and the picturesque city of Dinant. We see Bruges' canals through the literary eyes of Georges Rodenbach, and explore the city's UNESCO World Heritage-listed béguinage. In Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp and Utrecht, we explore cathedrals and town halls and see art treasures like Van Eyck's vast *Adoration of the Lamb* and Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna*. We enjoy Vermeer's *View of Delft* and *Girl with a Pearl Earring* in The Hague; Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum holds Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*, Brueghel's rowdy Flemish crowd scenes and the Dutch landscapes of van Ruysdael. We shall explore Rembrandt's Amsterdam house and two extensive van Gogh collections in his museum and the Kröller-Müller Museum, with its fine sculpture garden. On a private guided tour of the Royal Manufacturers De Wit in Mechelen, we observe the conservation of antique tapestries. Our tour also features revolutionary architecture, including the Rietveld Schröder House, a Der Stijl masterpiece; Antwerp's Museum aan de Stroom (MAS); and the cutting-edge contemporary architecture of Rotterdam.

2019 marks the 450th anniversary of the death of Peter Bruegel, the 16th century's greatest Netherlandish painter. Museums in Brussels and Antwerp will feature special exhibitions to celebrate his life and work.

19 DAYS Brussels (5 nights) • Bruges (3 nights) • Antwerp (4 nights) • Delft (2 nights) • Amsterdam (4 nights)

Combine with 2018: Paris (26 Sep - 5 Oct 18) • Venice (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18) • Sicily (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18); 2019: Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19) • Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19)

PARIS: THE GREAT WORLD CITY

26 September - 5 October 2018
12 - 25 October 2019

Lecturers: David Henderson (2018);
Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert (2019)



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$5280.00 Land Content Only
\$1395.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7180.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$7380.00 Land Content Only
\$2450.00 Single Supplement

Combine with: 2018: Belgium & Netherlands (6 - 24 Sep 18) • Portugal (7 - 25 Sep 18) • Florence & Tuscany (11 - 25 Sep 18) • Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (11 - 26 Sep 18); 2019: Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Rome (28 Oct - 9 Nov 19) • Sicily & Aeolian Is (29 Oct - 12 Nov 19)

Based in a studio apartment in the Latin Quarter, we discover how Paris' tumultuous history has shaped its cityscape. We begin on the Île de la Cité visiting medieval architectural masterpieces: the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris and Sainte-Chapelle with its recently restored stained-glass windows. Nearby are the Gothic 'Unicorn Tapestries' housed in the Musée de Cluny. Paris was France's epicentre of political, economic and cultural influences for centuries, with the notable exception of Louis XIV's reign. He drew his inspiration for Versailles from the Baroque château of Vaux-le-Vicomte, where we will see the magnificent gardens designed by Le Nôtre. The eventful 19th century drastically transformed the capital. Our walks lead us across Saint-Germain-des-Prés, the Grands Boulevards, through hidden arcades and the Opéra district. From the middle of the 19th century until the inter-war period Paris attracted artists from all around the world. We explore the Impressionist collections of the Musée d'Orsay, and the Orangerie, as well as Dadaist and Surrealist masterpieces at the Centre Pompidou. We also view the world's major art collections at the Louvre, Musée Picasso and the Musée Rodin. We explore the genesis of architectural modernism of Le Corbusier and its latest manifestations in Jean Nouvel's innovative Musée du quai Branly (hosting a rich indigenous art collection) and Frank Gehry's new contemporary art gallery (Fondation Louis Vuitton). We sample Paris' wonderful cuisine at the Belle Époque restaurant Le Train Bleu and at Nouvel's quai Branly restaurant, Les Ombres; and attend a performance in the new Philharmonie designed by Jean Nouvel. We also visit Alexandre Dumas' Château de Monte-Cristo and dine at the Pavillon Henri IV, whose past guests included George Sand, Victor Hugo and Émile Zola.

In 2018, the tour includes visits to special exhibitions: *Impressionists in London*, *French Artists in Exile* at the Petit Palais, *Venice in the Time of Vivaldi* and *Tiepolo* at Le Grand Palais and *Pablo Picasso. Blue and Rose* at Musée d'Orsay. In 2019, the tour is extended by four days and includes visits to Giverny, Marmottan, Hôtel de la Paiva, Musée Jacquemart-André, Museum of Decorative Arts and Palais de Tokyo. At the Louvre, we visit the special exhibition marking the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death; and explore Degas' passionate relationship with the Opera House in the exhibition *Degas at the Opera* at Musée d'Orsay.

10 DAYS (2018); 14 DAYS (2019): Paris: Studio apartments at Citadines Saint-Germain-des Prés

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE MIDI-PYRÉNÉES & THE DORDOGNE



11 - 26 September 2018; 24 September - 9 October 2019

Lecturer: Adrian Mialle



Between the Pyrénées and the Massif Central lie three of France's most beautiful river valleys: the Lot, Tarn and Dordogne. In southern Midi-Pyrénées we explore great cities of Mediterranean France, strongholds of the Knights Hospitaller and Templars, and Carcassonne, city of the persecuted Cathars. We journey through pretty agricultural landscapes, deep forests and narrow river valleys to visit prehistoric caves, medieval fortified towns and castles, Romanesque churches, Renaissance châteaux and gardens. In Toulouse, Moissac and Conques we study fine pilgrim churches, and in Albi we visit the remarkable fortress-cathedral and Toulouse-Lautrec Museum. We journey to isolated medieval *bastides* (fortified towns) such as Najac, Cordes-sur-Ciel, Monpazier and Sarlat (home of a famous foie gras market), survivors of the Hundred Years' War. We encounter a rich variety of domestic architecture, each town with its own distinctive atmosphere and picturesque dwellings. The delightful gardens of Eyrignac and Marquessy contribute colour and scent to the richness, variety and charm of this luscious region. At town markets we purchase food for picnics, and we enjoy a number of meals at traditional restaurants, including wine-tasting and lunch at Château Carbonneau near Saint-Émilion. The region's greatest archaeological wonders, its cave paintings, occupy the valley of the Vézère, a tributary of the Dordogne. At Abri de Cro-Magnon our own species, *Homo sapiens*, was first identified. Local specialists show us a number of caves, some with the most exquisite artworks ever created. We visit Rouffignac, Cognac, Pech Merle, the recently opened state-of-the-art interpretation centre of Lascaux IV and the prehistoric sculpted frieze at Abri de Cap Blanc. We cruise the Dordogne River in replica *gabares* to understand how rivers shaped this land, and witness a falconry show at the Château des Milandes. Throughout, we experience the rich world of medieval romantic love, troubadours and a passion for life so vivid in this region.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$8180.00 Land Content Only; \$1140.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8280.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$8480.00 Land Content Only; \$1190.00 Single Supplement

16 DAYS Toulouse (2 nights) • Albi (3 nights) • Conques (1 night) • Saint-Jean-Lespinasse (1 night) • Sarlat (4 nights) • Montignac (3 nights) • Bordeaux (1 night)

Combine with 2018: Paris (26 Sep - 5 Oct 18); 2019: Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19)

LANDSCAPES, ART & GARDENS OF THE CÔTE D'AZUR, PROVENCE & THE CÉVENNES



5 - 25 May 2019

Lecturer: Paul Urquhart



Paul Urquhart, accomplished garden and travel writer, leads this journey from the sparkling Côte d'Azur, through Provence, the Luberon Range and Avignon to the mountainous Cévennes. The finest gardens of the Côte d'Azur and Provence include the Clos du Peyronnet, La Casella, Vallon du Brec, Jardin de la Villa Fort France, Pavillon de Galon and Jardins d'Albertas. We visit many private gardens by invitation: Nicole Arboireau's intimate Jardin la Pomme d'Ambre; contemporary creations by Nicole de Vésian; the gardens of Mas Benoît, designed by Alan-David Idoux; tree sculptor Marc Nucera's experimental garden, and landscape designer Dominique Lafourcade's new garden. The Matisse and Picasso museums in Nice and Antibes complement Cézanne's studio and his panoramic landscapes framed by Mont Saint-Victoire. We visit the Maeght Foundation, with an exceptional collection of 20th-century works, chapels decorated by Matisse and Jean Cocteau, and in Château La Coste's estate near Aix-en-Provence we view contemporary art installations and designs by Tadao Ando, Jean Nouvel, Frank O. Gehry, Louise Bourgeois and Alexander Calder. We explore historic residences like Villa Grecque Kérylos, Villa Ephrussi and Avignon's huge Papal Palace. Provence's Roman heritage is explored at the Pont du Gard and in Arles. We visit the antique market of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue and the colourful food stalls of Uzès and savour haute cuisine at two Michelin-starred restaurants, Mirazur and La Petite Maison de Cucuron. At the Château de Brante, culinary delights combine with an evening of classical music under France's oldest magnolia tree. After scenic drives through the UNESCO heritage-listed Cévennes, enjoying blooming wildflowers and picturesque stone villages, we cruise the spectacular Gorges du Tarn, a limestone canyon dotted with medieval castles.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,780.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)

\$11,980.00 Land Content Only; \$1880.00 Single Supplement

21 DAYS Menton (8 nights) • Aix-en-Provence (3 nights) • Avignon (6 nights) • Florac (3 nights)

Combine with Algeria (14 Apr - 4 May 19) • Great Castles, Country Houses & Gardens of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales (28 May - 16 Jun 19) • Poland (29 May - 10 Jun 19)

GARDENS OF ITALY THE ITALIAN LAKES, THE PIEDMONT, TUSCANY, UMBRIA & ROME



29 April - 21 May 2019

Lecturers: Deryn Thorpe & David Henderson



Award-winning print and radio garden journalist, Deryn Thorpe, leads this tour exploring northern and central Italy's finest gardens. This tour features exclusive visits to private gardens opened especially for ASA. Few travellers will ever enjoy the famous English landscape designer Russell Page's gardens at Villa Silvio Pellico, or the designs by Dan Pearson and Stuart Barfoot at Torrecchia Vecchia. We join Paolo Pejrone, a pupil of Russell Page and currently Italy's leading garden designer, on a visit to his own garden, 'Bramafam'; we also view his work at the famous gardens of Casa Agnelli at Villar Perosa, at the estate of the Peyrani family and on a visit to the beautiful Tenuta Banna. These special experiences augment a program exploring historic gardens that highlight both continuity and change in Italian gardening tradition. Along with the magical northern lakeside and island gardens of Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello, Isola Bella and Isola Madre we visit the spectacular gardens of La Cerva; Tuscan Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces like Villa La Foce; the Borromini-inspired garden of renowned architect and scholar Paolo Portoghesi at Calcata; Palazzo Patrizi at Castel Giuliano, a rose lover's delight; and the unforgettable Giardini di Ninfa south of Rome. At Fiesole we view the ingenious garden design of Englishman Cecil Pinsent, at Villa Le Balze, where the steep hillside offers breathtaking views of the Florentine skyline. We also enjoy Italy's loveliest landscapes, including the stunning Ligurian coast, beautiful old cities such as Turin, Florence, Lucca, Siena, Perugia and Rome, and feast on local cuisine at Villas Geggiano and Aureli. The tour culminates with a fine-dining experience at The Cesar restaurant, overlooking the Mediterranean. Throughout our journey we explore how Italians have for centuries exploited panoramic parterres, glistening lake settings, exquisite villa architecture and garden sculpture, fountains and water cascades to produce sublime gardens.

TOUR PRICE 2019

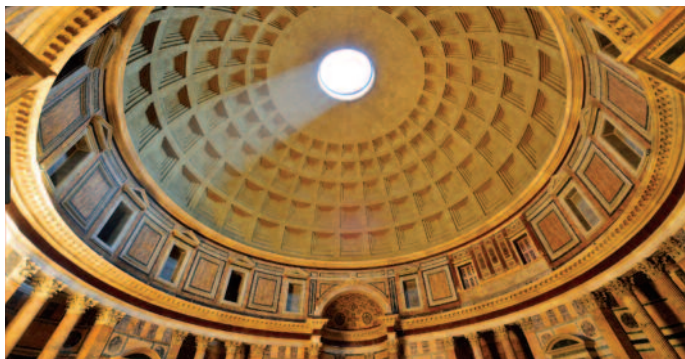
\$13,480.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)

\$13,680.00 Land Content Only; \$2590.00 Single Supplement

23 DAYS Moltrasio (2 nights) • Stresa (2 nights) • Turin (4 nights) • Lucca (2 nights) • Florence (4 nights) • Siena (2 nights) • Perugia (1 night) • Viterbo (1 night) • Rome (4 nights)

Combine with Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands (24 May - 6 Jun 19) • Great Castles & Country Houses of Yorkshire, Derbyshire & Wales (28 May - 16 Jun 19)

ROME: PORTRAIT OF A CITY



28 October - 9 November 2019

Lecturer: Em. Professor Bernard Hoffert



Join Emeritus Professor Bernard Hoffert as we explore Rome's artistic culture from Etruscan antiquity to the present, through a feast of architecture, painting, sculpture, film and music. In Tarquinia, we visit the UNESCO site of the Necropoli dei Monterozzi, which contains outstanding examples of colourfully painted tombs depicting everyday life and scenes of the journey to the next world; we also view fine Etruscan sculpture, including the *Sarcophagus of the Spouses* at the Villa Giulia (National Museum of Etruscan Art). We encounter extraordinary ancient Roman architectural and engineering feats like the Pantheon and the Baths of Diocletian, the revolutionary documentary realism in the sculpture of the Ara Pacis Augustae and the utter decadence of Nero's Golden House. The spirituality of the Early Christian and medieval eras is conveyed through glorious mosaics in tranquil churches such as Santa Prassede and San Clemente. The Renaissance brought a new age of artistic dynamism to the city; we shall study Michelangelo's Sistine Ceiling and his terrifying Just Christ of the *Last Judgement*, as well as Raphael's superb frescoes in the Vatican Stanzas and the Villa Farnesina. Outside Rome, we view the exquisite pentagonal Villa Farnese at Caprarola, with its extensive park adorned with fountains, walled gardens and a casino; and explore the garden masterpiece of the Renaissance, Vignola's Villa Lante at Bagnaia. The drama of Baroque architecture, painting and sculpture is found in the works of Caravaggio and Bernini, both in churches and in the Villa Borghese. 'The Eternal City' had great appeal for literary giants like Goethe, Gibbon, Keats and Shelley; we trace their lives here at house museums, and their final resting place at the Non-Catholic Cemetery. In the National Gallery of Modern Art, we encounter the works of Futurist painters like Balla, Boccioni and Russolo Severini, created in an age when Rome competed with Paris as a centre of modernist creation. The city's embracing of new artistic ideas culminates with the ultra-modernity we encounter at Zaha Hadid's extraordinary MAXXI museum and Renzo Piano's Parco della Musica. We visit the Cinecittà film studio where Italian directors like Fellini and Visconti changed the direction of world cinema in their classic films, and savour the culinary delights of the city's restaurants, including chef Fulvio Pierangelini's famous Le Jardin de Russie.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$6670.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$6870.00 Land Content Only; \$970.00 Single Supplement

13 DAYS Rome (12 nights): 3-star Albergo Santa Chiara, located 200m from the Pantheon

Combine with 2019: Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19)

THE RENAISSANCE IN FLORENCE & TUSCANY



11 - 25 September 2018; 10 - 24 September 2019

Lecturer: Em. Professor Bernard Hoffert



Explore Italy's greatest Renaissance city, Florence, and travel the timeless Tuscan countryside to lovely smaller cities including Arezzo, Pistoia, Prato, Pienza, Volterra, San Gimignano and brilliant Siena – Florence's major artistic rival. Wealthy Florentine families like the Medici, Rucellai and Strozzi were patrons to Masaccio, Donatello, Verrocchio, Botticelli, Leonardo and Michelangelo, whose masterpieces expressed twin ideals of naturalism and the revival of antiquity. In Florence we visit not only the better-known monuments and museums such as the Uffizi Gallery and the Bargello, but also view lesser-known Renaissance gems. We view Benozzo Gozzoli's wonderful paintings of the *Journey of the Magi* in the Palazzo Medici Riccardi, discover Fra' Angelico's deeply spiritual images in the monastery of San Marco, study Masolino and Massaccio's masterly frescoes in the Brancacci Chapel, and visit a Dominican pharmacy active since the 13th century. We'll decipher Ambrogio Lorenzetti's and Simone Martini's unique images of medieval political philosophy in Siena's Palazzo Pubblico and explore Piero della Francesca's masterpieces, pivotal stepping stones to the High Renaissance, in Arezzo, Monterchi and Sansepolcro. In Prato we view Filippo Lippi's recently restored fresco cycle, while in Pistoia and Siena we discover the sublime sculptures of the Pisani family. By special appointment we tour the Palazzo Corsini al Prato, where we take refreshments; Villa Gamberaia, whose gardens inspired Edith Wharton; Villa di Geggiano, offering a delicious Tuscan lunch and wine-tasting; and the gardens of Villa La Foce, lovingly restored by Iris Origo, author of the famous *Merchant of Prato*. We'll also explore the rich interior of Lorenzo de' Medici's country retreat at Poggio a Caiano. We finish in the walled city of Lucca, with magnificent Romanesque churches and streetscapes defined by its Roman plan. Here we'll delight in a concert featuring the music of the city's great composer, Giacomo Puccini.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$6980.00 Land Content Only; \$1380.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$6980.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$7180.00 Land Content Only; \$1490.00 Single Supplement

15 DAYS Florence (7 nights) • Siena (4 nights) • Lucca (3 nights)

Combine with 2018: Venice (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18) • Sicily & Aeolian Is (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18) • Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England (1 - 16 Oct 18); 2019: Midi-Pyrenees & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Art & Culture in Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19)

VENICE: JEWEL OF THE ADRIATIC



27 September - 11 October 2018; 26 September - 10 October 2019

Lecturer: Em. Professor Bernard Hoffert



Join Bernard Hoffert to explore the city of Venice and the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello. We travel beyond to Byzantine Ravenna, Giotto's Padua (where we also visit the fascinating historic Anatomy Theatre at Palazzo Bo), classical Vicenza, and Palladio's villas – 'La Rotonda' and Villa Barbaro. We also drive up into the Dolomites to explore the awesome alpine landscapes that appear as the backdrop to many Venetian paintings. In Venice we explore the exquisite 15th-century Ca' d'Oro, and visit the sumptuous Palazzo Mocenigo, private home of Francesca Bortolotto Possati – entrepreneur, interior designer, philanthropist and hotelier. By special appointment we visit Ca' Pisani Rubelli's precious textile collection, which illustrates how manufacturing families prospered; and the Bevilacqua family's workshops, where we see how these arts continue to thrive. Artists expressed Venice's image as 'Jewel of the Adriatic' in St Mark's rich mosaics. Titian, Bellini, and Tintoretto created masterpieces in San Giovanni e Paolo, the Frari, and the Scuola Grande di San Rocco. Architectural gems like the Miracoli, Palladio's San Giorgio Maggiore and *Il Redentore* reinforced this image. The Accademia's priceless works by Giorgione, Veronese, Carpaccio and Tiepolo fostered Venice's unique reputation through lustrous light and rich colour. We attend an opera at the famous Teatro La Fenice, and a private concert by soprano Rosemary Forbes-Butler in her *palazzino*. A special literary day features the Ca' Rezzonico where Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett-Browning lived and lunch at John Ruskin's Pensione La Calcina. We also enjoy a lunch at the famous Locanda Cipriani and afternoon tea at elegant Caffè Florian. Contemporary art and architecture feature in visits to the iconic Peggy Guggenheim Collection and at the Venice Biennale, which signify Venice's enduring cultural role.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$7740.00 Land Content Only; \$2590.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7740.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$7940.00 Land Content Only; \$2690.00 Single Supplement

15 DAYS Venice (14 nights): 4-star Hotel Rio Novo

Combine with 2018: Belgium & Netherlands (6 - 24 Sep 18) • Portugal (7 - 25 Sep 18); • Florence & Tuscany (11 - 25 Sep 18) • Midi-Pyrenees & Dordogne (11 - 26 Sep 18); 2019: Caucasus (3 - 24 Sep 19) • Belgium & Netherlands (5 - 23 Sep 19) • Portugal (6 - 24 Sep 19) • Florence & Tuscany (10 - 24 Sep 19) • Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg (11 - 25 Sep 19) • Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19)



SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

27 September - 11 October 2018
29 October - 12 November 2019

Lecturer: Em. Professor Frank Sear



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$7790.00 Land Content Only
\$1040.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7890.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$8090.00 Land Content Only
\$1040.00 Single Supplement



Explore the fascinating multi-layered history, art and architecture of Sicily, the largest and most beautiful Mediterranean island, and its unforgettable companions, the atmospheric Aeolian Islands. Sicily and the Aeolians encapsulate 3000 years of Mediterranean history. We visit Greek temples and theatres in Syracuse, Agrigento, Selinunte and Segesta, and the Roman villa of Casale near Piazza Armerina, one of the world's greatest corpora of Roman mosaics. In Norman Palermo's exotic monuments, its pleasure palaces, courtly chapels, grand cathedrals and ethereal tabernacles, you will find an inimitable mix of Arab stone inlay, fretted windows and intricate ceilings, Byzantine mosaics and Frankish sculpture. Sicily reached its zenith in this period. Its subsequent economic decline nevertheless produced Italy's greatest corpus of literature, and lovely cityscapes inflected by exquisite Baroque churches and opulent palaces. The current owners of two of these palaces – one of them the Palazzo Gangi, made famous in the ballroom scene of Visconti's film *The Leopard* – will host exclusive visits by the group. After enjoying the medieval pleasure resort of Cefalù, with its ethereal cathedral, we cross to the Aeolian Islands. We cruise around the volcanic island of Stromboli, whose striking lava flows pour slowly down from its smoking crater, and pass the pretty little island of Panarea. We then explore Lipari, a Neolithic exporter of obsidian, Greek colony, victim of Arab and Turkish raids and Norman outpost that was later fortified by the Emperor Charles V. Lipari's quaint fishing villages bask in the sun above the azure sea. We make an excursion to Reggio Calabria to see the Riace Bronzes, arguably the greatest surviving Greek bronzes, then make a stop in Messina to see two masterpieces by Caravaggio. We end in Taormina, the lovely hilltop town looking across to Mt Etna, and view its spectacular Graeco-Roman theatre.

15 DAYS Syracuse (3 nights) • Agrigento (2 nights) • Palermo (4 nights) • Lipari (3 nights) • Taormina (2 nights)

Combine with 2018: Belgium & Netherlands (6 - 24 Sep 18) • Portugal (7 - 25 Sep 18) • Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (11 - 26 Sep 18) • Florence & Tuscany (11 - 25 Sep 18) • Caucasus (4 - 25 Sep 18) • Southern Italy (12 - 27 Oct 18); 2019: Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19)



SOUTHERN ITALY POMPEII, THE AMALFI COAST & THE TREASURES OF APULIA

12 - 27 October 2018
12 - 26 October 2019

Lecturer: Dr Joan Barclay Lloyd



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$8880.00 Land Content Only
\$2480.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8380.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$8580.00 Land Content Only
\$1990.00 Single Supplement



Dr Joan Barclay Lloyd leads this fascinating tour exploring the Greek, Roman, Lombard, Byzantine, Norman, Angevin, French and Spanish treasures of the peninsula. We encounter ancient and medieval architectural and artistic treasures that remind us of this Mediterranean region's role as Europe's economic and strategic hub. In the 17th century, colonial Spain built lovely Baroque monuments in 'planned' cities whilst time-honoured peasant agricultural, cultural and social traditions lasted unchanged well into the 20th century. In Naples we visit the great National Archaeological Museum and the Capodimonte Museum, with its magnificent collection including Caravaggio, Raphaels and Titians. We walk in ancient Roman footsteps at extraordinarily well-preserved Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Villa at Oplontis. We skirt the spectacular Amalfi coast, through medieval towns like Amalfi and Ravello, to explore the extraordinary, intact Greek temples at Paestum. We then cross the peninsula to Apulia where we visit Frederick II's great citadel, Castel del Monte, and pretty fishing villages like Trani with its grand Norman cathedral. We visit the great shrine of St Nicholas of Bari and the distinctive tomb of the crusader, Bohemund I of Antioch in Canosa di Puglia. Byzantine imperial power is represented by the colossal bronze statue of a Byzantine emperor washed ashore in Barletta harbour in the 13th century. Golden Lecce boasts exquisite Baroque churches and opulent palace façades. Taranto's rich archaeological museum completes our Graeco-Roman adventure while the vast medieval cathedral floor mosaic at Otranto rivals the great antique mosaics of Naples, Pompeii and Herculaneum. We visit Apulian vineyards and olive presses, walled hilltop towns, lovely fortified manor houses (*masserie*) and Alberobello's strange beehive dwellings. We savour fine local cuisine and stay in a historic *masseria* converted into a luxury *agriturismo* resort.

2018: 16 DAYS Naples (3 nights) • Sorrento (2 nights) • Salerno (1 night) • Trani (2 nights) • Bari (2 nights) • Savelli di Fasano (2 nights) • Lecce (3 nights)

2019: 15 DAYS Naples (3 nights) • Sorrento (2 nights) • Salerno (1 night) • Trani (3 nights) • Savelli di Fasano (2 nights) • Lecce (3 nights)

Combine with 2018: Sicily (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18) • Venice (27 Sep - 11 Oct 18); 2019: Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Rome (28 Oct - 9 Nov 19) • Sicily (29 Oct - 12 Nov 19)

ROMANIA REVEALED

SAXON VILLAGES, TRANSYLVANIAN CITIES & BYZANTINE MONASTERIES



15 - 28 May 2019
Lecturer: Christopher Wood



Explore Romania's fascinating complexity, arguably the most diverse culture in Europe. In Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania, separated from each other by the densely forested Carpathian Mountains, we encounter an extraordinary and largely unchanged medieval, Renaissance and Baroque visual culture. We discover the meeting of the Latin and Germanic West with the Byzantine, Slav and Gypsy East. Medieval Saxon villages and fortified churches, Hungarian castles and towns, and German trading cities with grand Gothic cathedrals contrast with fortified monasteries whose chapel walls are covered, inside and out, with brilliantly coloured Byzantine frescoes. In Romania, city and country stand in stark distinction. Sophisticated Bucharest and Sibiu have fine museums with rich collections of works by Van Eyck, Brueghel, Rembrandt, Monet, Cézanne and Matisse, as well as colourful Eastern icons, tapestries and intricately carved wooden doors. Saxon trading cities like Brasov, meanwhile, preserve the greatest collections of old Turkish carpets outside Istanbul. In contrast, we'll explore Romanian peasant culture, which has survived unchanged in the isolated villages of Maramures and Bucovina, with distinctive wooden churches rivaling the masterpieces of Russia and Norway. Romanian folk culture has generated what Yehudi Menuhin considered Europe's richest musical tradition and the folklorist Moses Gaster deemed the world's most distinctive corpus of folk tales. Nineteenth-century nationalists celebrated this living past, which in turn encouraged a reaction by Romanian modernist artists of world standing including Brancusi, Tristan Tsara, Marcel Iancu, Dada poets and the absurdist Ionescu. We also explore Romania's post-Soviet national identity in which the past's rich diversity is overlaid by an energetic, often edgy, modernity.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$5690.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$5890.00 Land Content Only; \$650.00 Single Supplement

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

Combine with An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik (28 Apr - 15 May 19) • Bulgaria & the Black Sea (1 - 15 May 19) • Great Castles, Country Houses & Gardens of Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Wales (28 May - 16 Jun 19) • Poland (29 May - 10 Jun 19)

BULGARIA & THE BLACK SEA

PAINTED TOWNS, BYZANTINE MONASTERIES & THRACIAN TREASURES



1 - 15 May 2019
Lecturer: Dr Katya Melamed



From bustling Sofia, we journey over the deeply forested Balkan Mountains to the historic maritime highway of the Black Sea, crossing the broad waters of the Danube to Bucharest. Bulgaria owes much to its Thracian, Slavic and Turkic past. Golden Byzantine beauty and Ottoman sophistication meld into Bulgaria's unique, richly coloured culture. Opulent painted hues animate intricate frescoes at the UNESCO world heritage sites of the Boyana Church and remote, mountainous, glinting gold-leafed Rila Monastery. Richly frescoed Arbanassi and Bachkovo monasteries and Bansko town bring medieval pilgrimage and faith to life. Christianity and strong citadels succoured medieval Bulgarian identity. Hilltop Veliko Turnovo, capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, combines fine churches with an unconquerable fortress; Baldwin I of Flanders was imprisoned in one its towers. At the well-preserved prehistoric village of Stara Zagora and Thracian Sveshtari and Kazanluk we plunge deep into Bulgaria's roots. The subterranean Thracian tombs at Kazanluk were once filled with antiquity's finest gold, which we view in Sofia's National Museum. Aleksandrovo's Museum of Thracian Art displays a reconstructed tomb with colourful painted hunting scenes. Sveshtari has extraordinary sculpted caryatids, exceptional in the ancient world. At Kazanluk, famous for Rose Attar, an elixir gracing the Courts of Ottoman Sultans and European aristocrats, the Orthodox choir of St Elias will enchant. We wander the cobbled streets of Roman Plovdiv's old medieval town, with painted houses redolent with Balkan atmosphere. In Tryavna we explore stunning vernacular National Revival architecture decorated with traditional woodcarving. Ancient gold glitters again at Varna, home to master metalworkers 6000 years ago – their creations unequalled for two millennia. The rock-hewn churches of Ivanovo arguably best exemplify the Bulgarian tradition of rich decoration, light and energy. Their expressive interiors shimmer with naturalistic landscapes of intense drama and thrilling atmosphere. Bulgaria offers a heady mix of folk music, roses, sultans and warlords, woodcarving and frescoes, saints, slaves and kings.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$5980.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$6180.00 Land Content Only; \$750.00 Single Supplement

15 DAYS Sofia (3 nights) • Bansko (1 night) • Plovdiv (3 nights) • Kazanluk (1 night) • Veliko Turnovo (2 nights) • Varna (3 nights) • Bucharest, Romania (1 night)

Combine with Romania (15 - 28 May 19) • Greece (17 May - 6 Jun 19)

POLAND, THE HEART OF EUROPE

KRAKOW, WARSAW, TORUN & GDANSK



29 May - 10 June 2019
Lecturer: Dr Iva Rosario



We explore the rich, turbulent history of Poland through the lens of urbanism, architecture and art in four of Central Europe's most beautiful cities: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun and Gdansk. Through great churches, royal and aristocratic palaces, fine market precincts with beautiful merchant houses, and some of Europe's grandest castles, we explore the fascinating rise of Central Europe's most powerful Renaissance state. Annihilated after 1795 and reborn after WWI, then subjected by the Soviets, it led the fight for liberation against the USSR during the 1980s. In dynastic monuments such as Krakow's Wawel Royal Castle and Warsaw's Royal Palace, we explore the creative adaption of Western Gothic and Renaissance form. Krakow's Church of St Mary, Saints Stanislaus and Wenceslas and other beautiful city churches hold masterpieces including the massive late Gothic polyptych by the great German master, Veit Stoss. Chopin's Warsaw features great palaces, lovely gardens including Royal Lazienki Park, and fine Renaissance merchant precincts. In the north we investigate Polish interaction with the fearsome Teutonic Knights at the vast Malbork Castle; and relations with the Hanseatic League in Gdansk's fascinating medieval port and Torun's lovely merchant houses. Medieval Poland derived incredible riches from salt, mined at the vast Wieliczka Salt Mine, which incorporates an incredible subterranean chapel carved entirely from salt. Poland's sophisticated medieval culture led to the inauguration of Krakow's University, one of the world's oldest, where the great Nicholas Copernicus was a student. We'll encounter the legacy of other great Poles, like Frédéric Chopin and Marie Curie, in the places where they lived and worked. In royal and national collections we'll see masterpieces including Leonardo's *Lady with an Ermine*; in Krakow and Warsaw we'll attend music performances. We'll also enjoy lovely rural landscapes on our journeys between Poland's magnificent Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque cities.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$5680.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$5880.00 Land Content Only; \$1395.00 Single Supplement

13 DAYS Krakow (4 nights) • Warsaw (4 nights) • Torun (1 night) • Gdansk (3 nights)

Combine with Landscapes, Art & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes (5 - 25 May 19) • Garden Masterpieces of England & the Chelsea Flower Show (14 - 24 May 19) • Romania (15 - 28 May 19)



AN ADRIATIC JOURNEY FROM TRIESTE TO DUBROVNIK

28 April - 15 May 2019

Lecturer: Dr Christopher Gribbin



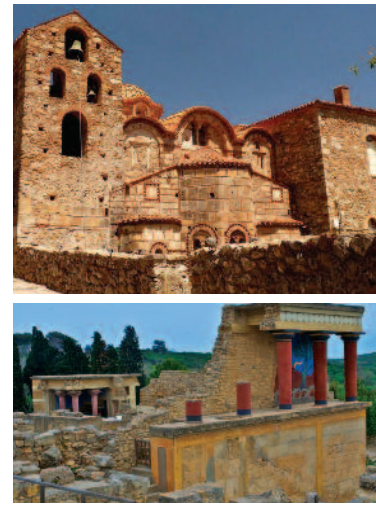
TOUR PRICE 2019

\$9690.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$9890.00 Land Content Only
\$1980.00 Single Supplement

The sparkling azure waters of the Adriatic Sea served both as frontier between Europe and the Balkans, and trade corridor between Northern Europe and the Mediterranean. We travel from the Italian port city of Trieste down the stunning Dalmatian coast to Dubrovnik, 'pearl of the Adriatic'. In territories once dominated by Venice and beautified by her colonial art and architecture, we encounter the legacies of many cultures: Aquileia was one of the Adriatic's largest and richest Roman cities; Trieste and Pula proudly display their Roman past, with theatres and temples embedded into the heart of their later urban fabric; while the vast palace of the Emperor Diocletian metamorphosed into the medieval town of Split. We explore the mosaics and frescoes in the famous Basilica of Santa Maria Assunta in Aquileia, the Episcopal Complex of the Euphrasian Basilica in Porec, and the Cathedral of St James in Sibenik, reflecting the commingling of eastern (Byzantine) and western (Latin) worlds; Porec rivals Ravenna as the most complete Byzantine ensemble in the world. We amble through the island town of Trogir, Greek colony of the 4th-3rd centuries BC – a remarkable example of urban continuity – and explore the semi-independent trading city of Ragusa (Dubrovnik), rival of mighty Venice. Her magnificent monuments reflect past prosperity built on Balkan land trade and Mediterranean seafaring. In a deep natural bay beneath the jagged mountains of Montenegro, we visit the port city of Kotor, once an important trading entrepôt. Driving inland to the karst landscapes of Croatia's Plitvice Lakes National Park, boardwalks lead us past beautiful lakes, mysterious caves and sparkling waterfalls. We spend two days on the sleepy island of Hvar enjoying her crystal blue waters, mild climate, grand panoramas of lavender fields, peaceful villages and pine-covered hills. Medieval Hvar town has beautifully ornamented buildings with fine stone carving developed under Venetian rule. A wonderful contrast is the bustle of the Ottoman and Habsburg city of Mostar in Bosnia, site of a savage siege during the 1990s' Yugoslav wars. Its famous stone bridge of 1566, the 'Stari Most', was built for Suleiman the Magnificent by his favourite architect, the sublime Sinan.

18 DAYS Trieste (3 nights) • Porec (2 nights) • Plitvice Lakes (1 night) • Zadar (2 nights) • Split (2 nights) • Hvar (2 nights) • Mostar (1 night) • Dubrovnik (4 nights)

Combine with Romania (15 - 28 May 19) • Greece (17 May - 6 Jun 19)



A JOURNEY THROUGH MINOAN CRETE, MYCENAEAN GREECE AND THE CLASSICAL WORLD

17 May - 6 June 2019

Lecturer: Dr Nicholas Vlahogiannis



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$9980.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$10,980.00 Land Content Only
\$1890.00 Single Supplement



Our journey takes us through historically significant sites around the Aegean, Peloponnese and Attica, to understand the beginnings, flowering and transformation of the Mycenaean and Minoan worlds, to the apotheosis of Classical civilisation – a stunning legacy inherited by their Byzantine heirs. On Athens' Acropolis we explore some of the most exquisite architecture ever constructed. We admire the beautiful temple to Athena's great rival, Poseidon, at Sounion, before heading west across the great Isthmus of Corinth, into the Peloponnese. From our base in the graceful Venetian city of Nauplion, we explore the brooding hilltop fortress of Mycenae – citadel of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra – and journey to Epidauros, majestic theatre and shrine dedicated to Asclepius, God of Healing. Heading south to Mistras, we wander along the streets of the last great Byzantine city before journeying across the jagged Taygetus Mountains to stand in the great hall of legendary King Nestor. We explore the haunting ruins of Messene, great nemesis of mighty Sparta. At the sanctuaries of Delphi and Olympia we investigate the roots of organised sporting triumph and a mysterious, chthonic world of ambiguous utterance. On mountain-spined Crete we traverse a landscape that nurtured a sophisticated Minoan world of palaces and towns, where skilled artisans created frescoes and ceramics whose beauty and vitality still entrance. At Knossos, ostensible palace of King Minos, we stand where Theseus and Ariadne's doomed love blossomed, celebrated in countless operas, plays, mosaics, and paintings. In the old Venetian port of Hania we view a working replica of a Minoan ship. We also explore Crete's pristine southern coast, visiting the site of the 1941 evacuation of Allied troops and the stunning Samaria Gorge. On the stark, lunar island of Santorini we visit the Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri – a world forever preserved by volcanic disaster. Together we share a journey across 4000 years, exploring the foundations of Western culture, in the beautiful cradle of the Greek-speaking world – born of and nurtured by Homer's 'Wine Dark Sea'.

21 DAYS Athens (3 nights) • Nauplion (2 nights) • Sparta (1 night) • Pylos (1 night) • Olympia (1 night) • Delphi (2 nights) • Athens (2 nights) • Hania (3 nights) • Heraklion (3 nights) • Santorini (2 nights)

Combine with An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik (28 Apr - 15 May 19) • Bulgaria (1 - 15 May 19)



ICELAND, LAND OF ICE & FIRE MYTHS, LEGENDS & LANDSCAPES

22 June - 9 July 2019

Lecturer: Prof. Heather O'Donoghue



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$15,480.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$15,680.00 Land Content Only
\$2990.00 Single Supplement

Professor Heather O'Donoghue, Fellow at Linacre College at the University of Oxford, leads this comprehensive tour through some of the world's most awe-inspiring landscapes – of active volcanoes, vast glaciers, great geysers, boiling springs, dramatic multi-tiered waterfalls and the North Atlantic coastline. Iceland is constantly being changed by the powerful plate tectonics of the Mid-Atlantic Rift. It also lies above a hotspot, the Iceland plume, an upwelling of hot rock in the earth's mantle, which caused the formation of Iceland itself. Vast quantities of magma still rise to the surface, creating the world's most active volcanic landscape. We study Iceland's extraordinary geology at LAVA the new Iceland Volcano & Earthquake Centre in Hvolsvöllur, and visit the Krafla Caldera, whose 18th-century eruption lasted five years. We also view some of the world's greatest glaciers close-up, and witness the interaction of a glacier with volcanic activity beneath it at Deildartunguvær's boiling hot springs. In the Haukadalur Valley, we witness geysers, one of which gave 'geysers' their name. We take a snowmobile ride up Vatnajökull Glacier, and cruise Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon to view icebergs reflecting particles of white, black, blue and turquoise. We visit Snæfellsjökull National Park, an area that inspired Jules Verne's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, and wonder at the great fissure created by the Rift crossing Iceland. A special highlight is our excursion to Vestmannaeyjar (The Westman Islands), an archipelago consisting of fifteen islands including Surtsey, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Iceland is also a rich breeding ground. We observe an extraordinary profusion of birdlife during a cruise on Breiðafjörður Bay; view Atlantic Puffins at the Dyrhólaey Nature Reserve; and visit the Icelandic Seal Centre on Vatnsnes Peninsula. Remote Iceland remained unknown until settled by Vikings in the 9th century; they produced one of the world's greatest epic cycles, the *Icelandic Sagas*. We visit the settlement centre in Borgarnes, a reconstruction of a Viking longhouse at Eiríksstaðir, watch a display of horsemanship with descendants of Viking horses; and view the national parliament (Althing), an open-air assembly established in 930 AD in Thingvellir National Park. For the next millennium, Icelanders, alone in this remote land, eked a subsistence living that through volcanic eruptions and glacial floods, threatened human existence. We visit Glaumbaer Farm Museum with primitive turf-roofed dwellings and the Skógar Folk Museum, which depicts traditional life. Only with the development of the herring industry, as portrayed in the Herring Era Museum in Siglufjörður, did Iceland develop a modern economy, seen in Reykjavík's National Museum and sparkling Harpa Concert Hall.

18 DAYS Borgarnes (1 night) • Stykkishólmur (2 nights) • Gauksmýri (1 night) • Siglufjörður (1 night) • Akureyri (1 night) • Lake Mývatn (2 nights) • Egilsstaðir (2 nights) • Skálafell (2 nights) • Vík (2 nights) • Reykjavík (3 nights)

HERITAGE CITIES OF THE BALTIC VILNIUS, KAUNAS, RIGA, TARTU & TALLINN

25 June - 9 July 2019

Lecturers: Dr Uldis Ozolins &
Juris Baltputnis



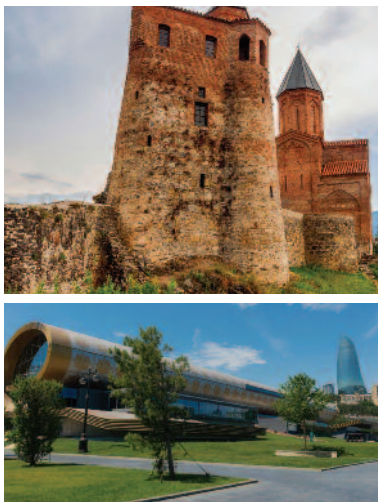
TOUR PRICE 2019

\$6280.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$6480.00 Land Content Only
\$1050.00 Single Supplement

Enthusiastic advocates of Baltic culture, Latvian-Australian Dr Uldis Ozolins and Juris Baltputnis, unveil the dramatic histories of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, from the Teutonic Knights to Glasnost and beyond. These fascinating small countries have remarkably intact UNESCO heritage-listed cities. In Vilnius, capital of a once vast duchy stretching to the Black Sea, we explore Renaissance brick masterpieces like St Anne and the Bernardine's Church. We stroll through Vilnius' Baroque streets and visit its richly decorated ancient university library. Lithuania's alternative capital Kaunas boasts wonderful 15th- and 16th-century merchant houses. The country's unspoilt, picturesque meadows are framed by deep forests and defended by formidable medieval citadels like Trakai Castle, home of an army of Karaite anti-rabbinical Jews. Of particular interest are Latvia's reconstructed primitive floating-fortress village, and Lithuania's extraordinary Hill of Crosses at Siauliai. Like Vilnius, the wealthy Hanseatic port cities of Riga and Tallinn, and Estonia's lovely university town, Tartu, have historic centres that are remarkably intact. Riga and Tallinn are graced with soaring brick and stone Gothic churches whose tall towers acted as beacons for medieval merchant shipping. They boast richly decorated guildhalls and merchant centres; high-gabled Renaissance warehouses inflect their colourful streetscapes. In Riga, European Cultural Capital (2014), we encounter one of the finest Art Nouveau precincts in Europe and stay in a magnificent Art Nouveau heritage apartment-hotel. We also visit the recently renovated, Latvian National Museum of Art, one of the most beautiful architectural monuments in Riga and the largest depository of professional art in Latvia; and attend an organ recital in the Riga Dome Cathedral. Beyond these lovely walled merchant cities we visit fine Estonian country estates. St. Petersburg's famous Baroque architect Rastrelli designed Rundale Palace, which rivals his masterpieces at Pushkin and Peterhof. Meanwhile, classical Palmse and Sagadi manors, built by Baltic German barons, match the best of Georgian England. In contrast to these grand residences the Baltic States also have a vibrant folk culture and ghosts of the Soviet period, including a still-intact underground command centre bunker. The manifestation of Estonian cultural heritage is in its choral tradition, and in 2019 we visit Tallinn during their 5-yearly Song Festival.

15 DAYS Vilnius (3 nights) • Kaunas (2 nights) • Riga (4 nights) • Tartu (1 night) • Tallinn (4 nights)

Combine with Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan: Through the High Pamirs (4 - 21 Jun 19)



CROSSROADS OF THE CAUCASUS AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA

4 - 25 September 2018
3 - 24 September 2019

Lecturer: Davit Naskidashvili (2018)

Leader: Russell Casey



TOUR PRICE 2018 - WAITLIST ONLY

\$11,595.00 Land Content Only
\$2980.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019 - to be advised

Explore the fascinating history, art, architecture and unforgettable scenery of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia. Lying in the shadow of the high Caucasus Mountains and Ararat, between the Black Sea and the Caspian, these states have formed a bridge between East and West for millennia. Mesopotamian, Greek, Persian, Roman, Byzantine, Turkic and Russian conquerors and merchants have all interacted here to form fascinating mixed cultures. We witness this rich legacy in old townscapes like Tbilisi's alleyways, and in the art and architecture of Georgia's and Armenia's churches, mixing Zoroastrian, Islamic and Christian motifs in extraordinary opulence. We begin in Baku's UNESCO heritage-listed centre and new Carpet Museum, enjoying the vivid colours and bold designs of Azeri carpets. Azerbaijan has a lustrous Persian culture with historic caravanserais, palaces, mansions and tombs; in Sheki we visit the Khan's Summer Palace whose walls glow with exquisite Persian paintings. We stay in a fine mountain lodge in the Greater Caucasus Mountains and visit Gergeti Trinity Church, framed by high Caucasus peaks. We explore powerful fortress monasteries like Ananuri and Tatev, the latter reached by the world's longest cable car. We study the exquisite gold treasures in Tbilisi's History Museum and Yerevan's exceptional archaeological and painting collections. In ancient Mkhsheta we visit grand Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and in Kutaisi, Gelati Monastery, with magnificent architecture, mosaics, wall paintings, enamel and metalwork. Vardzia has a fascinating 12th-century cave monastery, with sumptuous frescoes and royal portraits. We visit Armenia's mountain monasteries of Haghpout, Noravank, and Akhtala, the country's finest flowers of ecclesiastical architecture. We follow the Silk Road past Lake Sevan, visiting a fine caravanserai at the high Selim Pass. Yerevan boasts one of the world's greatest medieval manuscript collections. Nearby, we visit a pristine Hellenistic temple at Garni and the grand old Echmiadzin Cathedral Compound. On this tour we drive through deep gorges, verdant valleys and across remote passes, view unforgettable mountain panoramas and taste an extraordinary mix of cuisine as well as Georgia's famous Kakhetian wine.

22 DAYS Baku (3 nights) • Sheki (1 night) • Signaghi (1 night) • Tbilisi (2 nights) • Kazbegi (2 nights) • Kutaisi (1 night) • Akhaltsikhe (2 nights) • Tbilisi (1 night) • Dzoraget (1 night) • Tsaghkadzor (1 night) • Goris (2 nights) • Yerevan (4 nights)

Combine with 2019: Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19)



RUSSIA'S ROMANTIC SOUL MOSCOW, NOVGOROD & ST PETERSBURG

30 June - 15 July 2019

Lecturer: Dr Adrian Jones



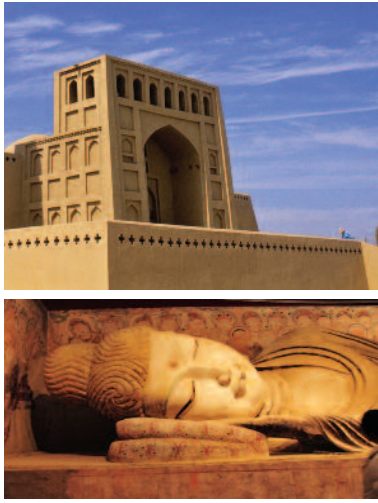
TOUR PRICE 2019

\$9590.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$9790.00 Land Content Only
\$2360.00 Single Supplement



Travel to Moscow, St Petersburg and Novgorod in July, when the days are warm and long and the boulevards are lined with flowerbeds in a riot of colour. We explore Russia's profound cultural diversity, from its historic roots in the shadow of the Byzantine Empire through Mongol rule to its emergence as a major European power. Russia's Orthodox, mystical, Asiatic past is reflected in brilliantly decorated, onion-domed churches like Moscow's St Basil's Cathedral and in shrines surrounded by the defensive walls of the Kremlin and Sergeev Posad Monastery. The Baroque splendour and calm, grand classicism of St Petersburg, on the other hand, reflect Russia's more recent European identity. Here we'll visit the great Winter Palace (Hermitage) and brilliant aristocratic residences like the Yusupov Palace. Outside the city, the Catherine Palace (Pushkin), Pavlovsk and Peterhof rival Versailles in regal grandeur. In Moscow's fascinating Tretyakov Gallery and Pushkin Museum and St. Petersburg's vast Hermitage, richly coloured traditional icons contrast with some of Europe's greatest masterpieces, from Van Eyck and Leonardo to Rembrandt, Cézanne and Matisse. By special appointment we visit the Golden Room Special Collection at the Hermitage, and the Kremlin's State Diamond Fund. Russia boasts one of the world's greatest literary cultures and a wonderful music tradition. We visit Leo Tolstoy's house, and enjoy performances in both Moscow and St Petersburg. Hanseatic Novgorod combines lovely old Orthodox churches with fine, small, merchant churches and one of the world's best village museums. In contrast we'll visit Lenin's mausoleum and a Cold War command bunker with its astonishing tunnel network that shows what power meant behind the 'iron curtain'. Meanwhile, in Moscow's and St Petersburg's street life and in the fascinating New Tretyakov Gallery we'll assess Russia's post-Soviet present and future; the New Tretyakov has a vast collection of 20th and 21st century Russian art including Soviet Realism, avant-garde artists such as Malevich, Kandinsky, Chagall, Goncharova and Popova, and the very latest in post-modernism. We'll also explore Russia's scenic waterways on relaxing river and canal cruises in Moscow and St Petersburg.

16 DAYS Moscow (7 nights) • Overnight Train Moscow - Novgorod (1 night) • Novgorod (1 night) • St Petersburg (6 nights)



THE SILK ROUTE CHINA & KYRGYZSTAN

1 - 22 September 2019

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Alex McKay
Leader: Russell Casey



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,780.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Oct 18)
\$10,980.00 Land Content Only
\$1670.00 Single Supplement

Associate Professor Alex McKay and Russell Casey lead an epic Central Asian journey along the Silk Route past the forbidding Taklimakan and Gobi deserts, up to the high Tibetan Plateau, past some of the world's highest mountains on the Karakorum Highway and through isolated, alpine Kyrgyzstan. We follow two millennia of traders, invaders, missionaries and adventurers, visiting Buddhist monasteries and Islamic mosques and tombs, fortresses, caravanserais and teaming artisan precincts. Central Asia was for centuries the world's economic hub, a melting pot of Chinese, Huns, Bactrians, Sogdians, Turkmen, Mongols, Uyghurs, Kyrgyzs, Kajaks, Uzbeks and Tajiks – and their diverse religions. We first explore China's ancient imperial capital Xi'an, cradle of Chinese civilisation and eastern Silk Route terminus. We visit its rich museum, walk its Ming defensive walls and explore the Emperor Qin Shihuang's vast mausoleum and army of terracotta warriors. From Lanzhou city, important Yellow River crossing and major trading hub, we visit Labrang Lamasery, one of Tibetan Buddhism's greatest monasteries, and the fascinating rock cut sculptures of Bingling-Si. We continue along the Gansu Corridor that linked the steppe and desert to China proper to visit the remote fortress at Jiayuguan, which protected the corridor from nomads. At Dunhuang we study a vast treasure trove of Buddhist cave painting and sculpture where thousands of medieval manuscripts were hidden for centuries. Turfan is the great oasis region of the Gobi, with fine mosques and man-made tunnels bringing water from surrounding mountains. Here, ancient Jiaohe is a majestic ruin slowly melting into the desert. Urumqi's museum displays mummified desert inhabitants over 3,000 years old. Further west, we stroll through Kashgar's teaming bazaars, especially its extraordinary animal market, and venture along the spectacular Karakoram Highway to Lake Karakol. We journey up through the towering Torugart Pass into Kyrgyzstan to visit a lonely mountain caravanserai, and witness the semi-nomadic Kyrgyzs as they tend their summer flocks in broad, isolated, scenic mountain pastures of the Suusamyr Valley. The tour features one night in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp in order to learn about yurt-making and hunting with golden eagles.

22 DAYS Xi'an (3 nights) • Lanzhou (1 night) • Xiahe (2 nights) • Jiayuguan (2 nights) • Dunhuang (2 nights) • Turfan (2 nights) • Urumchi (1 night) • Kashgar (3 nights) • Naryn (1 night) • Almaluu Yurt Camp, Lake Issyk-Kul (1 night) • Bishkek (3 nights)

TAJIKISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN THROUGH THE HIGH PAMIRS

4 - 21 June 2019

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Alex McKay
Leader: Russell Casey



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8630.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$8830.00 Land Content Only
\$990.00 Single Supplement

Cradled by the Pamir Mountains, source of the life-giving Oxus (Amu Darya) and Jaxartes (Syr Darya) rivers, Tajikistan is the garden of Central Asia. This, an untouched corner of the natural world, was nevertheless a critical commercial crossroad for countless, diverse peoples for millennia. Between verdant bamboo-forests of the Oxus valley and the stark granite peaks of the Wakhan Valley, Tajikistan is especially rich in flora and fauna. Snow leopards hunt Marco Polo sheep over mountain crags, eagles soar above glacial lakes, spring unrolls endless carpets of wildflowers, autumn tips a cornucopia of fruit, nuts, and sweet berries from ancient trees shading traditional courtyard gardens. Stalin took the great emporia of Samarkand and Bukhara from the Tajiks, but they are still rightly proud of their long history and glorious culture, seen in fine archaeological sites of Penjikent and Dushanbe. Modern Tajikistan is a political backwater, but not long ago this land bustled with traders from Europe and Asia, drawn by the Silk Road's treasures. We encounter reminders of past wealth in colourful bazaars like that of Istaravshan, which has a ruined Arg (fortress), fine Central Asian mosque and madrasa, and a holy shrine, the Sar-i Mazor Complex. Lapis lazuli and Badakhshan rubies were dug from the remote Pamir valleys. They decorated the death-masks of pharaohs and the diadems of long-dead kings. Silk sold in local bazaars became the gorgeous robes of Byzantine queens and European bishops. We follow ancient trade routes and hear descendants of the great Sogdian traders still speaking their ancient language in remote valleys of the Fan Mountains. While Islam dominates modern Tajikistan, its cosmopolitan history of Buddhism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism and Judaism is marked by ancient Kushan fortresses, reclining Buddhas, abandoned fire temples and mountain shrines. This combination of traditions is unique to Tajikistan's mountain people. Nomad chieftains and merchant-princes, wandering Chinese monks, Russian spies and hearty Victorian women explorers shadow us as we follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo and Genghis Khan across Tajikistan and into Kyrgyzstan, where we encounter transhumant herdsmen, their flocks and distinctive yurts.

18 DAYS Tashkent (1 night) • Khojand (1 night) • Penjikent (2 nights) • Dushanbe (3 nights) • Kalai-Khum (1 night) • Khorog (2 nights) • Yamg (1 night) • Langar (2 nights) • Murghab (1 night) • Osh (1 night) • Lake Toktogul (1 night) • Bishkek (1 night)

Combine with Uzbekistan (21 May - 3 Jun 19)

UZBEKISTAN: THE SILK ROAD CITIES



21 May - 3 June 2019
Lecturer: Russell Casey



Travel the fabled Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. Ancient towns and caravanserais are strung like pearls along trade routes that linked Asia and Europe for millennia. Bronze Age towns grew into thriving medieval commercial and cultural centres, while trade between Constantinople, China and India encouraged extraordinary local artistic traditions in wood, silk, illuminated manuscripts, ceramics and fabrics. From bustling Tashkent, capital of modern Uzbekistan, we fly to remote Nukus, provincial capital of the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. In this desert land, close to the ravaged Aral Sea, we explore the Savitsky Art Museum's early 20th-century Russian avant-garde art collection. The very remoteness of Nukus and the region's status as a closed Soviet military zone allowed Savitsky to collect art that would have been ideologically unthinkable in Moscow, or Leningrad. Travelling south, through the fertile Oxus river delta, stopping en-route to visit 1500-year-old abandoned Sogdian cities and fortresses, we arrive at Khiva. A hotbed of intrigue during 'The Great Game', this late medieval walled city is a maze of houses, mosques, palaces, and religious schools, all enclosed within one square mile. Driving across the harsh Kyzil Kum, or 'Red Desert', we arrive at Bukhara. One of the greatest metropolises on the medieval Silk Road, Bukhara is an ancient city of gloriously tiled mosques and madrasas, yellow-brick trading domes and minarets, where Uzbek men in colourfully-striped coats and skull-caps sip tea beneath mulberry trees. From Bukhara, we take a high-speed train to Samarkand. This ancient city was transformed by Tamerlane in the 14th century to be his imperial capital. His minarets and domes of glittering cobalt still stand watch over a city immortalised by James Elroy Flecker in *The Golden Road to Samarkand*.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$6580.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$6780.00 Land Content Only; \$670.00 Single Supplement

14 DAYS Tashkent (2 nights) • Nukus (1 night) • Khiva (2 nights) • Bukhara (3 nights) • Samarkand (4 nights) • Tashkent (1 night)

Combine with Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan: Through the High Pamirs (4 - 21 Jun 19)

IRAN: ART & CULTURE OF THE PERSIANS



17 October - 6 November 2018; 30 October - 19 November 2019
Lecturer: Please refer to website



Explore Iran's dynamic fusion of cultures on a tour offering awesome mountains and deserts, diverse art and architecture, teeming ancient bazaars and sophisticated cuisine. After visiting Tehran's world-class archaeological, carpet and glass museums, we follow the Alborz Range, once home to the notorious Assassins, westward to the Zagros Mountains. At Soltaniyeh, we view a great Mongol mausoleum crowned with one of the world's largest domes. We then traverse the Zagros' high, green valleys – famed in antiquity for their herds of sacred white horses – before exploring one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities at Hamadan, Biblical Ecbatana, home of an ancient shrine to Esther and Mordecai. Nearby, we view an extraordinary Zoroastrian temple palace complex, holy shrine of Sassanian kings, sited in an eerie volcanic crater at Takht-e Soleyman. Our journey then follows an ancient trade corridor, used in prehistory and by the ancient Medes and Persians, that later became a trade route linking China and Central Asia to the Levant. We view the magnificent Achaemenid and Sassanian rock-cut reliefs: inscriptions ordered by Darius I at Bisotun, and coronation ceremonies with scenes of a boar and deer hunt at Taq-e Bostan. Near Ahvaz, in the Mesopotamian plains, we encounter the Ziggurat at Chogha Zanbil – mighty temple of the ancient kingdom of the Biblical Elamites. Turning east through the high Zagros, we visit ancient cities of the mighty Achaemenid and Sassanian empires: lonely Pasargadae, city of Cyrus the Great; grand Persepolis; and Bishapur, city of Shapur the Great, destroyer of Roman Emperors. In the eastern deserts beyond Shiraz, home of the poet Hafez, city of nightingales and roses, are oasis trading cities of Kerman and Yazd – with unique desert architecture, including Zoroastrian towers of silence, pisé and brick shrines, mosques, icehouses, wind-towers and desert fortresses. We skirt Iran's desert plateau northwards, through the trading cities of Ardestan and Natanz, to Isfahan, capital of Safavid ruler Shah Abbas. Here we view the exquisite Lotfollah Mosque, epic Shah Mosque, the atmospheric Grand Bazaar and Ali Qapu Palace gatehouse – all enclosing his extraordinarily beautiful Meydan Square.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$10,280.00 Land Content Only; \$1890.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,680.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$10,880.00 Land Content Only; \$1940.00 Single Supplement

21 DAYS Tehran (2 nights) • Zanjan (2 nights) • Hamadan (1 night) • Kermanshah (1 night) • Ahvaz (2 nights) • Shiraz (4 nights) • Kerman (2 nights) • Yazd (2 nights) • Isfahan (3 nights) • Tehran (1 night)

EGYPT EXPLORED ACROSS THE AGES FROM ALEXANDRIA TO ABU SIMBEL



26 November - 19 December 2019
Lecturer: Lucia Gahlin

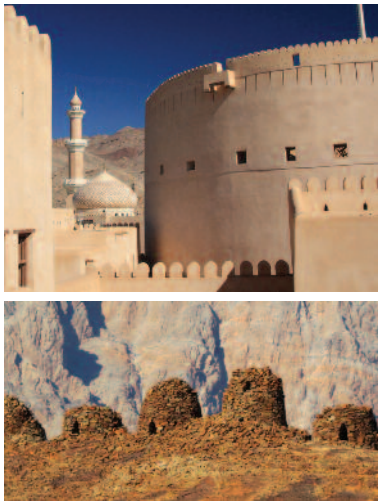


From Prehistory, Egypt has been a cradle of civilisation, given life by the annual flooding of the Nile. This most golden land of the ancient world was always a prize for ambitious conquerors, including Hyksos, Libyans, Nubians, Persians, Assyrians, and finally Alexander, whose general Ptolemy established the Graeco-Egyptian Ptolemaic dynasty. In 642 AD Egypt was captured by Muslim armies who founded Fustat, the city which later became Cairo. Egypt regained independence in the 10th century, when Fatimids from Tunisia made it the centre of their empire, stretching from the Maghreb to Syria. Succeeding Ayyubid and Mamluk dynasties also made Egypt the heart of their imperium. Throughout, Egypt controlled the profitable Red Sea spice trade which embellished Muslim Cairo. In 1517 Egypt was absorbed into the Ottoman empire. Occupied by French forces during Napoleon's *expédition de l'Égypte* (1798-1801), and by British forces from 1882, Egypt remained nominally Ottoman until World War I, only regaining full independence in 1956. This tour explores the two greatest eras of Egyptian history: four millennia of Pharaonic history, with magnificent temples and cities lining the Nile from Cairo to Aswan, and Islamic Egypt – of which the greatest expression is the bustling city of Cairo. We spend several days exploring fortresses, mosques, madrasas, and mausoleums which transformed a 7th-century Muslim garrison town into the largest city of the medieval Islamic world. We commence our Pharaonic exploration with the pyramids of Giza and Saqqara, the city of Memphis, and the extraordinary collections of the Egyptian Museum. We explore fabled Alexandria on the Delta, before travelling south to Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes. Here, we visit the temples of Karnak and Luxor on the east bank of the Nile and on the west bank, the Valley of the Kings, and the Temple of Hatshepsut. From Luxor, we spend four days sailing on traditional *dahabeyas* up the Nile to Aswan, stopping to visit temples including Edfu and Kom Ombo. From Aswan, we travel around Lake Nasser visiting Abu Simbel and little known sites including the Temple of Amada. We finish our tour with a final day exploring Coptic Cairo.

TOUR PRICE 2019 - WAITLIST ONLY

Price to be advised

24 DAYS Giza (5 nights) • Alexandria (2 nights) • Luxor (7 nights) • Luxor-Aswan Nile cruise on board *dahabeyas* (4 nights) • Aswan (2 night) • Abu Simbel (2 nights) • Cairo (1 night)



OMAN: ARABIA'S ANCIENT EMPORIUM

11 - 26 October 2018

Lecturer: Assoc. Prof. Alex McKay



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$12,680.00 Land Content Only
\$2990.00 Single Supplement



Join Alex McKay to explore the bountiful heritage that created Oman's distinct culture. Its world harks back to 5000 BC, when this region influenced the development of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. Luxuriant oases, Bedouin camps, sumptuous palaces, pre-Islamic, Islamic and Portuguese forts, tribal fortified houses and villages with colourful souqs, all grace this seldom-visited land. We journey to walled desert towns, ancient and medieval cities, the extraordinary tombs at Bat – a UNESCO World Heritage Site and possibly the best preserved Bronze Age urban settlement in the Middle East – and Nizwa, famed for its silver jewellery souq. Oman's medieval ports are orientated towards India, South-East Asia and East Africa, including the atmospheric medieval city of Sur, where we view skilled craftsmen who still produce dhows and fishing boats using traditional techniques. Holy shrines and mosques are set against a diverse environment of rugged mountains, vast sandy deserts, palm groves, and stunning white beaches on the Gulf of Oman. Desert landscapes are relieved by brilliantly green wadis, plantations of dates and bananas, and frankincense trees, still harvested at Salalah and Sumharam, a frankincense trading entrepôt on Oman's southern coast. We'll spend an evening watching nesting turtles at the Green Turtle Sanctuary at Ras al Jinz, where the Gulf of Oman meets the Indian Ocean at the easternmost tip of the Arabian Peninsula. We also visit wonderful museums and mosques, including the remarkable Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat, which showcases the best of Omani arts and crafts; and the new, state-of-the-art National Museum in Muscat, which opened in 2016. While based at Al Khasab on the Strait of Hormuz we make an excursion by 4WD to Jebel Harim (2087m), the highest mountain in the region, then cruise through the spectacular fjords of the Musandam Peninsula. The Sultanate of Oman is one of the Middle East's best-kept secrets: an idyllic land where majestic mountains and deserts frame cities populated by colourfully dressed and immensely courteous people, eagerly welcoming visitors to their seafaring nation, homeland of the legendary Sinbad.

16 DAYS Khasab (2 nights) • Muscat (3 nights) • Ras al Jinz (1 night) • Wahiba Sands Safari Desert Camp (1 night) • Nizwa (2 nights) • Jebel Akhdar (2 nights) • Salalah (4 nights)



ROMAN ALGERIA, THE SAHARA & THE M'ZAB VALLEY

14 April - 4 May 2019

Lecturer: Please refer to website



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,690.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$11,890.00 Land Content Only
\$2150.00 Single Supplement



Algeria dazzles with glorious panoramas set against a backdrop of the azure Mediterranean and a mountainous, rugged hinterland of Berber villages that eventually transforms into an African desert-world. A necklace of extraordinarily well-preserved Roman 'urbs', similar to Pompeii, rings the country, while medieval oasis towns, glorious Ottoman and French belle époque cities entrance and inspire. We explore 'Alger la Blanche' and her labyrinthine Ottoman Kasbah; we wander Tipasa, one of five World Heritage sites that inspired Albert Camus. Tipasa, with its ruins of a Phoenician trading post, Roman port and Byzantine churches, is set on a wooded and herb-rich headland overlooking the sea. The Roman 'City of Bridges', Constantine, is encircled by the dramatic gorge of Wadi Rummel and proffers a dramatic history set in an equally dramatic landscape. The perfectly preserved Roman cities of Timgad and Djémila provide insight into sophisticated urban living in the wealthiest of imperial Roman provinces. We head into the desert, beyond the limits of Roman control, to the 'closed' valley of the M'Zab, where a traditional way of life survives, little changed since medieval times when this was a remote refuge from war and religious persecution. The Sahara Desert opens up the ancient trading towns of Taghit, Benni Abbes and Timimoun – surrounded by verdant palmeriaes and enveloped by giant rolling dunes. Fortified mud-brick castles perch on pinnacles of desert rock overlooking ancient trans-Saharan trade routes, and the very faces of local people bear witness to the once-thriving salt, gold, and slave trade with West Africa. These trade routes terminated in Moorish Tlemcen which today boasts one of the finest examples of Islamic architecture in all of North Africa. This land of incredible hospitality, extraordinary history, and aromatic coffee is almost unvisited by English speakers and is a connoisseur's choice for the discerning traveller.

21 DAYS Algiers (3 nights) • Sétif (1 night) • Batna (3 nights) • Constantine (3 nights) • Ghardaia (3 nights) • Taghit (2 nights) • Timimoun (2 nights) • Tlemcen (2 nights) • Algiers (1 night)

Combine with Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Morocco (19 Mar - 9 Apr 19)

NATURAL LANDSCAPES & GARDENS OF MOROCCO



19 March - 9 April 2019

Lecturer: Stephen Ryan

Leader: Craig Lidgerwood



This tour combines a study of Morocco's history and culture with opportunities to visit private gardens, interact with landscape designers and meet garden owners. A special feature is our five-day program studying landscape design, local architecture, agriculture and ecology of the Taroudant region in southern Morocco. Here we stay in the complex designed by French garden designers Arnaud Maurières and Éric Ossart. In cosmopolitan Tangiers, a Mediterranean arts hub like the Côte d'Azur, local expert François Gilles introduces us to the wonderful houses and gardens of expatriates. They include the private gardens of Italian novelist Umberto Pasti, New Zealand born interior designer Veere Greeney, and award-winning French photographer Daniel Aron. Christopher Gibbs, British antique dealer and influential designer of men's fashion, hosts us at a private lunch in his gorgeous cliff-side compound, set in 14 acres of plush gardens. Beyond the Atlas Mountains, we encounter rich palm oases that follow rivers snaking through the desert. Alongside these 'rivers of green' are lush village vegetable gardens where precious water is shared amongst the farmers. We then cross the High Atlas to Marrakesh, the red southern city with extraordinary gardens designed by American landscape architect, Madison Cox, including that of Yves Saint Laurent and Pierre Bergé, where verdant plants contrast with vivid blue buildings; and the Bahia Palace with fine Andalusian architecture and Islamic courtyard gardens. A special treat is afternoon tea in the gardens of La Mamounia Hotel, beloved of Winston Churchill. Further south we encounter powerful contrasts between lowland and mountain plantings, observing many of Morocco's unique flora and imported and acclimatised specimens. We'll learn how traditional architecture relates to its garden armature and how contemporary architects, gardeners and plantsmen have adapted traditional relationships to create new, fascinating environments. Our introduction to Morocco's unique history, artistic and architectural traditions centres on Fes, the least changed medieval city in the world, with lovely 15th-century madrasas and *funduqs* (caravanserais). In exploring Morocco's vivid craft traditions, we'll learn how local plant dyes are used in carpets, textiles, the colouring of leather and in painting.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,180.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 July 18)

\$11,380.00 Land Content Only; \$2040.00 Single Supplement

22 DAYS Rabat (1 night) • Tangier (3 nights) • Chefchaouen (1 night) • Fes (3 nights) • Merzouga (1 night) • Tineghir (1 night) • Ouarzazate (1 night) • Marrakesh (5 nights) • Taroudant (5 nights)

Combine with Algeria (14 Apr - 4 May 19)

MADAGASCAR'S UNIQUE FLORA & FAUNA THE LIVING EDEN



9 September - 1 October 2019

Lecturer: Stephen Ryan



Visit one of the world's botanical and zoological hotspots. In 2019, Stephen Ryan will be making his seventh trip to Madagascar since the 1990s. Stephen is a renowned horticulturalist, writer and lecturer with a life-long love affair with the plants and animals of this unique land.

Madagascar, the world's fifth-largest island, has a higher percentage of endemic species than any comparable land mass; it has plant species, genera and even families that grow nowhere else on earth. Many natives have, however, made their way into gardens the world over. Among them is the magnificent Poinciana; we will see many more species of the outstanding genus of flowering plants, *Delonix*. Madagascar also has many unique native terrestrial mammal species, including such endearing creatures as lemurs. The exact number of species isn't known, as new ones are regularly discovered or reclassified. However, 86 have been described, from the tiny Madame Berthe's Mouse Lemur – the world's smallest primate at about 30 grams – to the Indri, one of the largest living lemurs, that can weigh in at 9.5 kilograms. Chameleons can be as small as your little fingernail or as big as a kitten. Many do change colour, although not as dramatically as the cartoons would suggest. The Leaf-Tailed Gecko is possibly the world's most perfectly camouflaged lizard – until it moves, you won't believe it's there. This is the land of the world's largest moth, the Comet Moth, that can measure 20 centimetres from antennae to tail; and who wouldn't love a Tomato Toad or a Giraffe-Necked Weevil with a neck five times longer than its body? We see amazing scenery from the dry canyons and *buttes* of Isalo National Park, where John Wayne would have felt at home, to the pristine rainforests of Maroantsetra with its orchids and giant bamboos eaten by Madagascar's equivalent to the Panda, the Bamboo Lemur. We also view the spectacular Avenue of the Baobabs (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the mineral forest (karst spires) of the Tsingy de Bemaraha, and the spiny forests of Ifaty. This land's unique plants and animals are not its only charms. As the last major habitable land mass to be settled by humans, the history, culture and customs unique to the Malagasy people will fascinate all who experience it.

TOUR PRICE 2019 - To be advised

23 DAYS Antananarivo (1 night) • Andasibe NP (3 nights) • Antsirabe (1 night) • Ranomafana NP (3 nights) • Isalo NP (2 nights) • Ifaty (2 nights) • Kirindy Reserve (1 night) • Tsingy Bemaraha Park (3 nights) • Morondava (1 night) • Antananarivo (1 night) • Maroantsetra (1 night) • Masoala NP (2 nights) • Antananarivo (1 night)

NATURAL LANDSCAPES & GARDENS OF SOUTH AFRICA



14 September - 3 October 2019

Lecturer: John Patrick



John Patrick leads this exciting tour of South Africa's diverse regions of Western Cape, Kwazulu-Natal, and Gauteng, exploring their unique ecosystems and incredible range of distinctive plants, many of which decisively impacted Australian gardening. Around Cape Town and the West Coast, and along the famous 'Garden Route', we enjoy diverse gardens framed by spectacular Table Mountain, from traditional English and Dutch gardens like Stellenberg and Vergelegen to contemporary creations by famed designers Franchesca Watson, Danie Steenkamp and Henk Scholtz. A special highlight is our visit to the private gardens of design patron and entrepreneur Julian Tregier; we visit his secluded Modernist ranch, and a spectacular futuristic villa overlooking Plettenberg Bay. With Senior Botanical Horticulturalist, Adam Harrower, we study the incredible plant species of Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden; explore the flora of Cape Point Nature Reserve on Africa's southernmost tip; and take a field excursion to West Coast's flower reserves during the spring wildflower season. We also visit Water Oak Farm featuring a succulent and cactus garden designed by Green Cube Landscapes and Gardens. We walk with elephants through Cape Fynbos, cruise Knysna Lagoon and sample Knysna Forest's astounding sub-tropical diversity, including huge Yellowwood trees. In Durban and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa's rich garden history comes alive. Visits include Riversfield Farm, designed by eminent British landscaper David Hicks and implemented by Keith Kirsten, South Africa's most well-known gardener; and Benvie Farm, a historic garden established in 1882. In Gauteng we view the work of Liz and Tim Steyn, at the magnificent gardens of Pallinghurst, one of Johannesburg's most important heritage homestead. Susan and Christopher Greig host us for lunch at their private home, Beechwood, and give us a tour of the magnificent gardens which includes Johannesburg's largest Water Oak. We also visit Cape Town's new Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa; Nelson Mandela's prison island; the Cradle of Humankind containing the remains of *Australopithecus*, our early ancestors; and conclude with a game drive at the Rhino and Lion Nature Reserve, to see white rhino, buffalo, cheetah, hippo and antelope. Fine dining is enjoyed at some of South Africa's best venues including Delaire Graff Estate, The Silo Hotel's Granary Café and Leeu House.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,780.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)

\$10,980.00 Land Content Only; \$2350.00 Single Supplement

20 DAYS Cape Town, Waterfront (3 nights) • Cape Town, Newlands (6 nights) • Mossel Bay (1 night) • Knysna Quays (3 nights) • Umhlanga Rocks, Durban (1 night) • Hilton, Natal Midlands (2 nights) • Johannesburg (3 nights)

A TASTE OF TASMANIA SPRING GARDENS, CRADLE MOUNTAIN & GOURMET DELIGHTS



17 - 27 November 2018; 16 - 26 November 2019
Lecturer: Deryn Thorpe



Join Deryn Thorpe, award-winning print and radio garden journalist and founder of Open Gardens WA, to explore Tasmania's beautiful public and private gardens, pristine wilderness, thriving agricultural landscapes and fine food and wine. Based in the historic port city of Hobart, we visit the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens' vegetable patch and sub-Antarctic greenhouse; exotic and native Tasmanian plants at Crawleighwood; plantswoman Sally Johansohn's contemporary perennial garden; the sophisticated multi-roomed city garden of Corinda; a garden festooned with roses at Rosedown; and the contrasting romantic and Italianate gardens at Prospect Villa. From the riverside city of Launceston we explore northern gardens, including the National Rose Gardens and Brickendon, which has some of Australia's oldest European trees. We'll meet passionate garden owners at historic Hawthorn Villa; Jodi Broombay's farm garden; historic Pear Walk, designed by a Kew Gardens-trained plantsman in the early 1900s; Old Wesleydale, home of big-scale topiary; Kaydale, created by two generations of obsessive gardeners; and Wychwood, considered to be one of Australia's finest gardens. We learn from gardening professionals including horticultural author Jennifer Stackhouse, who takes us around her home garden. Designer Karen Johnson will welcome us to her riverfront home and show us how she created her garden using a blend of native and exotic plants on a windy hilltop. In our three days based in the Cradle Mountain-Dove Lake National Park, we'll see the Tasmanian devils at feeding time, take in the gorgeous alpine scenery while walking around Dove Lake, and visit the lookout at Leven Canyon. We feast on sumptuous paddock-to-plate lunches at Matthew Evans' Fat Pig Farm and The Agrarian Kitchen cooking school; enjoy a rustic lunch at Weston Farm, specialising in fresh produce, award-winning olive oil and exquisite Peony roses; and enjoy sophisticated cellar-door lunches at Josef Chromy Wines, and at the Bay of Fires Winery in the spectacular Tamar Valley. We taste Tasmania's sensational cool-climate wines and choose from seasonal foods including luscious local cheeses, seafood, grass-fed meats, berries, peas and asparagus; stretch our legs at Russell Falls in Mt Field National Park; and visit MONA, Australia's most controversial art gallery.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$5490.00 Land Content Only; \$1150.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$5490.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Dec 18)
\$5690.00 Land Content Only; \$1150.00 Single Supplement

11 DAYS Hobart (4 nights) • Launceston (3 nights) • Cradle Mountain (3 nights)

VICTORIA'S PRIVATE GARDENS AND THEIR DESIGNERS



23 March - 1 April 2019
Lecturer: Deryn Thorpe



With Deryn Thorpe, visit some of Victoria's most beautiful gardens and meet the owners and the designers who created them. The tour travels to the Ballarat goldfields, Daylesford spa country, the green heart of the Macedon ranges, the picturesque Yarra Valley, fern glades and forests of the Dandenongs, Victoria's award-winning Australian Garden at Cranbourne, and coastal and inland areas of the Mornington Peninsula. While based in Ballarat we meet celebrity designer Paul Bangay, who takes us through Stonefields, his own spectacular rural garden, and view David Glenn's display and trial garden at Lambley Nursery. At Mount Macedon we explore four hectares of established gardens at an historic working cattle property called Bolobek. Our stay in Melbourne includes a day at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, where Deryn Thorpe and ABC Perth radio presenter, Sabrina Hahn, will introduce us to the designers and critique the landscape displays. Professor Tim Entwisle will also guide us through Melbourne's 173-year-old heritage botanic garden, described as one of the most beautiful botanic garden landscapes in the world. We view the work of Phillip Johnson, who won gold and 'Best in Show' for his show garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2013, when we visit Lubra Bend in the Yarra Valley and his own private garden in the Dandenong Ranges. John Van de Linde leads us through Alowyn Gardens, created from bare paddocks, and Jeremy Francis takes us on a tour of his garden gem called Cloudehill. Award-winning Melbourne designer Jim Fogarty, who won a gold medal for Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2011, as well as gold and 'Best in Show' at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2014, introduces us to the Australian Garden at Cranbourne, gives us a talk on using indigenous plants, and shows us one of his inner-Melbourne design projects. The final leg of our tour includes two nights based in Flinders on the Mornington Peninsula. Here, we visit Karkalla, international designer Fiona Brockhoff's modern and innovative coastal garden; discover the informal beauty of Musk Cottage, the low maintenance, low water garden by designer Rick Eckersley; and view two private gardens designed by Paul Bangay. We also tour The Garden Vineyard, widely considered to be one of Australia's finest gardens, and visit Cruden Farm with Michael Morrison, who worked tirelessly with Dame Elisabeth Murdoch for more than four decades.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$4850.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$5050.00 Land Content Only; \$1130.00 Single Supplement

10 DAYS Ballarat (3 nights) • Melbourne (3 nights) • Flinders (2 nights) • Melbourne (1 night)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: THE SOUTH WEST WILDFLOWERS, WINERIES & PRIVATE GARDENS



14 - 25 September 2019
Lecturers: Steve Wood & Sabrina Hahn



Join Western Australian gardeners and media presenters Steve Wood and Sabrina Hahn in WA's south west during wildflower season, in an area internationally recognised as one of the world's top 10 biodiversity 'hotspots'. This tour combines magnificent scenery, a fascinating survey of WA's unique flora, visits to important private gardens, and the culinary delights of prestigious wineries. WA's south-west is home to 75 per cent of the state's 8000 species of flora found nowhere else in the world; many rare animals depend upon this unique habitat. By 4WD we explore the remote, spectacular areas of tall karri forests in Warren National Park, and the Yeagarup Dunes, the largest land-locked mobile dune system in the southern hemisphere. Led by Sabrina, we follow nature trails to view the craggy peaks of the Stirling Range; The Gap, Natural Bridge and Blowholes of Torndirrup National Park; and the colourful explosion of wildflowers at Fitzgerald River National Park. We walk through treetops in the Valley of the Giants and explore the biodiversity of the Walpole Wilderness on a cruise with a local expert. Western Australia also has a unique garden culture. We view award-winning landscape designer Janine Mendel's home garden in Karrinyup; Pat Poynton's 'Secret Garden', designed by Melbourne master Paul Bangay; and Bill Mitchell's fire-resistant garden, which was featured in Julie Kinney's *The Garden Wanderer*. We also visit Cypress Farm, home of Professor Kingsley Dixon, Foundation Director of Science at Kings Park and Botanic Garden, and the home gardens of Sabrina Hahn and Deryn Thorpe, founder of Open Gardens WA. We'll take a behind-the-scenes tour of Kings Park International Breeding Program with Senior Plant Breeder, Digby Grown, and spend a day at the Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show, visiting the herbarium with its 3000 botanical specimens. Great culinary pleasures include lunch at Millbrook Winery with WA's 'Chef of the Year', Guy Jeffreys, and a 5-course dégustation menu at Margaret River's celebrated Cullen Wines, which compliments its wines with fruit, herbs and vegetables from its extensive biodynamic garden.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$5280.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$5480.00 Land Content Only; \$880.00 Single Supplement

12 DAYS Margaret River (2 nights) • Walpole (1 night) • Albany (3 nights) • Hopetoun (2 nights) • Fremantle (3 nights)

AUTUMN & THE ART OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN



14 - 29 November 2018; 13 - 28 November 2019
Lecturer: Jim Fogarty



This tour has been timed to visit Japan when its countryside explodes into symphonies of glorious autumnal colour. Japan's gardens are renowned for subtly combining artifice and nature, blurring the boundaries between garden and landscape. Some gardens are tiny and minimalist, conveying subtle meanings through ingenious combinations of moss, stones, rock and water. Others are grand, framing rich palaces and temples. One of our Tokyo highlights is Happon Garden, where ladies in kimonos serve a lunch in a delightful teahouse before we stroll through the gardens viewing 200-year-old bonsai trees. We visit some of the capital's great museums, filled with both western and eastern art, such as the Nezu Museum, the Suntory Museum of Art and the Tokyo National Museum. In Kyoto we explore some of the many traditional gardens that have been painstakingly nurtured and preserved. These include ancient temple and garden complexes such as Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavilion), Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and Ryoan-ji – the famed Dragon Peace Temple. In 8th-century capital Nara, architectural treasures, great collections and fine gardens include the Todai-ji Temple and Kofuku-ji Temple, which has a five-storey pagoda and treasure trove of Buddhist statues. At Kanazawa we explore traditional construction techniques at Kanazawa Castle and Nagamachi Samurai Residence, and we stroll Kenrokuen, the 'garden of the six sublimities'. We also make a special day tour to villages in Kiso Valley, carefully preserved monuments to Japan's feudal past; stay for a night in a traditional *ryokan*; and visit Japan's greatest natural symbol, Mt Fuji. Our tour finishes with a visit to the Adachi Museum of Art, renowned for its stunning collection of contemporary Japanese art and its beautiful contemplation garden. As we travel through this remarkable country we experience its rich culinary traditions, where artistry in the presentation of each dish is as important as the delicate flavours.

TOUR PRICE 2018

\$12,180.00 Land Content Only; \$1480.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019 - To be advised

16 DAYS Tokyo (3 nights) • Kawaguchiko (1 night) • Matsumoto (2 nights) • Kanazawa (1 night) • Kyoto (3 nights) • Nara (1 night) • Kyoto (3 nights) • Matsue (1 night)

CHERRY BLOSSOM & THE ART OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN



27 March - 10 April 2019
Lecturer: John Patrick



This tour visits Japan just as the delicate cherry blossom begins to bloom. Sakura, as the blossom is known in Japanese, has been celebrated for centuries and holds an important place in the nation's psyche. It adds a special dimension to our tour as we visit some of Japan's greatest gardens, its dynamic cities, and enjoy the superb local cuisine. In historic centres like Kyoto, Nara and in Tokyo you'll discover how Japan's gardens can be experienced on many levels and are renowned for subtly combining artifice and nature, 'borrowing' the surrounding landscape and using it as an element in garden design. We visit splendid stroll gardens, including Kanazawa's Kenrokuen Garden ('garden of the six sublimities'), and Tokyo's Rikugien Garden with manicured grass, artfully contorted pine trees held up by wooden supports, wooden tea houses, and crooked rustic bridges over gurgling streams. Kyoto gardens include such extensive, ancient temple and garden complexes as Ginkaku-ji (Silver Pavilion), Kinkaku-ji (Golden Pavilion) and Ryoan-ji – the famed Dragon Peace Temple. Throughout, garden visits are complemented with traditional architecture to enrich your understanding of Japanese aesthetics. In Kanazawa and Matsumoto we visit the great castles of powerful feudal lords, as well as historic streets where old Samurai houses are preserved; in Nara we visit Kofuku-ji Temple with a five-storey pagoda and treasure trove of Buddhist statues, and in Kyoto we combine garden visits with expressions of traditional Japanese culture like tea ceremonies. Japan's great museums also have an important place in the program, with visits to the Tokyo National Museum, Suntory Museum of Art and Nara National Museum. We spend a night in a traditional *ryokan* and savour a traditional meal, make a day tour to villages in Kiso Valley, carefully preserved monuments to Japan's feudal past, and stroll Japan's greatest natural symbol, Mt Fuji.

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,390.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)

\$11,590.00 Land Content Only; \$2495.00 Single Supplement

15 DAYS Tokyo (1 night) • Kawaguchiko (1 night) • Matsumoto (2 nights) • Kanazawa (1 night) • Kyoto (3 nights) • Nara (1 night) • Kyoto (2 nights) • Tokyo (3 nights)

KINGDOMS OF CORAL, KARST & CLOVES A VOYAGE FROM RAJA AMPAT TO TERNATE



14 January - 25 January 2019

Lecturer: Jeffrey Mellefont

In association with SeaTrek Sailing Adventures



"The beauty and brilliancy of this insect are indescribable, and none but a naturalist can understand the intense excitement I experienced when I at length captured it. On taking it out of my net and opening the glorious wings, my heart began to beat violently, the blood rushed to my head, and I felt much more like fainting than I have done when in apprehension of immediate death. I had a headache the rest of the day, so great was the excitement produced by what will appear to most people a very inadequate cause." From Wallace's 1869 book *The Malay Archipelago*.

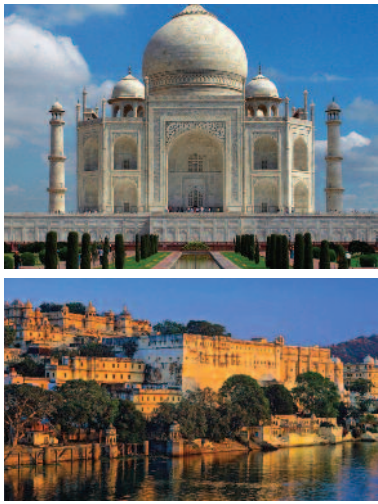
This voyage criss-crosses the Equator, exploring one of the least visited but most memorable destinations on our planet, in the far east of the old East Indies. Its highlight is surely Raja Ampat, a sparsely-inhabited archipelago of spectacular limestone karst-formation islands and islets. One of the most famous ecological niches on the planet, in the heart of South-East Asia's 'Coral Triangle', the beauty of its picturesque karst spires is rivalled by the reefs and marine life flourishing below. Our 12-day voyage through these sheltered waters is on luxuriously outfitted, air-conditioned *Ombak Putih* ('White Wave'), a traditional Indonesian sailing ship that's part of the heritage of this wider island world. She sets sail for Raja Ampat from the Bird's Head Peninsula at the north-western tip of Indonesia's Papua province – home of the birds of paradise, which we hope to see. Raja Ampat means 'Four Kings', standing for its four larger islands, Waigeo, Salawati, Batanta and Misool. In earlier times these tiny kingdoms were ruled by the North Moluccan spice sultanates of Ternate and Tidore, where our voyage ends. We sail there in the wake of ancient Asian spice traders and European explorers who fought to dominate its riches of cloves, nutmeg and mace. The 19th-century English naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, founder of geo-biology (the Wallace Line) and co-discoverer of the theory of evolution, sailed these seas to find the Red Bird of Paradise. All of these stories, and the diversity of local maritime cultures, are revealed day-by-day by ASA lecturer Jeffrey Mellefont.

TOUR PRICE 2019

USD\$7450.00 Land Content Only: Twin-share cabins

Based on the exchange rate (1AUD = .75USD), this is approximately \$9935.00 AUD. The final tour price will be confirmed 4 months prior to departure.

12-DAY CRUISE: Sorong – Raja Ampat – Ternate aboard the *Ombak Putih*



MUGHALS, RAJPUTS & VILLAGES: THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF NORTH INDIA

22 January - 12 February 2019

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,090.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$10,290.00 Land Content Only
\$2345.00 Single Supplement

Emeritus Professor Bernard Hoffert, former World President of the International Association of Art – UNESCO (1992-95), leads this tour to North India, visiting three princely capitals in the heartland of the Mughal Empire – Delhi, Agra and Fatehpur Sikri – and a number of great Rajput fortress cities in Rajasthan. It explores the fusion of Hindu and Islamic cultures at Mughal monuments such as Agra's Red Fort, Shah Jahan's exquisite Taj Mahal, and Akbar the Great's Fatehpur Sikri. We also enjoy the opulence and grandeur of Rajput fortress palaces, fusing indigenous Hindu and Mughal styles, at Jaipur, Bijaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. From their powerful walls, brilliant glass-walled staterooms, exquisite garden courts and lustrous pavilions the Rajputs dominated vibrant cities. At Chitor we explore the grand deserted fortress from which opium-crazed Rajput cavalry thrice charged better-equipped Muslim forces whilst their women committed ritual suicide. We cruise past exquisite island pleasure pavilions on Lake Pichola at Udaipur and explore merchant houses in Jaisalmer and Bikaner with their intricately carved window screens. We visit Ajmer's great Sufi shrine, grand Mughal mosques like Delhi's ancient Qutub Minar, brilliant red or white royal tombs like Agra's Itmad Ud Daula and vast, richly decorated Jain temples at Ranakpur and Jaisalmer. We wend our way through teeming bazaars and explore Rajasthan's vibrant folk culture manifest in its village life, and its fine music and dance, intricate jewellery and brilliantly coloured textiles. We ride stately elephants and take a 4WD through one of Rajasthan's best nature reserves to view blackbuck, an endangered species of antelope. Special features of this tour are accommodation in fine heritage hotels in old palaces, fortresses and pretty merchant houses in Jodhpur, Kumbhalgarh, Bijaipur, Bikaner, Khimsar, Jaisalmer and Jaipur, and the delights of delicious Indian cuisine.

22 DAYS Delhi (3 nights) • Jaipur (3 nights) • Bundi (1 night) • Castle 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)

Combine with Ancient Kingdoms & Empires of Southern India (28 Dec - 19 Jan 19)

ANCIENT KINGDOMS & EMPIRES OF SOUTHERN INDIA

28 December 2018 - 19 January 2019

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,780.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 18)
\$10,980.00 Land Content Only
\$1880.00 Single Supplement

Explore the epic history of southern and central India from ancient small kingdoms to great Hindu, Muslim and British empires. This grand journey visits many of India's most important and spectacular Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Islamic monuments. At Mahabalipuram, ancient port of the Pallava kings we explore the famous Shore Temple and unique rock-carved temples called the 'Five Rathas'. We visit 'The Great Living Temples': the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram, the Gangaikonda Cholapuram and the Brihadeshwara Temple of Thanjavur, brilliant achievements of Chola architecture, sculpture, painting and bronze casting. We view the priceless Chola bronze masterpieces in Chennai's and Thanjavur's museums. Thanjavur's Saraswati Mahal Library holds rare palm leaf manuscripts. The Hoysala Dynasty Channakeshava Temple, Belur and Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebid are covered with intricate carvings of gods, celestial beings and humans. At all Hindu temples we enjoy the rich, colourful religious ritual and dress of temple-goers. A special highlight is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Vijayanagar (Hampi), capital of a great Hindu Kingdom, which includes forts, palaces, temples, shrines, gateways and stables. In North Karnataka we encounter the finest examples of Chalukyan art and architecture, including the famed Temple of Virupaksha and the red sandstone rock-cut cave temples of Badami. We also enjoy Srirangapatnam, Tipu Sultan's fabulous palace and mosque. In Mysore we delight in the Wodeyar Maharajas' florid palace, blending Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic elements. Kochi's fascinating mix of East and West includes St. Francis' Church, Fort Cochin, and the 16th-century Portuguese Mattancherry Palace with murals depicting the *Ramayana*. In Hyderabad and Golconda we'll encounter masterpieces of Islamic architecture. Everywhere, we wander through lively markets like Thanjavur's vegetable market. We enjoy the tasty cuisine of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Deccan, drive through extremely varied landscapes from arid plains to tropical forests, and cruise Kerala's backwaters watching busy river life.

23 DAYS Chennai (2 nights) • Mahabalipuram (2 nights) • Pondicherry (1 night) • Thanjavur (2 nights) • Madurai (2 nights) • Thekkady (1 night) • Cochin (2 nights) • Mysore (3 nights) • Hassan (1 night) • Hampi (4 nights) • Hyderabad (2 nights).

Combine with The Cultural Heritage of Northern India (22 Jan - 12 Feb 19)



BERLIN & HAMBURG ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

18 - 30 September 2018
17 - 29 September 2019

Leader: Stephen Crafti
Lecturers:
A team of local specialists & guides



TOUR PRICE 2018

\$7980.00 Land Content Only
\$1680.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7980.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$8180.00 Land Content Only
\$1680.00 Single Supplement

Explore the best of Germany's contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion in Berlin, Dessau and Hamburg. We visit New Tendency, one of Berlin's most popular young design studios featured in *Wallpaper* and *Casa Vogue* and projects by KINZO Berlin with founder Chris Middleton. Leading designer Frank Leder discusses his fashion label at his private studio in Charlottenburg, and fashion/textile designer Esther Perbandt hosts us for a private evening at her atelier. Led by local architects, we visit the Deutscher Bundestag with Sir Norman Foster's extraordinary glass dome; Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum; Berlin's Kulturforum with projects by Hans Scharun and Mies van der Rohe; Museum Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, currently being renovated according to David Chipperfield's masterplan. In Hamburg we take an architectural tour of HafenCity – Europe's largest inner-city urban development project, the new Stadhöfe-Quartier; the interior of a contemporary houseboat, and *Haus im Haus* by Benisch Architects. We explore transformations of historic buildings like Bocci 79, housed in a former 19th-century courthouse, and now decorated with experimental lighting and pieces from the 10-year-old design brand's archive. We also see exquisite hand-made gold and precious metal wallpaper being made on a private tour of the Welter Manufaktur; explore Berlin's newest concept stores with product designer Flavia Alice Mameli; and in Hamburg, we view fine fountain pens by Stefan Fink and award-winning lighting by Tobias Grau. In Dessau, we trace Germany's avant-garde design tradition at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bauhaus buildings and Masters' Houses. The Bauhaus Museum Dessau is being built for the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus and will open in 2019. At the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Contemporary Art, we view works by Andy Warhol, Joseph Beuys and Keith Haring. Other great museums include the Kunstgewerbemuseum, with its important collections of applied arts and crafts and a fashion gallery showcasing clothing by Coco Chanel, Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent; and the Museum of Things, which chronicles the product culture of the 20th and 21st centuries. Special highlights include dinner at the Michelin-starred Pauly Saal Restaurant and a performance at Hamburg's new Elbphilharmonie by Herzog & de Meuron.

13 DAYS Berlin (3 nights) • Dessau (2 nights) • Berlin (4 nights) • Hamburg (3 nights)

Combine with Finland Architecture and Design (3 - 16 Sep 19)

FINLAND ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

3 - 16 September 2019

Leader: Stephen Crafti
Lecturers:
A team of local specialists & guides



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7780.00 Land Content Only
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 18)
\$7980.00 Land Content Only
\$1550.00 Single Supplement

With architecture and design writer Stephen Crafti, explore the very best of Finland's modernist and contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion in Helsinki, Jyväskylä, Seinäjoki and Turku. Our tour is timed to coincide with Helsinki Design Week. Accompanied by a local architect, we learn about the capital's rich history of architecture and design with visits to Finlandia Hall, Eliel Saarinen's Central Station, the Chapel of Silence and Oodi – the new Helsinki Central Library. Our tours of the Artek store and the Aalto House and Studio introduce us to Alvar Aalto, Finland's most famous architect of the 20th century. At Marimekko House, printing specialist Petri Juslin shows us examples of the world-renowned Marimekko prints. We also learn about Ivana Helsinki's fashion brand at her flagship store and visit the private showroom of Marita Huurinainen, famous for her 'wave shoes'. By special appointment, we visit the Ateljé Sotamaa, architects behind the Finnish Pavilion in World Expo 2017; the studio of designer Harri Koskinen, where we learn about his internationally renowned range of products; the private collection of Timo Sarpaneva, best known for his innovative work in glass; and meet new artists at the Design Lab at the Iittala and Arabia Design Centre. We travel through Finnish forests to Lahti to view its timber architecture and learn about the unique ways in which Finns have used wood. We also tour the Finnish Nature Centre at Haltia, and visit Löyly, the extraordinary waterside sauna designed by Avanto. A special highlight is our private tour of the award-winning 'Summer Villa', a minimalist seaside residence designed by Haroma & Partners. On our journey through Finland we continue our survey of works by Alvar Aalto. We visit the Alvar Aalto Museum and Workers Club in Jyväskylä, his town hall at Säynätsalo, and his experimental house at Muuratsalo. In Seinäjoki we tour the striking Aalto Centre; view his Sanatorium at Paimio; and by special arrangement, see the world-famous Villa Mairea in Noormarkku. We view contemporary art at Kiasma and at the Didrichsen Art Museum; and tour the Design Museum and the Museum of Finnish Architecture. Other highlights include visits to Sibelius' turn-of-the-century villa; Villa Kokkonen by Aalto; and Villa Hvitträsk, Saarinen's home and studio. The finest Finnish food is enjoyed at the intimate Michelin-star Restaurant Ask and at the legendary Savoy Restaurant designed by Alvar and Aino Aalto.

14 DAYS Helsinki (6 nights) • Jyväskylä (2 nights) • Seinäjoki (1 night) • Turku (2 nights) • Helsinki (2 nights)

Combine with Berlin & Hamburg (17 - 29 Sep 19)

