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.

2020 ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHTS

- WILDLIFE OF PERU (p9)
- SHORES OF LAKE OHRID (p14)
- OBERAMMERGAU 2020 (p19)
- JAPAN’S HIGHLIGHTS (p22)
- A HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE (p24)
- CRUISE THE CARIAN COAST (p30)

TRIP INTEREST KEY

- ARCHAEOLOGY
- CRUISE
- NATURE
- ART
- HISTORY
- SHORT BREAK
- ASTRONOMY
- MUSIC
- WALKING

All prices listed are based on double-occupancy. Please contact the respective tour operator for further information about single supplements.
WINTER IN ST PETERSBURG: DAZZLING ART TREASURES

Professor Alexei Leporc, Curator of Western European Art, Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

Alexei was Professor of 15th-20th Century West European Art and Architecture at St Petersburg European University (1999-2006)

- Visit the Hermitage to view its glittering and gilded rooms and its unrivalled collection of European and Russian art
- Immerse yourself in a ballet or opera in one of Europe’s grandest theatres
- Relax in an excellently located hotel only a few minutes walk from the city’s main sights including the Palace Square, the Hermitage and Saint Isaac’s Cathedral
- Visit the stunning Fabergé Museum
- Enjoy a day excursion to Tsarkoye Selo, the spectacular town of Imperial Palaces outside of St Petersburg, and to the Peter and Paul Fortress and Yussopev Palace
- Extend your visit to include a high speed train ride and a three day visit to Moscow

23 February — 28 February 2020
From £2,060 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

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 Professor Martin Bureau 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
**ALSACE LORRAINE: EXCLUSIVE BARGE TOUR**

- Journey on a canal barge through the Zorn Valley and Vosges Mountains
- Explore Strasbourg's medieval riverside district, ‘Petite France’ and Notre Dame Cathedral
- Discover Alsace wines in picturesque Riquewihr, known for its distinctive medieval houses
- Wonder at the incredible feat of engineering at Auzwiller, where the barge is lifted in a unique ‘barge lift’
- Visit Colmar, renowned for its magnificent buildings, 13th-century collegiate church, and the waterside Little Venice district
- Enjoy congenial company on-board the exclusively chartered MS Madeleine, a supremely comfortable barge with ensuite cabins

**3 April — 9 April 2020**

**From £2,695 per person**

**Temple World**
- +44 (0) 208 9404114
- alumni@templeworld.com

**BIRDS OF NORWAY: COASTAL ENCOUNTERS**

- Travel Norway’s coast on this 12-day classic voyage
- Enjoy exclusive ornithological lectures from Dr Michael Brooke
- 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**

**From £2,390 per person with flights**

**Hurtigruten**
- +44 (0) 208 8462633
- uk.groups@hurtigruten.com
ALONG THE GOLDEN ROAD: EXPLORE CENTRAL ASIA

Professor James Allan (St Edmund Hall, 1963), Emeritus Professor of Eastern Art, University of Oxford

James spent most of his career in the Ashmolean Museum as the curator for the Islamic collection, and as Keeper of Eastern Art. He also lectured for the Faculty of Oriental Studies

- Explore Samarkand which contains some of the finest examples of Islamic art
- Visit the beautifully preserved ‘Divine Bukhara’ with its hundreds of mosques, madrasas and minarets
- Discover the ancient city of Nisa, seat of the Parthian Kings in the 3rd century AD and now a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Cross the mighty Oxus River from Uzbekistan into Turkmenistan’s Karakum Desert with its splendid array of spring flowers
- Enjoy local hospitality and meals cooked in private homes
- Complete your journey in the marvellous city of Khiva where it is still possible to experience the timelessness of a Central Asian caravan town

14 April — 28 April 2020
From £3,280 per person with flights

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

WILDLIFE OF PERU: ANDES TO AMAZON

Professor Nicholas Davies, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge

Nick has been a guest on BBC Radio 4’s A Life Scientific and his research has featured in a BBC TV Natural World film

- Journey through diverse habitats, from arid coasts to tropical cloud forests on the slopes of the Andes
- Search for the elusive Andean cock-of-the-rock, Peru’s national bird, at Machu Picchu
- Marvel at Inca agricultural systems and intricate stonework in the Sacred Valley
- Stay in some of Peru’s most comfortable and characterful hotels
- Discover Cusco, the heart of the mighty Inca empire
- Spend five days deep in the Amazon rainforest, home to the world’s largest macaw clay lick and a record number of animal species, including the rare harpy eagle

19 April — 1 May 2020
From £5,495 per person

Last Frontiers
+44 (0) 1296 653000
alumni@lastfrontiers.com

Credit: Inkaterra
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 Professor Caroline Malone, 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 £2,495 per person

Andante
+44 (0) 1722 671534
tours@andantetravels.com

CHINA UNDISCOVERED: 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 been resident in Beijing since 2004.

- 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 Yangtze 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.

21 April — 6 May 2020
From £3,760 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk
LIVINGSTONE’S FOOTSTEPS: VICTORIA FALLS & SAFARI

Wayne Madeley, professional guide

Born and raised in South Africa, Wayne has over 20 years’ guiding experience with an inside knowledge of the region’s natural history.

- This journey combines the majesty of Victoria Falls, with a safari in Botswana.
- Stay within walking distance of the Falls and experience a sundowner cruise on the Zambezi.
- Visit the Livingstone Museum, home to a collection of David Livingstone memorabilia and Zambian artefacts.
- Spend two nights in the Chobe National Park, where you will experience game drives and a cruise through the park’s waterways.
- Enjoy a scenic flight over the Chobe River and the Delta to stay at Rra Dinare, a traditional safari camp.
- Join expert trackers on excursions in search of Africa’s most exciting wildlife travelling by dug-out canoe and 4x4.

15 May — 22 May 2020
From £3,995 per person

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 940 4114
alumni@templeworld.com

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS: OCCUPATION & DEFENCE

Dr Mark Baldwin (Camb), renowned international expert on the Enigma machine

Mark is a professional speaker on the Enigma Machine, the history of cryptography, and the Special Operations Executive.

- Explore the Channel Islands in the company of renowned historian, Dr Mark ‘Enigma’ Baldwin.
- Discover how these British islands fell to German occupation in World War II.
- Explore the remarkably preserved reminders of the conflict, whilst studying the nature of the occupation.
- Visit the Jersey War Tunnels, Channel Islands Military Museum, and Elizabeth Castle.
- Enjoy an excursion to Alderney with its collection of Atlantic Wall structures and one of Britain’s best preserved Roman forts.
- Visit Guernsey’s Fort Hommet and Jersey’s ‘Moltie’, with its restored labyrinth of underground bunkers.

30 May — 5 June 2020
From £2,595 per person with flights

ACE Cultural Tours
+44 (0) 1223 841055
sales@aceculturaltours.co.uk

NB This tour is subject to change due to the special nature of its itinerary.
WELLINGTON IN PORTUGAL: THE PENINSULAR WAR

- Take in Portugal’s spectacular scenery whilst exploring the history of the Peninsular War and follow in the footsteps of the Duke of Wellington
- Explore the battlefield of Roliça and visit the monument to Lieutenant Colonel Lake
- Enjoy a visit to one of Porto’s fine port lodges
- Visit the formidable ridge on which the Battle of Bussaco was fought, as well as Massena’s command post, the military museum and Craufurd’s rock
- Enter the national park and see the magnificent Bussaco Palace and the Carmelite monastery where Wellington stayed
- Spend a day in Lisbon visiting the tower at Belem, the impressive military museum and the Castello de Sao Jorge

13 June — 16 June 2020
From £740 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

ACE Cultural Tours
+44 (0) 1223 841055
sales@aceculturaltours.co.uk

SHORES OF LAKE OHRID: JEWEL OF MACEDONIA

- 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

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

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

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- Visit the formidable ridge on which the Battle of Bussaco was fought, as well as Massena’s command post, the military museum and Craufurd’s rock
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13 June — 16 June 2020
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13 June — 16 June 2020
From £740 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

Colonel Nick Lipscombe, University of Oxford; and Professor Jeremy Black, University of Exeter
Nick is a recognised authority on the Napoleonic Wars and has written many books. Jeremy is a prolific lecturer and author
Portugal’s alliance with Britain is the longest in modern history. By the time of the Peninsular War (1808–1814) it had been established for more than 420 years. When Napoleonic France invaded Portugal in 1807, it was only a matter of time before Britain intervened in support of her long-term ally. Indeed, the French invaded Portugal three times between 1807 and 1811 and each time it was Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington, that came to Portugal’s rescue.

The first invasion by General Junot ended following the battle of Vimeiro in August 1808. The second by Marshal Soult ended abruptly following Wellington’s bold operation to recapture the city of Porto in broad daylight, forcing the French into a harrowing retreat over the mountains in northern Portugal. The third invasion by Marshal Massena came to an equally dramatic end in front of the Lines of Torres Vedras, necessitating Marshal Ney to conduct a series of rear-guard actions to enable the French to escape.

The Peninsular War ebbed and flowed across the Iberian Peninsula and into southern France, but the campaigns, battles and sieges in Portugal are for me, perhaps the most exciting and spectacular. I was lucky enough to live in Iberia for more than ten years, including three years in the historic and atmospheric city of Lisbon. As a historian of the war, I was privileged to enjoy an insight into events from the Portuguese perspective.

Take, for example, Wellington’s construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras, an enterprise that most British historians see as an extraordinary feat of military engineering. Interestingly it is viewed quite differently by the Portuguese. On our journey we will marvel at the engineering, whilst reflecting on the human cost of the endeavour. On a more harmonious note, we will visit the scene of the many battles and sieges that the Anglo-Portuguese army fought against Napoleon’s formidable Grande Armée. Some locations, such as the massive ridge at Buçaco, are breath taking. Others, including the medieval walled town of Obidos, are simply charming. My favourite has to be Portugal’s second city, Oporto. Astride the mighty River Douro, the scenery is stunning and the story of Wellington’s audacious river crossing in broad daylight to outwit Marshal Nicolas Soult, is quite remarkable.

On our journey we will stay in a palace which was purportedly commandeered by Marshal Ney and where the Duke of Wellington apparently then spent the night and enjoyed dinner prepared by Ney’s chefs; we will visit the centre of the Port wine district in Oporto, and we will spend time in historic Lisbon and visit the beautiful Belem Tower at the mouth of the Tagus estuary. Most importantly we will walk in the footsteps of the Duke of Wellington and some of Napoleon’s greatest generals, in areas where the landscape has changed little and the stories of war, hardship, friendship and love really do come alive in your imagination.
MAGICAL MADAGASCAR: EVOLUTION & ZOOLOGY

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

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 9404114
alumni@templeworld.com

OBERAMMERGAU 2020: THE PASSION PLAY

Professor Bridget Heal, School of History, University of St Andrews

Bridget is Director of the Reformation Studies Institute and lead editor of St Andrews Studies in Reformation History.

- Join Professor Heal, an expert in European religious culture and history, for a seven-night exploration of the beautiful Austrian Alps.
- Enjoy two days in Oberammergau, including first class tickets to the world-renowned Passion Play, only performed every ten years.
- Spend five nights in the beautiful village of St Gilgen by the Wolfgangsee, and explore the Salzkammergut Lake District.
- Visit St. Wolfgang, a charming town renowned for its art-rich 14th-century church, and historic Salzburg, where the group will enjoy a Mozart dinner concert.
- Learn about the historic significance of this region with enlightening lectures on the Protestant and Catholic reformations.

19 August — 26 August 2020
From £2,095 per person

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 9404114
alumni@templeworld.com
CHINA & CENTRAL ASIA: THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD

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 been resident in Beijing since 2004

- 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

ARMENIA & GEORGIA: CHURCHES & MONASTERIES

Dr Alex Koller (Camb), art historian

Alex was a lecturer at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and has been a popular tour leader since 1998

- Explore Armenia and Georgia in the company of art historian, Dr Alex Koller
- Discover how these two Christian kingdoms withstood the might of the Byzantine Empire
- Explore the medieval churches of Mtskheta
- Visit the 11th-century cathedral at Svetitskhoveli, reputed to be the burial site of Christ’s mantle
- Discover the Byzantine monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin, renowned for their school of illuminators and calligraphers
- Visit the treasury of Tbilisi, Yerevan’s Matenadaran Institute, one of the world’s finest museums of ancient manuscripts, and Lake Sevan, one of the continent’s largest mountain lakes

5 September — 18 September 2020
From £3,995 per person with flights

ACE Cultural Tours
+44 (0) 1223 841055
sales@aceculturaltours.co.uk
JAPAN’S HIGHLIGHTS:  
A CULTURAL EXPLORATION

JAPAN’S HIGHLIGHTS:  
A CULTURAL EXPLORATION

● Explore Tokyo and its Imperial Palace before venturing off the beaten track through Shitamachi, where the glorious Edo culture still lives on.
● Visit Nikko’s shrines and temples, the centre of Buddhist and Shinto mountain worship.
● Travel on Japan’s iconic bullet train to Hiroshima and visit the Atomic Dome and Memorial Peace Park.
● In Kyoto, immerse yourself in Japanese culture, history and tradition.
● Continue by boat to the beautiful island of Miyajima and spend a night amidst the elegant surroundings of a traditional ryokan.
● Experience the expressive drama of the Kabuki Theatre and the exquisite elegance of the tea ceremony.

8 September — 20 September 2020
From £4,960 per person

Distant Horizons
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk

CRUISING CROATIA’S COAST:  
FROM DUBROVNIK TO SPLIT

CRUISING CROATIA’S COAST:  
FROM DUBROVNIK TO SPLIT

● Discover Croatia’s coastline aboard the exclusively chartered MS Barbara.
● Delight in the incredible architecture and artistic and cultural legacy inherited by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans and Venetians.
● Stroll through Dubrovnik’s Venetian old town and discover the tiny island of Mljet, a UNESCO Heritage site.
● Explore the unspoilt island of Mljet, considered to be one of the most beautiful Croatian islands with its lovely national park.
● Cruise to Korčula with its wonderfully preserved medieval city and visit the island of Hvar whose small churches hide paintings by Tintoretto and Bellini.
● Discover Diocletian’s magnificent 4th-century palace in Split.

13 September — 20 September 2020
From £2,395 per person

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 9404114
alumni@templeworld.com

Professor Jay Lewis, Associate Professor of Korean History, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford
Jay specialises in Northeast Asia (ca. 1400 – 1850) and his research includes the histories of both Korea and Japan.

Dr Peter Sarris, Reader in Late Roman, Medieval and Byzantine History, University of Cambridge
Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and a member of the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies.
A HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE: NEPAL’S ROCKS & TEMPLES

Mike is Professor of Earth Sciences and David is Professor of Social Anthropology

- Enjoy exploring this beautiful country through a geological and anthropological lens
- Visit the medieval cities of Patan and Bhaktapur, and the preserved Newar hill bazaar town of Bandipur
- Experience the major Hindu-Buddhist pilgrimage site of Muktinath
- Trek for four days through Tibetan villages and spectacular mountain scenery to reach Lo Manthang, capital of the Mustang region, and visit the royal palace and Tibetan temple-monasteries
- Discover how the Himalayas were formed and witness the multi-coloured rock formations
- Explore the spectacular cave temples, Mentsun Khang and Luri Gompa

14 September — 29 September 2020
£3,580 per person with flights

Indus Experiences
+44 (0) 208 9017320
holidays@indusexperiences.co.uk

THE GLORY OF ISTANBUL: BREAK BY THE BOSPHORUS

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
£1,200 per person

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 9404114
alumni@templeworld.com
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 Dr O’Reilly 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 lecturer specialising in the art and culture of Buddhist countries

- 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
+44 (0) 151 6253425
info@distanthorizons.co.uk
These reflections of the British Governor of Bengal when he visited Bhutan in 1921 were mirrored by my own feelings when 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 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

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 Aghalmanı and visit the romantic ruins of Lydae.

19 September — 26 September 2020
From £2,495 per person

Temple World
+44 (0) 208 940 4114
alumni@templeworld.com

GREECE’S ANCIENT SITES: THE NORTHERN KINGDOMS

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.

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