EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES
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Join Oxford Journeys for extraordinary educational travel adventures created exclusively for the Oxford and Cambridge alumni community and their families and friends.

**Intellectual stimulation** – Travel with us across continents, cultures and civilizations on tours that cater for all interests from archaeology, astronomy and art, through to geology, ornithology, walking and wildlife.

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**Specialist tour operators** – Our tours are thoughtfully planned by experts in alumni travel, some of whom have been organising our trips for nearly two decades. They will be delighted to provide you with more information and guide you through the booking process.

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2020 ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- **p6** CHINA UNDISCOVERED
- **p8** SHORES OF LAKE OHRID
- **p9** MAGICAL MADAGASCAR
- **p11** THE GLORY OF ISTANBUL
- **p13** THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN
- **p16** GREECE’S ANCIENT SITES

TRIP INTEREST KEY

- 🏺 ARCHAEOLOGY
- 🎵 MUSIC
- 🕉️ NATURE
- 🔭 SHORT BREAK
- 📖 HISTORY
- 🎨 ART
- 🕒 ASTRONOMY

All prices listed are based on double-occupancy. Please contact the respective tour operator for further information about single supplements.
NORWAY’S WINTER SKIES: ASTRONOMY SAILING TRIP

Professor Martin Bureau, Professor of Astrophysics, Wadham College, University of Oxford

Previously a NASA Hubble Fellow at Columbia University, Martin’s research centres on the formation and evolution of galaxies

• Explore the skies of Norway’s beautiful coastline, with the opportunity to witness the Northern Lights
• Discover Norway’s coastal islands, mountains, fishing villages, cities, glaciers and cliffs
• Disembark for an overnight stay at the Snowhotel Kirkenes and a dog sledding excursion
• Enjoy a series of lectures from Martin including Big Toys: Light and Telescopes; The Dark Side of the Force: Dark Energy and Dark Matters; Location, Location, Location: Galaxies and Intergalactic Real Estate
• Choose from a selection of carefully curated optional excursions
• Relax on the MS Nordnorge, with its Arctic-inspired interior

24 March — 31 March 2020

From £2,336 per person with flights

Hurtigruten

+44 (0) 208 8462633
uk.groups@hurtigruten.com
BIRDS OF NORWAY: COASTAL ENCOUNTERS

Dr Michael Brooke, Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge
Curator of Birds at the Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, Michael’s acclaimed book Far from Land was published in 2018

- Travel Norway’s coast on this 12-day classic voyage
- Enjoy exclusive ornithological lectures from Michael
- Experience close encounters with majestic birds of prey on the Trollfjord sea eagle safari, and see kittiwakes, puffins and Arctic skuas on the bird safari in Honningsvåg
- Learn from the onboard expedition team who are experts in subjects including science, history, geography, biology, geology, photography and culture
- Enjoy fresh coastal food from local producers
- Relax on-board the MS Nordnorge, with its Arctic-inspired interior, three restaurants, Multe Bakery and ice cream bar, sauna and fitness room, conference room and shop

📅 4 April — 15 April 2020
GBP From £2,390 per person with flights

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CHINA UNCOVERED: MOUNTAINS & WATERWAYS

Dr Jamie Greenbaum, Visiting Fellow, The Australian National University

Jamie specialises in Ming dynasty cultural history. He has led trips to China since 2003 and has lived in China for nearly 20 years

- Journey through the rural backwaters of China, exploring its traditional villages and two of its most sacred mountains
- Visit water towns and travel along ancient waterways, which were once the very backbone of this ancient empire
- Enjoy a three day cruise on the Yangtse River, passing through some of the most dramatic landscapes in China
- Take a private boat to the extraordinary Leshan Buddha, the largest stone carved Buddha in the world
- Explore the Pearl River Delta with its fecund soil, limpid rivers and karst mountains
- Experience China away from tourist hotspots and explore sites writ large in the Chinese imagination

11 April — 28 April 2020
From £3,760 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk
Malta through the Ages: History & Archaeology

Dr Caroline Malone, Professor of Prehistory, Queen’s University Belfast

Caroline spends much of the year teaching in Belfast and co-directing archaeological projects in Scotland, Umbria, Lazio, Sicily and Malta

- Explore the many ages of Malta in the company of Caroline, an archaeologist specialising in Maltese history and archaeology
- Visit the Grand Harbour aboard a privately chartered Maltese ‘luzzu’ or fishing boat
- Enjoy private access to a series of unique Neolithic temples
- Discover the secrets of the Knights of the Grand Master’s Palace
- Spend the afternoon exploring the winding streets of Malta’s ancient walled capital, Mdina
- Explore excavated settlement sites, ancient artefacts in museums, churches, cathedrals, palaces and prehistoric temples

20 April — 27 April 2020
From £2,595 per person

Andante
+44 (0) 1722 671534
tours@andantetravels.com
Nirvana Romell, international lecturer in Balkan history and art

Born and bred on the Dalmatian Coast, Nirvana is a freelance lecturer on the history of Western art, including Balkan art.

- Explore the ancient town of Ohrid, with its medieval streets and views over translucent waters and visit St Sophia to see its rare 11th-century frescoes.
- Admire the 800 artefacts at the Icon Gallery at the 13th-century church of the Holy Mother of God Most Glorious.
- Climb to the iconic St John of Kaneo church and its nearby 5th-century basilica ruins.
- Discover the Museum on Water, a reconstruction of a prehistoric pile settlement, which was uncovered at the bottom of the lake.
- Travel by boat to the multi-domed monastic complex of Sveti Naum, with its 16th and 19th-century frescoes.
- Enjoy North Macedonia’s finest cuisine and wine in Ohrid’s numerous traditional restaurants.

📅 13 June — 16 June 2020

£ From £740 per person

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Dr Herizo Andrianandrasana, Research Associate, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford

Herizo is a conservation practitioner with an interest in ecological monitoring and is an expert on biodiversity in Madagascar.

- Explore the flora and fauna of this unique island, which was uninhabited by man until just 2,000 years ago.
- Benefit from Herizo’s in-depth knowledge gained through 17 years of working for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust’s Madagascar Programme.
- Discover many of the unique 103 species and sub-species of lemurs.
- Find numerous other endemic species, such as the island’s incredible chameleons and 300 species of birds.
- Explore its national parks, from the lush rainforests of Andasibe and Ranomafana to the spiny desert of Reniala Botanical Gardens and coastal mangroves of Ifaty.
- Enjoy snorkelling and swimming in the warm sea of the Mozambique channel.

📅 11 August — 24 August 2020
💰 From £3,495 per person

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Dr Jamie Greenbaum, Visiting Fellow, The Australian National University

Jamie specialises in Ming dynasty cultural history. He has led trips to China since 2003 and has lived in China for nearly 20 years.

- Explore beautiful Kyrgyzstan and Lake Issykul, the world’s second highest navigable lake
- Journey through the spectacular Tien Shan Mountains, past herds of Bactrian Camels and Tajik camping grounds
- In Urumqi visit one of China’s most impressive museums and learn more of the mummies of Urumqi and the secrets of the Silk Road
- Explore Turfan, an oasis of gardens, orchards and vineyards in the barren desert
- Discover the caves at Dunhuang in Central China and Longmen Caves in Eastern China, two of the world’s richest treasure troves of Buddhist art
- Explore the great city of Xi’an, the Eastern Terminus of the Silk Road

📅 19 August — 6 September 2020
￡ From £3,860 per person

Distant Horizons
📞 +44 (0) 151 6253425
✉️ info@distanthorizons.co.uk
THE GLORY OF ISTANBUL: BREAK BY THE BOSPHORUS

Professor Zeynep Yürekly Görkay, Associate Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture, University of Oxford

Zeynep researches late medieval and early modern Islamic architecture, manuscripts, Sufi shrines, hagiography and historiography

- Discover Istanbul, a city sought after for its strategic position on the Silk Road, poised between Europe and Asia
- Learn about its many incarnations, from its foundation by the Greeks to its years as Constantinople and its Ottoman reign
- Explore the old city, much of which is a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Visit the church of Hagia Sophia where Ottoman plasterwork has been stripped away to reveal golden mosaics of biblical figures
- Enjoy the Spice Bazaar, the 16th-century Sulyemaniye Mosque and the magnificent 17th-century Blue Mosque
- Admire the imperial jewels at Topkapi Palace, home for centuries to the wealthy Sultans and their Circassian concubines

15 September — 19 September 2020
From £1,200 per person

Temple World
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WALKING IN ROMANIA: THE ENCHANTED LAND

Dr William O’Reilly, Director of the Centre for History and Economics, University Of Cambridge

William’s research interest lies in the history of European migration, colonialism and imperialism

- Explore on foot the remote landscapes of Transylvania and Moldovia with William and meet local experts in the region’s history, art and culture
- Admire the painted wooden monasteries of Moldovita and Sucevita
- Stay in Sighisoara, the only inhabited fortified citadel remaining in Romania and explore the medieval town of Sibiu
- Enjoy a number of lunches and dinners carefully chosen to reflect the wonderful variety of Romanian cuisine
- Visit Peles Castle, an eclectic mixture of pseudo-Renaissance, Byzantine and Moorish styles
- Complete your journey in Bucharest with its magnificent Byzantine churches and palatial Beaux-Arts town houses

15 September — 26 September 2020
From £2,040 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk
THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN: WALKS & FESTIVALS

Zara Fleming, freelance art historian

Zara is an exhibition curator and a Himalayan cultural historian who has been travelling in the region for 40 years

- Explore this beautiful land by foot through a number of moderate walks
- Immerse yourself in Bhutan’s colourful festivals, from small rural festivals in the Haa Valley, to one of Bhutan’s largest festivals in Thimphu
- Discover the less visited Gangtey Valley and spend time in its remote villages
- Walk through the spectacular scenery of Central Bhutan, home to several of Bhutan’s most important pilgrimage sites
- Visit The Choki Traditional Art School where the pupils study woodcarving, thangka painting (a Tibetan Buddhist painting on cotton), clay sculpture and weaving
- Complete your journey in Kathmandu, with the option to extend your visit to Nepal

📅 18 September —
📅 2 October 2020
💰 From £3,740 per person

Distant Horizons
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I first visited the country in 1976. At the time, Bhutan only had one road running half way across the country, and no airport or towns of any real size. The people wore national dress and Buddhism permeated every aspect of their lives. I have since returned to the country many times and, despite a more fully developed infrastructure (including roads, towns and three airports), Bhutan has lost none of its magic, allure or any of its very unique cultural identity.

Known as Druk Yul or the land of the Thunder Dragon, Bhutan is about the same size as Switzerland, but has a population of 700,000 compared to Switzerland’s seven million. It is the last surviving kingdom in the Himalayas and the only remaining Mahayana Buddhist kingdom in the world. The current monarch is 39 year old King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. He has introduced democracy to the country and continues to uphold his father’s policy of ‘Gross National Happiness’, where the country’s progress is measured by the happiness and wellbeing of its people, not its GDP.

Apart from the pristine beauty of its mountainous landscape, lush forests and secluded valleys, Bhutan is also a cultural paradise. Buddhism arrived in the 7th century and has inspired some of the most outstanding architecture in the form of its dzongs. These are magnificent buildings which combine the functions of a monastery, a fortress and a seat of local government. Meanwhile, its temples and monasteries are places of spiritual serenity, housing thangkas, wall paintings and the renowned clay sculptures of Bhutan. Buddhism remains embedded in the hearts and minds of its people and everywhere you travel, you encounter aspects of their Buddhist faith, from Chortens and prayer flags to cylinders of prayer that are turned by mountain streams, and woodwork that is adorned with Buddhist symbols.

On this journey you will be introduced to the imposing dzongs and sacred temples, and together we will attend a tsechu (monastic festival) in Bumthang, the cultural heart of Bhutan. Of course, no visit is complete without climbing up to Takstang, (The Tiger’s Nest), one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the Himalayan world. It is revered because in the 8th century, the renowned Indian tantric master, Guru Rinpoche, arrived here in one of his eight manifestations on the back of a tiger. It was he who was responsible for the establishment of Buddhism in the country.
CRUISE THE CARIAN COAST:

ANCIENT SITES & RUINS

Professor Richard Hunter, Regius Professor of Greek, University of Cambridge

Richard is the author of some 20 monographs and has twice been Chair of the Faculty of Classics

- Enjoy the archaeology of Caria aboard an exclusively chartered traditional gulet
- Visit Bodrum’s Crusader Castle and its Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- Discover the ancient site of Knidos and the foundations of the ancient Temple of Aphrodite
- Enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit led by on-site archaeologists to Aphrodisias, currently being excavated by New York and Oxford Universities
- Visit the Roman city of Caunos, known for its spectacular 4th-century cliff-face temple tombs
- Walk up an ancient Hellenistic packway at Ağalimanı and visit the romantic ruins of Lydae

19 September — 26 September 2020

From £2,495 per person

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+44 (0) 208 9404114
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Dr Milena Melfi, Lecturer of Classical Archaeology, University of Oxford

Milena specialises in the archaeology of ancient religion and is Curator of Casts of Greek and Roman Sculptures at the Ashmolean Museum

- Follow in the footsteps of conquerors, exploring the ancient towns and cities, archaeological sites and preserved ruins of Northern Greece
- Drive to Nikopolis, once the capital of Epirus Vetus, which has well-preserved ruins and visit the Actian sanctuary, with its altar, theatre and stadium
- Visit the richest ancient burial site in Europe, the tomb of Philip II and its extraordinary museum below the great tumulus of Verghina
- Enjoy a walking tour of Ioannina, one of the loveliest Medieval towns of Greece
- Discover the vertiginous 14th-century Meteora monasteries, each built in isolation on a separate crag
- Spend a morning marveling at the Roman imperial grandeur of Thessaloniki

📅 21 September — 30 September 2020
💰 From £2,895 per person

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CROATIA’S CULTURAL PORT:
THE CITY THAT FLOWS

Nirvana Romell, international lecturer in Balkan history and art

Born and bred on the Dalmation Coast, Nirvana is a freelance lecturer on the history of Western art, including Balkan art

- Discover Rijeka and the history of Croatia’s third largest city
- Explore its spectacular scenery, framed by the Dinaric Alps and the islands of Krk and Cres
- Visit the working port, where Roman baroque and Austro-Hungarian classicist architecture is juxtaposed with Tito’s concrete curios
- Enjoy the buzz of the city as it celebrates its reign as the 2020 European City of Culture with thousands of events
- Visit historic Trsat, ‘the Pearl of Kvarner’, once favoured by the Habsburg court for its winter holidays, and the ancient town of Kastav, with magnificent views over Kvarner bay
- Sample the city’s cuisine, with flavours from the Balkans and neighbouring countries

📅 25 September — 28 September 2020
£ From £760 per person

Distant Horizons
📞 +44 (0) 151 6253425
✉️ info@distanthorizons.co.uk
ETERNAL EGYPT EXPLORED:
BEYOND THE PYRAMIDS

Professor Mark J Smith, Professor of Egyptology, University of Oxford

Mark’s research focuses on ancient Egyptian religion, in particular, conceptions of the afterlife and how these developed over time

- Journey from Cairo to Luxor, visiting off-the-beaten-track sites as well as the tombs and temples in Luxor
- Enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit to the Great Palace in Tel el Amarna where archaeologist Professor Barry Kemp will reveal the team’s work uncovering this pivotal site
- Learn about pyramid construction during visits to contrasting pyramids
- Be amongst the first to visit the new Grand Egyptian Museum at Giza, destined to be the largest archaeological museum in the world (subject to the museum opening in 2020)
- Take a 4x4 safari to Wadi al Hitan and the Valley of the Whales with its invaluable fossil remains of the Archaeoceti
- Explore the Middle Kingdom tombs cut in the cliffs at Beni Hasan, as well as Abydos and Dendera

📅 23 October —
📅 2 November 2020

£ From £2,895 per person

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THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

INDIA’S GLORIOUS HISTORY

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