

ADVENTURES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

2024 Late Departures September – October



AUTUMN 2024 TOURS

We still have some places left on tours departing in September and October this year, but we strongly encourage you to book as soon as possible to secure your place on your preferred tour and departure date. With maximum numbers of 18 on every tour, you can enjoy the sociability of travelling with people who share your interest but in a group small enough to allow for ease of access and quality time with your Guide Lecturer.

Where we have reached full capacity on many of our 2024 departures, we have added more departure dates, on tours travelling in the UK and destinations worldwide. Look out for the following sticker so it's easy to spot where we have added extra departure dates. Launched with discounts for the first 5 passengers of up to £350 per person until 2nd May 2024, book now to secure the best price:- EXTRA DEPARTURE

Within these pages you will also find brand new tours, two of which are cruises, all of which come with carefully crafted itineraries designed to stimulate, inform and entertain you. Look out for the following sticker so it's easy to spot these new tours. Launched with discounts for the first 5 passengers of up to £250 per person until 2nd May 2024, book now to secure the best price:

BRAND NEW TOUR

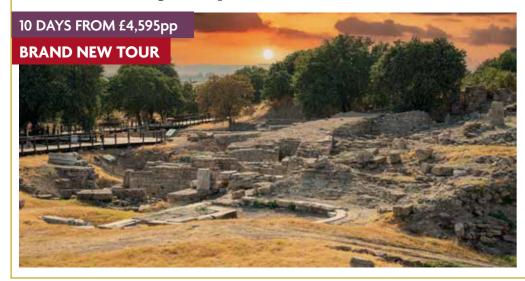
Last but not least, for the solo traveller keen to make an extra saving we have two tours with no single supplement places; our Uzbekistan tour on page 4 and out Pompeii, Herculaneum and Classical Campania tour on page 5.

We look forward to you joining us this Autumn. Happy browsing!

The Andante Travels Team

Roman Lusitania

The Romans in Portugal and Spain



1 SEPTEMBER 2024

2 SEPTEMBER 2024

Rome first ventured into the Iberian Peninsula in 218 BCE, campaigning against Hannibal and the Carthaginians. By the time of the Emperor Augustus, 200 years later, all of Spain and what was later to become Portugal, was in Roman hands. The province of Lusitania included much of Portugal and western Spain, and its capital, Mérida, is one of the best-preserved Roman cities in Europe, although still surprisingly little known to mainstream tourism. We will travel through beautiful Portuguese landscapes of rolling countryside dotted with cork oak, vineyards and olive groves across to Spain's remotest region, the Extremadura, with its mountains, forests and lakes.

Rock Art of Altamira

A close encounter with our Stone Age antecedents



Decorated 35-15,000 years ago, the caves of Altamira still display some of humankind's first great artistic achievements. This is a unique chance to view the vivid images of horse, bison and deer that have come to epitomise Palaeolithic art. A visit to this area's Ice Age caves is a genuine privilege. Where else can you gaze upon masterpieces of such antiquity in situ? Led by experts in rock art, for this tour we have secured special access to a selection of memorable caves and rock art sites. Here, we can view the images precisely where they were created, standing or crouching exactly as the original artists once did.

Moorish Wonders of Guadalquivir & Guadiana

Exploring Andalucia and the Algarve on a cruise



Called the Baetis in the Roman period, the Guadalquivir is the most important river in Spain, not just because it is the country's only navigable river but because it flows through Andalucia, the heartbeat of Iberian history. The Guadiana, in turn, meets the Guadalquivir at the Gulf of Cadiz, thereby linking the historically rich Andalucia with the Algarve. This cruise allows you to explore the richness of Iberian history while meandering up two important rivers which allowed it to happen. Ports of call include Seville, Cadiz, Huelva and Granada, which includes a visit to the imcomparable Alhambra Palace.

Cruising the

Extraordinary Island of Corsica

From the Neolithic Period to the Romans

9 DAYS FROM £6,160pp



Although principally famed for being the birthplace of Napoleon, Corsica has a rich and ancient history which testifies to the important commercial role the island played in antiquity. As is evident from its plentiful archaeological sites, Corsica has been continuously occupied since 6500 BC and has been an important trading site since the Bronze Age. Join us onboard a prestigious premium ship, the MV La Belle des Océans.

Highlights of the **Viking Homelands**

Denmark, Norway & Sweden



The Vikings were the greatest seafarers, raiders, and traders of the Early Middle Ages. Far from being a race of unwashed barbarians, they presided over a trading network which extended from Greenland to Baghdad. They fought with swords forged from Afghan steel, imported silk from China, reached the coast of North America and sent mercenaries to Constantinople. Following in the Viking's footsteps, we make travel across Denmark into Norway and culminating in Sweden.

Brittany

Carnac & Beyond

7 DAYS FROM £3,880pp



Brittany offers a prehistoric landscape filled with some of the world's best megalithic monuments, from standing stones to chambered tombs. A whole day is rightly dedicated to Carnac, where stone rows stud the heather-clad countryside, and we explore passage graves with depictions of weaponry that mark the resting places of a selected few of the wider Neolithic population. Based in just one hotel in Carnac, this tour offers memorable insights into the rites and rituals of our Stone Age ancestors.

Peru

In Search of the Incas

DEPARTS 12 SEPTEMBER 2024



Machu Picchu, Cuzco, the Colonial jewel of Arequipa and the enigmatic Nazca Lines – this is a tour of Peru's major archaeological and cultural attractions. Explore world-famous Inca sites and the intriguing remains of both their lesser-known predecessors and immediate descendants, as we move from the Pacific to the ancient heartland of the Inca Empire. From colonial cities to breathtaking golden artefacts left by the earliest Andean civilisations, this is an epic adventure.

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DEPARTS

9 SEPTEMBER 2024

Uzbekistan

Travel the Silk Road

DEPARTS 13 SEPTEMBER 2024



Follow in the footsteps of history as we explore the sites and cities of the Silk Road, which once ran from China to Europe, with Uzbekistan right as its heart. The steppes, deserts, mountains and blue-tiled cities all tell stories of trade and conquest, and this is a journey across the country that traces the paths of those who've passed by for thousands of years. Join us on the road to Khiva, Bukhara and fabulous Samarkand; cities built to dazzle the travellers who have passed by for thousands of years.

Macedonia

The glories of northern Greece

ries of northern Grace



This tour of Northern Greece is full of fantastic archaeological sites, marked over the centuries by a cornucopia of peoples and cultures from the Macedonians, Thracians and Slavs to the Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Ottomans. We follow in the footsteps of conquerors and travel through landscapes dotted with canyons, lakes, waterfalls rand rivers in an area thick with history. We discover famous sanctuaries and monuments to victory, palaces and painted tombs.

Wild Thrace

Discover ancient kingdoms across this region



East of Thessaloniki are the mountains and plains of Thrace. Its ancient kingdoms were alternately at war and allied to Persians, Greeks and Macedonians. Discover the strategic cities that grew up in the wake of passing conquerors Phillipi, Mesembria with its Romano-Thracian chariot burials, and catch a glimpse of the city of Amphipolis. Thrace's landmark archaeological sites and Byzantine, Medieval and Ottoman monuments add to its rich cultural heritage. This wild land is notable for the peaceful coexistence of Christian and Muslim traditions. Highlights include a short trip across the Thracian sea to the lovely unspoiled islands of Thasos and Samothrace and we explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods built to honour fertility deities around 1000 BCE.

DEPARTS

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Etruscans DEPARTS

Master craftsmen of early Italy



Before the rise of Rome, the Etruscans dominated much of central Italy. From the eighth century BC until the first they held sway over much of central Italy and while they eventually became Roman, establishing important noble houses and even imperial dynasties, their earlier glory days were magnificent. Their cities today are either abandoned or lost beneath the area's iconic medieval and renaissance towns, but traces of their existence remains. Discover hilltop settlements, spectacular finds, lavish painted tombs and even veritable cities of the dead on this alternative tour of Classical Italy.

The Samnites

23 SEPTEMBER

War and peace in the ancient Apennines

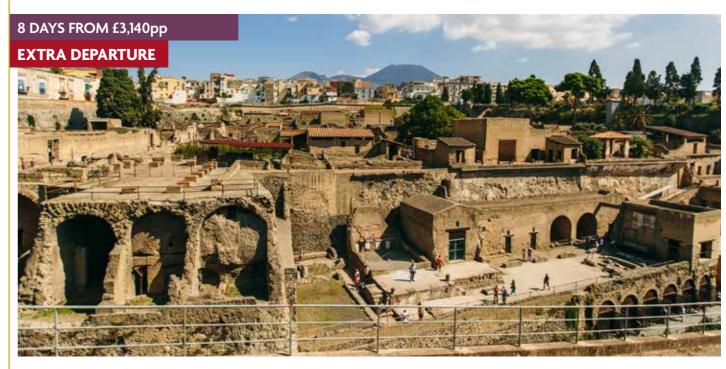


For 300 years the hardy peoples of central Italy were Rome's bitterest enemies. Rome fought three wars against the tenacious mountaineers who had a habit of humiliating Roman generals. The Samnite Wars were fundamental for establishing Rome's control over the Italian peninsula, as well as developing Roman warfare. As an indication of this, the Via Appia was created because of the Samnite Wars, in order to facilitate troop movements. Set amongst spectacular mountains, ancient cities, castles and abbeys, this tour reaches to the heart of Italy and considers early Italians who were so important for maintaining the might of Rome.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE

Pompeii, Herculaneum & Classical Campania

Exclusive access to the off-site theatre of Herculaneum



Nowhere in the world gives deeper insight into Roman life than the dramatic seaside towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Before the cataclysmic eruption of Vesuvius these were thriving, lively seaside towns - Pompeii, a trading town equipped with many bars, shops and brothels, while neighbouring Herculaneum was an affluent and elegant town.

All this came to an abrupt halt, however, one autumnal day in AD 79, when Vesuvius - which had done little more than rumble for years - erupted with incredible force.

Two thousand years later, the sites of the Bay of Naples confront the modern visitor with a vivid, haunting immediacy like nothing else in the ancient world. Walk with us as the Romans did, from amphitheatre to baths to forum, as you expert Guide Lecturer conjures an evocative picture of the everyday life of these prosperous Roman towns.



24 SEPTEMBER 2024

Turkey: from Çatal Hüyük to Göbekli Tepe

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

A journey through Cappadocia and south east Turkey



Join us on a kaleidoscopic journey through the heartlands of Turkey from Çatal Hüyük, arguably the earliest city in the world, to Göbekli Tepe, a remarkable early Neolithic complex in upper Mesopotamia. We discover the otherworldly geology of Cappadocia, a bizarrely beautiful landscape matched by its unique archaeology, underground cities and vividly frescoed churches, and the elaborate ritual sites of the ancient kingdoms in South East Turkey.

Puglia & Basilicata

Discover the extraordinary Sassi di Matera



Basilicata and Puglia offer rich histories, both with outstanding monuments that date from the Neolithic period right up to the modern age. Both geographically and culturally, the southernmost 'heel' of Italy offers a diversity unmatched elsewhere in the south. This sunny, dry region, dotted with dazzling white villages, was once fought over by the Greeks, Romans, Normans, Swabians and Angevins, all of whom lives and prospered here and left the marks of their passing upon the landscape.

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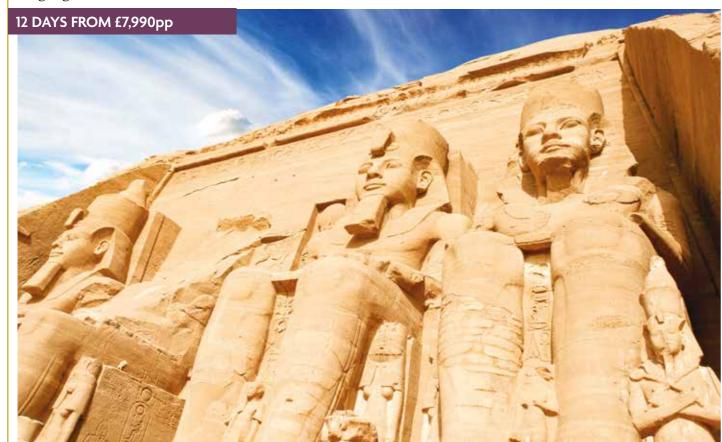
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Egypt

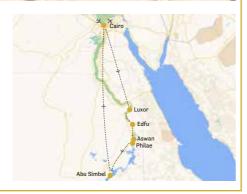
Highlights and discoveries

24 SEPTEMBER 2024



The archaeology of ancient Egypt is one of the most instantly recognisable of all the great civilisations. This is a narrative of power, vision and ambition. The monuments of Egypt are much more than dry and dusty stones – through the expertise of our Guide Lecturers, we get to 'meet' the real ancient Egyptians.

Our adventure starts in Cairo; the buzzing, energetic, metropolis that is Egypt's extraordinary capital. Our time here includes exploring Saqqara, a vast necropolis to the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis, the pyramid complexes on the Giza Plateau, the Valley Temple of Khafra and the Great Sphinx. Next on to Luxor where visits include the capticating complex of Karnak and the Valley of the Kings & Queens. We experience the delights of cruising the Nile, pausing to visit the beautifully preserved temples of Upper Egypt on our way to Aswan. The grand finale of this journey will be our visit to Egypt's most impressive temple site, Abu Simbel.



The Island of Sardinia

Neolithic, Nuragic and Punic mysteries of this Mediterranean island



Sardinia offers one of the richest and most fascinating standing archaeological repertoires in Europe. Known to the Greeks as Sandaliotis ("Sandal", due to its shape), or Ichnoussa ("Stepping stone"), the island has seen Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs and Catalonians come and go. Before them, the mysterious Nuraghi people left an astonishing plethora of wonderful archaeology.

Highlights of the Hebrides

DEPARTS

History and heritage on the edge of the Atlantic



The Outer Hebrides are home to a stunning array of archaeological sites, from Neolithic cairns, Iron Age houses and Norse Mills, to the more recent Blackhouses, crofting houses which appear to come from another age but are only little more than a century old. They are impressive all year round, but when the summer ends, and their are fewer people the landscape steps up to take centre stage.

Bulgaria

Thracian Treasures

29 SEPTEMBER 2024



The forests, mountain ranges and vast plains of Bulgaria remain in places as spectacularly beautiful as when the Thracians inhabited them thousands of years ago. Following a golden age for archaeological discoveries, Bulgaria is now one of the culturally richest countries in Europe, featuring Neolithic settlements, Thracian tombs, and exuberantly painted Medieval churches. The quality and selection of sites here are outstanding.

The Ancient Argolid

An archaeological treasure house

30 SEPTEMBER 2024



Enjoy a relaxed exploration of the lives and landscapes of Greeks, gods and heroes, in the place where myth and archaeology meet. Join us and discover the Argolid in the eastern Peloponnese. Our fascinating tour ends in Athens at the National Museum, where we see artefacts that once furnished and graced the sites we visit across the previous days, and which belonged to the victors who once walked those hills of the Argolid.

Romans, Visigoths & **Viziers**

Pay a memorable visit to the legendary Alhambra Palace



Southern Spain, rich in precious metals, wine and olive oil, has attracted the attention of many would-be conquerors over the centuries. From North Africa came the Carthaginians, then came the Romans and then followed the Visigoths, who were vanquished by the Moors. From prehistory to the Renaissance, this tour progresses through the myriad ages of the region.

Jordan - Petra & the **Desert Fortresses**

1 OCTOBER 2024

Spend two days in the evocative rock-cut city of Petra



We explore traces of biblical tribes, Roman legions, Christian crusaders, and Islamic caliphates in this promised land of archaeology and fascinating history during this tour, which includes Jerash, the bestpreserved Roman town in the east, the almost lunar-like desert scenery of Wadi Rum, the mighty crusader castle at Kerak and the evocative rockcut city of Petra, an iconic and instantly recognisable site.

Richard III - Hero or Villain?

Discover one of English history's most tragic, bloody and colourful epochs



DEPARTS 1 OCTOBER 2024

The dramatic discovery of the skeleton of Richard III beneath a Leicester car park in 2012 was an archaeological find that made news all around the world. It also reignited the great debate about Richard's personal character – was he a hero or a villain? Our 4-day tour is based in the beautiful town of Warwick, and will explore significant sites associated with Richard III, taking in battlefields, castles and churches and culminating in a visit to the King's striking new tomb. It will be led by medieval historian Dr Michael Jones, who wrote with Philippa Langley the book, The King's Grave.

Armenia & Georgia

DEPARTS 3 OCTOBER 2024

Explore the site of Nokalakevi with Ian Colvin

15 DAYS FROM £6,660pp



Between Europe and Asia, the Caspian and the Black Sea, and on the ancient Silk Roads and the Scythian invasion routes stand the republicas - ancient kingdoms - of Armenia and Georgia. Their location between great civilisations guaranteed them a pivotal role in world history. Yet, their varied landscapes are reason enough to visit, from its lush subtropics to the semi-desert steppes.

Crete & Santorini

Rise and fall of the Minoan civilisation



7 OCTOBER 2024

The Minoans are known for their incredible labyrinthine palaces - the greatest of which is at Knossos, where Theseus defeated the Minotaur. Our journey across these two beautiful islands will showcase the architectural and artistic skills of this Bronze Age civilisation, whose writing, ambition and organisation profoundly influenced ancient Greece's development.

The Peloponnese

Homer and beyond



Embark on a modern-day odyssey to the sites of ancient Greece. Beginning in Athens, journey into the Peloponnesian hills, joining our expert Guide Lecturer as we trace the story of Greece from the Bronze Age to Classical glory. This will be a memorable trip for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules. Highlights of this tour include visits to the famous Acropolis of Athens, the National Archaeological Museum of Athens' galleries, the well-preserved Mycenaean Palace of Nestor and the famous citadel of Mycenae wher we'll see the Lion Gate, the grave circles and the Treasure of Atreus.

Algeria

Roman Mauretania

DEPARTS 13* & 27 OCTOBER 2024

10 DAYS FROM £4,570pp



Algeria is still one of the least-visited countries in the world, but access to its ruinous Classical cities is now easier than it has been for some years. The sites are a palimpsest of Numidian, Roman and Byzantine remains, and include probably the best-preserved colonia anywhere in the Empire – Timgad. Highlights also inloude Sétif where we gaze upon one of the most exquisite mosaics in all of the Roman world – the 'Triumph of Dionysus' and we explore the Roman 'City of Bridges', Constantine, and the evocative ruins of Hippo Regius.

Discover the Dodecanese

Following in the footsteps of Herakles



See another side of the lovely islands of Rhodes and Kos and rediscover their ancient origins. Hugging the coastline in the south-eastern corner of the Aegean, these islands were in the midst of a crucial sea lane in antiquity and served as a bridge between east and west during their long and eventful history. From Hellenistic sanctuaries, Roman villas and Crusader fortresses to Byzantine churches and stylish Italian architecture, characteristics of both worlds can be found here.

Carthage & Roman Tunisia

Stand before the mighty ancient amphitheatre of El Djem



A land where dramatic events shaped ancient history – the superpowers of Carthage and Rome clashed in three Punic Wars, which determined the course of Western history. Lasting over 100 years, this conflict resulted in the destruction of Carthage and assured Roman ascendancy. Superb sites and changing landscapes, from rolling hills and olive groves to sparkling sea, makes this an excellent tour.

Chauvet & Cosquer

An in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds

DEPARTS 18 OCTOBER 2024



Palaeolithic cave painting and engravings are mankind's first recognisable artistic expression, but they mean more even than that. They show creatures which were extant during the Ice Age, shed light on huntergatherer culture thousands of years old and many archaeologists believe that the art is a highly sophisticated way of expressing complex beliefs about the supernatural world. Join us for an in-depth analysis of two of palaeontology's greatest finds in the company of an expert on rock art.

Antiquity of the Aegean Cruise

Discover Minoan and Hellenic Gems

17 OCTOBER 2024



This wonderfully encompassing cruise arcs across the Aegean just as it spans through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean. The Aegean has been the setting for so much in mythology and history from the Bronze Age, through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onward to the Byzantine age. We start in Athens, the cradle of so much of western civilisation, then sail to Verghina, the capital of Ancient Macedonia, on to Ionia, one of the most important cities in the ancient world, then the prosperous Ephesus which links ancient Greece to Christianity on its route westward. After a day on the island of Delos at the centre of the Cyclades, we visit Crete the birthplace of the Minoan civilisation and then Santorini before returning to Athens.



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Hidden Rome

Special visit to the Mithraeum of the Circus Maximus





Rome is the pivotal city of Europe, a capital that has dominated the history of the last two millennia. Its famous, great monuments are accompanied by a host of smaller, more difficult to reach, or just hidden sites and monuments all of which tell their own stories about the eternal city.

This tour will take you to some of Rome's greatest monuments but also to some of its most secret, through tombs and catacombs, temples and villas – it's a chance to see the imperial city from a new point of view. We will be based in the very centre of the city with time for you to explore on your own.

Romans on the Bay of Naples

Lake

tiles of veneto

DEPARTS 21 OCTOBER 2024

New discoveries and highlights in the shadow of Vesuvius



This tour offers a fresh take of Romans in the Bay of Naples, taking into consideration these new discoveries and sites, and offering an up-to-date examination of this prosperous and beautiful part of the ancient world. There has never been a better time to visit the towns in the shadow of Vesuvius with the advantage of it being a less crowded time of year. Highlights included the newly opened Museum at Terzigno which houses incredible remains and the newly opened Roman Villa at Positano.

Lake Garda & the Cities of Veneto

Romans to the Renaissance



From Roman Province to Doge Republic, the Veneto has a long and illustrious history. We take a closer look at the intriguing area around Lake Garda and explore a truly unique mix of archaeology, art and architecture. From a prehistoric cave site adjacent to a 15th century We still have some places left on tours departing in September and October this year, but we strongly encourage you to book as soon as possible to secure your place on your preferred tour and departure date.

Archaeology in the Heart of Italy

DEPARTS 21 OCTOBER 2024

Etruscans, Romans and cultural transformation in Umbria and Lazio



On this tour, we explore the historical wonders of Umbria and Lazio, in what is geographically and historically the heart of Italy. Based in one hotel, in the beautiful city of Viterbo, we explore famous sites, as well as those that are lesser-known and considered off the beaten track. In this epicentre of Italy, we will explore the different peoples who lived here and how they were transformed first by Etruscans and later by Romans who dominated them culturally.

We will be exploring Latin and Faliscan sites, such as Sutri and Falerii Novii, which first came under the influence of Etruscans and were later transformed by Rome. Likewise, we will be exploring Etruscan sites at Vulci and Volsinii, today's Orvieto, which metamorphosed in the period of Roman dominance. At many of the sites, we will also be exploring the evolution of the cities after the Roman period, when ancient monuments were used to build medieval abbeys and churches. By mapping the historical changes which occurred in these precious archaeological sites, we are exploring the heart of what it was to be Roman or Etruscan.

Classical Turkey: The Aegean Coast

Powerful city states of ancient history



The Greek and Roman cities of Turkey's Aegean coast were once some of the most powerful in the ancient world. From, if Homer is to be believed, the site of the legendary conflict between Greeks and Trojans, Troy, to the World Heritage Site of Hierapolis. The remains of these splendid cities are set in a breath-taking landscape of rugged limestone peaks, plunging valleys, olive groves, pine forests and flower-dotted meadows, with the glittering blue waters of the Aegean Sea as a constant backdrop.

Imperial Majesty in Ravenna & Venice

DEPARTS 30 OCTOBER 2024

Last bastions of the Byzantine Empire in northern Italy



The last capital of the Western Roman Empire, Ravenna was reconquered by Justinian and became the seat of an Exarchate. As an imperial city, Ravenna flourished and was adorned with churches decorated by the best Byzantine artists. Venice, which was part of the Exarchate of Ravenna, grew wealthy from its connection to the east, while becoming enriched by Byzantine culture.

Cruising from Catalonia to Andalucia

DEPARTS
30 OCTOBER 2024

Exploring Spanish delights



Few parts of the world can offer the rich variety of remains than Eastern Spain. Cruising down the coast, we encounter some of the world's most famous modern artists, including Picasso in his hometown of Malaga, as well as one of the most famous expressions of modern architecture, Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Underpinning these contemporary masterpieces is a rich ancient history comprised of a number of different peoples, from the Phoenicians and Iberians to Greeks and Romans. In this tour, we explore the remains of these antique populations, from the impressive Iberian remains in Ullastret, to the Greek and Phoenician artefacts in the wonderful museum of Malaga and the extensive Roman remains found in Empuries, as well as Tarragona. In addition to these ancient wonders, we have the opportunity to view such jewels as the inimitable Alhambra and the impressive Alcazaba in Malaga, which bear witness to the centuries old Muslim culture which bore fruit in Andalucia. This cruise is made all the more pleasurable by the fact that it is facilitated by the superb ship, MV La Belle des Océans with its comfortable cabins and delightful deck.



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LAST MINUTE GETAWAYS

JUNE

Armenia & Georgia

Departing: 6th June | From £6,550

Romans & Gauls

Departing: 11th June | From £4,720

Rock Art of Altamira

Departing: 15th June | From £3,690

East Anglia Wildlife & Archaeology

Departing: 17th June | From £3,670

NEW Orkney & the Ness of Brodgar

Departing: 21st June | From £2,695

Colchester - Capital of Britannia

Departing: 21st June | From £980

JULY

North East Turkey

Departing: 7th July | From £6,590

Highlights of Shetland

Departing: 12th July | From £1,590

Walking Hadrian's Wall

Departing: 15th July | From £3,670

The Wealth & Wonders of the Hanseatic

Cities

Departing: 24th July | From £4,480

AUGUST

Highlights of Orkney

Departing: 15th August | From £1,980

Berlin - Beyond the Wall

Departing: 22nd August | From £2,620

The Archaeology of Roman Istria

Departing: 31st August | From £2,540

Get in touch with an expert

If you are interested in joining one of our tours and want to know more, please do give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today.

They are ready to help with all of your questions.

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