

Welcome

Hello there! We're happy you are here!

At Far Horizons, we curate and cultivate trips for a niche market of energetic, intellectually curious people with an interest in exploring, getting off the beaten track, and supporting local communities and tradition. We speak directly with our guests and take the time to explain our itineraries and set expectations. We are happy to chat with you about your interests and goals and ensure to that each trip is a good fit for you.

Did you know that 85% of our guests return and travel with us again and again? There are good reasons for that! Our groups are small – just 14 people at maximum. The majority of our guests are solo travelers, and many are women. We design trips that are safe, but exotic, and that foster new relationships with your fellow travelers.

Far Horizons is unique. Our tours are different. They focus on archaeology and culture, are led by renowned PhD scholars, and are curated by a visionary team. We offer education, camaraderie, and an understanding of the world's cultures - both past & present. You don't need to have extensive knowledge, just an appetite for discovery.

Our itineraries are curated with education, archaeology, and discovery as the focus; we are dedicated to directly supporting the regions we visit by selecting local hotels; making monetary contributions to worthy projects and sites; and engaging with local people during our travels. We coordinate special access, private talks, and visit places and spaces not available for the average traveler.

Far Horizons has been offering trips around the world since 1983. In 2022, the founder, Mary Dell Lucas, retired and entrusted us to continue the legacy which she built.

As we continue to advance and grow, we keep at the forefront our commitment to providing a personalized experience. Working directly with our travelers is highly valuable; we want to hear from you, we enjoy getting to know you, and we are here to assist you. We encourage you to reach out and say hello!

We look forward to connecting, engaging, and of course, traveling with you!

Mary Collins & Stefan Woehlke

Chief Executive Officer & Chief Curation Officer

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Meet the CEO & CCO

Partners in life and business, this dynamic duo seeks to carry out the legacy of Far Horizons and add their own unique elements to shape and grow the vision.

Mary Collins

Chief Executive Officer

In addition to leading the charge as the CEO of Far Horizons, Mary is the co-founder of Blue Fern Travel, a history-infused food and cocktail tour company focused on supporting local businesses and community by sharing stories through flavors.

Mary earned her M.P.A. in nonprofit and international management, and has worked with Ugandan-based NGO, Paper to Pearls; children's shelter For Children's Sake; and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mary and Stefan have two daughters and and a son who are adventurous culinary and cultural explorers.



Stefan Woehlke

Chief Curation Officer

Dr. Stefan Woehlke has been combining his love of archaeology, cultural heritage, and travel for over 20 years.

Stefan has traveled extensively with his wife, Mary. They realized that travel and tourism have great potential to support communities, but often, the relationship between tourism and the local economy was harmful to the livelihoods and wellbeing of the local people. Stefan enrolled in graduate school, where he helped Mary build their first company, Blue Fern Travel, whose mission is to ensure that tourist dollars get into the community.

In 2022, Stefan and Mary purchased Far Horizons to expand cross-cultural engagement, support archaeological research, and expand local benefits from the international travel industry.



Meet Your Team of Experts

Our mighty staff has rich travel experience, strong service skills, commitment to our travelers, and organizational knowledge.



Heather Stoeckley

Director of Operations

Heather Stoeckley is excited to continue her 17-year journey with Far Horizons as Director of Operations. Her wanderlust started at a young age, propelling her on a never-ending pursuit to learn about different cultures and histories, both near and far. Heather loves sharing her expertise to provide life-changing experiences for our valued clientele. Her favorite travel quote, and personal credo, is "Always say yes to new adventures!"



Catharine Pear

Director of Marketing & Communications

Catharine Pear joined the Far Horizons team in early 2022, bringing with her over 15 years of experience in tourism and travel. Working as an independent consultant for eight years prior, Cat helped guide & grow tour companies, including Blue Fern Travel, owned by Far Horizons' CEO, Mary Collins. Working for Far Horizons – traveling and assisting others in exploring the world – is a dream realized! While Cat loves to tour and learn, she is equally fond of being home, trying out new vegetarian recipes, and walking to the beach with her blue staffy, Essie.



Scott Gilbert

Senior Destination Manager

Scott joined the Far Horizons family in 2022 and is excited to continue our tradition of excellence. While studying History at Towson University, Scott fell in love with learning about new cultures which only fueled his wanderlust. Scott has worked in the travel industry since 2018, in a number of roles that have taken him to Thailand, Colombia, Israel and everywhere in-between! When he's not on the road traveling, Scott loves trying his hand at cooking new recipes and obsessing over the Indianapolis Colts!



Judy Hoffman

Destination Assistant

Judy is thrilled to be a part of the Far Horizons team. She loves being able to work where her two passions – archaeology & travel – intersect. She received her undergrad in Ancient Studies from University of Maryland and enjoys using the knowledge she acquired there whenever she is able to travel. Judy is excited to help people discover the joys of travel, archaeology, and history. When she isn't working or traveling, she can be found at home reading, or hiking with her chocolate lab, Hilde.



Rediscover hidden temples and palaces that have stood in forested splendor for thousands of years... boat down a lazy river where the elusive crocodile floats among lily pads...sink your toes into the white sandy beach in the land of the Garifuna... travel with our archaeological specialist, who has intimate ties with the country and its people.



Far Horizons proudly offers our Belize archaeology tour – a colorful abundance of archaeology, culture, and natural history featuring Dr. Stanley Guenter. During this special 9-day trip, explore lost Maya ceremonial centers concealed by jungle shadows and meet people from the country's varied ethnic groups while seeing spectular wildlife that other countries around the world label "endangered."

Long thought to be a backwater of the ancient Mayan, archaeological work here has proven the opposite. Explore Caracol, conqueror of Tikal in the 6th century; Lamanai, an important commercial center for more than 3,000 years; Xunantunich, where recent excavations have uncovered the tomb of an important king; Altun-Ha, a major center that controlled the Maya trade routes along the Caribbean coast; and the remote southern cities of Lubaantun and Nimli Punit, where yet another inscribed stela has recently been found.



At the southeastern tip of the Polynesian triangle lies windswept Easter Island, one of the most remote spots on the planet. Surrounded by an endless ocean as blue as the sky and located 2,300 miles west of Santiago, Chile, this tiny dot of land is sixty square miles of rocky grasslands, extinct volcanic cones, and steep ocean cliffs.

Though our focus will be exploring the moai which stand all over the island, our journey will also coincide with the Tapati Festival, a cultural celebration that showcases the rich traditions of the Rapa Nui people. We will spend six full days exploring this open air museum, taking in the culture, getting to know the people, and developing a holistic understanding of Easter Island's role in human history.

This tour extends beyond Easter Island to include a three-day visit to Santiago, Chile's capital. Here, you will explore the Natural History Museum and the Pre-Columbian Art Museum, as well as the picturesque coastal city of Viña del Mar. Our Easter Island trip is crafted to provide an immersive experience, combining cultural festivities with archaeological discoveries for a truly memorable adventure.

"This trip was a dream I've had for many years. It fulfilled my dream completely." – Ann Schroeder



Venture into the secluded southern regions bordering Guatemala, where recent excavations have unveiled the remnants of pyramids and cities that were once nearly inaccessible. The discoveries made here, including transformative hieroglyphic texts reshape our understanding of the Maya, revealing a history concealed for over a millennium. Dzibanché showcases fragments of vividly painted stucco and graffiti, hinting at the influential family glyphs of Kaan.

This location might have once been a powerful center, predating Calakmul. Meanwhile, Balamkú boasts striking stucco murals that retain their original polychrome paint.

This compelling Yucatán tour offers visits to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Explore Calakmul, now recognized as the capital of the Kaan (or Snake) Kingdom. This mighty realm once rivaled Tikal for dominance—Marvel at Uxmal's intricately adorned structures and

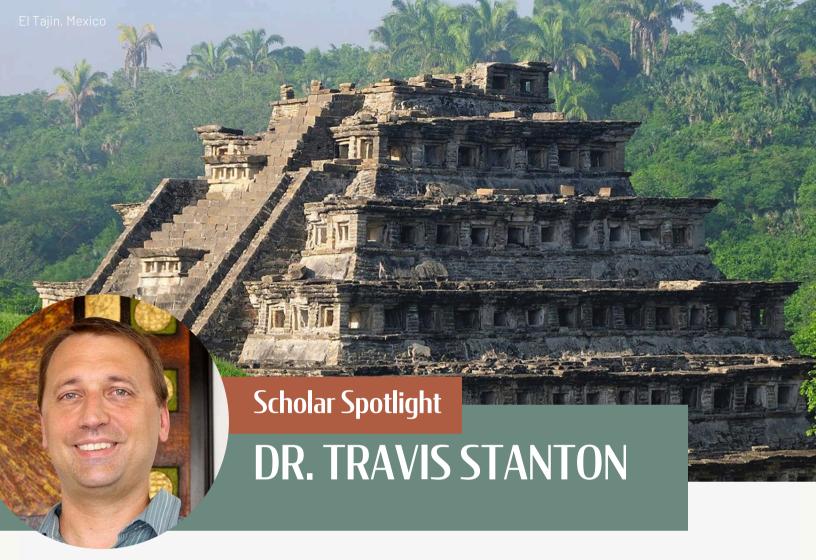
Chichén Itzá's impressive Great Ball Court, Mesoamerica's largest. Lastly, step back in time to Campeche, a city established in 1540 and fortified against pirates in the 17th century.

Journey with Dr. Stanley Guenter, a renowned archaeologist, and Maya hieroglyph expert. Gain insights into the intense struggles for supremacy among the Maya rulers, as depicted on their monumental edifices. This is no ordinary Yucatán tour: it's an immersive Mexico educational tour into the heart of the

"Stan is fantastic! I am very impressed by the depth & breadth of his knowledge of the Maya."

– Ben Azman

Maya civilization.



Join Dr. Stanton on his Debut Trip as our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Travis Stanton is a Mesoamerican archaeologist and Full Professor at the University of California Riverside. With a Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University (2000) he has worked in Mexico since 1995, primarily directing projects in the states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo; his current field research is heavily focused on Chichen Itza, the great Early Postclassic city of the Maya and UNESCO World Heritage site, for which is has co-created the working 3D model of the site.

For nearly a decade (from 2004-2013), Travis was a professor at the Universidad de las Américas Puebla, located among the ruins of the ancient city of Cholula in Central Mexico, and has spent extensive periods of time in the Gulf Coast Region. These experiences give him a profound grounding across several regions of Mesoamerica, and Central Mexico, where he engages in iconographic, digital archaeology; and oral history projects, is his second home.

Among numerous journal articles and book chapters, Travis has published ten books, including a fundamental <u>pedagogical text</u> on the workings of archaeology and a <u>wide-sweeping edited volume</u> covering the Early Postclassic across Mesoamerica.

HIDDEN MEXICO

March 15 - 29, 2025

with Dr. Travis Stanton

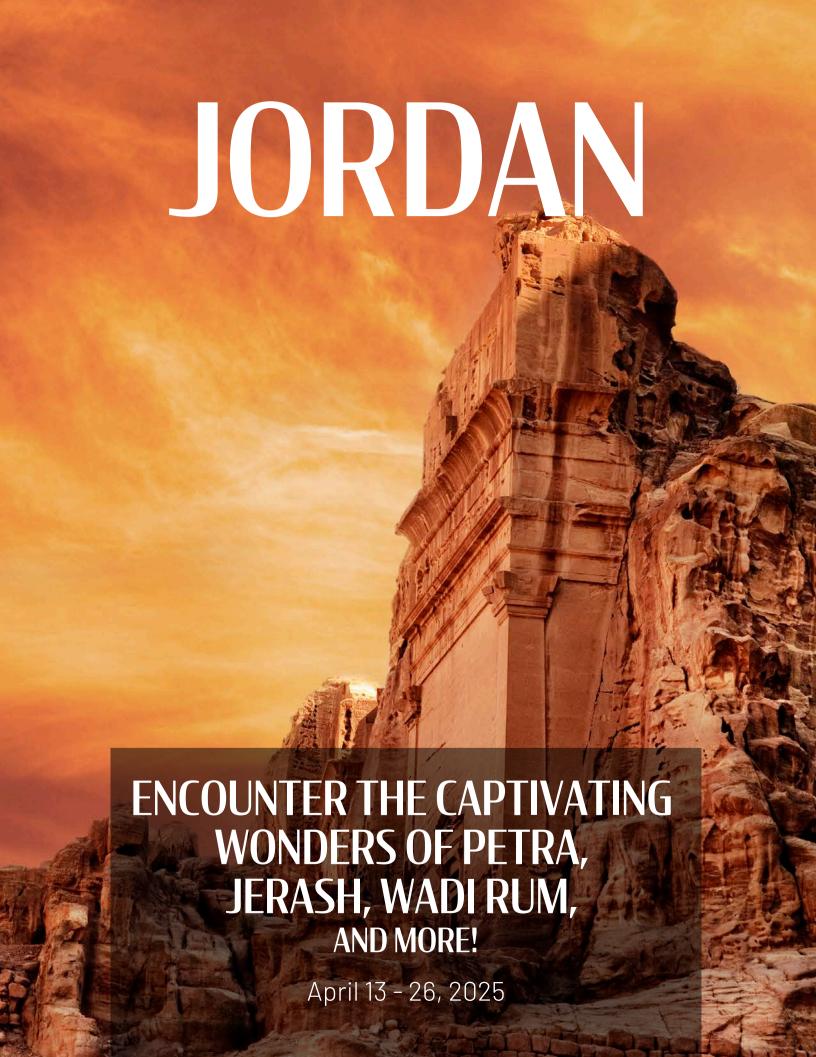
Explore Mexico's lesser-known treasures with Far Horizons on a captivating 15-day journey that unveils the hidden remnants of ancient civilizations and the beauty of its colonial cities.

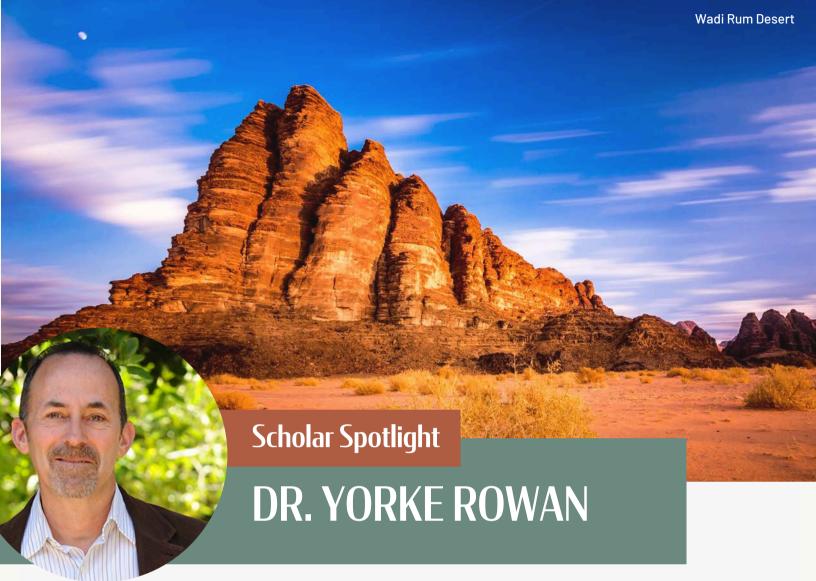
Guided by a distinguished Mesoamerican expert, our expedition starts from the Gulf Coast lowlands and weaves its way to Mexico's Central Plateau. The adventure includes visits to UNESCO World Heritage sites and cities such as:

- El Tajin, renowned for its Pyramid of the Niches
- The revered Sanctuary of Atotonilco
- El Camino Real Tierra Adentro, the historic 1,590-mile Royal Road connecting Mexico City to New Mexico
- Four nights in the colorful city of Guanajuato
- And the timeless colonial cities: Puebla, Querétaro, San Miguel de Allende, and Mexico City

Beyond these, marvel at Cantona, among the grandest urban discoveries in Mesoamerica, and vibrant rock art at Arroyo Seco, only recently opened to the public. Further enriching the trip are visits to recently uncovered archaeological wonders of the Bajía region, including El Cerrito, Plazuelas, Peralta, and Barajas.







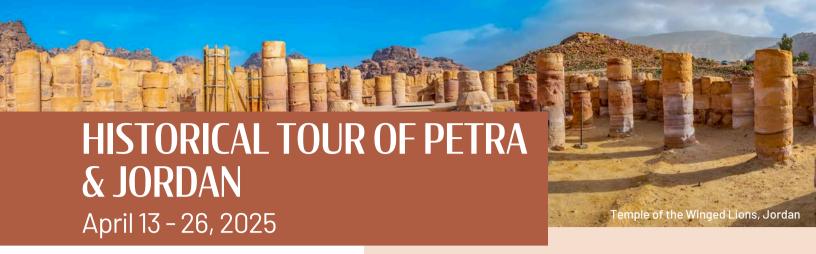
Join Dr. Rowan on his Debut Trip as our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Yorke Rowan is an anthropological archaeologist and Research Associate Professor at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. He focuses on later prehistory (Late Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Early Bronze), with thematic research interests in death, prehistoric ritual performance, and material objects mediating these human actions.

His most recent publications include The Social Archaeology of the Levant: From Prehistory to Present (2019, Cambridge Press, co-edited with A. Yasur-Landau and E. Cline), and "The Black Desert Drone Survey: New Perspectives on an Ancient Landscape" in the journal Remote Sensing (2022) with A.C. Hill. He co-directs the Kites in Context and Eastern Badia Archaeological Projects, two projects in the Black Desert of Jordan.

Professor Rowan's expertise in the area and passion make him the perfect trip leader, exploring sites, many of which he has excavated personally.

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Why tour Jordan? The Royal
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a
charming land that has preserved a
remarkable character unlike any other
in the Near East. Ruled by King
Abdullah, the people have an
unparalleled reputation for hospitality,
from the office worker in the city to
the Bedouin in his desert camp.

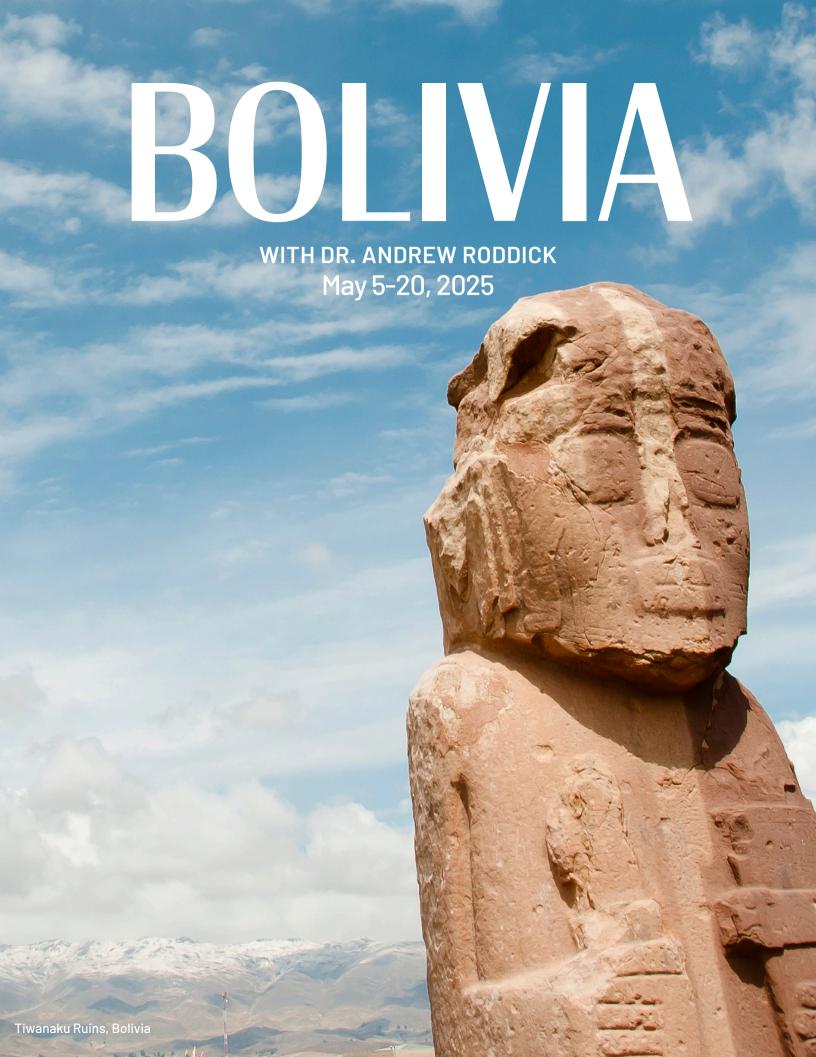
The country's archaeological richness transports you back thousands of years. Marvel at the wonders of Petra, the ancient Roman city of Jerash, and the elegant Umayyad fortresses in the eastern desert. Beyond historical sites, ancient cities, castles, Christian churches, and mosaic masterpieces, Jordan's landscapes present breathtaking vistas.

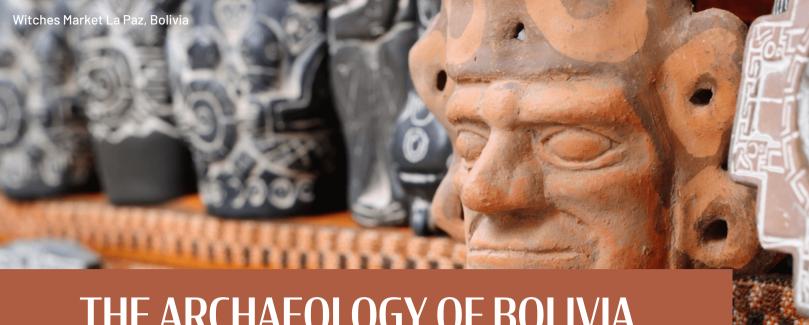
Our 14-day Jordan history tour was meticulously crafted to appreciate Jordan's compelling past. Highlights include two full days in Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing the sophisticated Nabataean culture; explorations in the eastern desert uncovering Bronze Age shrines in Wadi Rum; and a unique private tour of Petra's Temple of the Winged Lions.

Enhance your experience with a cooking class, dining on your creations, and an exclusive evening at ACOR (the American Center of Oriental Research), featuring cocktails with the director and a private viewing of their collections, including the intriguing Petra Scrolls.

Join Dr. Yorke Rowan on his debut Far Horizons Historical Tour of Jordan and Petra!







THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BOLIVIA

May 5 - 20, 2025

Join Dr. Andrew Roddick in 2025 on an Unforgettable Tour of Bolivia

Join Far Horizons on a captivating 16-day journey through Bolivia, where most inhabitants embrace their indigenous roots, with many donning traditional attire. Our itinerary unfolds against breathtaking landscapes and unveils the striking colonial legacy of Spanish conquests.

We'll cover all of Bolivia's six UNESCO World Heritage **Cultural Sites:**

- Potosi with its silver-rich mountain.
- Sucre, boasting splendid colonial architecture.
- Samaipata, known for its temple and unique rock art.
- Tiwanaku, an Andean spectacle.
- The Jesuit Mission Churches of Chiquitos.
- Qhapaq Ñan, the ancient Inka road network connecting their vast empire.

Additionally, we'll journey to Inkallagta, a testament to Inka architectural prowess often overlooked by tourists. At Lake Titicaca, discover the sacred Island of the Sun, the believed birthplace of Inka gods and civilization, and witness mesmerizing sunsets over the shimmering waters set two miles high.







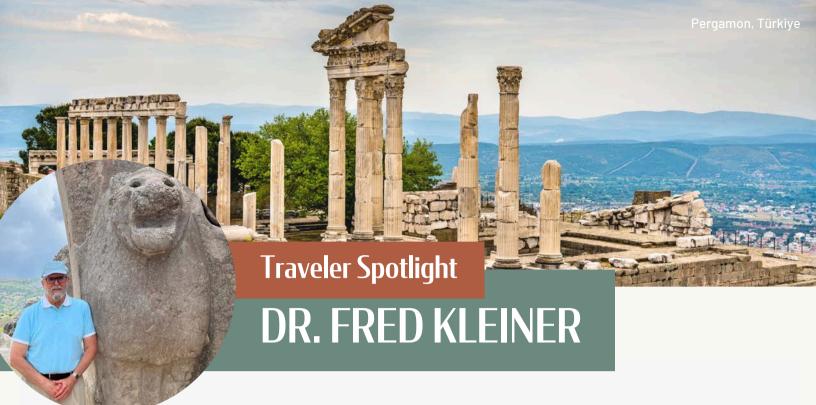
Far Horizons offers two fascinating ways to explore Türkiye. Beginning in mid-May with an exhilarating tour of East Türkiye, travel with Dr. Jennifer Tobin to explore a region brimming with historical wonders, including castles, tombs, and four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Göbekli Tepe, which, along with Karahan Tepe is considered among the world's earliest sacred spaces.

This region boasts an eclectic mix of towering mountains, dense forests with waterfalls, green pastures, and the stark contrast of arid deserts in the south. As a historical crossroads of Eastern and Western cultures for millennia, East Türkiye is rich in a wide array of historical remnants. Join Far Horizons and a small group of just 13 others for a 16-day adventure into this less-traveled part of Türkiye.

In late May, join Dr. Jennifer Tobin for an extraordinary 17-day archaeological sojourn in Western Türkiye that includes nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Enjoy an evening cruise up the Bosphorus by private vessel; view outstanding museum collections in Ankara, Burdur, Antalya, and Ephesus; and enjoy specially arranged private tours with archaeologists at several archaeological sites including some of the most important excavations in the eastern Mediterranean – Perge, Myra, and Troy.

"Dr. Jennifer Tobin was fabulous!
She made this tour so great,
with the depth of her
knowledge, and her
obvious enthusiasm for
Turkish culture and
ancient history. Also,
she has a wicked sense
of humor which added
to our enjoyment. I also
loved her 'hand-outs' for
each site!" – Christine Kaferly





A treasured guest shares his experience with Far Horizons in Western Türkiye with Dr. Jennifer Tobin

I have now been on three Far Horizons tours. On the first one (to Japan), I was the only first-time traveler. A few of the others had been on ten or more tours. I quickly learned why Far Horizons enjoys incredible loyalty from travelers. All logistics, from fielding pre-trip questions by email and phone to the trip itself are models for the travel industry. Airport transfers, hotel check-ins, dinner reservations, luggage handling, etc., etc. are all absolutely optimal. This provides a stress-free travel experience for all participants and permits everyone in the group to focus on the things that are really important, namely experiencing the various destinations and learning from the professor-tour leader.

All three tours I have taken with Far Horizons were wonderful, and I have recommended them highly to friends. Western Turkey, however, stands apart from the other two and from the vast majority of tours operated by Far Horizons and other companies. Western Turkey à la Far Horizons is perhaps the ultimate (multi-) cultural tour. In a whirlwind 16 days, we visited and learned a great deal about the Neolithic, Hittite, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman civilizations as well as modern Turkey. It is difficult to single out a highlight of the itinerary because each stop offered so much and there isn't a single one that I would skip on any future version of this tour. Indeed, it is amazing how much ground was covered in a couple of weeks. The congenial group of fellow travelers (almost all solo travelers like myself) meant that even long hours in the bus (with frequent pit stops) were quite tolerable.

Professor Jennifer Tobin was absolutely fabulous. Formerly a professor at a major Turkish university before taking up her position at the University of Illinois, Jennifer possesses a thorough knowledge of all sites, which she generously shared with us, providing meticulously prepared handouts and fielding questions of all kinds effortlessly. She was also super friendly with a welcome sense of humor. It really was a treat to travel with, and learn from, her—and I have already signed up to travel with Jennifer and Far Horizons in 2025 to Tunisia.



with Dr. Jennifer Tobin

Picture yourself lounging on the teak deck of a 90-foot wooden yacht surrounded by breathtaking vistas, azure seas with an indigo sky above. Imagine watching a glorious crimson sunset and then the canopy of stars as it slowly appears overhead.

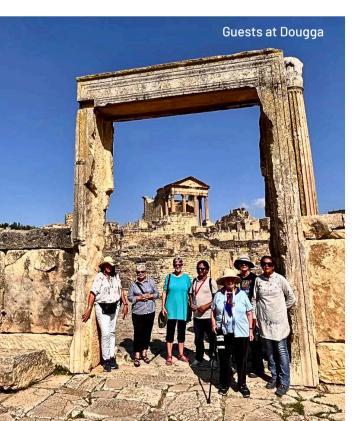
Dream of the relaxation as a smiling crewman brings you a frosty drink and serves you delectable Turkish dishes created by your personal chef. Each day presents a new discovery!

Explore the dazzling remains of former civilizations, fascinating crusader's castles, and remote fishing villages. Enjoy the leisure time to hike, swim in the crystal-clear water of the Eastern Mediterranean or simply snooze on deck. And during the voyage, enjoy informal lectures on the culture, archaeology, and history of Türkiye.

Far Horizons proudly presents a 15-day trip along the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye that includes eight days onboard a traditional wooden gulet, or motor-sailer. Today, as in antiquity, the ancient cities along the Turkish Caria and Lycia coasts are most accessible to the outside world from the sea. This part of the Turkish coastline is so lush, verdant, and bountiful in natural beauty and history that it takes your breath away. Won't you join only eight others for what is truly a trip of a lifetime?







Join us to discover the wonders of Tunisia. Forged out of the North African coastline, Tunisia is a country of tremendous variety. In the North are found lush green mountains, lakes and rivers, and in the south, the desert of the Sahara overwhelms with powerful scenery broken only by sporadic oases. Tunisia's position beside the narrow straits of Sicily has kept it constantly at the center of the tumultuous history of the Mediterranean. The Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Spanish, Turks, and French have all stamped their imprint, and we will witness the visible remains of their passing. During the excursion, see all seven of Tunisia's UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Dougga, Kairouan, the medinas of Sousse and Tunis, the Punic remains of Kerkouane, magnificent Carthage, and El Jem, the largest Roman amphitheater in North Africa.

Join Far Horizons on this very special 16-day trip to Tunisia. Explore Phoenician remains, Roman amphitheaters and aqueducts, Byzantine fortresses, desert oases, thousand-year-old mosques, and vibrant Berber (Amazigh) fortified villages as we travel from the fertile northern mountains to the deserts of the south and the Mediterranean Sea coast of the east. Don't miss this in-depth journey of the Wonders of Tunisia!







Join Dr. Symes on one of her two Debut Trips as our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Carol Symes is Professor of History and Director of the Program in Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She has published widely on many different aspects of the medieval past, including the earliest chronicles of the First Crusade and the making of Domesday Book, the reception of ancient texts, and the intersection of oral, performative, and documentary cultures. She is the author of A Common Stage: Theatre and Public Life in Medieval Arras, co-author of a bestselling textbook, Western Civilizations, and editor of A Cultural History of Media in the Middle Ages, among other books. She is also the founding executive editor of The Medieval Globe, the first academic journal to promote global approaches to medieval studies, including the interconnected regions of the global North and the Mediterranean as an Afro-Eurasian contact zone. Her 36-lecture series on The Medieval Legacy for The Great Courses/Wondrium is also available on Audible and Amazon Prime.

"I regard understanding the medieval legacy—both its exemplary trends and their long shadows
—as crucial to making sense of our own place in history."

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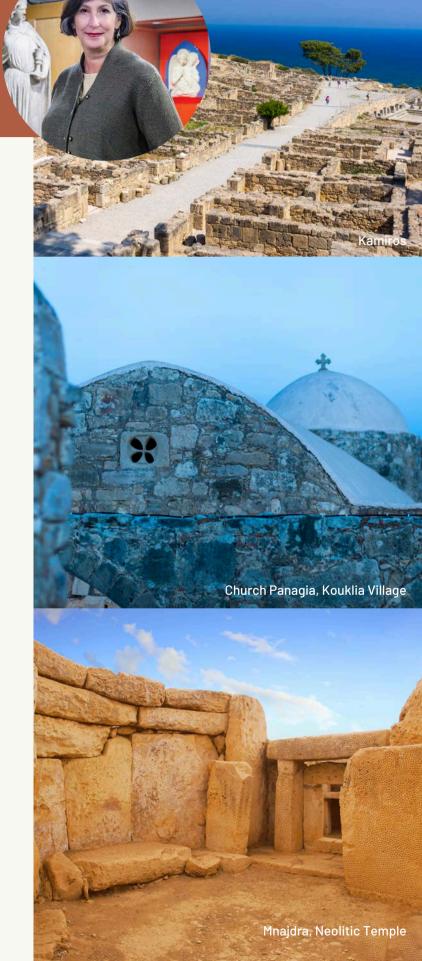
CYPRUS, RHODES & MALTA

March 15 - 29, 2025

with Dr. Carol Symes

For thousands of years, the islands of Cyprus, Rhodes, and Malta and the Eastern Mediterranean sea coasts have been invaded, explored, inhabited, and claimed by a multitude of civilizations. These locations were of great strategic importance, and during the Crusades, knights and kings conquered and lost great swaths of this land. The profusion of magnificent archaeological ruins left behind proclaim their significance.

Join Far Horizons for a 15-day tour from Cyprus to Rhodes to Malta, along the path of the Knights of the Crusades. Known as the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, the order was founded to defend the crusader towns in the Holy Land. When these settlements collapsed, the Knights continued their fight in Cyprus, Rhodes, Symrna, Bodrum and ultimately Malta. The Order still exists in Rome as 'The Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, called of Rhodes, called of Malta', while in Britain it spawned the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. We will follow its journey across time and across the Mediterranean Sea upon which it left very deep and still visible imprints.





SCANDINAVIA: IN THE PATH OF THE VIKINGS June 29 - July 13, 2025

with Dr. Carol Symes

Tour Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Sweden: Follow in the Path of the Vikings as we traverse four countries, with four private tours at Haithabu, Tanum, Roskilde Viking Ship Museum, Hedared Stave Church.

Far Horizons is proud to present a 15-day tour – Follow the Path of the Vikings through four countries: Denmark, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. The itinerary includes stone ship burials; charming villages created in the Middle Ages, fortress churches adorned with 800-year-old frescoes, and museums filled with fascinating artifacts from the Viking period. But there's more! See bronze-age petroglyphs; megalithic tombs; pre-Christian labyrinths and mazes; and medieval stave churches.

Highlights include six UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Hedeby Viking Village and the defensive earthworks at Danevirke; Jelling with massive carved rune stones from the 10th century; Tanum's beguiling rock art; Gotland's captivating walled medieval town of Visby; Birka, an important Viking trading center located on an island in Sweden's Lake Mälaren, and an optional tour of Kronborg Castle, celebrated as Elsinore in Shakespeare's play Hamlet.



with Dr. Thomas F.X. Noble

Rome, the Eternal City, has been in existence for more than 3,000 years. Rome was, for centuries, the center of the known world and it commanded a vast empire with control on three continents.

Aside from China, the Roman Empire is the longest lasting such polity on record, beginning in 264 BC and continuing down to the collapse of the Western Empire in 476 AD. As a result of its imperial past, the modern city of Rome is the largest archaeological park in the world. This is why we have created such a comprehensive archaeological tour of Italy, delving into its rich Roman history.

Join Far Horizons on an 11-day archaeological tour of Rome in Italy, exploring the monuments of Rome's ancient past, deeply embedded in the fabric of the modern city. The sites we visit are not only impressive in size and construction, but their endurance over the passing of time reveal the empire's lasting influences on future generations.

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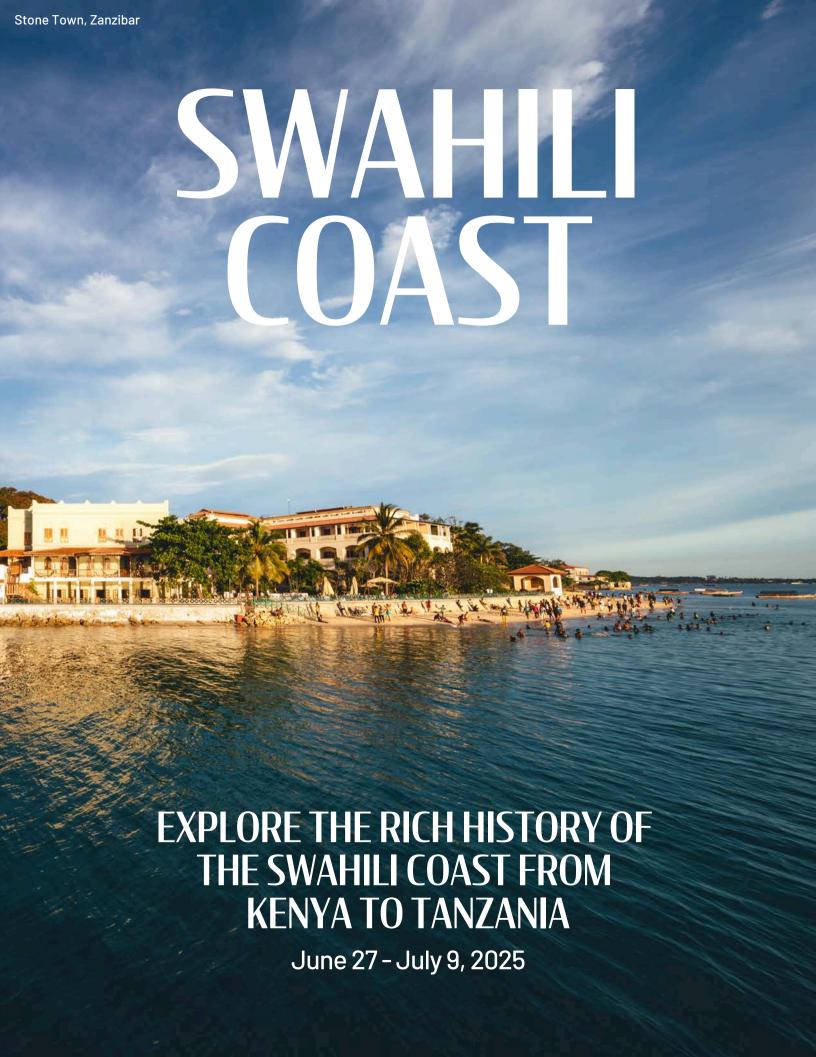


Our tour of Wales and England takes you through picturesque landscapes to visit renowned UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Delve into the world's largest prehistoric copper mine at Great Orme, marvel at the ancient Segontium Roman Fort, and wander through the medieval grandeur of St. David's Bishop's Palace and Cathedral. Our England and Wales tours highlight the majestic Castles and Town Walls of Edward I, including Caernarfon, Conwy, Beaumaris, and Harlech.

Wales, while closely tied to Great Britain's history, boasts a unique cultural identity that we'll uncover on this Wales tour. From the Roman influence evident across the Welsh and Western English countryside, to the aweinspiring Edwardian castles of Conwy and Beaumaris, our historic England tours promise an unforgettable experience.

Our exploration delves into why Wales is home to so many castles. With the Norman advance beginning in 1066, it was under Edward I's rule that Welsh kingdoms faced significant challenges. Edward's campaigns in 1276-77 and 1282-83 aimed to integrate Wales under English dominance, resulting in the construction and restoration of numerous castles. This history comes to life as we visit some of the UK's finest castles, each a testament to a turbulent yet fascinating past.

"James is very smart and an excellent leader. I learned a lot." - Conover Hunt





Join Dr. Wynne -Jones on her Debut Trip as our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Stephanie Wynne-Jones is a specialist in the archaeology of eastern Africa, particularly the Swahili coast. She directed excavations at sites across Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. Her Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge was based on work around Kilwa in southern Tanzania.

She is a Professor of African Archaeology at the University of York, where she teaches on all aspects of African archaeology and heritage. She also teaches in the Centre for Medieval Studies, exploring the Global Middle Ages and Islamic worlds.

She has published widely on all aspects of the Swahili coast and her work there, including books on The Swahili World and A Material Culture.

Professor Wynne-Jones' knowledge of the area and passion for the subject make her an ideal trip leader, exploring sites, many of which she has excavated herself.



with Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones

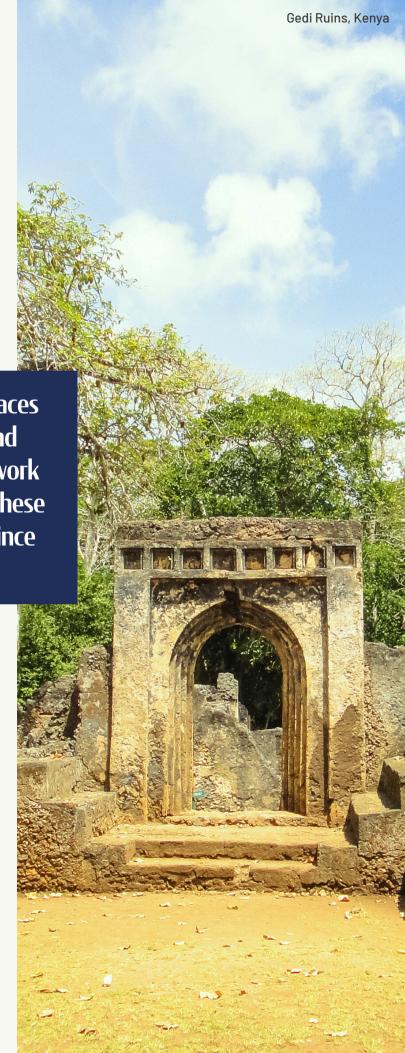
Embark on an extraordinary 16-day journey along the Swahili Coast, where the ebb and flow of trade winds have carried merchants, conquerors, and cultures for over a millennium. From the 8th century, when Arab and Persian traders first established settlements on the East African coast, to the arrival of Portuguese explorers in the 15th century, and through the era of Omani sultanates, this narrow coastline has been a crucible of cultural exchange. Our expedition will take you from the winding alleys of Lamu, a town that has remained largely unchanged since the 18th century, to the imposing ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani, once described by Ibn Battuta as "one of the most beautiful and well-constructed cities in the world."

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The Swahili Coast's strategic location made it a vital link in the Indian Ocean trade network, connecting the African interior with Arabia, Persia, India, and China. Gold from Zimbabwe, ivory from the Congo, and slaves from the continental interior flowed through Swahili ports, returning with porcelain, silk, and spices. This commerce gave rise to a unique Swahili culture, a sophisticated blend of African and Asian influences reflected in everything from language and cuisine to architecture and art. Our journey will reveal this cultural tapestry, from the intricately carved doorways of Mombasa's Old Town to the haunting ruins of Gede, abandoned in the 17th century for reasons that remain a mystery.

"Visitors will explore mosques, palaces and townscapes built from coral and lime, while learning about the network of maritime trade that connected these places to the Indian Ocean world since earliest times." - Dr. Wynne Jones

As we traverse the coast from Kenya to Tanzania, we'll witness the enduring legacy of this remarkable civilization. We'll explore Lamu, where traditional dhows still ply the waters and donkeys remain the primary mode of transport. In Zanzibar, we'll wander through Stone Town's labyrinth of alleys, where the air is heavy with the scent of cloves, and the shadows of the slave trade still linger. Our journey culminates in Kilwa Kisiwani, the medieval powerhouse that once controlled much of the East African gold trade. Throughout our expedition, the expertise of Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones will bring to life the stories written in stone and sand, offering insights into ongoing archaeological discoveries that continue to reshape our understanding of this fascinating region.





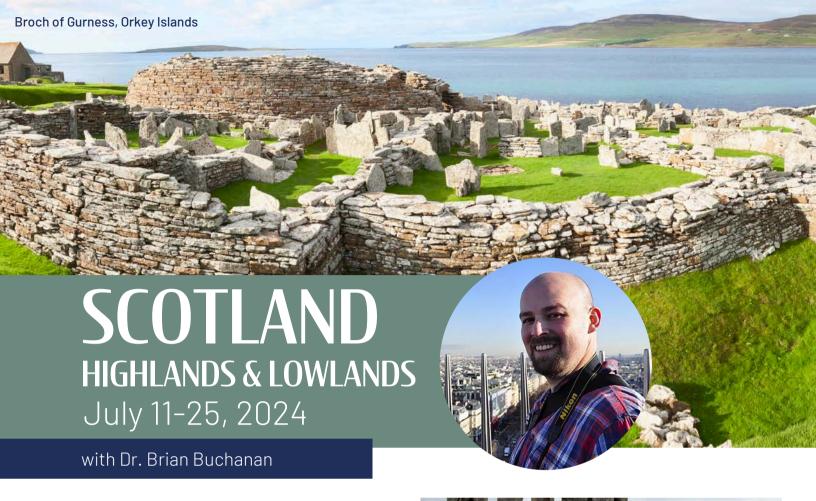
Indonesia straddles the equator between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean: with thousands of volcanic islands, Indonesia is one of the largest countries in the world, in terms of combined sea and land area, as well as population. The archipelago is home to hundreds of ethnic groups speaking many different languages and has been an important center of the long-distance spice trade for more than a thousand years.

Join award-winning Professor Eric Tagliacozzo and just 13 others on a very special 16-day journey that covers several of Indonesia's eastern islands.

On Sulawesi visit Makassar, the center of the Bugis trading diaspora, whose black-flagged ships sailed Indonesia's seas as one of the country's most important trading minorities. Also visit Ambon, the largest city in eastern Indonesia and a jumping-off point for trips to marine ecosystems that have barely been touched by international tourism.

Discover Ternate and Tidore, small volcanic islands and the well-spring for the global clove trade, which attracted European ships from half a world away during the Age of Discovery five hundred years ago. Then it's on to In Bali, to experience their truly unique customs where inhabitants devote most of their waking hours to an endless series of offerings, purifications, processions, and a plethora of other spiritual rites celebrated in elaborate temples. We will observe how this way of life is further proclaimed in their diverse art forms - painting, sculpture, woodcarving, handcrafts, and performances.





Depart on a cultural tour of Scotland that begins at the historic Caerlaverock Castle in the south and journeys to the ancient sites of the Orkney Islands in the north. Marvel at the 15th-century Rosslyn Chapel, visit the Culloden battlefield, and explore Linlithgow Palace, once a residence of the Stewart Kings.

With such a rich, often dense, history, an educational tour of Scotland is one of the best ways to unlock the best this ancient country has to offer. Scotland is renowned for its vast, unspoiled landscapes, characterized by dramatic highland mountains, mysterious mist-covered glens, expansive lochs, rugged coastlines, and lush agricultural land. Dotting these dramatic landscapes are captivating historical remnants of Scotland's rich past.

Traverse from the southern border with England to the farthest reaches of the north, discovering historical and archaeological sites often missed. Experience Scotland's prehistoric stone circles and tombs, magnificent abbeys, and cathedrals, and enjoy the views from medieval castle battlements in remote, picturesque locations.





The Archaeology of

IRELAND JULY 13-28, 2025









Ireland, the Emerald Isle, boasts a rich history that spans over 9,000 years, beginning with the Mesolithic huntergatherers. Leaving a remarkable legacy in their wake, various fascinating cultures have shaped this land over millennia.

Today, Ireland is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites, holding Europe's highest concentration of field monuments. These sites encompass a broad spectrum of eras, from Neolithic and Bronze Age to Early Christian, Medieval, and even Modern times, offering a unique window into the course of European history.

Join Far Horizons on an intimate Irish history tour limited to just six travelers. This adventure starts and ends in the vibrant city of Dublin, taking you around the island and staying in charming local inns.

Immerse yourself in Ireland's lush landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Explore a variety of historical landmarks, including megalithic passage tombs, cairns, stone circles, castles, churches, and abbeys.

Join Dr. Damian Shiels next year on an unmissable tour of Ireland.





with Dr. Chris Callow

Sitting in a remote corner of the North Atlantic Ocean, Iceland is a mountainous island nation celebrated for its dramatic scenery. Shining black sand beaches, stunning fjords, gushing geysers, majestic volcanoes, misty waterfalls, and massive glaciers create some of the most atmospheric landscapes on the planet.

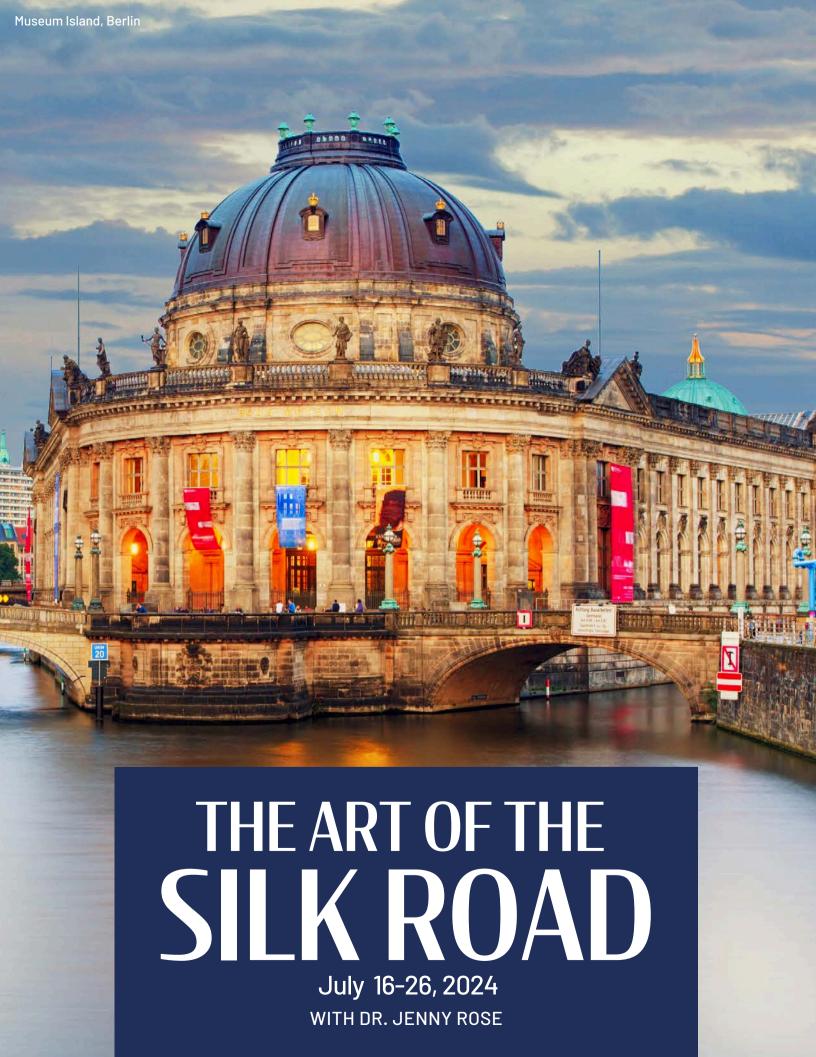
During the Early Middle Ages Norsemen traveled, traded, and established permanent colonies in many locations throughout northern Europe. As seafaring increased, either blown off course or intentionally exploring, Norsemen 'discovered' Iceland. Unlike other regions colonized by the Vikings, this new land had no indigenous population (although Irish hermit monks were probably on the island earlier than the Norsemen). Ancient sagas describe Iceland as a rich land filled with game and fish, birch and

willow woodland, and forests that stretched from highland slopes to the valleys below.

Tales of this paradise spread, and in the 9th century, Scandinavian pioneers looking to start a new life arrived in Iceland. The people who inhabit Iceland now are direct descendants of the Vikings.

Join Medieval Iceland Specialist Dr. Chris Callow on an unforgettable journey through Iceland







Far Horizons proudly presents a truly unique 11-day tour to Berlin, Paris, and London, and Oxford with an emphasis on each city's great museums and their Silk Road collections. During the trip, we will learn about several civilizations that developed along the ancient Silk Road. Sogdiana was an ancient Iranian civilization that at different times included territory located in present-day Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Parthians were an Iranian dynasty that lasted for nearly five hundred years, successfully taking back territory in the Near East from first the Seleucid Greeks and then the Romans. They were followed by the Sasanians, the last Persian (Zoroastrian) Empire before the rise of Islam, who held their own against their arch-rival the Roman-Byzantine Empire to rule from 224 to 651.

Begin our explorations in Berlin, where we enjoy an immersive experience at the Pergamon Museum 3D virtual installation and a tour of the Museum of Asian Art. Fly to Paris where we will visit the National Library, The Musée Guimet, and the Louvre Museum. By train through the Chunnel, we move to London, for a day in the British Museum, including a private viewing of Sasanian artifacts not on public display. Our time in London will also include the British Library and the Victoria and Albert Museum. We end the tour with a special day at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Overnights will be in fabulous grand hotels within walking distance of these great museums, and dinners will be memorable, including an evening at the Eiffel Tower Restaurant with views over the Trocadéro.



JENNY ROSE EXPLAINS WHAT SHE LOVES ABOUT THE ART OF THE SILK ROAD: EUROPEAN MUSEUMS

It is an incredible experience to be able to explore ancient sites in distant lands. Our understanding of the significance of each site is then enhanced by the opportunity to study its material finds. For various reasons, however, the majority of such finds are often located in a dedicated museum many miles away, sometimes even in another country.

The Art of the Silk Road tour, unique to Far Horizons, will track down some of the items unearthed from ancient Silk Road sites, now in modern Iran and Central Asia, which are housed in archives in Germany, France, and England. Our voyage of discovery through these European museums will take us from an Iron Age burial site in southern Altai, through a Parthian (Iranian) capital in Turkmenistan, to Panjikant in modern Tajikistan, where the town's wealthy residents painted the interior walls of their homes with religious and mythological scenes. On several behind-the-scenes tours, specialist curators will introduce important artifacts not usually on display to the general public. Many of these objects that we will view in an 'up close and personal' setting were the byproduct of late 19th – early 20th century geopolitical surveys that formed part of the "Great Game." They include antiquities and photos relating to Sir Aurel Stein's expeditions between Kashgar to Dunhuang (modern China); Buddhist murals and unique Zoroastrian manuscripts from Silk Road caves; and textiles from the oasis town of Bukhara (modern Uzbekistan).

Although we will not be crossing the harsh deserts and snow-covered mountains, nor visiting the rock-cut caves and lush oases of the ancient Silk Roads, this tour will reveal many insights into the cultures, religions, and social institutions of the peoples who inhabited those landscapes. Our journey promises to be a colorfully intense introduction to the art, artefacts, cultural activities and religious ideologies carried along ancient trading routes. Won't you join me?

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In the Path of the Conquistadors

October 12-26, 2024



with Professor Stanley Guenter

The kingdom of Spain has had one of the greatest impacts on world history and civilization. 500 years ago the Conquistadors had just conquered the Aztec Empire of Mexico and were about to start their conquest of the Maya kingdoms. Within a decade they would conquer the Inca of Peru and the wealth in gold and silver that they seized would help make 16th century Spain the richest kingdom and most powerful empire on earth. Who were these Conquistadors who took on indigenous American empires many times larger than their own kingdom and, in the face of enormous odds, conquered them for "gold, God, and glory" and ended up creating the first

empire in history "on which the sun never set"?

"Stan is amazing! He was full of information and attentive, and was always so quick to share. He was very attentive and patient with questions. He had a great sense of humor too and a very pleasant, easy going personality. I hope you can entice him to lead future trips!"

- David Westphal

Alcazar, Seville Spain



Explore England's captivating medieval history on this castle tour of England. Journey from The Borders to the bustling heart of London, discovering iconic strongholds, enchanting castles, and lavish Great Houses along the way.

Tour English historical residences first mentioned in the Domesday Book, the nation's earliest public record commissioned in 1085. While traversing Derbyshire, tread the path of Jane Eyre, visiting cinematic landmarks and delving into the inspirations behind Charlotte Brontë's literary masterpiece.

Witness the architectural prowess of Berwickupon-Tweed's Elizabethan defenses, the Roman origins of London's City Walls, and the intricate design of the star-shaped Tilbury Fort. Immerse yourself in UNESCO-recognized wonders such as Durhan Castle and Cathedral, the Tower of London, and the majestic Blenheim Palace. Embark on this historical holiday in England alongside Professor Patrick Allitt, renowned for his Great Courses lectures. With an intimate group of just 13 enthusiasts, meander through England's lesser-trodden paths and spend four enriching days exploring the grandeur of the Great Houses and regal palaces near London. Cap off your educational tour with a stay at the 14th-century Langley Castle, now transformed into a luxury hotel.

Join Great Courses Scholar, Dr. Patrick Allitt on an enchanting journey through England





The tiny, isolated Himalayan kingdoms of Ladakh and Bhutan are squeezed between the powerful countries of China and India. For centuries, their monarchs enjoyed absolute power in their mountain strongholds, venerated by their subjects as embodiments of gods, but in the 20th century, the supremacy of these domains fell. In 1947, partition left Ladakh as part of India, and in 2005, Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy.

Join Far Horizons and just 13 other guests on this 20-day journey through these two remarkable Himalayan Kingdoms. The enticing itinerary includes the remote high-altitude beauty and vibrant Tibetan Buddhist culture of Ladakh, one of the highest regions in the world, frequently called "Little Tibet."

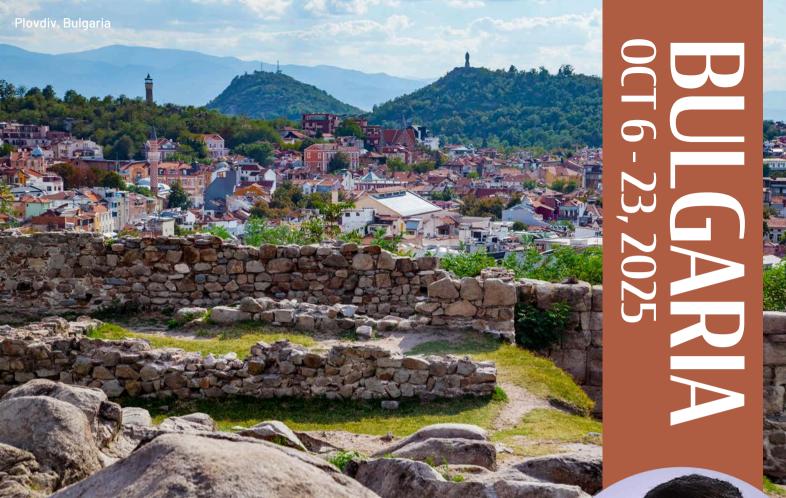
From the capital of Leh, drive through dramatic scenery to view the elaborately decorated Buddhist sanctuaries, stupas, and former royal palaces found in the nearby rugged valleys and magnificent towering crags. Scattered throughout are traditional Tibetan Buddhist monasteries filled with stunning murals and Hindu shrines of the Nepali people.

In Bhutan, emerald rice paddies cascade down the hillsides, remote centuries-old monasteries cling to the cliffs, and massive Buddhist sanctuary fortresses dominate picturesque towns where houses are decorated with magical charms to keep the evil spirits away. It is truly an enchanting part of the world!

Along with Buddhist specialist and The Great Courses lecturer Professor Malcolm David Eckel, delight in a unique adventure through these Himalayan kingdoms on this unforgettable tour.







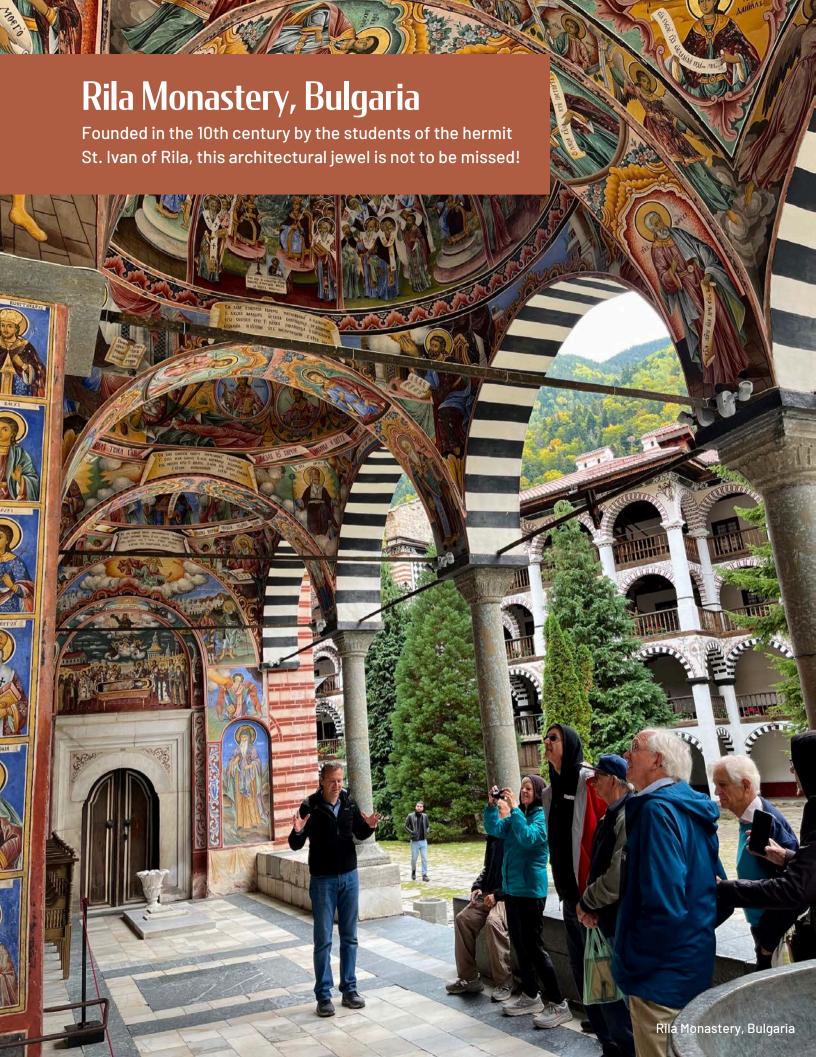
with Dr. Vassil Tenekedjiev

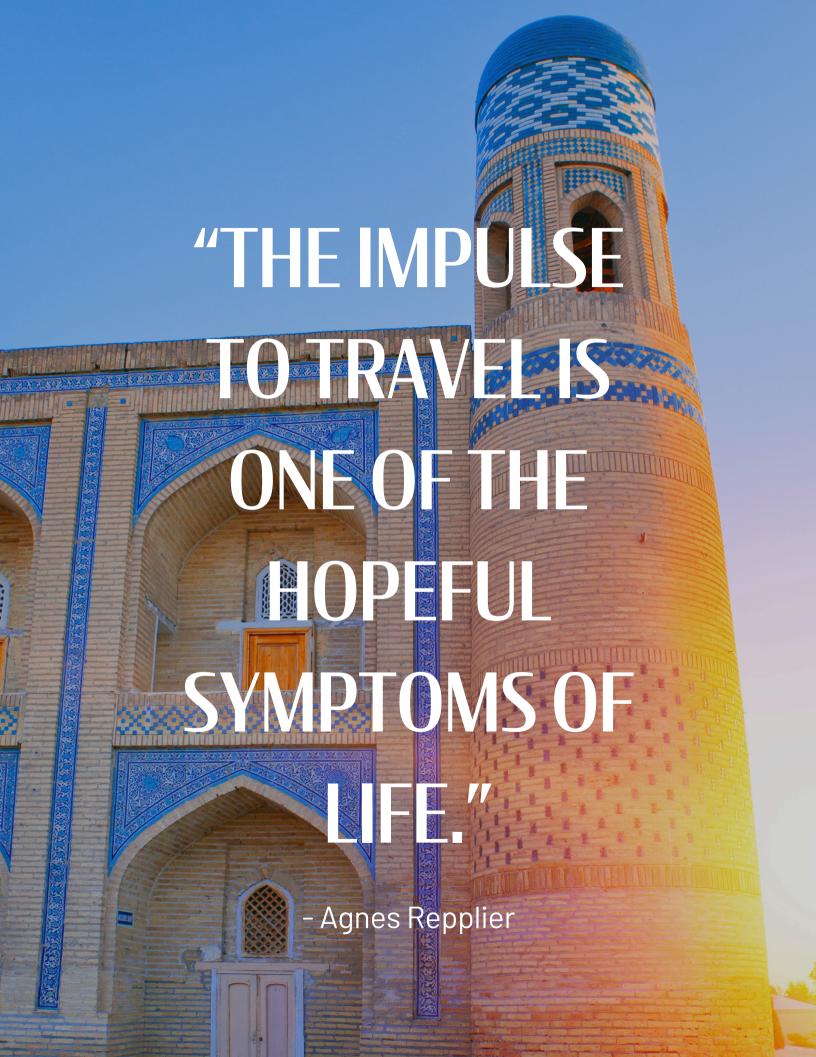
Medieval Cities, Rock-Hewn Monasteries, Painted Churches, Thracian Tombs, Gold and Silver Hoards, the Madara RiderRock Relief, and More.

Bulgaria boasts a rich array of historic landmarks spanning millennia. From the awe-inspiring artwork in the Thracian tombs to remnants of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, from medieval masterpieces to remnants of nearly 500 years of Ottoman rule—there's a story around every corner.

With Far Horizons, journey from the southwestern mountains to the eastern Black Sea shores and up to the northern stretches of the Danube River.

Our comprehensive itinerary showcases all seven of Bulgaria's UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the carved churches of Ivanovo, the ancient city of Nessebar, the majestic Madara Rider etched on a cliff, the stunning Rila Monastery, Boyana Church's captivating murals, and the Thracian tombs of both Kazanlak and Sveshtari.











with Dr. Malcolm David Eckel

Join Far Horizons, and only 13 others on an unforgettable 14-day journey through the enchanting landscapes and rich cultural tapestry of Japan, designed exclusively for those seeking the perfect blend of adventure and enlightenment. Our meticulously-curated tour will take you on a captivating exploration of three iconic cities: Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, along with their charming surrounding towns.

In Tokyo, you'll be dazzled by the juxtaposition of traditional temples and towering skyscrapers, and you'll have the chance to delve into Japan's rich history at the Meiji Shrine. In Kyoto, our serene homebase for most of the trip, your senses will come alive as you stroll through the peaceful gardens of Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavilion), ascend the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine's thousand vermilion torii gates, and experience the tranquility of Koyasan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled in the mountains. We will also have the opportunity to savor the elegance of Japanese culture through an exclusive private geisha dinner, a rare insight into this ancient tradition.

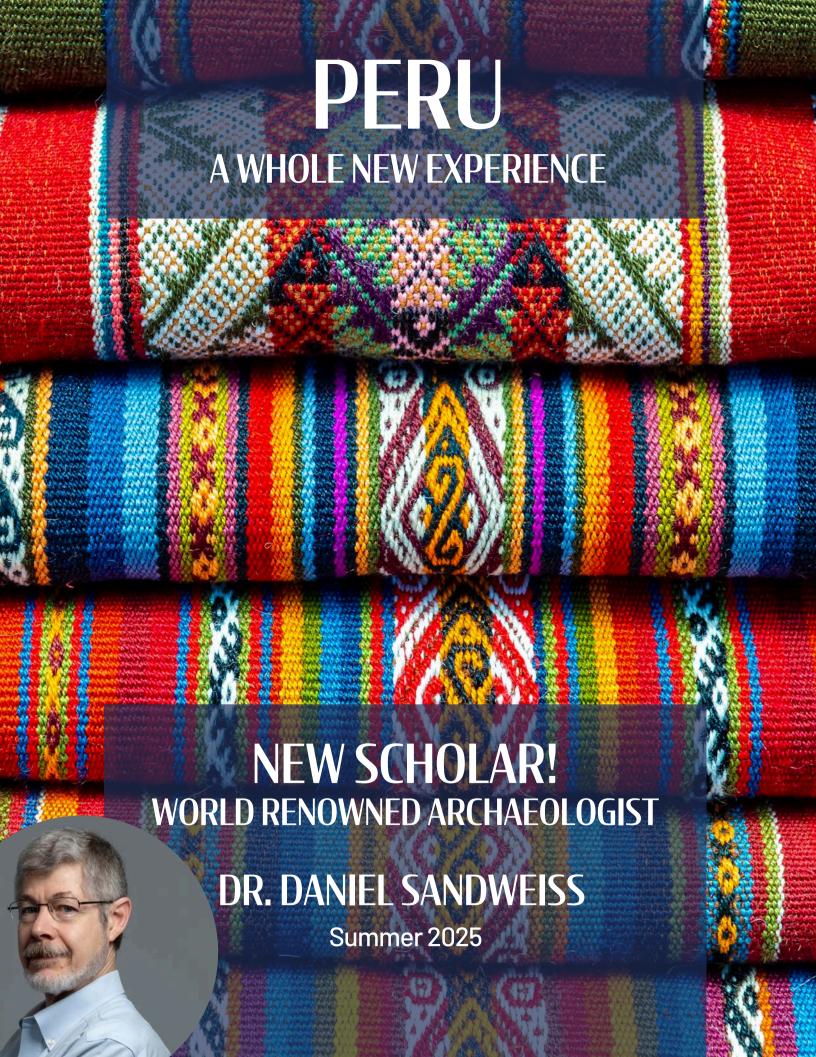
Led by Buddhist specialist and The Great Courses lecturer, Professor Malcolm David Eckel, our memorable tour will explore Japan's profound history, art, and traditions while relishing its modern vibrancy. Won't you join us on this voyage of discovery, where every day promises new insights and cherished memories? Secure your spot today and let Japan's magic unfold before your eyes!

Following the main journey, we invite you to extend your experience by exploring Naoshima Art Island, renowned for its breathtaking contemporary public art installations, galleries, and museums.

"David was the nexus of our Japan trip. His love for the country, its people & culture plus his fluency with the language made our adventure flow with grace, harmony & humor."

-Margaret Anderson







The states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, located on the western border are rich in tribal arts, resplendent architecture, and ancient remains of many civilizations. Along with diverse and interesting cultures, a multitude of religions call this area home.

This trip includes ten breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage sites: Victoria Terminus, and Elephanta Cave in Mumbai; the ancient walled city of Ahmedabad; Amber Fort; the imposing Red Fort and beautiful Tomb of Humayun in Delhi.

See Gujarat's prehistoric Lothal, more than 4,000 years old. View Jain sanctuaries, Hindu temples, Sufi shrines, and glorious mosques. Walk through stunning royal palaces, and impressive fortresses towering over the countryside. Travel by bus, 4×4, and camel through the Great Thar Desert to see small traditional villages. Enjoy the vibrant local markets bursting with hand-woven carpets, tiedye fabrics, embroideries, appliqué work, and so much more.



Join Dr. Cynthia Packert on an unforgettable tour of India's Gujarat and Rajasthan States: Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Khimsar, Pushkar, Jaipur, and ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.



Every tour is led by a wellrespected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.

Personalized Service

We take pride in knowing every traveler and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.

★ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-thebeaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.

Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.











WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

We are currently accepting deposits to secure spots on all trips departing in 2025.

2025 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JANUARY 2025

North India: Gods, Temples, and Archaeology

SOLD OUT

January 5 - 19, 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

Archaeology of Belize

February 6 - 14, 2025

Easter Island & Santiago, Chile LIMITED SPACE & CLOSING SOON

February 9 - 20, 2025

Mexico's Yucatan: Off the Beaten Path

February 16 - 26, 2025

MARCH 2025

Hidden Mexico: El Tajin to Cantona to Guanajuato

March 15 - 29, 2025

APRII 2025

Jordan and Stunning Petra

April 13 - 26, 2025

MAY 2025

Bolivia Archaeology Tour

May 5 - 20, 2025

Cyprus, Rhodes & Malta

May 10 - 25, 2025

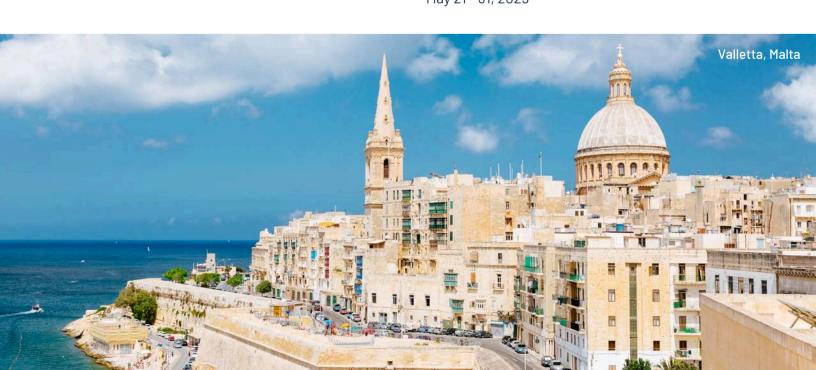
Eastern Türkiye

CONFIRMED

May 12 - 27, 2025

Rome and Southern Italy

May 21 - 31, 2025



2025 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JUNF 2025

Western Türkiye

May 26 - June 11, 2025

Roman Wales and England

June 2 - 16, 2025

Swahili Coast: An Archaeological Odyssey

June 27 - July 12, 2025

Indonesia: Bali & the Spice Islands

ALREADY CONFIRMED

June 27 - July 13, 2025

JULY 2025

Scandinavia: The Vikings of Denmark,

Germany, Norway & Sweden

ALREADY CONFIRMED

June 29 - July 13, 2025

Scottish Highlands & Lowlands

July 11 - 25, 2025

Archaeology of Ireland

July 13 - 28, 2025

The Art of the Silk Road:

European Museums

July 16 - 26, 2025



AUGUST 2025

England's Castles, Battlements, and Stately Homes

August 2025: Dates TBA

Iceland Tour: In the Path of the Vikings

August 1 - 11, 2025

France: Artistic & Architectural Cathedrals

August 19 - 30, 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh & Bhutan

Fall 2025: Dates TBA

OCTOBER 2025

Spain: In the Path of the Conquistadors

October 12 - 26, 2025

Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas by

Wooden Gulet

October 1 - 15, 2025

Bulgaria: The Land of History

October 6 - 23, 2025

The Wonders of Tunisia

October 14 - 29, 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

Tour India's Gujarat & Rajasthan

November 2 - 19, 2025

Japan in Autumn Bloom

November 7 - 20, 2025

READY TO TRAVEL?

Get in Touch!
journeys@farhorizons.com











