



FAR HORIZONS

WINTER CATALOGUE 2025



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 - typically just 14 people at maximum. About half 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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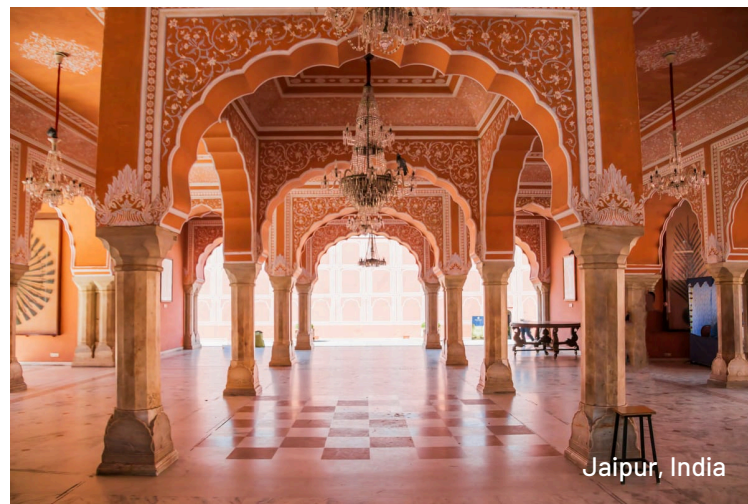
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Meet the CEO & CCO

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 a son who are adventurous culinary and cultural explorers.



Stefan Woehlke, PhD.

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.

TRIPLE THE TÜRKISH DELIGHTS

THREE EXPERT-LED
JOURNEYS INTO THE PAST

May, June, and October 2025

TÜRKIYE: EAST & WEST

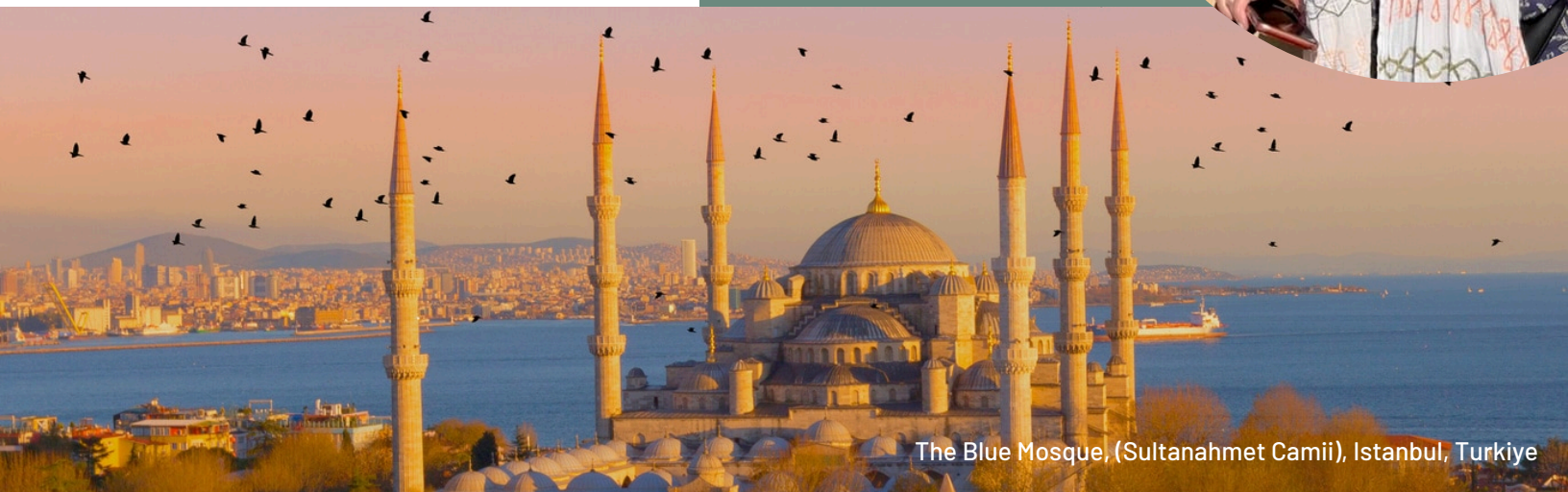
May & June 2025

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



The Blue Mosque, (Sultanahmet Camii), Istanbul, Türkiye

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?



SAIL THE SAPPHIRE SEAS

Oct 1 - 15, 2025

with Dr. Jennifer Tobin

Spend Eight Days Cruising The Med

Though there is plenty of ancient exploration on this trip, 'Sail the Sapphire Seas' includes over a week spent aboard a traditional wooden gulet so plan to cruise and relax a bit more.





Wales & Roman England June 2 - 16, 2025

with Dr. James Bruhn

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 Caernarvon, 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 awe-inspiring 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





SWAHILI COAST

June 27 - July 12, 2025

Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones

Embark on an extraordinary 16-day journey along the Swahili Coast, where the 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 the Portuguese in the 15th century, and through the era of Omani sultanates, this coastline has been a crucible of cultural exchange. Our expedition will take you from the winding alleys of Lamu, a town 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.”

The location of the Swahili Coast 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 its ports, returning with porcelain, silk, and spices. This gave rise to a unique Swahili culture, a blend of African and Asian influences reflected in everything from language and cuisine to architecture and art. Our journey explores this cultural tapestry.

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 main 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 trek, Dr. Wynne-Jones will bring to life the stories written in stone and sand, offering insights into archaeological discoveries that continue to reshape our understanding of this complex region.



Gedi Ruins, Kenya

Bali & the Spice Islands

INDONESIA

JUNE 27 - JULY 13, 2025

With Dr. Eric Tagliacozzo

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 barely have 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.

In Bali, experience unique customs where inhabitants devote most of their waking hours performing 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 proclaimed in their diverse art forms - painting, sculpture, woodcarving, handcrafts, and performances.

Dr. Tagliacozzo shares his background and passion for this region on the next page. Read on!



Balinese Dance



An Invitation From Your Study Leader

Dr. Eric Tagliacozzo

Join us on an extraordinary journey through the hidden historical landscapes of Eastern Indonesia – a voyage that traces fascinating maritime routes that once connected the world.

My own passion for this remarkable region began decades ago, when as a young scholar, I was awarded a Thomas Watson Fellowship. This incredible opportunity allowed me to follow the intricate maritime spice routes of Asia, immersing myself in the rich tapestry of trading diasporas that converged in Southeast Asia. What started as an academic pursuit became a lifelong fascination with the complex interactions that shaped global commerce.

As a Professor of History at Cornell University, specializing in Southeast Asia, I've dedicated a large part of my career to unraveling the story of these remarkable islands. Our upcoming expedition will take you beyond typical tourist experiences, deep into the heart of some of Indonesia's most historically significant and least-explored regions.

Imagine standing on the volcanic islands of Ternate and Tidore, where ruined colonial forts stand as silent witnesses to centuries of global trade. We'll explore the very landscapes where nutmeg, mace, and cloves – spices that once drove global economies and sparked international conflicts – still grow in abundance. These are the only places on the planet where these precious commodities came from before the modern age.

We'll sail the waters once navigated by the legendary Bugis traders of Makassar, whose maritime prowess predated Western involvement in the region. In Ambon, we'll witness the extraordinary historical intersection of Christianity and Islam, exploring how these global religions met and interacted in the far reaches of the Indonesian archipelago.

Our journey will culminate in Bali, a place early European explorers called "the morning of the world" – a destination of unparalleled beauty and spiritual depth. Here, the layers of history, culture, and natural wonder converge in a breathtaking landscape.

This is more than a tour – it's an expedition that will transform your understanding of global history. For those curious about the intricate connections that have shaped our world, for those who seek to go beyond surface-level tourism, and dive deep into the historical narratives of a fascinating region, this trip offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We invite you to join us in uncovering the hidden stories of Eastern Indonesia – a journey that promises to be as educational as it is unforgettable.

Warmly,
Dr. Eric Tagliacozzo
Professor of History, Cornell University



ROME & SOUTHERN ITALY



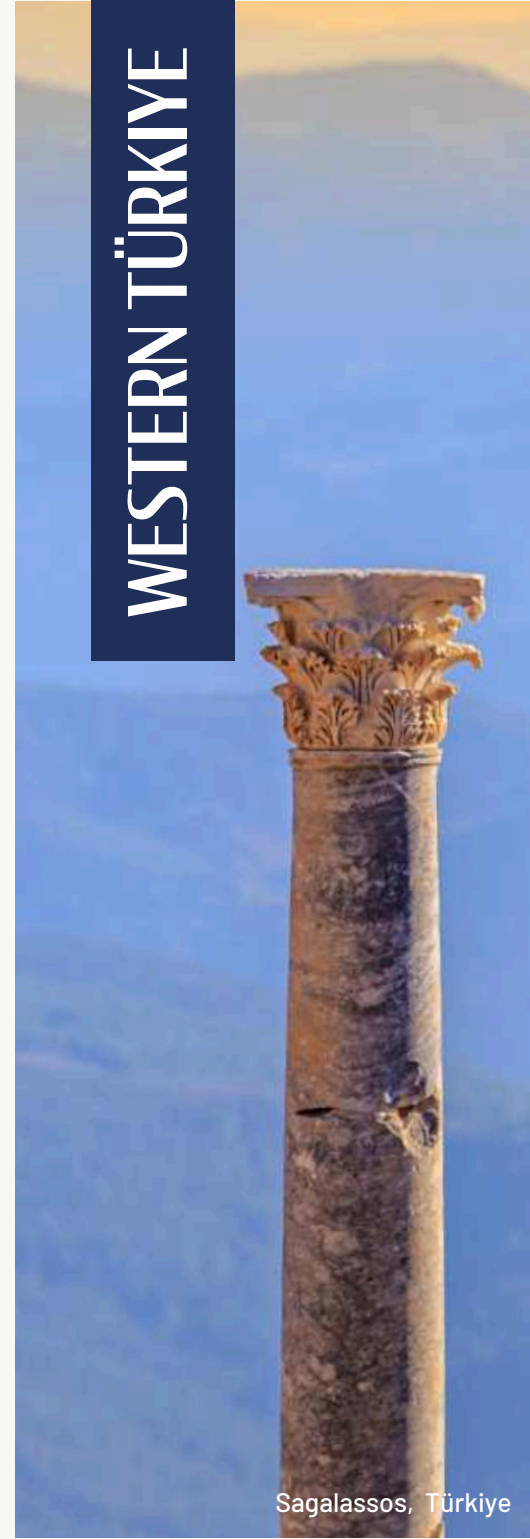
The Colosseum, Rome

BOLIVIA



Llama in Bolivia

WESTERN TÜRKIYE



Sagalassos, Türkiye

FINAL BOARDING CALL!

These Adventures Are Taking Off Soon,
Contact Us To Secure Your Seat!



Sigurdsristningen Rock Carvings, Sweden



IN THE PATH OF THE VIKING SCANDINAVIA

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.

PERU

A TALE OF TWO WORLDS



NEW SCHOLAR!
WORLD RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGIST

DR. DANIEL SANDWEISS

Summer 2025



Scholar Spotlight

DR. DANIEL SANDWEISS

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

Dan Sandweiss received his BA in Archaeology (summa cum laude) from Yale University and his MA and PhD in Anthropology from Cornell University. Since 1978, his research has focused on the coast of Peru, where he has worked on projects spanning time from the earliest inhabitants to the Inca Empire and spanning space from Ilo in the south to Talara in the north. His two main themes are ancient maritime adaptations and the prehistory of El Niño, the climatic phenomenon. He has published extensively on these and related topics in English and Spanish, in which he is fluent. Dan is the Libra Professor of Anthropology and Climate Studies at the University of Maine. Currently, he is finishing a term as President of the Society for American Archaeology and was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He has led many tours to Peru and loves visiting the sites and talking about archaeology with participants.



Peru's North Coast **INKA** & THEIR ANCESTORS July 1 - 10, 2025

with Dr. Daniel Sandweiss

The fabled cities of the Inka, with their towering stone walls protected by warriors in glittering golden armor, have captured our imagination for centuries. However, the Inka were only the last in a lineage of remarkable and affluent cultures that once thrived along Peru's coastal regions. The Chavin, Moche, Wari, and Chimú were among these civilizations, each contributing to the rich tapestry of ancient Peruvian history.

Our journey will take us to Peru's enthralling north coast, where recent archaeological discoveries have shed new light on these ancient cultures. We will visit Pachacamac, one of Peru's most significant pilgrimage sites, and Sipán, where archaeologists have uncovered one of the richest tombs in history. By special arrangement, the project director will welcome us to witness the sunset at Chanquillo, a 2,300-year-old solar observatory that has garnered international attention.



Huaca de la Luna, Peru

Along the way, we will explore four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, each a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of ancient empires. We will wander through Lima's historic center, a vibrant city that blends colonial architecture with modern energy. We will marvel at Caral, an ancient city believed to be the oldest in the New World, predating the Inka by millennia. We will be awed by Chan Chan, one of the largest pre-Columbian cities, with its impressive walls and intricate designs. We will traverse Qhapaq Ñan, the extensive road system that connected the Inka Empire and spanned six South American countries.

*Join Renowned
Archaeologist Dr. Daniel
Sandweiss on His
Inaugural Far Horizons
Journey*



PERU'S SACRED VALLEY, CUZCO, AND MACHU PICCHU

July 9 – 19, 2025 with Dr. Kylie Quave

Under the leadership of the iconic emperors Pachacuti Inka Yupanqui and his successor, Topa Inka Yupanqui, the Inka Empire dominated nearly one-third of South America. From their capital in Cuzco, this Quechua-speaking civilization established an extensive road network stretching 12,000 miles from central Chile to Ecuador. Surpassing even the Roman roads in scale, this meticulously crafted system, adorned with stone staircases and tunnels, facilitated efficient foot traffic. It stands today as a testament to the engineering prowess of the ancient Inka. Now recognized as the Qhapaq Ñan or the Andean Road System, it proudly holds a UNESCO World Heritage status.

Embark with Far Horizons on an 11-day Peru travel journey tracing the path of this ancient empire from the royal heart of Cuzco through the Sacred Valley along the Urubamba River to the enigmatic city of Machu Picchu.

In 1981, recognizing its unparalleled significance, the Peruvian government incorporated this trail within the expansive Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary. Shortly after, in 1983, UNESCO honored Machu Picchu as a World Heritage site.

This journey isn't just about the legacy of the Inkas; it encompasses the colonial charm of Cuzco, another UNESCO World Heritage City, the vibrant Sunday market at Chinchero, and the imposing fortress of Ollantaytambo. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of the Sacred Valley, visiting traditional Andean villages where time seems to have stood still. Meet the indigenous people, known as Quechua, who have preserved their ancient traditions and customs for centuries.

Join Dr. Kylie Quave on an historical tour of Peru's Sacred Valley!, Cuzco, and Machu Picchi





SCOTLAND

HIGHLANDS & LOWLANDS

July 11 – 25, 2025

with Dr. Brian Buchanan

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. Enhance your experience with fine whisky and immerse yourself in the festivities at the Tomintoul Highland Games.

Scotland is renowned for its vast, unspoiled landscapes, characterized by dramatic highland mountains, expansive lochs, rugged coastlines, and lush agricultural land. Dotting these dramatic landscapes are captivating historical remnants of Scotland's rich past.

The Scots, known for their bravery and pride, have long defended their freedom. From resisting Roman occupation to challenging English annexation attempts, Scotland's history is filled with tales of the struggle for sovereignty, culminating in a Scottish king ascending the English throne.

Today, Scotland is celebrated for its iconic bagpipes, traditional tartan and tweed, and world-renowned malt whisky.

Join a small group of only six people for a fascinating 15-day journey through Scotland. Travel from the southern border to the farthest reaches of the north, discovering sites often missed by other travelers. Our carefully curated route takes you through scenic rural countryside, ensuring you experience the very best of Scotland's culture and heritage.



Edinburgh, Scotland



July 13-28, 2025

IRELAND

The Archaeology of



with Dr. Damian Shiels

Ireland, the Emerald Isle, boasts a rich history that spans over 9,000 years, beginning with the Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. 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.

SOLD OUT!



THE ART OF THE SILK ROAD: EUROPEAN MUSEUMS

July 16 - 26, 2024

WITH DR. JENNY ROSE

THE ART OF THE SILK ROAD

July 16 - 26, 2025



with Dr. Jenny Rose

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.



Armlet from Oxus Treasure



Louvre, Paris



MARY COLLINS: MY TIME IN CENTRAL ASIA

After joining our Central Asia Silk Road Trip, I understand why it's currently enjoying the spotlight. Join us next April 2026 for a deep exploration ...

Returning from my third maternity leave, I jumped at the chance to join our sold-out Central Asia Silk Road trip this past September. And what an experience it was! Journeying through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan with a fantastic group of Far Horizons' travelers reinforced the many reasons why I jumped at the chance to lead this company into the next era.

Central Asia truly exceeded my expectations. This region is a treasure trove of ancient history, with new discoveries constantly being made. Imagine my excitement when the BBC published an article, "Lost Silk Road cities discovered in Uzbek mountains," just a month after our trip! Bukhara, Uzbekistan, with its 140+ architectural monuments, is even topping travel lists for 2025. It was my favorite spot on the trip, as evidenced by the many photos I collected, including the three I've included below.

From the breathtaking architecture to the incredibly welcoming people and delicious food, I was completely captivated. I even celebrated my recent birthday at a nearby Uzbek restaurant to relive the experience.

Due to popular demand, we're planning another Silk Road adventure for April 2026! Join us and experience the magic of this region with expert guidance from our scholar, Dr. Jenny Rose, and local guides. Several spots have already been claimed so we encourage you to reserve your place today.



ICELAND: In the Path of the Vikings

August 1 – 11, 2025

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*

Cathedrals of France

August 19- 30, 2025

with Dr. Bill Cook

Join Far Horizons on a captivating 12-day tour in Northern France and experience the birthplace of this architectural evolution from robust Romanesque to soaring Gothic architecture.

Led by renowned Professor William R. Cook, popular lecturer for The Great Courses, we will explore stunning sites in Chartres, Bourges, Vezelay, Amiens, Reims, and, of course, picturesque Paris. Steep yourself in the history and culture that gave rise to these monumental tributes to the heavens...

Of course, along the way, experience sumptuous French cuisine along with luscious regional wines including the champagne of Troyes.



Sold Out!

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

WITH PROFESSOR MALCOLM DAVID ECKEL

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.



'David was one of the reasons I took your tour since I enjoyed his Great Courses lectures on Buddhism. He was friendly and approachable.' - Susan Bezman





MOUND BUILDERS: USA ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR

Oct 3 – 13, 2025



With Dr. Tim Paukatat

Centuries before the Giza pyramids of Egypt were built and long before Nero infamously fiddled while Rome burned, indigenous people of North America were constructing vast mounds. Using baskets to carry soil, clay, or stones, they shaped remarkable ceremonial and burial landscapes, mainly in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Early archaeologists coined the term ‘Mound Builders’ for the ancient cultures behind these earthworks. Recent research reveals that these sites were the product of diverse cultures—such as the Woodland, Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian—evolving over thousands of years by the fertile riverbanks.

In this region, several major centers rose to prominence. We’ll focus on the most significant ones, including three UNESCO World Heritage sites: Poverty Point, Cahokia, and Hopewell. Join Dr. Timothy Paukatat, who has spent years studying Cahokia, and a select group of thirteen others on a ten-day archaeological journey to explore these captivating ancient sites.



BULGARIA

October 6 - 23, 2025

with Dr. Vassil Tenekedjiev

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

Embark on an 18-day adventure with a group of just 13 fellow travelers. Dive into Bulgaria's breathtaking landscapes, quaint villages, excellent cuisine, fine wine, and monumental history, all while experiencing the warmth of its people. Ready to join us?



Bachkovo Monastery, Bulgaria



Stone Forest, Bulgaria



Rila Monastery, Bulgaria



Saint Stephen Church, Nessebar

Discover the magnificent St. Stephen Church, a World Heritage Site in Nessebar dating back to the 11th century and known for its well-preserved Byzantine frescoes.

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.

✦ Scholar Led Tours

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

✦ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected 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.

✦ Unique Trips

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

✦ Personalized Service

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

✦ Small Groups

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

Sacsayhuaman, Peru





SPAIN: IN THE PATH OF THE CONQUISTADORS

October 12 - 26, 2025

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"?



Cathedral de Granada

"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."
- David Westphal





TUNISIA

OCTOBER 14 - 29, 2025

Join Dr. Jennifer Tobin as She Leads Our Tunisia Trip for Her Final Time

Thuburbo Majus, Tunisia



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.

Djerba Island, Tunisia

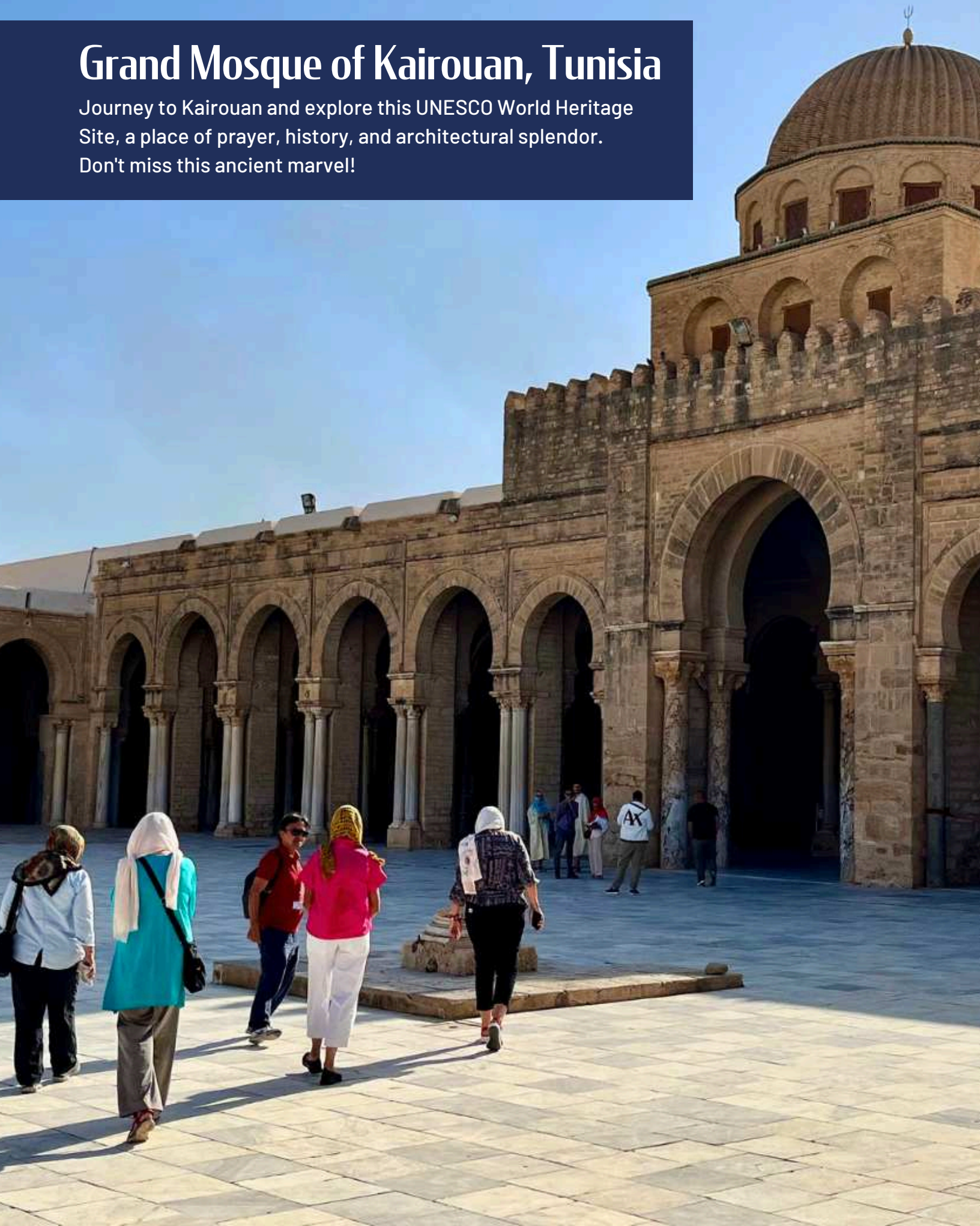


During the excursion, see all seven of Tunisia's UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Dougga, Kairouan, the medinas of Sousse and Tunis, the Punic remains of Kerkouane, magnificent Carthage, and El Jem, the largest Roman amphitheater in North Africa.

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.

Grand Mosque of Kairouan, Tunisia

Journey to Kairouan and explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site, a place of prayer, history, and architectural splendor. Don't miss this ancient marvel!





MEXICO: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

October 26- Nov 6, 2025



with Dr. Travis Stanton

Join Far Horizons and a small group of just 13 others on an unforgettable 12-day journey through Mexico's most fascinating cultural and archaeological treasures. From the ancient ruins of Teotenango and Chalcatzingo to the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos, this tour is designed for the curious traveler eager to delve into Mexico's rich history and living culture.

Begin your journey in Cuernavaca and explore picturesque Malinalco, before visiting the charming town of Tepotzlan and the ancient pyramids that tell the stories of civilizations long gone. As we move to Puebla, you'll immerse yourself in the city's colonial beauty, exploring Cholula's grand pyramid and participating in the sacred Día de los Muertos festival at Huaquechula, where cemeteries come alive with color and remembrance. Continue to Mexico City for a thrilling exploration of the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacan, wander through the world-renowned National Museum of Anthropology, and visit Frida Kahlo's famous blue house in Coyoacán. Along the way, savor authentic Mexican cuisine and enjoy accommodations at boutique hotels that reflect the unique character of each region.

Led by Mesoamerican specialist, Dr. Travis Stanton, this exclusive tour offers you special access to some of Mexico's most significant archaeological sites, providing insights that will deepen your understanding of this vibrant country. Perfect for travelers who value education, culture, and authentic experiences, this once-in-a-lifetime journey promises to leave you with cherished memories and a profound appreciation for Mexico's past and present. Secure your place today and prepare to embark on an adventure like no other!



Día de los Muertos



Teotihuacan, Mexico

A photograph of a mountain peak with prayer flags and a quote by Lao Tzu. The image shows a close-up of a mountain peak covered in snow, with a large pile of colorful prayer flags (red, blue, green, yellow, white) and a white rope tied around it. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The quote is overlaid in white text.

**“A JOURNEY OF
A THOUSAND
MILES BEGINS
WITH A SINGLE
STEP”**

- Lao Tzu



GREECE

OCT 24 - NOV 9, 2025

with Dr. Robert Garland

Join renowned Great Courses lecturer, Dr. Robert Garland on an unforgettable journey across the historical terrain of Greece.



Delphi, Greece



With its rugged beauty, Greece has long been a crossroads of history and a battleground of warring cultures. From early history of internal struggles between Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations to the rise of city-states three millennia ago.

Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, these fragmented states united. Subsequently, they were designated a province by the Romans, flourished as a beacon of the Eastern Orthodox Christian world with the Byzantines, and became an integral part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries.

Mycenae, Greece



Join Far Horizons on an immersive 16-day educational trip across Greece, exploring northern Greece and the Peloponnese Peninsula. Begin your cultural tour in Greece with three days in Athens. Throughout this adventure, indulge in delectable regional dishes, unwind in quaint boutique hotels, savor exquisite wines, and experience the warm hospitality of the Greek locals. Marvel at the grandeur of Byzantine monasteries in Meteora and Mystras. Traverse the iconic cities of Olympia, Delphi, Messini, and historic Thessaloniki, a city echoing over 2,000 years of civilization. Visit the awe-inspiring Sanctuary of Epidaurus and the ancient cities of Corinth, Mycenae, and Tiryns.

This journey concludes with two days on Crete, known for its beautiful beaches, delicious cuisine, historic villages, and ancient ruins. From approximately 2800 BC to 1000 BC, Crete was the center of a brilliant civilization of mythical origin. Our exploration of this fabled island includes a visit to Knossos, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Geisha in Kyoto



JAPAN IN AUTUMN BLOOM NOVEMBER 7 - 20, 2025

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.

'Excellent. David was crucial to my enjoyment of the trip. I learned a lot. He was responsive to my never-ending questions.'

- Laura Derby



"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



Long Time Far Horizons Travelers:
Barbara & Meo & Yayoi Kusama
Sculpture, Noashima



TOUR INDIA'S GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN

November 2-19, 2025

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, 4x4, and camel through the Great Thar Desert to see small traditional villages. Enjoy the vibrant local markets bursting with hand-woven carpets, tie-dye fabrics, embroideries, appliqué work, and so much more.



Red Fort, Delhi

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.



EGYPT

The background of the entire page is a photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple. In the foreground, there are several large, weathered sphinxes with ram heads, known as ram-headed sphinxes, which are characteristic of the Temple of Karnak. Behind them, a row of massive, papyrus-bundle-shaped columns supports a heavy stone entablature. The scene is set under a clear blue sky, with the warm, golden light of the sun casting long shadows across the stone.

NEW SCHOLAR!
WORLD RENOWNED ARCHAEOLOGIST

DR. PETER LACOVARA

December 2025



Scholar Spotlight

DR. PETER LACOVARA

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

Peter Lacovara (B.A. 1976, Boston University; Ph.D. 1993 The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago) is the Director of The Ancient Egyptian Archaeology and Heritage Fund. He was Senior Curator of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian, and Near Eastern Art at the Michael C. Carlos Museum from 1998 to 2014. Previously he served as Assistant Curator in the Department of Ancient Egyptian, Nubian and Near Eastern Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Currently, he is also Consulting Curator for the Egyptian Collection at the Albany Institute of History and Art and Visiting Research Scholar at the American University in Cairo.

His archaeological fieldwork has included excavations at the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, the Palace-City of Amenhotep III at Malqata in Western Thebes, Abydos, Hierakonpolis and at the Giza Plateau, and currently he is directing the survey and restoration of the site of Deir el-Ballas. His publications include studies on Daily Life and Urbanism in Ancient Egypt, Egyptian Mortuary Traditions, and the Material Culture of Ancient Egypt and Nubia.

Majesty of Ancient

EGYPT

December 5-20 2025

With Dr. Peter Lacovara



Embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of ancient Egypt, a civilization that blossomed along the fertile banks of the Nile over 3,000 years. Our Egypt tour starts in Cairo and leads you to Luxor, Aswan, and the majestic Abu Simbel, offering exclusive access to some of Egypt's most renowned temples and tombs.

Far Horizons offers a remarkable 16-day archaeological tour of Egypt, filled with unique experiences and insights. Gain exclusive entry into the Queen's Chamber of the Great Pyramid and enjoy a special evening hosted by the Director of the Chicago House, a prominent center for Egyptian studies, complete with cocktails and a tour of their extensive library.



Abu Simbel, Egypt

Join Dr. Peter
Lacovara on this
unforgettable
journey through
Egypt



As we traverse the paths from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan, we'll follow in the footsteps of pharaohs and immerse ourselves in the grandeur of these ancient monuments, standing as timeless testaments to a bygone era. Near Luxor, we will board a dahabiya, a beautifully crafted private wooden yacht, for a cruise along the Nile River, and dock at our leisure to examine several remarkable sanctuaries: the Temple of Horus, the falcon-headed god, Edfu, and the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek.

Our cultural tour of Egypt provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the rich tapestry of Egypt's past, a privilege seldom experienced by ordinary tourists. Join us with just 17 others for an extraordinary exploration into the heart of Egypt's illustrious history.

THE MAJESTY OF EGYPT

Dec 5 - 20, 2025
with Dr. Peter Lacovara

2025 & 2026 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

MAY 2025

Bolivia Archaeology Tour

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE

May 5 - 20, 2025

Eastern Türkiye

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE

May 12 - 27, 2025

Rome and Southern Italy

TWO NEEDED TO CONFIRM

May 21 - 31, 2025

JUNE 2025

Western Türkiye

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE

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

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE

June 27 - July 13, 2025

JULY 2025

Scandinavia: The Vikings of Denmark, Germany, Norway & Sweden

CONFIRMED DEPARTURE

June 29 - July 13, 2025

Peru's North Coast: Inka and Their Ancestors

July 1 - 10, 2025

Peru's Sacred Valley, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu

July 9 - 19, 2025

Scottish Highlands & Lowlands

ONE NEEDED TO CONFIRM

July 11 - 25, 2025

Archaeology of Ireland

SOLD OUT

July 13 - 28, 2025

The Art of the Silk Road: European Museums

July 16 - 26, 2025



Pergamum, Western Türkiye

2025 & 2026 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

AUGUST 2025

Iceland Tour: In the Path of the Vikings
August 1 - 11, 2025

France: Artistic & Architectural Cathedrals
SOLD OUT
August 19 - 30, 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh & Bhutan
Fall 2025: Dates TBA

OCTOBER 2025

**Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas by
Wooden Gulet**
October 1 - 15, 2025

Mound Builders of the USA
October 3 - 13, 2025

Bulgaria: The Land of History
October 6 - 23, 2025

Spain: In the Path of the Conquistadors
October 12 - 26, 2025

The Wonders of Tunisia
October 14 - 29, 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

Mexico's Día de los Muertos
October 26 - November 6, 2025

India's Gujarat & Rajasthan
November 2 - 19, 2025

Japan in Autumn Bloom
November 7 - 20, 2025

DECEMBER 2025

The Majesty of Egypt
December 5 - 20, 2025

**2026: Complete Schedule Online Soon.
Stay Tuned!**

JANUARY 2026

South India: Temples and Traditions
OPEN FOR DEPOSITS - SECURE YOUR SPOT
January 5 - 20, 2026

APRIL 2026

Central Asia Silk Road
OPEN FOR DEPOSITS - SECURE YOUR SPOT
April 2026



Buhkara, Uzbekistan



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS



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