



**ASA**  
CULTURAL TOURS

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

# Tour Directory

2019 / 2020



# TOUR CALENDAR

For Lectures, Special Events & Itineraries see:  
[www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)

Tour prices and dates are valid at time of publication of this brochure (May 2019), and are subject to change. All tour prices are in AUD, unless otherwise indicated.

## SEPTEMBER 2019

01 Sep - 22 Sep	The Silk Route: China & Kyrgyzstan	20
03 Sep - 16 Sep	Finland: Architecture and Design	26
03 Sep - 24 Sep	Crossroads of the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia	21
05 Sep - 23 Sep	Beyond Chocolate & Windmills: Cultural Treasures of the Low Countries	10
06 Sep - 24 Sep	Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal	9
09 Sep - 01 Oct	The Living Eden: Madagascar's Unique Flora & Fauna	24
11 Sep - 25 Sep	Art, Architecture and Music in Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg	16
14 Sep - 25 Sep	Western Australia: Wildflowers, Wineries & Private Gardens of the South West	31
14 Sep - 03 Oct	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of South Africa	24
17 Sep - 29 Sep	Berlin & Hamburg: Architecture and Design	26
19 Sep - 08 Oct	Art and Architecture in the USA: Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC and 'Fallingwater'	29
24 Sep - 09 Oct	Cultural Landscapes of the Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne	11
26 Sep - 10 Oct	Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic	13
27 Sep - 18 Oct	Art and Culture in Spain	9

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

07 Oct - 22 Oct	Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England	7
12 Oct - 25 Oct	Paris: The Great World City	11
12 Oct - 26 Oct	Southern Italy: Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast & the Treasures of Apulia	14
28 Oct - 09 Nov	Rome: Portrait of a City	13
29 Oct - 12 Nov	Sicily and the Aeolian Islands	14
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	31

26 Nov - 19 Dec	Egypt Explored: Across the Ages, from Alexandria to Abu Simbel	22
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## JANUARY - MARCH 2020

18 Jan - 31 Jan	Japan: Architecture and Design	27
04 Feb - 25 Feb	Mughals, Rajputs & Villages: The Cultural Heritage of North India	25
06 Feb - 17 Feb	Spice Traders, Island Tramps & Sea Gypsies: A Voyage from Ternate to Kendari with 'SeaTrek Sailing Adventures'	30
27 Feb - 17 Mar	A Sri Lankan Odyssey: Elephants, Temples, Spices & Forts	25
24 Mar - 08 Apr	Jordan: Petra, Desert Fortresses, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea	22

## APRIL - MAY 2020

08 Apr - 24 Apr	Art and Architecture: Los Angeles, New York & the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art	29
14 Apr - 05 May	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Morocco	24
24 Apr - 14 May	Turkey: The Ages of Anatolia	19
26 Apr - 13 May	An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik	18
27 Apr - 19 May	Gardens of Italy: The Italian Lakes, the Piedmont, Tuscany, Umbria & Rome	12
08 May - 28 May	Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands	17
12 May - 22 May	Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show	7
13 May - 27 May	Bulgaria & the Black Sea: Painted Towns, Byzantine Monasteries & Thracian Treasures	15
15 May - 04 Jun	A Journey through Minoan Crete, Mycenaean Greece and the Classical World	18
16 May - 03 Jun	The Turquoise Coast: Rhodes & Southern Turkey	19
19 May - 01 Jun	Uzbekistan: The Silk Road Cities	20
22 May - 04 Jun	Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands: Jersey, Guernsey, Herm, Burhou & Sark	7
27 May - 16 Jun	Exploring the Literary Landscapes of England	28
27 May - 09 Jun	Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries	15

## JUNE - JULY 2020

01 Jun - 18 Jun	Shetland & Orkney: Archaeology & Wildlife of the Northern Isles	8
02 Jun - 21 Jun	Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan: Through the High Pamirs	20
03 Jun - 23 Jun	Belgium and the Rhine Valley: Tradition and Innovation in Art & Garden Design	10
06 Jun - 26 Jun	Gardens, Villages & Châteaux of Normandy & Brittany	12
09 Jun - 29 Jun	Cornwall, Devon, Southern Wales & the Wye: Picturesque Coasts & Country Life	6

10 Jun - 22 Jun	Poland, the Heart of Europe: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun & Gdansk	15
25 Jun - 09 Jul	Summer Garden Masterpieces of England & the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show	6
29 Jun - 20 Jul	Gardens, Villages & Historic Homes of Yorkshire & the Scottish Borders	8
30 Jun - 14 Jul	Heritage Cities of the Baltic: Vilnius, Kaunas, Riga, Tartu & Tallinn	17

## SEPTEMBER 2020

01 Sep - 14 Sep	Finland: Architecture and Design	26
01 Sep - 22 Sep	Crossroads of the Caucasus: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia	21
03 Sep - 21 Sep	Beyond Chocolate & Windmills: Cultural Treasures of the Low Countries	10
04 Sep - 22 Sep	Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal	9
04 Sep - 25 Sep	The Habsburg Cities: Budapest, Vienna, Prague & Bohemia	16
08 Sep - 21 Sep	Paris: The Great World City	11
15 Sep - 26 Sep	The Scents of the Spice Islands: A Voyage from Ambon to Ternate with 'SeaTrek Sailing Adventures'	30
16 Sep - 26 Sep	Belgium: Architecture and Design	27
17 Sep - 06 Oct	Art and Architecture in the USA: Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington DC and 'Fallingwater'	29
18 Sep - 08 Oct	Exploring More Literary Landscapes of England	28
22 Sep - 06 Oct	Sicily and the Aeolian Islands	14
22 Sep - 07 Oct	Cultural Landscapes of the Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne	11
25 Sep - 16 Oct	Art and Culture in Spain	9
27 Sep - 17 Oct	Roman Algeria, the Sahara & the M'Zab Valley	23

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

05 Oct - 20 Oct	Great Libraries & Stately Homes of England	7
22 Oct - 31 Oct	Private Gardens of the Blue Mountains & Southern Highlands	31
08 Oct - 22 Oct	Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic	13
11 Oct - 01 Nov	Atacama to Patagonia: Chile's Natural World	30
20 Oct - 06 Nov	Tunisia: From Carthage to the Sahara	23
21 Oct - 10 Nov	Iran: Art and Culture of the Persians	21
04 Nov - 15 Nov	Victoria's Private Country Gardens & their Designers	31
04 Nov - 19 Nov	Autumn & the Art of the Japanese Garden	25
09 Nov - 24 Nov	Islands of Singular Charm: A Literary, Historical and Cultural Tour of New Zealand	28
24 Nov - 17 Dec	Egypt Explored: Across the Ages, from Alexandria to Abu Simbel	22

# TRAVELLING WITH ASA

ASA pioneered cultural travel in the 1970s. The company has maintained its leadership in the field through its carefully researched itineraries and by building a team of enthusiastic experts to lead its tours.

## Expert Leaders & Guides

Learn 'on the spot' with experts - at archaeological sites and great monuments, in literary landscapes, in front of artworks, in private gardens, and other exciting places.

## Exclusive Visits

Enjoy behind-the-scenes visits to sites, museums and libraries, and to private houses and gardens as a guest of the owners. Our tours also aim to include a variety of experiences including music performances, wildlife excursions, festivals, and walks through landscapes of exceptional beauty.

## Small Groups

Enjoy travelling in a small group. Our maximum group size ranges from 16 - 26 guests with the average group size currently 18.

## Themed Tours

Indulge a passion on an ASA tour with a focused theme. On literary tours enrich your reading by exploring the settings of your favourite novels and the places where great writers lived and wrote. On specialist design tours, investigate the very latest, cutting edge creations in architecture, interior design, fashion, furniture, ceramics and textiles. On garden and landscape programs, our team of accomplished horticulturalists, landscape designers, gardeners, writers and media presenters provide unique insights into the propagation of beautiful environments, often in private gardens.

## Carefully Selected Hotels & Delicious Food

Where possible, we select centrally located hotels that complement the theme of each tour, including heritage and boutique hotels with historical charm or 'design' themes. We also sample some of the world's best cuisine - and tipples - in famous restaurants, at farms and vineyards, in markets, and enjoy local hospitality at private homes and gardens.

## Tour Handbooks

Handbooks and site notes written exclusively for ASA often support a tour. In some cases, we choose the most suitable reference book available, which you receive prior to departure.

## Physical Endurance

ASA travellers are of all ages and from all walks of life. Some travel individually, some as couples, or groups of friends. All you need is an enquiring mind, enthusiasm and a reasonable level of fitness. All tours have a physical endurance rating indicated by the number of flags. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves.

## Book Early to Reserve your Place on an ASA Tour

Some ASA tours fill very quickly, especially those to new destinations, with a favourite leader or with a limited group size. Travellers are encouraged to reserve their place early by completing the Reservation Application Form and paying a deposit of \$500.00 per person. Many ASA tours offer an early-bird discount which will be deducted from the final invoice. Where the tour price has not been set, you may reserve a place on a tour by paying a \$100.00 per person preliminary deposit and completing the Intention to Travel Form. The ASA Reservation Application and Intention to Travel Forms are available online.

## Full Itineraries Available Online

Detailed day-by-day itineraries for all of our tours can be found at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au). These include the Terms and Conditions, and the Physical Endurance Level applicable to each tour. They also outline what is included in the tour price. If you are unable to access the web please contact ASA and we will be happy to email or post you a copy.

## For Further Advice, Information and Reservations

Please contact the ASA Reservations Team:

Call +61 (0) 3 9822 6899

Email: [info@asatours.com.au](mailto:info@asatours.com.au)

[www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)



# ASA LECTURE SERIES

*Join Australians Studying Abroad to celebrate more than 40 years of public lecturing in Australia. We are pleased to have Tony O'Connor help celebrate this milestone.*

**Tony O'Connor** is a specialist in the Roman Empire. He has excavated widely across Britain, Italy and North Africa. He has a particular interest in Roman North Africa, having excavated in Libya for many years. Through his work in Libya, Tunisia, Sicily and Lebanon, Tony has spent many years studying the Phoenicians and their legacy. For over 30 years Tony has curated and developed archaeological collections in UK museums. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

## 2019 LECTURE PROGRAM

**Melbourne: 29 June • Canberra: 4 July • Sydney: 6 July**

For over 1000 years the cities of North Africa were at the heart of the classical world and the Mediterranean was a highway for the migration of people, trade and ideas. These talks explore aspects of this extraordinary period.

### Lecture 1 1.00 – 1.50pm

#### Tophets, Trade & the Alphabet:

#### *The Phoenicians in the Mediterranean World*

The enigmatic Phoenicians are one of the least known, but most influential peoples of the ancient world, best known to us through the descriptions made by their enemies. This lecture explores the story of their origins in what is now modern Lebanon; their role as traders and craftsmen across the Mediterranean; and the rise of their dominance in the western Mediterranean and North Africa through their great city of Carthage until their eventual conquest and destruction by Rome.

### Lecture 2 2.20 – 3.10pm

#### Paintings in Stone:

#### *Coloured figurative mosaics of North Africa*

The tradition of coloured figurative mosaics has left a fantastic assemblage of these 'paintings in stone'; particularly in the Roman province of Africa Proconsularis (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), where mosaic production reached its height in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. This lecture will review the range of mosaic images and themes along with the organisation of the mosaic workshops. It will look at the origins of high-quality coloured mosaics in Ptolemaic Alexandria in the 2nd century BC and trace their development up to the high point of North African mosaic manufacture in the 4th century AD, as seen in the decorative scheme at the Roman villa of Casale at Piazza Armerina in Sicily.

## Reservations

These celebratory lectures are free of charge, however bookings are essential. Please book online: [www.asatours.com.au/events/](http://www.asatours.com.au/events/)



# 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 lectures 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 La Trobe 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.) & an MA in Hispanic Studies (Complutense Uni., Madrid). She has led ASA's tours to Spain since 2008.



**Katie Campbell**

An archaeologist who has worked throughout Central Asia and the Middle East. Her Oxford PhD studies the impact of Mongol conquests on cities of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Katie leads ASA tours along the Silk Route, and in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan.



**Shane Carmody**

A library historian with a BA in History & Fine Arts, and an 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.



**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 Asia tours since 2009.



**Dr Paul Collins**

Curator for Ancient Near East at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, Paul has researched and taught the history & archaeology of Iran and Mesopotamia for 30 years. He wrote *Mountains and Lowlands: Ancient Iran and Mesopotamia* and leads ASA's 2019 Iran tour.



**Stephen Crafti**

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



**Sophy Downes**

A published expert in Classical and Near Eastern archaeology, Sophy's PhD compared architecture and politics of Persepolis & Athens' Acropolis. A lecturer at UC London, Edinburgh and John Cabot University, Sophy leads ASA tours to Turkey & Iran.



**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 currently leads literary tours to the UK, USA & New Zealand.



**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 is an expert in the literature & architecture of the ancient world. He has run the University's Classics Summer School since 2002. Chris joined ASA in 2016 and currently leads tours to Croatia and Greece.



**Sabrina Hahn**

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



**Margaret Heathcote**

Heritage architect with a Master's in Cultural Heritage (University of Leuven, Belgium) and former member of the London Philharmonia Chorus, Margaret brings her own special knowledge of historic buildings to tours in the UK.



**Richard Heathcote**

Director of Benefaction at Carrick Hill house & garden, National Chair of the Australian Garden History Society, 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. He joined ASA in 1995 and has since led numerous tours to Italy, France & the UK.



**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.



**Gillian Hovell**

Gillian has worked at BBC Television and is an award-winning writer. A public lecturer in archaeology, ancient history, and prehistory, involved in digs like Orkney's famous Ness of Brodgar Neolithic site. Gillian leads ASA's Shetland & Orkney tour in 2020.



**Dr Adrian Jones, OAM**

Associate Professor of History and 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 leads ASA tours to Russia and Romania.

**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.

**Beth Lloyd**

Author, former BBC broadcast journalist & Head of Business Development for the Jersey Heritage Trust. Beth has provided a very special insider's perspective on ASA's Channel Islands tours since 2011.

**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.

**Sandra McMahon**

Horticulturalist, landscape designer and lecturer at the Burnley Horticultural Campus, University of Melbourne. Sandra also holds a BA with majors in French and German. She brings her profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in Belgium and Germany.

**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 Indonesian & 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 Eyzie & 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.

**Tony O'Connor**

Archaeologist, museum professional and highly experienced tour lecturer, Tony has led tours throughout the Middle East, Italy and North Africa. Expert in Algerian history and archaeology, Tony leads ASA's Algeria tour in 2020.

**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, South Africa, Asia, Morocco & the USA since 2003.

**Diane Perelsztejn**

Brussels educated, Diane is a multi-award winning filmmaker who has travelled extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the US to produce history, art and music documentaries. Diane leads ASA's art and garden tours to Belgium.

**Dr Iva Rosario**

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.

**Tony Rosario**

Former banker with a special interest in WWII and in the society, politics & culture of post-communist Europe. Tony has led ASA tours to Spain, Germany, Poland and the UK since 2004.

**Stephen Ryan**

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

**Dr Heather Sebo**

Scholar in Classical Studies, University of Melbourne. Heather currently lectures in the Centre for Mediterranean Studies, La Trobe University, on the Greek world and Classical mythology. She leads ASA's *Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands*.

**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.

**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, Victoria, NSW and Italy.

**Dr Christopher A. Tuttle**

Archaeologist studying Petra and the Nabataeans and former Assoc. Director of ACOR, Amman, Chris holds a BA in Classical & Medieval Studies and a PhD in archaeology from Brown University. He leads ASA's tours to Jordan, Southern Turkey & Tunisia in 2020.

**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 tours to Greece & Croatia.

**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 leads ASA's new tour to Western Australia in 2019.





## CORNWALL, DEVON, SOUTH WALES & THE WYE PICTURESQUE COASTS & COUNTRY LIFE

9 - 29 June 2020

**Lecturer:** Richard Heathcote  
**Leader:** Margaret Heathcote



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$11,480.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$11,680.00 Land Content Only  
\$1780.00 Single Supplement



Join Richard and Margaret Heathcote on this journey through south-west England, Wales and the Wye Valley, areas that have inspired many writers and artists with rich, varied coastal landscapes and picturesque, verdant countryside. Discover Barbara Hepworth's beloved Cornwall and the coast that inspired the *Poldark* novels and TV series, visiting extraordinary copper and tin mines that tunnelled far out under the sea. Visit gorgeous Tudor, Elizabethan, Jacobean, Georgian and Victorian country houses like Prideaux Place, Lanhydrock and moated Madresfield Court, where we take a private tour. Wander through some of England's loveliest villages and small towns including Bruton and Ludlow, with many of Britain's finest half-timbered houses, and explore pretty coastal villages like Polperro, with its romantic museum of smuggling. Encounter tensions between the Saxons, Normans, Vikings and Welsh at stately castle ruins like Tretower Manor House. Explore lovely gardens, including special private visits to High Glanau Manor, Veddw House and The Laskett Gardens, the creation of Sir Roy Strong CH. Trace the history of late 19th- and early 20th-century British garden design at Castle Drogo, created by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. Visit the revolutionary Eden Project, with distinctive ecosystems in ultra-modern domes. Study masterpieces of the Aesthetic and Arts and Crafts movements and Pre-Raphaelite painting in churches like St Edward the Confessor, Kempley, and houses like Wightwick Manor. Follow Gainsborough and J.M.W. Turner to the picturesque ruins of Tintern Abbey and on a cruise down one of the loveliest stretches of the Wye River. Cardiff has one of Europe's best art museums, with a fine Impressionist collection, and Hereford's Cathedral library contains the world's greatest medieval map. In Bristol, marvel at SS Great Britain and Clifton Suspension Bridge, two revolutionary projects by Britain's greatest 19th-century engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Savour the visual delights of St Michael's Mount, the UK's largest colony of Atlantic puffins on Skomer Island, as well as the delicious tastes of 'West Country cuisine' – including lunch at Rick Stein's 'The Seafood Restaurant' in Padstow.

21 DAYS Marazion (3 nights) • St Austell (3 nights) • Taunton (3 nights) • Abergavenny (5 nights) • Tenby (2 nights) • Hereford (4 nights)

Combine with Romania (27 May - 9 Jun 20) • Gardens, Villages & Historic Homes of Yorkshire & the Scottish Borders (29 Jun - 20 Jul 20) • Heritage Cities of the Baltic (30 Jun - 14 Jul 20) • Channel Islands (22 May - 4 Jun 20)



## SUMMER GARDEN MASTERPIECES OF ENGLAND & THE RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW

25 June - 9 July 2020

**Lecturer:** Jim Fogarty



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,180.00 Land Content Only  
\$2190.00 Single Supplement



Award-winning Australian landscape architect Jim Fogarty leads this contemporary garden tour of Southern England. The tour visits magnificent gardens near Oxford, Bath, Winchester, Brighton and Windsor, and concludes with a visit to the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show on the celebrated preview evening. We discover gardens that showcase the modern romantic style of contemporary colour schemes and perennial herbaceous borders by some of the world's greatest garden designers. We'll be treated to a selection of England's private gardens designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, including Broughton Grange, Moor Hatches Garden, and his very own gardens at Serge Hill and The Barn. We'll learn how some of the most iconic English gardens continue to inspire modern designers when we visit the likes of Hidcote Manor, Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst and the Manor House Garden by Gertrude Jekyll. We'll wander through the gardens of Dutch Wave movement pioneer Piet Oudolf, where a premier art gallery and sculptures are set amongst swathes of new perennials by the Dutch master. Visit HRH the Prince of Wales' Highgrove Gardens and enjoy a delicious tea in the Orchard Restaurant. On a special visit to Crockmore House Gardens, we meet the owner, The Honourable Julia Kirkham, and at Thorougham Court Garden, Dr Christine Facer will share the way her modern garden 'laboratory' is inspired by science. We'll also learn about growing plants for the RHS flower shows from Mark Straver, owner of Hortus Loci nursery, and spend a morning with Andy Sturgeon, one of Britain's most acclaimed contemporary garden designers. We'll be inspired by the exemplary plantings at Pettifers, Bramdean House, the work of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe at Shute House, and Marylyn Abbott's West Green House & Gardens. Wandering through herbaceous perennials is a delight at Sussex Prairie Garden; we'll also admire Henrik Gerritsen's Dutch-influenced plantings, sourced from Piet Oudolf's own nursery in the Netherlands, at Waltham Place. There'll even be time to learn about the botanicals used in the process of distilling gin at the Bombay Sapphire Distillery, to explore the eclectic laneways of Brighton and stroll the charming historic streets of Bath.

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

Combine with Belgium & the Rhine Valley: Tradition and Innovation in Art & Garden Design (3 - 23 Jun 20)



## SPRING GARDEN MASTERPIECES OF ENGLAND AND THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW



12 - 22 May 2020

Lecturer: Sabrina Hahn



This exciting program combines a day at the renowned RHS 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 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 2020

\$7690.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$7890.00 Land Content Only; \$1995.00 Single Supplement

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

Combine with Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands (22 May - 4 Jun 20)

## NATURAL LANDSCAPES & GARDENS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS



22 May - 4 June 2020

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 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. The Seneschal of Sark will give a lecture on the island's history and politics. 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. We visit the Glass Church of St Matthew for which René Lalique created extraordinary doors, font, screen and altar. We sample Jersey's famous fresh produce, Guernsey's *gâche* (a special bread made with raisins, sultanas and peel) and Sark's famous lobster.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$7190.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$7390.00 Land Content Only; \$1550.00 Single Supplement

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

Combine with Gardens of Italy (27 Apr - 19 May 20) • Spring Garden Masterpieces of England & the Chelsea Flower Show (12 - 22 May 20) • Gardens, Villages & Châteaux of Normandy and Brittany (6 - 26 Jun 20) • Cornwall, Devon, Southern Wales & the Wye (9 - 29 Jun 20)

## GREAT LIBRARIES & STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND



7 - 22 October 2019, 5 - 20 October 2020

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, all of which incorporate libraries. In London we visit the British Library, the Guildhall Library, 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, contains 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 2019

\$10,690.00 Land Content Only; \$2990.00 Single Supplement

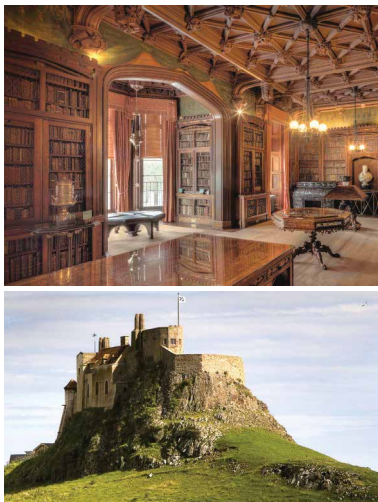
### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,690.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)

\$10,890.00 Land Content Only; \$2990.00 Single Supplement

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





## YORKSHIRE & THE SCOTTISH BORDERS GARDENS, VILLAGES & HISTORIC HOMES

29 June - 20 July 2020

Lecturer: John Patrick



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,780.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,980.00 Land Content Only  
\$1890.00 Single Supplement



Landscape architect John Patrick leads a new tour of the great houses and gardens of the region of his childhood, England's Northern Counties, and through the Scottish borderlands to Edinburgh. Northern England has a plethora of grand estates including Castle Howard, the setting for *Brideshead Revisited*, and the Elizabethan manor house, Burton Agnes Hall. It is also blessed with magnificent gardens – from vast landscape gardens to intimate walled 'secret' gardens – beautiful medieval, Tudor and Palladian houses, atmospheric abbey ruins, daunting castles, imposing cathedrals, pretty small towns and villages, and lovely old parish churches. These are all set in an evocative landscape far less spoilt than the more densely populated, highly developed, manicured South. John will share his intimate knowledge of the diverse gardens in this region, such as York Gate Garden, an outstanding example of 20th-century garden design comprising 14 garden rooms. We visit the stunning UNESCO World Heritage site of Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal, the most extensive monastic ruins in England. We explore landscapes layered by history in such sites as Alnwick Castle, originally built following the Norman conquest, and the mansions of great Tudor entrepreneurs who began the transformation of the medieval landscape, in Georgian gems such as Newby Hall, and even early modern houses and gardens such as Sir Edwin Lutyen's and Gertrude Jekyll's masterpiece at Lindisfarne Castle on Holy Island. Before crossing into Scotland, we spend a day with a local expert archaeologist exploring Hadrian's Wall and Chesters Fort, built by the Romans to defend this remote frontier of their Empire. A day is also spent learning about the wildlife and ecology of the Farne Islands, an important habitat for puffins and other bird species. On the Scottish borders we visit Sir Walter Scott's home and traverse the landscape that inspired him. We discover the architecture and interior design by William Adam and his son, Robert, at Mellerstain House and Floors Castle. The tour ends in and around Edinburgh, called the 'Athens of the North' for its handsome classical architecture. We visit Rosslyn Chapel, featured in *The Da Vinci Code*, and in Edinburgh we walk the Royal Mile from the Castle to Holyrood Palace.

22 DAYS York (4 nights) • Richmond (2 nights) • Durham (1 night) • Wark on Tyne (3 nights) • Alnwick (2 nights) • St Boswells (3 nights) • Peebles (2 nights) • Edinburgh (4 nights)

Combine with Belgium and the Rhine Valley (3 - 23 Jun 20) • Gardens, Villages & Châteaux of Normandy and Brittany (6 - 26 Jun 20) • Cornwall, Devon, Southern Wales & the Wye (9 - 29 Jun 20)



## SHETLAND & ORKNEY ARCHAEOLOGY & WILDLIFE OF THE NORTHERN ISLES

1 - 18 June 2020

Lecturer: Gillian Hovell



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9580.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$9780.00 Land Content Only  
\$1390.00 Single Supplement

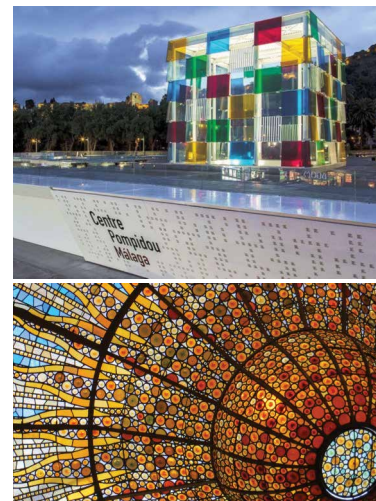
Combine with Homer's Greek Islands  
(8 - 28 May 20) • Bulgaria (13 - 27 May 20)



Archaeologist Gillian Hovell explores the rich archaeology and wildlife of Shetland and Orkney during June when these subarctic archipelagos enjoy long warm days and clear blue skies. Birdwatchers love the migratory cliffhangers, with puffins breeding on the islands between May and early August. Wildflowers bloom throughout the summer, covering the meadows, moorland and cliffs with colour. We begin with a visit to Edinburgh's National Museum which introduces us to Scotland's 5000 years of human culture; and the V&A Dundee – Scotland's first design museum. From Aberdeen we sail north to explore 11 unique and memorable islands: Shetland, Unst, Noss, Bressay, Orkney, Shapinsay, Hoy, Rousay, Westray, Papa Westray & South Ronaldsay. On Shetland we visit Sumburgh Head RSPB and Noss nature reserves – both teeming with seabirds, and view the nightly swap-over of nesting storm petrels at Mousa Broch. Accompanied by Dr Val Turner, we visit Bronze-Age Jarlshof, take a guided walk on St Ninian's Isle, and sail to Unst for a coastal walk to view Viking longhouse excavations and the Skidbladner (replica Gokstad ship). On Orkney we visit four UNESCO World Heritage listed prehistoric sites: Maeshowe, with a unique Neolithic chambered tomb; the Standing Stones of Stenness; the Ring of Brodgar; and Skara Brae, whose cluster of eight houses is considered the best-preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe. We also view the Ness of Brodgar's temples (3000 BC) which have brought a new understanding of Neolithic life. On the small Isle of Rousay we explore Taversoe Tuick and Blackhammer chambered tombs, the Midhowe Broch and Midhowe Cairn. We encounter the tiny prehistoric carving, 'Orkney Venus' in the Westray Heritage Museum, the ruined Noltland Castle and the Links of Noltland containing the remains of Neolithic and Late Bronze Age dwellings. A scenic walk on Papa Westray accesses the oldest standing house in Northern Europe (3200 BC). On South Ronaldsay we visit the Churchill Barriers constructed to protect Scapa Flow during World War II, the beautiful Italian Chapel created by Italian POWs and the 'Tomb of the Eagles'. We explore Iron Age culture at Shetland's Broch and village of Old Scatness, Orkney's brooding Broch of Gurness and at the Rennibister Earth House. We listen to Norse Viking Orkneyinga Sagas in the ruins of Orphir church. Kirkwall has fine medieval Bishop's and Earl's palaces and St Magnus Cathedral (1137). Shapinsay and mountainous Hoy offer more archaeological and geological marvels. The Borough of Birsay's tidal causeway leads to a ruined monastery. We also enjoy the picturesque harbour town of Stromness and local produce on a Highland Park Distillery tour.

18 DAYS Edinburgh (2 nights) • Overnight ferry Aberdeen-Lerwick (1 night) • Lerwick (4 nights) • Kirkwall (9 nights) • Overnight ferry Kirkwall-Aberdeen (1 night)





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

6 - 24 September 2019  
4 - 22 September 2020

Lecturer: Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8790.00 Land Content Only  
\$1990.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9290.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$9490.00 Land Content Only  
\$2120.00 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 including the 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 2019: Midi Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Art & Culture in Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19); 2020: Sicily & the Aeolian Islands (22 Sep - 6 Oct 20) • Midi Pyrénées & Dordogne (22 Sep - 7 Oct 20) • Art & Culture in Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20)

## ART AND CULTURE IN SPAIN

27 September - 18 October 2019  
25 September - 16 October 2020

Lecturer: Anneli Bojstad



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$11,490.00 Land Content Only  
\$2750.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

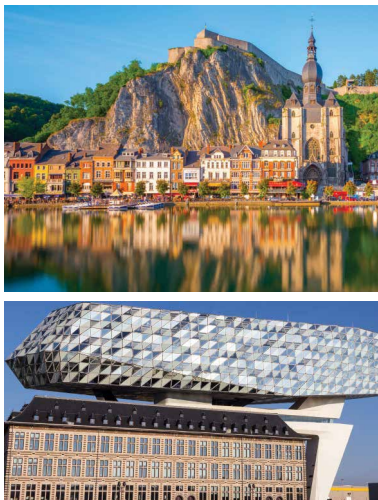
\$11,790.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$11,990.00 Land Content Only  
\$2750.00 Single Supplement

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 we 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 Belgium & Netherlands (5 - 23 Sep 19) • Portugal (6 - 24 Sep 19) • Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg (11 - 25 Sep 19); 2020: Portugal (4 - 22 Sep 20) Budapest, Vienna, Prague & Bohemia (4 - 25 Sep 20)





## CULTURAL TREASURES OF THE LOW COUNTRIES BEYOND CHOCOLATE AND WINDMILLS

5 - 23 September 2019

3 - 21 September 2020

Lecturer: John Weretka



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,490.00 Land Content Only  
\$2380.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,490.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$10,690.00 Land Content Only  
\$2590.00 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 Pieter Brueghel, 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 2019: Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (24 Sep - 9 Oct 19) • Venice (26 Sep - 10 Oct 19) • Spain (27 Sep - 18 Oct 19); 2020: Sicily (22 Sep - 6 Oct 20) • Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (22 Sep - 7 Oct 20) • Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20)



## BELGIUM & THE RHINE VALLEY TRADITION & INNOVATION IN ART & GARDEN DESIGN

3 - 23 June 2020

Lecturers: Sandra McMahon  
& Diane Perelsztein



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$11,380.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$11,580.00 Land Content Only  
\$2100.00 Single Supplement

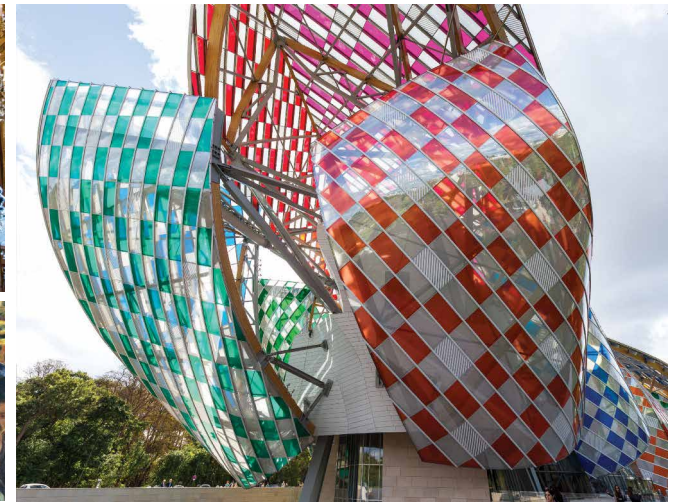
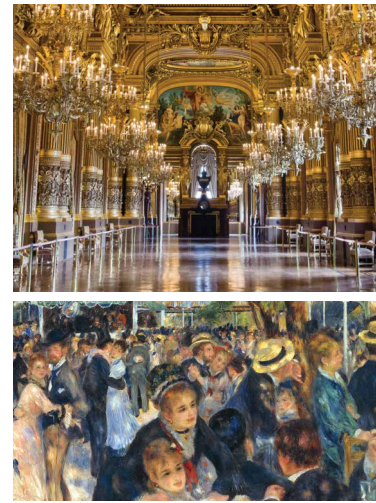
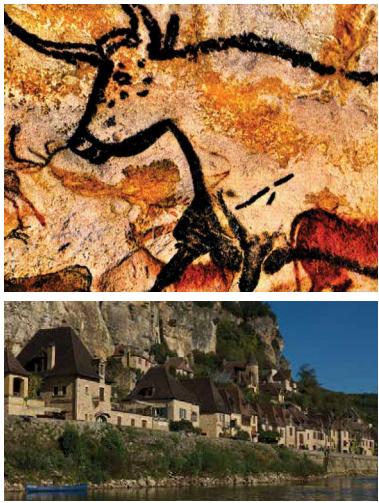


This tour, led by Sandra McMahon, director of Gardenscape Design, and award-winning Belgian documentary filmmaker Diane Perelsztein, explores the contemporary renaissance of garden design in Belgium, the Southern Netherlands, and the Rhine Valley. We visit a diversity of private gardens by leading Flemish designers such as Jacques Wirtz, Daniël Ost, Erik Dhont, Piet Blanckaert, Marc Moris and Dutch master Mien Ruys. We also spend time with landscape architect Chris Ghyselen in his private garden noted for its use of fine grasses and perennials. We visit Domain Hemelrijk, the former home of Robert and Jelena de Belder who designed their private garden with their close friend Russell Page. We learn about the New German Style: at Hermannshof, where Cassian Schmidt has developed one of the finest and most exciting modern gardens in Europe; and at HORTVS, the garden of Peter Janke, a rising star in German landscape design. The Northern Renaissance flowered in the great paintings of Flemish and German artists like Jan van Eyck and Joachim Patinir, who set their figures in wondrous landscapes, paralleling the region's leadership in Renaissance and Baroque gardening. We explore the emergence of northern art in Antwerp's and Bruges' fine collections and in masterpieces like Van Eyck's Ghent Altarpiece. We also encounter Peter Paul Rubens' own studio and garden, and the emergence of Art Nouveau and Surrealism in architectural masterpieces of Victor Horta and René Magritte's extraordinary paintings. The tour visits grand castles and country houses, wonderful historic towns like Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges, beautiful medieval villages like Durbuy and fairytale castles perched on mountain tops along the Rhine Valley. In Brussels we dine at the 2-star Michelin restaurant Le Chalet de la Forêt and tour its vegetable garden designed by Erik Dhont. We explore the lovely forest of the Ardennes and end our tour with a cruise down one of the Rhine's most beautiful stretches, recognised in UNESCO's World Heritage listing.

21 DAYS Antwerp (5 nights) • Bruges (3 nights) • Ghent (2 nights) • Brussels (3 nights) • Durbuy (2 nights) • Maastricht (1 night) • Boppard (2 nights) • Rüdesheim am Rhein (2 nights)

Combine with The Turquoise Coast: Rhodes & Southern Turkey (16 May - 3 Jun 20) • Uzbekistan (19 May - 1 Jun 20) • Summer Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (25 Jun - 9 Jul 20) • Gardens, Villages & Historic Homes of Yorkshire & the Scottish Borders (29 Jun - 20 Jul 20)





## CULTURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE MIDI-PYRÉNÉES & THE DORDOGNE

24 September - 9 October 2019  
22 September - 7 October 2020

Lecturers: Adrian Mialet  
& Bruno Eluère



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$8480.00 Land Content Only  
\$1190.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$8580.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$8780.00 Land Content Only  
\$1220.00 Single Supplement

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 of Sainte-Cécile and Toulouse-Lautrec Museum. At Sainte-Eulalie de Cernon we explore the Templar and Hospitaller *Commanderie* – the Knights' headquarters dedicated to the pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. We journey to isolated medieval *bastides* (fortified towns) such as Najac, Cordes-sur-Ciel, Monpazier and Sarlat, 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 Eyrynac and Marqueyssac 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, Cougnac, Pech Merle, the Lascaux II facsimile 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. Throughout, we experience the rich world of medieval romantic love, troubadours and a passion for life so vivid in this region.

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 2019: Belgium (5 - 23 Sep 19) • Portugal (6 - 24 Sep 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19) • Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19); 2020: Belgium (3 - 21 Sep 20) • Portugal (4 - 22 Sep 20) • Paris (8 - 21 Sep 20) • Venice (8 - 22 Oct 20)

## PARIS THE GREAT WORLD CITY

12 - 25 October 2019  
8 - 21 September 2020

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7380.00 Land Content Only  
\$2450.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$7380.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$7580.00 Land Content Only  
\$2450.00 Single Supplement

Combine with 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); 2020: Sicily & Aeolian Is (22 Sep - 6 Oct 20) • Midi-Pyrénées & Dordogne (22 Sep - 7 Oct 20) • Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20) • Algeria (27 Sep - 17 Oct 20)

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 the medieval architectural masterpiece, Sainte-Chapelle, with its exquisite 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, Marmottan and the Orangerie; Dadaist and Surrealist masterpieces at the Centre Pompidou; Monet's famed water lilies at Giverny; and 19th-century design at the Museum of Decorative Arts. We also view the world's major art collections at the Louvre, Musée Jacquemart-André, Musée Rodin and the Musée Picasso. 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), view modern and contemporary art at the Palais de Tokyo and Frank Gehry's new gallery (Fondation Louis Vuitton). A special highlight is our private visit to the rich interior of Hôtel de la Païva, former home of courtesan Esther Lachmann. 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 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.

The tour includes visits to special exhibitions. In 2019 we visit the retrospective on Francis Bacon at the Pompidou Centre, works by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec at the Grand Palais, and masterpieces by Vincenzo Gemito at the Petit Palais. 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 Opéra at the Musée d'Orsay.

14 DAYS: Paris: Studio apartments at Citadines Saint-Germain-des Prés





## GARDENS, VILLAGES & CHÂTEAUX OF NORMANDY & BRITTANY

6 - 26 June 2020

Lecturer: Stephen Ryan  
Leader: Craig Lidgerwood



### TOUR PRICE 2020

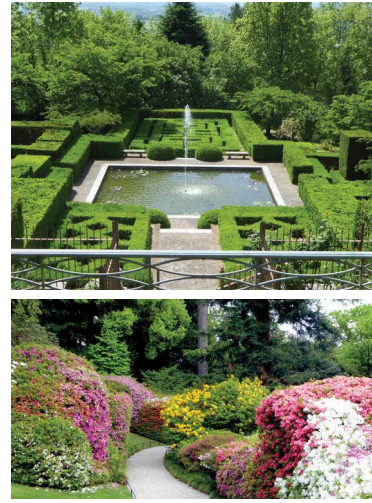
\$12,280.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$12,480.00 Land Content Only  
\$2840.00 Single Supplement



Horticulturalist, nurseryman, and award-winning broadcaster, Stephen Ryan, explores the wonderful public and private gardens, agricultural landscapes, picturesque villages, historic towns and great monuments of two of France's most beautiful regions: Normandy and Brittany. Follow the lovely Seine Valley to Monet's Giverny and the coast he painted to Honfleur and the great Impressionist collection in the André Malraux Museum at Le Havre. Journey along Brittany's beautiful, pristine northern coast with its deep-cut inlets and inland woods to the rich Jardins de Kerdalo and the private manor house garden, Le Jardin du Pellinec. Le Grand Launay boasts an exciting modern garden surrounding a medieval castle. A wide range of historic and private French gardens include the Le Nôtre-inspired Château du Champ de Bataille and Château de Sassy, and the Sir Edwin Luytens and Gertrude Jekyll-influenced Le Bois des Moutiers. Privileged private visits, many hosted by owners, include the late Princess Sturdza's Le Jardin du Vastérial. We explore major monuments like the Abbey of St-Georges de Boscherville; Romanesque and Gothic Cathedrals like Notre-Dame (Rouen) and St-Étienne (Caen). At Carnac, you'll see the largest Neolithic alignment in the world (3500-3000 BC); further north, we discover the rich fauna and flora of the Natural Regional Park of Armorique. We view the Bayeux Tapestry and enjoy the pretty half-timbered houses of Lyons-La-Fôret, Vitre and Dinan, the walled towns of Saint-Malo and Vannes, and the charming washhouses of Pontreux. We sample French regional produce, visit specialist local markets, and taste Normandy's Livarot, Pont l'Évêque cheese, apple juice and calvados, and Brittany's crêpes, seafood, and famous cakes including *Far Breton* and *Kouign-Amann*. We dine at renowned urban and rustic restaurants including historic Restaurant La Couronne, Rouen and Le Manoir des Impressionnistes in Honfleur.

21 DAYS Rouen (6 nights) • Honfleur (2 nights) • Bayeux (3 nights) • Bagnolles-de-l'Orne (2 nights) • Auray (2 nights) • Perros-Guirec (3 nights) • Saint-Malo (2 nights)

Combine with Greece (15 May - 4 Jun 20) • The Turquoise Coast: Rhodes & Southern Turkey (16 May - 3 Jun 20) • Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands (22 May - 4 Jun 20) • Gardens, Villages & Historic Homes of Yorkshire & the Scottish Borders (29 Jun - 20 Jul 20) • Heritage Cities of the Baltic: Vilnius, Kaunas, Riga, Tartu & Tallinn (30 Jun - 14 Jul 20)



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

27 April - 19 May 2020

Lecturers: Deryn Thorpe  
& David Henderson



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$13,980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$14,180.00 Land Content Only  
\$2690.00 Single Supplement

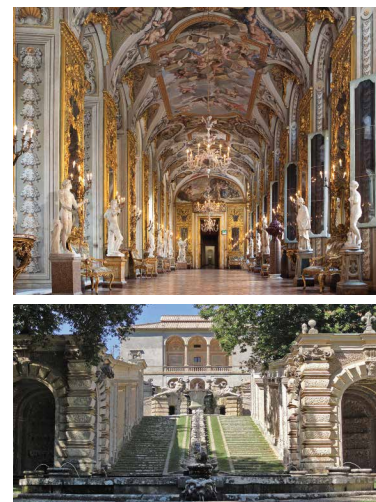


Award-winning print and radio garden journalist Deryn Thorpe and artist and Royal Academy graduate David Henderson lead this tour exploring northern and central Italy's finest gardens. This tour features exclusive visits to private gardens opened especially for ASA. Few travellers will ever enjoy the 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 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 Cervara; 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 in Ladispoli, 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.

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 Natural Landscapes & Gardens of the Channel Islands (22 May - 4 Jun 20)





## VENICE JEWEL OF THE ADRIATIC

26 September - 10 October 2019  
8 - 22 October 2020

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7940.00 Land Content Only  
\$2690.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$7940.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$8140.00 Land Content Only  
\$2690.00 Single Supplement

Join art historian 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 the Venice Biennale, which signify Venice's enduring cultural role.

15 DAYS Venice (14 nights): 4-star Hotel Rio Novo or 4-star Hotel Giorgione  
Combine with 2019: Belgium & Netherlands (5 - 23 Sep 19) • Portugal (6 - 24 Sep 19) • Berlin, Dresden & Hamburg (11 - 25 Sep 19) • Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19); 2020: Sicily and the Aeolian Islands (22 Sep - 6 Oct 20) • Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne (22 Sep - 7 Oct 20) • Exploring More English Literary Landscapes (18 Sep - 8 Oct 20)

## ROME PORTRAIT OF A CITY

28 October - 9 November 2019

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



### TOUR PRICE 2019

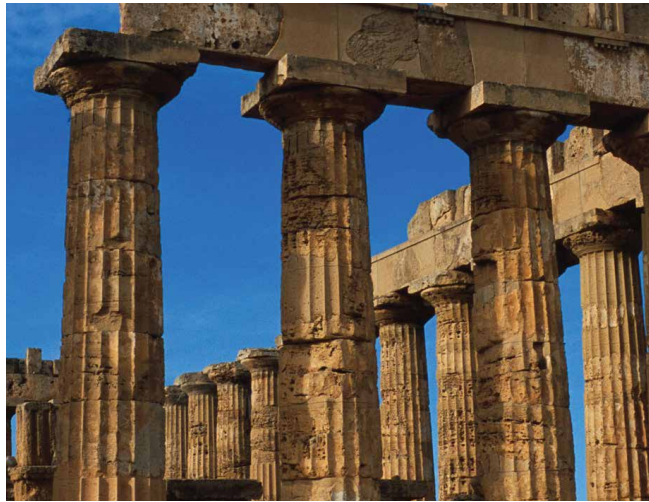
\$6870.00 Land Content Only  
\$970.00 Single Supplement

Join Bernard Hoffert as he explores the marvellous city of Rome, a landscape of ancient ruins, medieval churches adorned with glittering mosaics, stately Renaissance villas and dramatic Baroque palaces. Enjoy leisurely walks through Rome's distinctive and vibrant neighbourhoods, each with its own character and history, including the former Jewish ghetto area that today enjoys a lively café culture, and Trastevere located across the River Tiber, where medieval houses line narrow winding streets. Descend the three-tiered complex of San Clemente: a medieval church with golden mosaics, an Early Christian basilica with wall frescoes, and an ancient Roman street with a functioning aqueduct. Make a private visit to the glittering Baroque Palazzo Colonna, home to the Colonna family and housing an extensive art collection, elaborately decorated apartments, and a vast hall adorned with mirrors and chandeliers. Enjoy day excursions to Tarquinia to see vividly painted Etruscan tombs; and to Ostia Antica, Rome's ancient port city, containing a well-preserved theatre, baths with impressive mosaics and multi-storey apartments. We also visit one of the finest examples of Mannerist architecture – Villa Farnese at Caprarola – featuring a series of suites decorated with delicate frescoes and a formal Renaissance garden. We view the extraordinary art found throughout the city: Michelangelo's frescoed ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's *Triumph of Galatea* at the Villa Farnesina, Bernini's *Ecstasy of St Theresa* at the Church of Santa Maria della Vittoria, and the great legacy left by Caravaggio – *The Conversion of St Paul*, *The Martyrdom of St Matthew* and the *Boy with a Basket of Fruit*. We trace the lives of literary giants who were drawn to this fascinating metropolis – Goethe, Keats and Shelley – visiting the houses where they lived and also the cemetery where some were laid to rest. We take a tour of Cinecittà studio where many favourite 'Roman' films were created: *Ben Hur*, *Roman Holiday* and *La Dolce Vita*. The city's embracing of new artistic ideas culminates with Zaha Hadid's extraordinary MAXXI museum and Renzo Piano's Parco della Musica. Savour the culinary delights of the city's restaurants, including chef Fulvio Pierangelini's famous Le Jardin de Russie, and the stylish Caffè dell'Arte at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

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

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





## SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

29 October - 12 November 2019  
22 September - 6 October 2020

Lecturer 2019: Em. Prof. Frank Sear  
Lecturer 2020: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



**TOUR PRICE 2019**  
\$8090.00 Land Content Only  
\$1040.00 Single Supplement

**TOUR PRICE 2020**  
\$8190.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$8390.00 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 visit 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 ancient theatre.

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

Combine with 2019: Paris (12 - 25 Oct 19) • Southern Italy (12 - 26 Oct 19); 2020: The Caucasus (1 - 22 Sep 20) • Belgium (3 - 21 Sep 20) • Portugal (4 - 22 Sep 20) • Paris (8 - 21 Sep 20) • Venice (8 - 22 Oct 20)

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

12 - 26 October 2019

Lecturers: Dr Joan Barclay Lloyd  
& David Henderson



**TOUR PRICE 2019**  
\$8580.00 Land Content Only  
\$1990.00 Single Supplement

Dr Joan Barclay Lloyd and David Henderson lead 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 Caravaggios, 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.

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

Combine with 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)



## BULGARIA & THE BLACK SEA

### PAINTED TOWNS, BYZANTINE MONASTERIES & THRACIAN TREASURES



13 - 27 May 2020

Lecturer: Dr Katya Melamed



Led by Dr Katya Melamed, Bulgaria's foremost archaeologist, we travel from bustling Sofia, over the deeply forested Balkan Mountains to the historic maritime highway of the Black Sea, then cross the broad 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 of 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. Plovdiv (Roman: Philippopolis) has a fine ancient theatre, and recent rich archaeological discoveries include the mosaic floor of its vast ancient basilica. We also wander its old medieval core, with lovely old painted houses. 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 2020

\$6380.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$6580.00 Land Content Only; \$890.00 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 An Adriatic Journey: From Trieste to Dubrovnik (26 Apr - 13 May 20) • Romania (27 May - 9 Jun 20) • Shetland & Orkney Islands (1 - 18 Jun 20)

## ROMANIA REVEALED

### SAXON VILLAGES, TRANSYLVANIAN CITIES & BYZANTINE MONASTERIES



27 May - 9 June 2020

Lecturer: Assoc. Professor Adrian Jones, OAM



Accompanied by Harvard graduate and expert in Russian and Balkan history, Adrian Jones, we 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 2020

\$5890.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$6090.00 Land Content Only; \$750.00 Single Supplement

14 DAYS Bucharest (3 nights) • Sibiu (3 nights) • Baia Mare (1 night) • Borsa (1 night) • Sucevita (1 night) • Piatra Neamt (1 night) • Brasov (2 nights) • Bucharest (1 night)

Combine with Spring Garden Masterpieces of England & the Chelsea Flower Show (12 - 22 May 20) • Bulgaria & the Black Sea (13 - 27 May 20) • Cornwall, Devon, Southern Wales & the Wye (9 - 29 Jun 20) • Poland: Krakow, Warsaw, Torun & Gdansk (10 - 22 Jun 20)

## POLAND, THE HEART OF EUROPE

### KRAKOW, WARSAW, TORUN & GDANSK



10 - 22 June 2020

Lecturers: Dr Iva Rosario & Tony 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 churches 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 2020

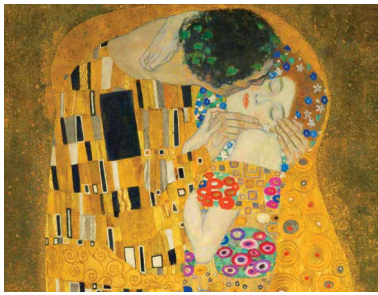
\$5780.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$5980.00 Land Content Only; \$1430.00 Single Supplement

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

Combine with Romania (27 May - 9 Jun 20) • Summer Garden Masterpieces of England & the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (25 Jun - 9 Jul 20)





## THE HABSBURG CITIES BUDAPEST, VIENNA, PRAGUE & BOHEMIA

4 - 25 September 2020

Lecturer: Dr Iva Rosario

Leader: Tony Rosario



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$10,180.00 Land Content Only  
\$2680.00 Single Supplement

Led by Dr Iva Rosario, a world authority on Bohemian culture, this tour examines how history shaped three great Central European cities, Budapest, Vienna and Prague, in very different ways. It provides a feast of art and music in these cities and explores the beautiful landscapes and lovely small towns of Bohemia. Budapest was once two cities (Buda and Pest), united to form a fine 19th-century metropolis bridging the Danube. We will view fine collections of Old Masters and French Impressionists in the Museum of Fine Arts, study Hungarian art in the Royal Palace, and tour the magnificent interiors of Parliament House and the State Opera House. En route to Vienna we visit Esterházy Palace which boasts ornate Rococo panelling with stucco decoration and frescoes. The vast Hofburg Palace dominates old Vienna, contrasting with Gothic St Stephen's Cathedral, the 19th-century monuments of the Ringstrasse and the city's Secession masterpieces. We visit Vienna's great Kunsthistorisches Museum (with its magnificent Brueghels), the lustrous regalia of past dynasties in the Habsburg treasury, and tour the palaces of Schloss Belvedere and Schönbrunn. We also visit Melk Abbey, one of the masterpieces of the Central European Baroque. We travel to Prague through Bohemia's exquisite Telc, Cesky Krumlov, Ceske Budejovice, Tabor and ancient silver mining town of Kutna Hora, located in pristine landscapes of forested hills, rivers, lakes and meadows. Prague is at once diverse and harmonious. Its Bohemian Gothic and Renaissance gems mingle with Baroque churches, monasteries and palaces in a uniquely satisfying unity. Prague's winding Coronation Route leads across the city to Peter Parler's great Gothic cathedral. It crosses the Charles Bridge whose pinnacled Gothic gates celebrate Charles IV's regal splendour. We explore Prague's Castle District containing St Vitus Cathedral, the Medieval Royal Palace, St George's Basilica, The Royal Gardens and Belvedere. We also view fine collections in the Gallery of Old Bohemian Art and tour the magnificent Strahov Premonstratensian Monastery library with its beautifully frescoed reading hall. We explore the Art Nouveau interior of Municipal House and study Jugendstil, Secession and Cubist architecture, of innovators like Otto Wagner. The tour includes fine musical performances for which all three cities are renowned.

22 DAYS Budapest (5 nights) • Vienna (7 nights) • Telc (1 night) • Ceske Budejovice (1 night) • Prague (7 nights)

Combine with Art & Culture in Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20) • Roman Algeria, the Sahara and the M'Zab Valley (27 Sep - 17 Oct 20)



## BERLIN, DRESDEN & HAMBURG ART, ARCHITECTURE & MUSIC

11 - 25 September 2019

Lecturer: Dr Iva Rosario

Leader: Tony Rosario



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$7890.00 Land Content Only  
\$1750.00 Single Supplement



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, *La Bohème* at Dresden's Semperoper 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.

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

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





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

30 June - 14 July 2020

Lecturers: Dr Uldis Ozolins  
& Juris Baltputnis



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$6480.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$6680.00 Land Content Only  
\$1190.00 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 Bernadine'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 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.

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

Combine with Normandy and Brittany (6 - 26 Jun 20) • Cornwall, Devon, South Wales & the Wye (9 - 29 Jun 20)

## BETWEEN SEA & SKY HOMER'S GREEK ISLANDS

8 - 28 May 2020

Lecturer: Dr Heather Sebo



### TOUR PRICE 2020

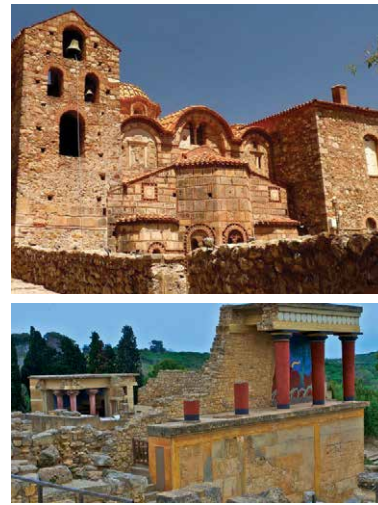
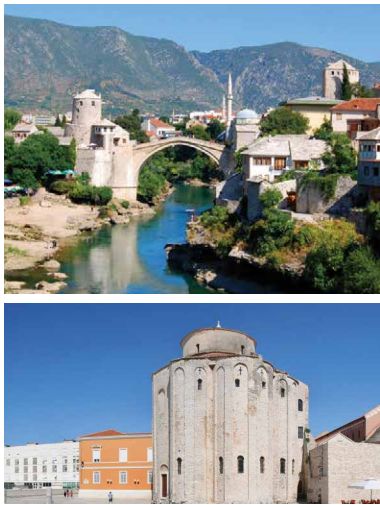
\$10,760.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,960.00 Land Content Only  
\$1520.00 Single Supplement

Join Dr Heather Sebo, a lecturer on 'The Greek World' and 'Classical Myth', as you journey through the imagination of immortal Homer. We encounter gods and heroes through the objects, landscapes, and buildings so vividly described in the *Odyssey* and *Iliad*. Homer's stories preserved rituals, ideas, and beliefs for more than two millennia and our travels take us back to the Bronze Age Minoan and Mycenaean citadels and cities that formed his vision. At Eleutherna, fabled Knossos, home of Minos, Kefalonia, and golden Mycenae, home of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, we stand in places that have captivated imaginations across centuries, from Alexander the Great to Shakespeare. We join the inheritors of the Homeric tradition at Classical Greek cities and sanctuaries in Corinth, Olympia, Nauplion, and Ambracia (modern Arta in northern Greece). Our path follows the footsteps of golden Achilles to Dodona, site of the oldest oracle in Hellas. We follow Odysseus to the Nekromanteion at Ephyra where he called upon the soul of his dead companion and the wisdom of Hades. The Greeks believed Ephyra was where the three rivers of the Underworld, including the fabled Acheron, came together, fed by chthonic springs. From the dark Underworld of Hades our journey takes us to the bright world of Helios, to the green islands of Ithaca, Kefalonia, and Corfu. The jewels of the Ionian Sea were home to heroes and villains alike, all brought to vivid life. Homer was the greatest exponent of an oral bardic tradition, preserving the Greek Bronze Age in his epic stories. But Homer was also a man of his own time; a time when the Greek world was bubbling with cultural expression, artistic beauty, exploration and trade with far distant lands and fabulous tales about new peoples and cultures. In Homer's epic poems we have an artistic memory of the Greek Bronze Age, combined with the spirit of inquiry and individualism that helped create the wonder of Classical Greece.

21 DAYS Hania (2 nights) • Heraklion (3 nights) • Santorini (2 nights) • Nauplion (2 nights) • Olympia (1 night) • Kefalonia (2 nights) • Ithaca (3 nights) • Ioannina (2 nights) • Corfu (3 nights)

Combine with Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Morocco (14 Apr - 5 May 20)  
• Shetland & Orkney Islands (1 - 18 Jun 20)





## AN ADRIATIC JOURNEY FROM TRIESTE TO DUBROVNIK

26 April - 13 May 2020

Lecturer: Dr Nicholas Vlahogiannis



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,290.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,490.00 Land Content Only  
\$1990.00 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 Bulgaria (13 - 27 May 20) • Greece (15 May - 4 Jun 20) • The Turquoise Coast: Rhodes & Southern Turkey (16 May - 3 Jun 20)

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

15 May - 4 June 2020

Lecturer: Dr Christopher Gribbin



### TOUR PRICE 2020

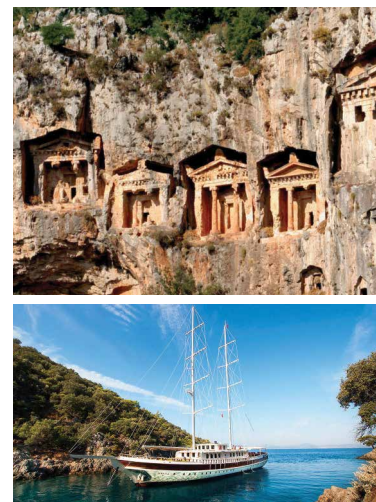
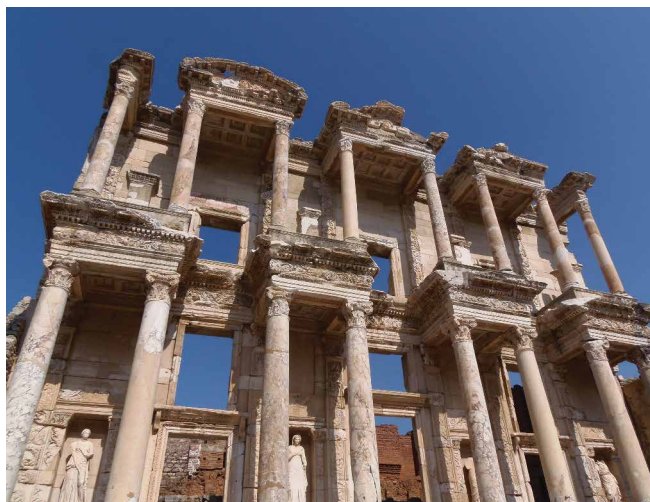
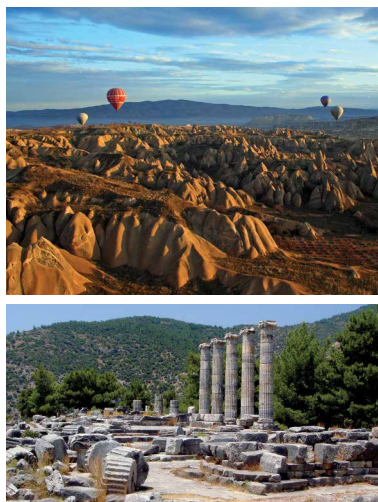
\$10,780.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,980.00 Land Content Only  
\$1890.00 Single Supplement

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 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 Epidaurus, 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 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 Turkey (24 Apr - 14 May 20) • An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik (26 Apr - 13 May 20) • Gardens, Villages & Châteaux of Normandy and Brittany (6 - 26 Jun 20)





## TURKEY THE AGES OF ANATOLIA

24 April - 14 May 2020

Lecturer: Dr Sophy Downes



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,180.00 Land Content Only  
\$2295.00 Single Supplement

Join archaeologist Dr Sophy Downes and explore the rich layered legacies of Aeolian and Ionian Greeks, Hellenistic kingdoms, Roman 'Asia', and Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman empires that underpin today's vibrant Turkey. Our tour begins and ends in Istanbul, located on the Bosphorus between Europe and Asia. We explore this imperial city's Roman and Byzantine monuments like Hagia Sophia, the Hippodrome and Byzantine Cistern. Grand mosques introduce Ottoman Imperial culture whose jewel, the Topkapi Palace, the Sultan's Residence, contains a vast treasury of jewellery, manuscripts, textiles and ceramics. A Bosphorus cruise takes us to the Sadberk Hanım Museum, a waterfront residence containing a private archaeological and ethnographic collection. We also view the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art's wonderful display of carpets dating to the Seljuk Empire, and the Kariye church's fine mosaics and frescoes. From Istanbul we travel to the untouched village of Cumali Kizik; and Bursa, first Ottoman capital, with superb early Ottoman buildings like the famed Green Mosque and Green Mausoleum of Sultan Mehmet I, lovely houses and old caravanserais. On the Aegean coast we visit Gallipoli, the remains of Troy and Graeco-Roman cities such as Assos, Ephesus, Priene and Miletus. Turning inland we travel to Roman Aphrodisias, Hierapolis at Pamukkale; and to Konya, capital of the Seljuks of Rum and site of the shrine of Islam's most famous mystic, Jalal ad-Din Rumi, founder of the Whirling Dervishes. We make a special visit to the famous Neolithic site of Çatal Höyük, arguably the world's earliest city. From Konya we journey across the Anatolian heartlands to Cappadocia, visiting the underground Byzantine cities and churches of Göreme. A special tour highlight is our visit to Hattusha, famous ancient capital of the Hittites. We continue to Ankara, Turkey's modern capital, with the award-winning Museum of Anatolian Civilizations. We stay in beautifully appointed cave accommodation in the extraordinary 'mooncape' of Cappadocia; spend 3 nights at the Pera Palace Hotel where Agatha Christie's 1934 novel *Murder on the Orient Express* was allegedly written; enjoy wandering through teeming bazaars and sample a variety of fine Turkish and Ottoman cuisine at top restaurants.

21 DAYS Istanbul (4 nights) • Bursa (1 night) • Çanakkale (1 night) • Assos (1 night) • Kusadasi (3 nights) • Pamukkale (1 night) • Konya (2 nights) • Ürgüp (Cappadocia) (3 nights) • Ankara (1 night) • Istanbul (3 nights)

Combine with Greece (15 May - 4 Jun 20) • The Turquoise Coast: Rhodes & Southern Turkey (16 May - 3 Jun 20) • Uzbekistan (19 May - 1 Jun 20)

## THE TURQUOISE COAST RHODES & SOUTHERN TURKEY

16 May - 3 June 2020

Lecturer: Dr Christopher A. Tuttle



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$13,780.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$13,980.00 Land Content Only  
\$2350.00 Single Supplement

Dr Christopher A. Tuttle, archaeologist and former Associate Director of ACOR in Amman, leads this tour and cruise travelling from Athens to Antalya, exploring the island of Rhodes and the Mediterranean coast of Southern Turkey. Here, spectacular craggy mountains and sparsely inhabited picturesque coves look out on a breathtaking azure sea. For millennia the 'Turquoise Coast' has witnessed the rise and fall of empires – Carians, Lycians, Persians, Athenians, Ptolemaic Egypt, Seleucid Syria, Rome, Byzantium, the Seljuks and Ottomans. Our journey follows myriad traders, exploring a rich trove of archaeological remains in once flourishing ancient maritime cities that died when the coasts silted. In Athens we visit a number of the key classical sites before flying to Rhodes, a crucible of Eastern Mediterranean history. We continue east to the Turkish harbour city of Bodrum on the Aegean coast. Once known as Halicarnassus, it was one of the largest cities of the Carian people, and location of the great Mausoleum, one of Pliny's Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. A tour highlight is a six-day coastal cruise on a privately chartered *gulet* – a traditional Turkish two-masted sailing vessel. Weaving in and around rocky headlands we visit the ruins of cities that made up the Kingdom of Lycia. Here we take in the Xanthos valley, visiting Gemiler Island, Patara, Kas and Kalkan. After disembarking at Cayagzi we visit the ancient port of Myra, departure point for the great grain ships upon which the food supply of Rome once depended. We spend two nights near magical Olympos before travelling to Phaselis. We then cross to the open coastal plain of Pamphylia, whose beautiful harbour city Antalya, 'capital' of the Turquoise Coast, becomes our final base for three nights. We explore the city's markets and museums and take day excursions to the sites of two great Pamphylian cities, Perge and Aspendos, as well as to what is arguably the most dramatically situated of all of Turkey's ancient sites, the Pisidian city of Termessos. It perches on a precipitous gorge overlooking the Antalya Gulf.

19 DAYS Athens (2 nights) • Rhodes (4 nights) • Bodrum (2 nights) • Gulet (5 nights) • Çirali (2 nights) • Antalya (3 nights)

Combine with Turkey (24 Apr - 14 May 20) • An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik (26 Apr - 13 May 20) • Belgium and the Rhine Valley (3 - 23 Jun 20) • Gardens, Villages & Châteaux of Normandy and Brittany (6 - 26 Jun 20)



## THE SILK ROUTE CHINA & KYRGYZSTAN



1 - 22 September 2019

Lecturer: Katie Campbell

Leader: Russell Casey



Archaeologist Katie Campbell and Russell Casey lead an epic Central Asia 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 teeming artisan precincts. Central Asia was for centuries the world's economic hub, a melting pot of Chinese, Huns, Bactrians, Sogdians, Turkmen, Mongols, Uyghurs, Kyrgyzs, Kajokas, 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, an 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, and 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. Urumchi's museum displays mummified desert inhabitants over 3000 years old. Further west, we stroll through Kashgar's teeming 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 Suusamy Valley. The tour features one night in a traditional Kyrgyz yurt camp in order to learn about yurt-making and hunting with golden eagles.

### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,980.00 Land Content Only; \$1670.00 Single Supplement

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)

## UZBEKISTAN THE SILK ROAD CITIES



19 May - 1 June 2020

Lecturer: Katie Campbell



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 2020

\$7180.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$7380.00 Land Content Only; \$690.00 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 (2 - 21 Jun 20)  
• Turkey (24 Apr - 14 May 20)

## TAJIKISTAN & KYRGYZSTAN THROUGH THE HIGH PAMIRS



2 - 21 June 2020

Lecturer: Katie Campbell

Leader: Russell Casey



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 the 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 herdsman, their flocks and distinctive yurts.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

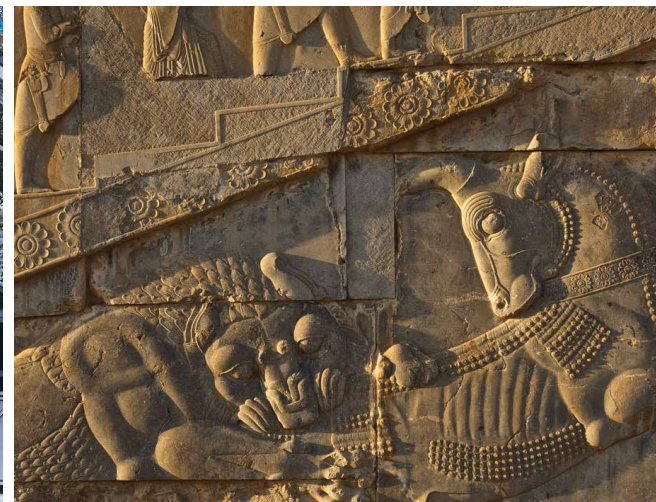
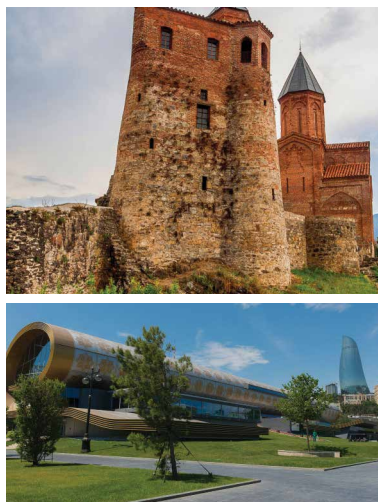
\$9980.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$10,180.00 Land Content Only; \$990.00 Single Supplement

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

Combine with Uzbekistan (19 May - 1 Jun 20)





## CROSSROADS OF THE CAUCASUS AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA & ARMENIA

3 - 24 September 2019  
1 - 22 September 2020

Lecturer: Davit Naskidashvili



TOUR PRICE 2019 - WAITLIST ONLY

TOUR PRICE 2020

\$12,480.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$12,680.00 Land Content Only  
\$2980.00 Single Supplement

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, and mansions; in Sheki the walls of the Khan's Summer Palace 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. In the western Caucasus we visit the isolated Svaneti region, with exceptional mountain scenery and extraordinary medieval villages composed of distinctive defensive stone towers which are UNESCO World-Heritage listed. We encounter exquisite gold treasures in Tbilisi's History Museum and enjoy Yerevan's exceptional archaeological and painting collections. In ancient Mkheta 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. Armenia's mountain monasteries of Haghpat and Noravank have the country's finest 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. Throughout, 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) • Tbilisi (3 nights) • Kazbegi (2 nights) • Kutaisi (1 night) • Mestia (2 nights) • Kutaisi (1 night) • Akhaltsikhe (2 nights) • Dzoraget (1 night) • Tsaghkadzor (1 night) • Yerevan (4 nights)

Combine with 2020: Sicily (22 Sep - 6 Oct 20) • The Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne (22 Sep - 7 Oct 20) • Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20)

## IRAN ART AND CULTURE OF THE PERSIANS

30 October - 19 November 2019  
21 October - 10 November 2020

Lecturer 2019: Dr Paul Collins

Lecturer 2020: Dr Sophy Downes



TOUR PRICE 2019

\$10,880.00 Land Content Only  
\$1940.00 Single Supplement

TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,680.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$10,880.00 Land Content Only  
\$1940.00 Single Supplement

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, city of nightingales and roses and home of the poet Hafez, 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.

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)

Combine with 2020: Algeria (27 Sep - 17 Oct 20) • Great Libraries (5 - 20 Oct 20)





## JORDAN PETRA, DESERT FORTRESSES, WADI RUM & THE DEAD SEA

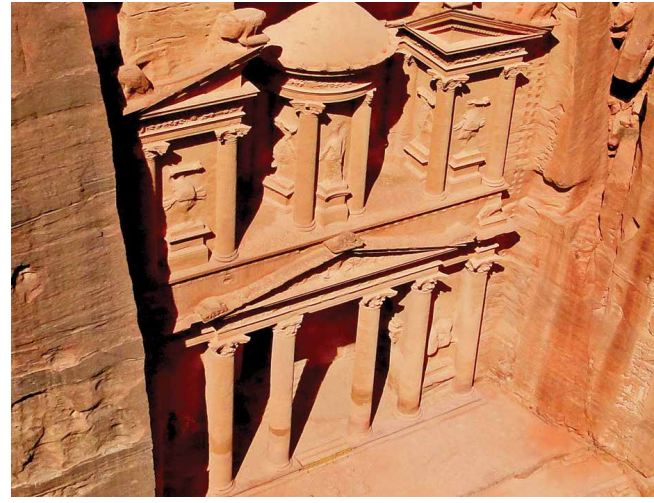
24 March - 8 April 2020

Lecturer: Dr Christopher A. Tuttle



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9760.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$9960.00 Land Content Only  
\$1990.00 Single Supplement



Archaeologist Dr Christopher A. Tuttle, a specialist on the Nabataeans and a former Associate Director of ACOR in Amman, leads this fascinating tour surveying the history of the Middle East through an in-depth exploration of the Kingdom of Jordan. Visit prehistoric sites; journey to monuments from the Hellenistic, Roman, Nabataean, Byzantine, Arab, Seljuk, Crusader and Ottoman cultures; and trace the emergence of the modern nation state. Combine insights into human history with immersion in stunning desert landscapes and encounters with Jordan's rich flora and wildlife. Events in this region shaped world history: the rise of Semitic and Hellenic culture, the triumphs of the Persians and the conquests of Alexander the Great. The Nabataeans formed a state and constructed Petra. Roman imperialism transformed into a distinctive Byzantine culture. Islam changed the region forever. Crusaders invaded the Holy Land to protect Christian pilgrims and founded the Kingdom of Jerusalem which was protected by castles we visit. When the Crusader States collapsed, the Islamic Ayyubids, Mamluks, and Seljuks held sway. The Ottomans dominated the region for centuries and when Ottoman power waned, French and British interference was followed by the emergence of modern Middle Eastern states. We journey through Jordan to Roman Jerash and to fascinating Pella and Gadara; and spend two days investigating the rich rock-cut architecture of unforgettable Petra. In Amman and at Jordan's atmospheric desert palaces we explore the culture of the Umayyad Caliphate and at Kerak explore one of the greatest Crusader castles. At the American Centre for Oriental Research we examine the fascinating Petra scrolls and from the Dead Sea we explore Madaba's lustrous Early Christian mosaics. We visit Mount Nebo, where Moses gazed upon the Promised Land, and the cave where Lot sheltered after fleeing Sodom and Gomorrah. While based at a luxury camp we wonder at the blood-red sand and dramatic rock formations of Wadi Rum, a desert valley frequented by Lawrence of Arabia. We walk nature trails through deep gorges and valleys observing the rich, extraordinarily varied flora and fauna of the Wadi Dana and Mujib Nature Reserve.

16 DAYS Amman (6 nights) • Petra (3 nights) • Wadi Rum Luxury Camp (1 night) • Dana Biosphere Reserve (2 nights) • Dead Sea (3 nights)



## EGYPT EXPLORED ACROSS THE AGES, FROM ALEXANDRIA TO ABU SIMBEL

26 November - 19 December 2019  
24 November - 17 December 2020

Lecturer: Lucia Gahlin



### TOUR PRICE 2019 - WAITLIST ONLY

\$13,580.00 Land Content Only  
\$2380.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

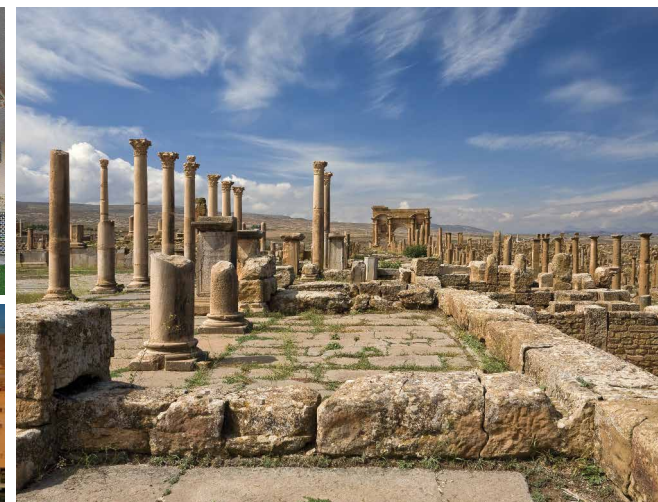
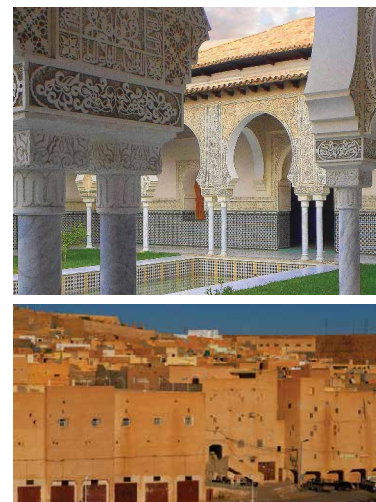
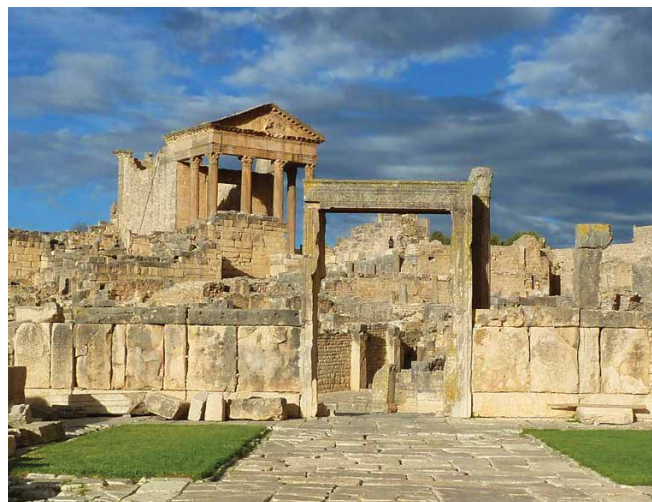
Price to be advised



From prehistory, Egypt has been a cradle of civilisation, given life by the annual flooding of the Nile. This golden land exercised enormous power and influence in the ancient world. Its successive dynasties of Pharaohs built vast monuments that have enthralled the world ever since. Egypt was, however, also a prize for ambitious conquerors, including the Levantine Hyksos, the Libyans, Nubians, Persians, Assyrians, and finally Alexander the Great, whose general Ptolemy established the Graeco-Egyptian Ptolemaic dynasty. Cleopatra, consort of Julius Caesar and later Mark Antony, was the last Ptolemy, defeated by Octavian at the Battle of Actium (31 BC). Egypt henceforth became the bread basket of the Roman Empire. In 642 AD Byzantine Egypt was captured by Muslim armies who founded Fustat, a settlement next to which the Tunisian Shi'a Fatimid Dynasty (909 – 1171 AD) later established Cairo. Egypt became the centre of the Fatimid Empire, stretching from the Maghreb to Syria. Succeeding Ayyubid and Mamluk dynasties also made Egypt their capital. Egyptian control of the profitable Red Sea spice trade embellished Muslim Cairo. In 1517 Egypt was absorbed into the Ottoman Empire. Occupied by Napoleon (1798-1801), and by British forces from 1882, Egypt remained nominally Ottoman until World War I, only gaining full independence in 1956. This tour explores the greatest eras of Egyptian history: three millennia of Pharaonic history illustrated by magnificent temples and tombs lining the Nile from Alexandria to Aswan, and Coptic and Islamic Egypt, of which the greatest expression is the bustling city of Cairo with its churches, mosques, and museums. We commence our Pharaonic exploration with the pyramids of Giza and Saqqara, and the extraordinary collections of the Egyptian Museum. We explore Alexandria on the Mediterranean Coast, before heading south to Middle Egypt, pausing in Cairo to visit arguably the best museum of Islamic Art in the world. In Middle Egypt we visit sites off the beaten track at Beni Hasan, Tuna el-Gebel, Amarna and Abydos. Travelling on south to Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes, 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 dahabiyas up the Nile to Aswan, visiting 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.

24 DAYS 2020: Giza (4 nights) • Alexandria (2 nights) • Giza (1 night) • Minya (2 nights) • Asyut (1 night) • Luxor (5 nights) • Luxor-Aswan Nile cruise on board a dahabiya (4 nights) • Aswan (2 nights) • Abu Simbel (1 night) • Heliopolis (1 night)





## TUNISIA FROM CARTHAGE TO THE SAHARA

20 October - 6 November 2020

Lecturer: Dr Christopher A. Tuttle



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$6980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$7180.00 Land Content Only  
\$980.00 Single Supplement

This tour, led by prominent archaeologist Dr Christopher A. Tuttle, explores Tunisia's fascinating layered history: of grand Roman cities, a rich, 1500-year Islamic patrimony, and Berber oasis villages with distinctive troglodyte houses. Tunisia's magnificent Roman heritage includes el Djem's huge amphitheatre, and fine Roman cities like Dougga, Thurburbo Majus, Uthina and Sbeitla. We not only view many of the world's best-preserved antique monuments in these extensive ruins, but also enjoy Tunisia's extraordinary wealth of Roman mosaics in fine on-site museums and in Tunis' great Bardo Collection. Tunisia's Islamic heritage is awe inspiring. Kairouan's magnificent early mosque played a key role in the Islamisation of North Africa, and Muslim Tunis grew on the ruins of ancient Phoenician and Roman Carthage; in the city's bustling souq, émigrés expelled from Spain developed Tunisia's wool trade. Tunis also boasts fine mosques, tombs and madrasas of the later Ottoman conquerors, the Turks. We will encounter the fascinating ribats of Sousse and Monastir, built to defend Islamic Ifriqiyya from European incursions, and the extraordinary port city of Mahdia, constructed to launch the Shi'a Fatimids' 10th-century invasion of Egypt. South of the Mediterranean littoral, whose great wheat fields fed ancient Rome, we explore the edge of the Sahara, with Roman frontier fortresses that controlled the movements of desert peoples and fascinating Berber villages with mud brick granaries that protected precious harvests from Arab raiders. We explore remote oases, approached by four-wheel drive and by camel and watch the Sahara's crimson sunrise. By special arrangement, the Association des Amis de la Mémoire de la Terre de Tataouine, introduces cave paintings, dinosaur footprints, and a dig site for fossilised dinosaur bones. We journey the dramatic Oued Seldja Gorge on the restored Ottoman Lezard Rouge (Red Lizard) train. We end our tour at the northern Port of Bizerte, featuring a picturesque old harbour, medina and kasbah, and Kerkouane, the world's best-preserved Phoenicio-Punic city. You'll be enthralled by Tunisia's magnificent heritage, celebrated in UNESCO's Heritage list that includes Carthage, El Djem, Dougga, Kairouan's mosque, Tunis' and Sousse's medinas, and Kerkouane.

18 DAYS Tunis (4 nights) • Sousse (2 nights) • Tataouine (2 nights) • Ksar Ghilane (1 night) • Tozeur (2 nights) • Kairouan (3 nights) • Sidi Bou Said (4 nights)

Combine with Spain (25 Sep - 16 Oct 20) • Algeria (27 Sep - 17 Oct 20) • Great Libraries and Stately Homes of England (5 - 20 Oct 20)

## ROMAN ALGERIA THE SAHARA & THE M'ZAB VALLEY

27 September - 17 October 2020

Lecturer: Tony O'Connor



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$12,190.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$12,390.00 Land Content Only  
\$2150.00 Single Supplement

Archaeologist Tony O'Connor, who has worked extensively on major North African sites, leads this fascinating tour which explores Roman Algeria, the Sahara & the M'Zab Valley. 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 The Habsburg Cities: Budapest, Vienna, Prague & Bohemia (4 - 25 Sep 20) • Tunisia (20 Oct - 6 Nov 20) • Iran (21 Oct - 10 Nov 20)



## NATURAL LANDSCAPES & GARDENS OF MOROCCO



14 April - 5 May 2020

Lecturer: John Patrick



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 the 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 home and gardens of Italian novelist Umberto Pasti, the artist Elena Prentice, and New Zealand born interior designer Veere Grenney who hosts us for a private lunch. We also visit the home of the late Christopher Gibbs, British antique dealer and influential designer of men's fashion, whose gorgeous cliff-side compound is set in 14 acres of lush gardens. Beyond the Atlas Mountains, we encounter rich palm oases that follow rivers snaking through the desert. Alongside these 'rivers of green' are luscious 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 2020

\$11,780.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)

\$11,980.00 Land Content Only; \$2360.00 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 Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands (8 - 28 May 20)

## 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.

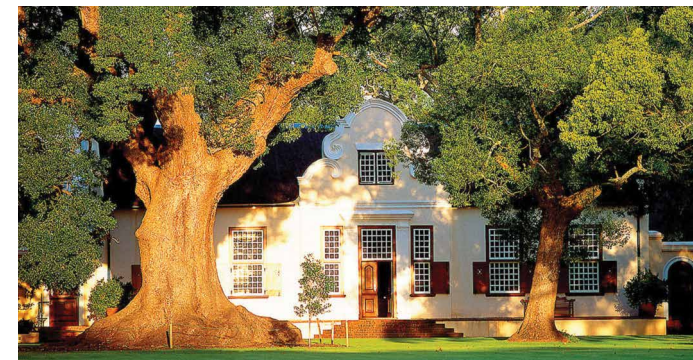
Madagascar, the world's fifth-largest island, has a higher percentage of endemic species than any comparable land mass; it has plant species, genera and even families that grow nowhere else on earth. Many natives have, however, made their way into gardens the world over. Among them is the magnificent 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

\$11,980.00 Land Content Only; \$1500.00 Single Supplement

23 DAYS Antananarivo (1 night) • Andasibe NP (3 nights) • Antsirabe (1 night) • Ranomafana NP (3 nights) • Isalo NP (2 nights) • Ifaty (2 nights) • Kirindy Forest Reserve (1 night) • Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve (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 homesteads. 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

\$10,980.00 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)



## AUTUMN & THE ART OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN



13 - 28 November 2019, 4 - 19 November 2020

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 Happoen Garden, where ladies in kimonos serve 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. In 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 2019

\$12,180.00 Land Content Only; \$2580.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020 - 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)

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



4 - 25 February 2020

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



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. We explore 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)

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,290.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,490.00 Land Content Only; \$2350.00 Single Supplement

Combine with A Sri Lankan Odyssey (27 Feb - 17 Mar 20)

## A SRI LANKAN ODYSSEY ELEPHANTS, TEMPLES, SPICES & FORTS



27 February - 17 March 2020

Lecturer: Em. Prof. Bernard Hoffert



Bernard Hoffert introduces you to Sri Lanka's unique history and environment, the magnificent architecture, painting and sculpture of its distinctive Theravada Buddhism, its ancient palace cities and glorious dynastic monuments, its superb national parks, the works of its greatest modernist architect, Geoffrey Bawa, and the cultivation and culture of its best-known product, tea. We explore the majestic remains of the ancient sacred cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's first and second dynastic capitals, and the lovely sacred city of Kandy, Sri Lanka's last royal city, which holds Buddha's Sacred Tooth Relic. The spectacular rock fortress Sigiriya has the 5th-century remains of King Kasyapa's palace. Throughout, we enjoy magnificent historic sculptures and wall paintings such as at the Golden Dambulla Cave Temple. In Colombo's National Museum we will see priceless treasures, including Rajasingha II's golden crown. We will explore Portuguese, Dutch and British colonialism, as in the 16th-century Dutch fortified town of Galle, and a wonderful 19th-century gentlemen's club for British tea plantation owners. In contrast, we visit a number of properties designed by Geoffrey Bawa including his country estate, Colombo home, and Heritage Kandalama, one of our tour hotels. Along with these cultural treasures we explore Sri Lanka's rich and diverse fauna and flora in five of its National Parks. Wilpattu is famous for its leopards, Minneriya and Kaudulla for migrating elephants, Yala for its wild elephants, leopards and spotted deer and Bundala's coastal lagoons for their aquatic bird life. Yala National Park's Elephant Transit Home nurtures orphaned elephant calves and Kandy's Millennium Elephant Foundation rescues and cares for captive Asian elephants. We visit tea plantations and manufacturing centres. A special tour emphasis is distinctive accommodation. Along with Bawa's aforementioned hotel, the Forest Rock Garden Resort is modelled on ancient Anuradhapura's palaces and Fort Bazaar and Galle Fort Hotel are charming residences inside Galle's historic fortress.

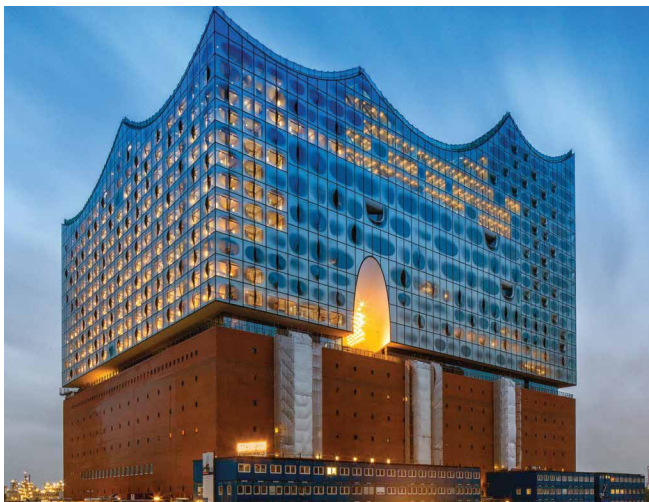
20 DAYS Negombo (1 night) • Andarawewa, Anuradhapura (3 nights) • Thirappane, Anuradhapura (3 nights) • Dambulla (3 nights) • Kandy (3 nights) • Nuwara Eliya (1 night) • Udawalawe (1 night) • Yala (2 nights) • Galle (2 nights) • Colombo (2 nights)

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$9980.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$10,180.00 Land Content Only; \$2890.00 Single Supplement

Combine with North India (4 - 25 Feb 20)





## BERLIN & HAMBURG ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

17 - 29 September 2019

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

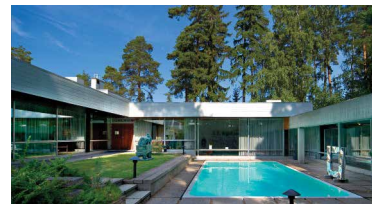
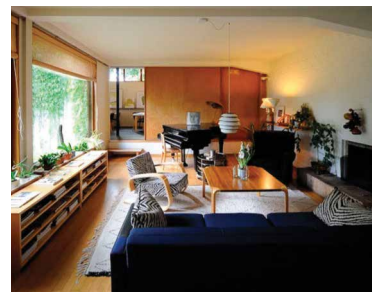


**TOUR PRICE 2019**  
\$8180.00 Land Content Only  
\$1680.00 Single Supplement

Explore the best of Germany's contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion in Berlin, Dessau and Hamburg. In Berlin we visit New Tendency, one of the city's most popular young design studios featured in *Wallpaper*. 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. We also meet German-American architect Philipp Mohr at his 'Artist Loft' and visit an apartment in Berlin's Unité d'Habitation which he refurbished to Le Corbusier's original plans. Interior designer Anne Schütz shows us three of her projects including the private apartment designed for artist Sabine Dehn and product designer Andreas Berlin. Led by local architects, we visit the Deutscher Bundestag with Sir Norman Foster's extraordinary glass dome; Daniel Libeskind's Jewish Museum; Museum Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site, currently being renovated according to David Chipperfield's masterplan. We also view experimental lighting at Bocci 79 housed in a former 19th-century courthouse; and see exquisite handmade gold and precious metal wallpaper being made on a private tour of the Welter Manufaktur. At the Kunstgewerbemuseum we view important collections of applied arts and crafts and a fashion gallery showcasing clothing by Coco Chanel, Christian Dior and Yves Saint Laurent. We also view two of Berlin's best private art collections: the Hoffman Collection, housed in the owner Erika Hoffmann's private apartment, and the unique space of a converted 1942 bunker with the Boros Collection. In Dessau we trace Germany's avant-garde design tradition at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bauhaus buildings and Masters' Houses; and visit The Bauhaus Museum Dessau, opening in September 2019 to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus. In Hamburg we take an architectural tour of HafenCity – Europe's largest inner-city urban development project, the new Stadthöfe-Quartier, the interior of a contemporary houseboat, Haus im Haus by Benisch Architects, and iconic buildings by Hadi Teherani. We also view award-winning lighting by Tobias Grau. Special highlights include dinner at the Michelin-starred Pauly Saal Restaurant, a performance at Hamburg's new Elbphilharmonie by Herzog & de Meuron and our 3-night stay in the new Tortue Hamburg Hotel designed by Kate Hume, Stephen Williams and Joyce Wang.

13 DAYS Berlin (9 nights) • Hamburg (3 nights)

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



## FINLAND ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

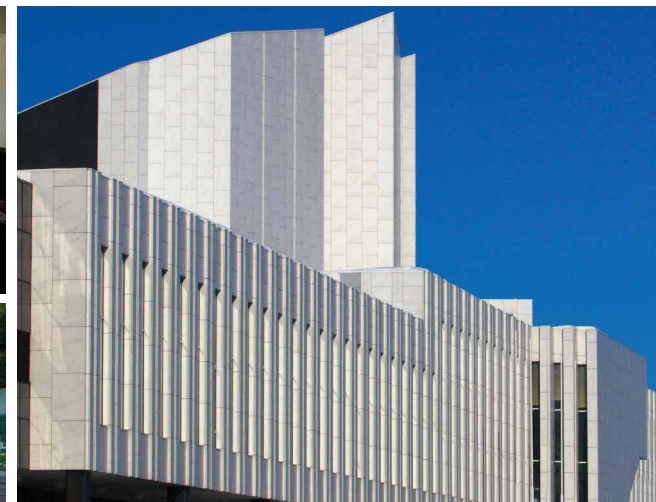
3 - 16 September 2019  
1 - 14 September 2020

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



**TOUR PRICE 2019**  
\$7980.00 Land Content Only  
\$1550.00 Single Supplement

**TOUR PRICE 2020**  
\$7980.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$8180.00 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 Iivana Helsinki's fashion brand at her flagship store and visit the private showroom of Marita Huurinen, famous for her 'wave shoes'. By special appointment, we visit 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 Restaurant Ultima designed by Ateljé Sotamaa 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) • Belgium (16 - 26 Sep 20)





## BELGIUM ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

16 - 26 September 2020

Leader: Stephen Crafti

Lecturers: A team of local specialists  
& guides



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$7290.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$7490.00 Land Content Only  
\$1280.00 Single Supplement

In Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp we explore the very best of Belgium's contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion. Based in the 4-star Hotel Le Dixseptième, we begin with a visit to Art Nouveau architect Victor Horta's private house and studio. By special appointment, we visit the interiors of the Maison Autrique, Hôtel Van Eetvelde, Hôtel Max Hallet and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Hôtel Solvay, which features a decorated staircase, mosaic floor, painted walls, wrought ironwork and custom designed furniture. We explore the Musée David et Alice van Buuren, a private Art Déco house containing sublime furnishings, stained glass and fine art. We view exceptional 19th-century art in the Musée Fin-de-Siècle and surrealist artist René Magritte's paintings in the Magritte Museum. Our tour coincides with the annual Brussels Design Market, Europe's largest vintage market. We also visit the Art & Design Atomium Museum dedicated to 20th-century art and design, and by special appointment Studio With A View – an innovative artist hub for 3 designers, 2 artists and a textile designer. Accompanied by interior designer Danny Venlet, we explore contemporary interiors including Danny's own private home and studio, architect Ivo Van Hamme's private house, and the Kanal-Centre Pompidou, home to a new Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and architecture centre. We'll survey Ghent's Design Museum and the city's new Market Hall. With architects Dries Vens and Maarten Vanbelle we view a number of their projects including a copper-clad extension to a traditional Belgian farmhouse, and their award-winning Gewad apartments. In Antwerp, based in the 4-star boutique Hotel Julien, we visit the atelier of fashion and costume designer Tim Van Steenberghe; meet fashion designer Jan-Jan Van Essche; and lunch at The Jane which features bespoke pieces by Beirut-based PSLab and stained glass windows illustrated by Studio Job. We also explore Antwerp's fashion ModeMuseum, Ganterie Boon, a family business specialising in Peccary and Chevreux leather gloves, and Middelheim's open-air museum's modern sculpture collection. Our architecture tour of Antwerp includes visits to the exterior of Le Corbusier's Maison Guiette (1926), the MAS, Zaha Hadid's Port House, and finishes with dinner at Restaurant Het Pomphuis, which occupies an old pump house in the harbour area.

11 DAYS Brussels (6 nights) • Antwerp (4 nights)

Combine with Finland Architecture and Design (1 - 14 Sep 20)

## JAPAN ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

18 - 31 January 2020

Leader: Stephen Crafti

Lecturers: A team of local specialists  
& guides



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$10,480.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Jun 19)  
\$10,680.00 Land Content Only  
\$2630.00 Single Supplement

Immerse yourself in the very best of Japanese architecture and design with Stephen Crafti on a tour that showcases the finest Japanese contemporary art, architecture, furniture and fashion. Highlights include a day trip to Naoshima Island and hosted visits to a number of projects with their architects or designers in Kyoto and Tokyo. We explore the unique way contemporary Japanese design draws on centuries of tradition, using it towards the creation of a modern aesthetic. The tour begins in historic Kyoto, where a reverence for the traditional melds with an appreciation for the contemporary, reflected in the rejuvenation of historic architecture and craft. We encounter craft ateliers and design stores where the clean lines of the Japanese aesthetic are enhanced by the use of traditional materials and techniques. Machiya (traditional houses) are being restored and renovated by the city's leading architectural firms and reincarnated as guesthouses, cafes and boutiques. At the same time, public spaces such as museums and theatres allow for extraordinary cutting edge architecture. Japan's most acclaimed architect, Tadao Ando, hails from nearby Osaka, and we visit his stunning Shiba Ryotaro Memorial Museum as we head south to spend a day on the art island – Naoshima. In addition to Ando's Benesse House Art Museum, Naoshima hosts a number of galleries, art installations and fascinating outdoor sculpture. During our 6-night stay in Tokyo we focus on the 20th and 21st centuries. While there are precious remnants of earlier masterpieces, such as the Jiyu Gakuen School by Frank Lloyd Wright, much of the city's aesthetic reflects the dynamism of the mid-20th century onwards. Museums, libraries, retail stores and places of religion boast designs by Le Corbusier, Ando, Renzo Piano and Toyo Ito. Districts around Omotesando and Ginza dazzle with their rich array of designer stores, their fashion and homewares displayed in spaces fitted out by leading interior and lighting designers. The tour is timed to run in January, when the tourist crowds have dispersed and the winter days are crisp. Stay in leading centrally located hotels, dine at fine restaurants that reflect the importance of artistry, aesthetic and flavour in Japanese cuisine, and travel by Japan's sophisticated transport systems (including the shinkansen). You might even be tempted to indulge in the famed January sales!

14 DAYS Kyoto (5 nights) • Kurashiki (2 nights) • Tokyo (6 nights)



## EXPLORING THE LITERARY LANDSCAPES OF ENGLAND



27 May - 16 June 2020

Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRNS

Leader: Anne Harbers



Join Susannah in exploring the England of English literature. 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 the authors and seeing first hand the countryside they described. It is magical to feel that you are entering the world of a novel or poem, seeing for yourself what an author has described so vividly and exploring the house from which great masterpieces emerged. We will visit writers' homes, view original manuscripts and letters and will walk in the settings of beloved novels and poems. There will be a special theatre performance to enjoy. In gardens, castles, villages, churches and graveyards we will examine the effect of environment on a writer and investigate the role played by a sense of place in literary creation. You will discover how the elegant classicism of Bath influenced Jane Austen, how a bleak industrial landscape shaped D.H. Lawrence and what it was about the wild moors that fired the Brontës' imaginations. You will enter the opening of *Great Expectations* in a Kentish cemetery and follow Dickens around his home county. There will be places connected with films (*Harry Potter*) and with popular TV series. The tour begins in Chaucer's Canterbury, moves through the gentle Hampshire countryside of Jane Austen to the Dorset of Thomas Hardy. Lorna Doone country in wild Exmoor, Lord Byron's ancestral home of Newstead Abbey, James Herriot's Yorkshire, the lakes of the Romantic poets and Shakespeare's Stratford are included. Childhood favourites are not forgotten - we visit Beatrix Potter's charming farmhouse and play Poohsticks on the original Poohsticks Bridge in the Hundred Acre Wood. Literature and art frequently go together and we will visit Charleston, home of members of the Bloomsbury Group and have time to visit some of Manchester's excellent galleries. Throughout the tour our exploration of literary landscapes is enriched by dramatic readings and expert guides. Discover on this tour the literary delights of 'this blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England'!

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$12,680.00 Land Content Only; \$2480.00 Single Supplement

21 DAYS Canterbury (4 nights) • Winchester (3 nights) • Bath (4 nights) • Stratford-upon-Avon (2 nights) • York (2 nights) • Lakes District (3 nights) • Manchester (2 nights)

Combine with Bulgaria (13 - 27 May 20)

## EXPLORING MORE LITERARY LANDSCAPES OF ENGLAND



18 September - 8 October 2020

Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRNS



Reading books is one of life's greatest joys and to visit the homes and landscapes of favourite authors can be a wonderful extension to the pleasure of reading their works. Accompanied by Susannah Fullerton, we follow in the footsteps of Rupert Brooke, Virginia Woolf, Tennyson, Agatha Christie, Daphne du Maurier, John Betjeman and many more. We will see the buildings they lived in, which range from simple cottages to grand stately homes; walk through fields and countryside that delighted them; visit the museums they inspired and see the manuscripts they laboured over. From castles to cottages, graveyards to cathedrals, tiny villages to bustling cities, lush countryside to barren uplands and from the dales to the seaside, we will follow poets and playwrights, novelists and diarists, to discover how a 'sense of place' resulted in literary creation. The tour begins in southern England where Virginia Woolf enjoyed a simple life. Rakish Brighton with its ornate Pavilion, naval Portsmouth (home of Jane Austen's Fanny Price and birthplace of Dickens), and Tennyson's beloved Isle of Wight, will all be explored. We then head to the West Country to search out the landscapes of Daphne du Maurier, Agatha Christie, Betjeman and Winston Graham's *Poldark* series. The golden-stone Cotswolds come next where we learn about Laurie Lee and T.S. Eliot. In Yorkshire we connect with Evelyn Waugh, Elizabeth Gaskell and Captain Cook, and see Laurence Sterne's Shandy Hall, named after his own Tristram Shandy. Heading south again, we explore the Lincolnshire wolds and enjoy a special visit to the place that inspired Tennyson's, 'Come into the garden, Maud'. Our last base will be Cambridge, home to so many great writers. In Brooke's Grantchester we enjoy a guided walk before returning to Cambridge by punt. During the tour you will enjoy dramatic performances at a cliffside open air theatre in Cornwall and at a historic Yorkshire theatre. There will also be music, drama, expert guides and historical commentary. Treat yourself and discover the literary, historical and cultural treasures of England!

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$12,880.00 Land Content Only; \$2640.00 Single Supplement

21 DAYS Chichester (5 nights) • St Ives (3 nights) • Torquay (2 nights) • Moreton-in-Marsh (3 nights) • Richmond (2 nights) • Lincoln (3 nights) • Cambridge (2 nights)

Combine with Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic (8 - 22 Oct 20)

## ISLANDS OF SINGULAR CHARM A LITERARY, HISTORICAL & CULTURAL TOUR OF NEW ZEALAND



9 - 24 November 2020

Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRNS

Leader: Russell Casey



For Katherine Mansfield her native land was made up of "islands of singular charm". Janet Frame found her country "a territory of loneliness", while for Ngaio Marsh it was a place to deposit corpses in boiling mud pools or bales of wool. Eleanor Catton in *The Luminaries* explores its gold-digging past, Samuel Butler wrote of it satirically in *Erewhon*, and Lady Barker described station life in a best-selling book. Visiting writers have written about New Zealand - from Darwin, Trollope, Kipling and Conan Doyle to modern authors Rose Tremain and Paul Theroux, writers have enthused over the scenery, been awed by the majestic landscapes, and have loved the people, while filmmakers have used New Zealand settings for many movies. This tour will explore the rich literary and cultural heritage of New Zealand. There will be visits to writers' homes, viewings of rare collections in libraries, a contemporary poet will join us to read her work, and we'll make an unusual visit to a homestead with intriguing Jane Austen associations. You will also learn about New Zealand's past - first nation to give women the vote, the gold rush, the importance of sheep, adventure sports, and the wine industry. This tour highlights New Zealand's magnificent scenery, with a spectacular train trip through the mountains, a glacier, a cruise in UNESCO heritage Fiordland, a stay at a luxurious rainforest lodge, bushwalks, and much more. There's only one place on any mainland where you can find an albatross colony - we will see the birds flying home at the end of their day at sea. There will be dinner at Parliament House, a lakeside picnic, and other meals enjoying the country's famed cuisine. Last year Lonely Planet listed New Zealand in its Top Five Countries in the world to visit. Come and discover why for yourself. Join Kiwi Susannah Fullerton in delving into its literary heritage, viewing its scenic wonders, and revelling in its vibrant, friendly and memorable culture.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

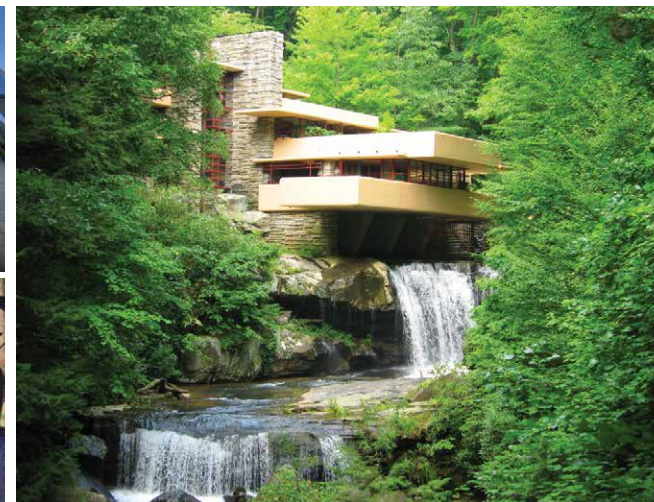
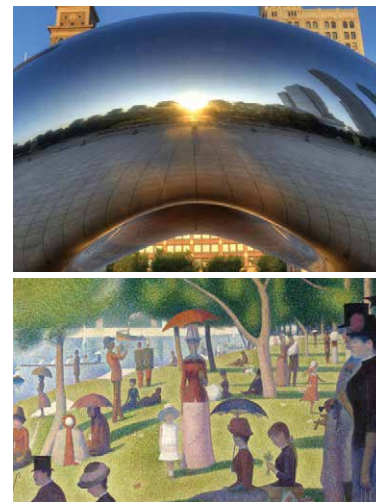
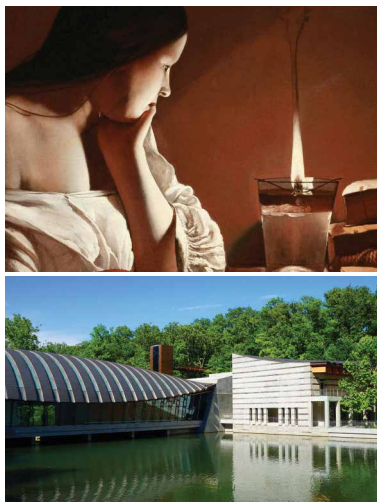
\$10,880.00 Land Content Only

\$2020.00 Single Supplement incl. single cabin on *Milford Mariner*

\$1580.00 Single Supplement, twin-share cabin on *Milford Mariner*

16 DAYS Wellington (3 nights) • Dunedin (2 nights) • Ashburton (2 nights) • Christchurch (2 nights) • Lake Moeraki (2 nights) • Queenstown (2 nights) • Milford Sound Cruise (1 night) • Queenstown (1 night)





## ART & ARCHITECTURE LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK & THE CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

8 - 24 April 2020

Lecturer: Prof. Chris McAuliffe



### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$12,580.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 31 Jul 19)  
\$12,780.00 Land Content Only  
\$3370.00 Single Supplement

Join Professor Chris McAuliffe (School of Art & Design, ANU) as he shares his profound understanding of the American contemporary art scene. Along with visits to great monuments and collections, the tour has been designed to incorporate newly opened public museums, private and commercial galleries, and to coincide with some of the great 'blockbuster' temporary exhibitions for which New York is famed. In Los Angeles we discover the exceptional art collections of the West Coast – the Getty Center, Broad Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, LA County Museum of Art and the Huntington Art Gallery. We explore the city's groundbreaking early 20th century domestic architecture – houses that defined 'California Modernism', including Greene & Greene's Gamble House, Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House, the Schindler House and Eames House. We enjoy privileged access to two iconic homes in the Hollywood Hills: the Stahl House by Pierre Koenig and John Lautner's Sheats-Goldstein House. In New York our visits to the city's great museums – the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the new Whitney Museum of American Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and MoMA – are complemented by a selection of private commercial galleries where incredible art is for sale. New York continues its long tradition of encouraging innovative architecture, and we see evidence of this at places like 'The Shed', a newly opened performance and art space on the High Line. An excursion to Long Island allows us to visit the Pollock-Krasner House and the impressive sculpture collection at the 16-acre LongHouse Reserve. We also spend 3 nights in one of America's most dynamic new art centres, Bentonville, where we visit the extraordinary Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art with Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House, and the cathedral-like Thorncrown Chapel at Eureka Springs. In addition to the tour's feast of visual art and architecture, we will attend performances in New York's Carnegie Hall and Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall.

17 DAYS Los Angeles (6 nights) • Bentonville (3 nights) • New York (7 nights)

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

19 September - 8 October 2019  
17 September - 6 October 2020

Lecturer: Prof. Chris McAuliffe



### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$12,680.00 Land Content Only  
\$3980.00 Single Supplement

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$13,380.00 Land Content Only  
(early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)  
\$13,580.00 Land Content Only  
\$4260.00 Single Supplement

Chris McAuliffe 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 Impressionist and early Modernist works, 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.

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



## ATACAMA TO PATAGONIA CHILE'S NATURAL WORLD



11 October - 1 November 2020

Lecturer: Stephen Ryan



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 Stephen Ryan, former presenter for ABC's Gardening Australia as he explores 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 and visit fine museums displaying magnificent pre-Columbian art, historic villages, old Spanish fortresses and vibrant markets. Like Charles Darwin, we shall explore great forests and experience Chile's unique flora and fauna within dramatic coastal and mountain settings. As we journey through this enchanting country we sample distinctive cuisine and enjoy the fine wines for which Chile is famed.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

\$13,980.00 Land Content Only (early-bird special before 30 Sep 19)

\$14,180.00 Land Content Only; \$3390.00 Single Supplement

22 DAYS Santiago (3 nights) • San Pedro de Atacama (2 nights) • Santiago Airport (1 night) • Torres del Paine National Park (3 nights) • Punta Arenas (1 night) • Valdivia (2 nights) • Pucón (2 nights) • Santa Cruz (2 nights) • Viña del Mar (2 nights) • Santiago (3 nights)

## SPICE TRADERS, ISLAND TRAMPS & SEA GYPSIES A VOYAGE FROM TERNATE TO KENDARI



6 - 17 February 2020

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 12-day voyage on a traditional but luxuriously outfitted Indonesian sail-trader follows ancient monsoon sailing routes across the sheltered seas of Indonesia's eastern archipelagos – visiting some of its remotest and loveliest islands and reefs. We board in Ternate, a spectacular island-volcano and seat of an historic spice sultanate. We visit Moluccan islands that were once the only place on earth where cloves grew. Surviving forts and palaces tell of rajahs and sultans and the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and English interlopers fighting to monopolise spices once worth their weight in gold. Crossing the wakes of explorers such as Magellan, Drake and Alfred Russel Wallace – including the island where he found that butterfly! – we traverse the truly remote Sula and Banggai Archipelagos. Far beyond the tourist trail, we meet diverse, welcoming maritime communities accessible only by sea and our ship's tenders. They are just as curious to meet us. Reaching the fabled Celebes – Sulawesi – we encounter forests, wildlife and Indonesia's last shamanist tribe, ending our cruise in the island port Kendari. All within the renowned Coral Triangle, where we snorkel amid the world's greatest diversity of tropical marine life. Our voyage reveals the true nature of this island nation, an oceanic crossroads of seaborne trade, migration and cultures. *Ombak Putih* ('White Wave') is herself a part of this heritage. This story of rare spices, traders and explorers, adventurers and naturalists, slavers and pirates, ship builders and sea-gypsies is unfolded day-by-day by ASA's guest lecturer, Jeffrey Mellefont. He works with the ship's Indonesian cruise director and dive master, selected for their local knowledge of communities and natural history, and an attentive Indonesian ship's crew, to look after all your needs.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

USD \$7250.00 Land Content Only: Twin-share cabins

AUD \$10,357.00 approx. (1AUD = .70USD)

The final tour price will be confirmed 4 months prior to departure.

12-DAY CRUISE: Ternate, Halmahera, Bacan, Obi, Banggai aboard the *Ombak Putih*

## THE SCENTS OF THE SPICE ISLANDS A VOYAGE FROM AMBON TO TERNATE



15 - 26 September 2020

Lecturer: Jeffrey Mellefont

In association with SeaTrek Sailing Adventures



"Clothed in mystery and lost in uncharted seas, the Spice Islands of the early sixteenth century tantalized European imagination to the point of obsession. As the only place on Earth where grew the "holy trinity" of spices – cloves, nutmeg, and mace – these minuscule islands quickly became a wellspring of international intrigue and personal fortune, occasioning the rise and fall of nations across the globe." Charles Corn, *The Scents of Eden: A History of the Spice Trade*.

Discover the Moluccas on the luxuriously appointed Ombak Putih ('White Wave'), based on a traditional Indonesian sail trader. These are the original Spice Islands, a chain of largely volcanic islands stretching across the Equator in the eastern Indonesian archipelago – exotic, remote and unspoiled yet historically significant. Little has changed in the lives of their peoples who harvest nutmeg, mace and cloves in the same way as they have for millennia. Once these fertile isles were the world's only source of these rarest of all spices, worth their weight in gold. Traded along ancient monsoon sea routes that stretched from China to India, the Middle East and the Mediterranean, they enriched Moluccan rulers, bold seafarers and distant merchant-middlemen such as the Arabs and Venetians. Huge profits lured Europeans onto the world's oceans to find the spices' mysterious source. Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English fortune seekers wrote a violent history of treaties and treachery among these islands and their rajahs and sultans. The Moluccas were torn, too, by Indonesia's struggle for independence and the more recent transition from dictatorship to democracy. Today they bask in peace and a natural beauty that can be enjoyed below the water as well as above – for all this lies in S.E. Asia's Coral Triangle, with the world's greatest diversity of underwater life. Your Indonesian-speaking guest lecturer Jeffrey Mellefont is an expert on this unique maritime world. He relates their stories as we visit abandoned forts, colonial buildings and churches, sultans' palaces and lovely spice plantations. We also visit unspoiled villages and wilderness that can only be accessed by our ship's tenders. From Ambon with its gracious Commonwealth war graves we sail to the charming Banda islands, original source of nutmeg. Following historic spice routes through the Lease Islands we cross the Equator to the clove sultanates of Tidore and Ternate.

### TOUR PRICE 2020

USD \$7250.00 Land Content Only: Twin-share cabins.

AUD \$10,357.00 approx. (1AUD = .70USD)

The final tour price will be confirmed 4 months prior to departure.

12-DAY CRUISE: Banda Is, Obi, Bacan, Halmahera, Ternate aboard the *Ombak Putih*





## WESTERN AUSTRALIA: WILDFLOWERS, WINERIES AND PRIVATE GARDENS OF THE SOUTH WEST

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 landlocked 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 Growns, 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 complements its wines with fruit, herbs and vegetables from its extensive biodynamic garden.

### TOUR PRICE 2019

\$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)



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

16 - 26 November 2019

Lecturer: Deryn Thorpe

Explore Tasmania's beautiful public and private gardens, pristine wilderness, thriving agricultural landscapes and fine food and wine. Based in Hobart, we visit the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens; Crawleighwood, with its exotic and native Tasmanian plants; plantswoman Sally Johannsohn's contemporary perennial garden; the sophisticated city garden of Corinda; and a taste of suburbia with landscape designer Susan McKinnon's private garden. From Launceston we explore northern gardens, such as Brickendon, the 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'll meet passionate gardener Jodi Broomby at her farm garden in the Tamar Valley, while horticultural author and personality Jennifer Stackhouse will take 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 the Cradle Mountain-Dove Lake National Park we'll see the Tasmanian devils at feeding time and take in the gorgeous alpine scenery while walking around Dove Lake. We feast on paddock-to-plate lunches at Matthew Evans' Fat Pig Farm and The Agrarian Kitchen Eatery; and enjoy a rustic lunch at Weston Farm, specialising in fresh produce, award-winning olive oil and exquisite Peony roses. We also visit one of Australia's most controversial art galleries - MONA.

### TOUR PRICE 2019 - WAITLIST ONLY

\$5690.00 Land Content Only; \$1150.00 Single Supplement

11 DAYS Hobart (4 nights) • Launceston (3 nights) • Cradle Mountain (2 nights) • Launceston (1 night)



## VICTORIA'S PRIVATE COUNTRY GARDENS AND THEIR DESIGNERS

4 - 15 November 2020

Lecturer: Deryn Thorpe

TOUR PRICE 2020 - To be advised

12 DAYS Ballarat (3 nights) • Lancefield (2 night) • Euroa (3 nights) • Warburton (2 nights) • Melbourne (1 night)



## THE BLUE MOUNTAINS & SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS: COUNTRY GARDENS AND THEIR DESIGNERS

22 - 31 October 2020 approx

Lecturer: Deryn Thorpe

TOUR PRICE 2020 - To be advised

10 DAYS Katoomba (5 nights) • Bowral (4 nights)





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