

# ACADEMY TRAVEL

TOUR PROGRAM  
January - December 2017



Take a  
different  
path

[academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)



# NEW TOURS



## Take a different path in 2017

Dear Traveller,

We're delighted to present to you the full range of tours offered by Academy Travel in 2017. As always, our itineraries are designed to appeal to those who want more out of their travels than just a catalogue of names and places; travellers who want comfort without needless luxury and relish the 'added value' of an enthusiastic, expert tour leader with insight, in-depth knowledge and years of experience.

Each day of every itinerary is carefully planned to provide meaningful and enjoyable experiences. Although there is a clear focus on history, fine art, architecture and performing arts on our tours, we also aim to provide diversity and to leave space for independent activity and personal discovery.

So what's new for 2017? In an ever-changing world, we try to keep up with emerging interests and patterns in travel. Sadly, personal security is now a priority for many travellers, with the result that more secure destinations in Scandinavia, the USA, China and Asia are enjoying a surge in popularity. Along with established Academy Travel tours such as *Silk Road China*, *Scandinavia and Iceland*, *Frank Lloyd Wright and New York*, we're pleased to offer new tours to the **Southern USA**, **Bhutan** and **Japan** in 2017.

Lovers of orchestral music and opera will be interested in our line up of performing arts tours. New itineraries include *Montreal to New York*, *Southern England* and *Amsterdam to Dresden*, along with the return of our New York and Germany music tours.

If the ancient and medieval worlds are your passion, then there's plenty to choose from. Our 'flagship' Italy tours include regulars such as the Venice residential and Sicily, together with new itineraries for 2017 such as *Bologna to Milan* and *In the footsteps of Caravaggio*.

It's important to us that you find out as much as possible about our tours before committing to book. As well as our detailed 10-page itineraries for each tour, subscribers to our mailing list are kept up to date with regular emails of interesting articles, and we encourage you to get to know our tour leaders at lectures and other events organised by Academy Travel.

Thank you for your interest, and we hope you find a tour that's right for you in 2017.

Robert Veel

and the Academy Travel team, Sydney and Rome

## TAILORED SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

- > Expert tour leaders
- > Maximum 20 in a group
- > Carefully planned itineraries

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### academytravel.com.au

Our website contains detailed itineraries, maps and tour leader profiles. Our site also features an online booking form.



### More information

Detailed itineraries for all tours are available by calling us or by downloading from our website.

academytravel.com.au



### Sold out tours

#### Iran in depth

April 25 - May 17, 2017

Tour Leader: Ben Churcher

Front cover: Torii gates at the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto, Japan.

Inset: Picasso's *The Woman in Hat and Fur Collar*, 1937, at the National Art Museum of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain.

Brochure production: Damien Flint

Design: Pro Bono Publico

Tour Product Managers: Stuart Barrie, Nick Gordon, Robina Frosinini, Hannah Kleboe, Mark Lalor and Robert Veel.

# WHY CHOOSE ACADEMY TRAVEL?



## GREAT ITINERARIES

All itineraries feature a carefully thought out balance of walking tours, gallery and museum visits, scenic excursions, dining and performances.

**"I really appreciated the seamless organisation of the tour. All travel and ticket arrangements were made and the city hotels were well located, making it possible to walk to places easily. The places we visited were really special."**

*Grand Tour of Italy, 2016.*



## LIKE-MINDED GROUPS

Share your journey with fellow travellers with similar interests to yours. A maximum of 20 participants – not too small and not too large – creates a convivial atmosphere.

**"We are currently thinking about our next trip! Thank you so much – your tours attract an eclectic group of fellow travellers who invariably enhance the travel experience."**

*Venice: City, Republic and Empire, 2015.*



## LONG STAYS

Perhaps the most appealing feature of our program. No whistlestop tours, no 7.00am departures, day after day. In most destinations we enjoy three or four nights to really get to know the place.

**"The mix of history, art and architecture was perfect and the tour moved at a pace that allowed us to have a decent amount of time at each site, while still fitting in all sites."**

*Grand Tour of Spain, 2016.*



## SPECIAL EVENTS

A private viewing of the Sistine Chapel or the Museum of Modern Art in New York? Tickets to sold-out shows at the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra? Many of our tours feature top-flight events not usually offered on group tours.

**"I loved the whole two-week programme - it was diversified to cover all interests. Highlights for me were the opera at the Met (great seats, thanks!) and the private tour of the Neue Gallery on 5th Avenue."**

*New York: music, theatre, art & food, 2016.*

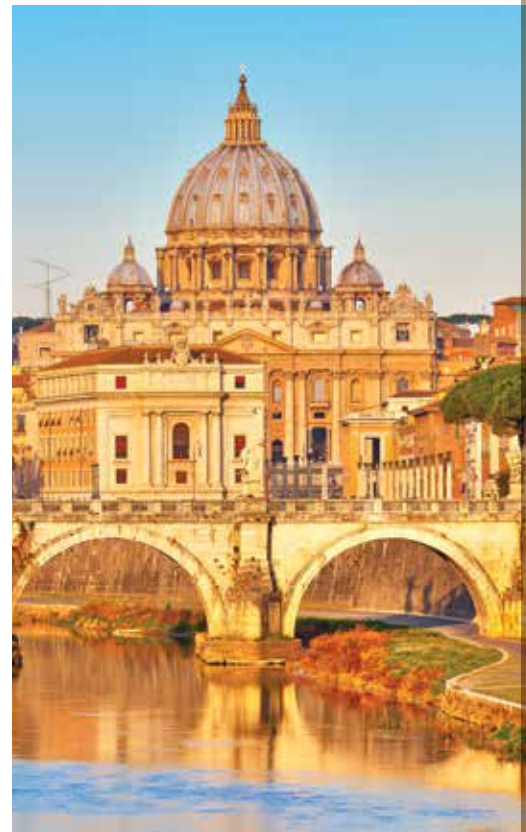


## EXPERT TOUR LEADERS

Our tour leaders combine academic expertise with a genuine passion for the places they visit. Under their expert guidance you see rather than just look, hear rather than just listen and understand rather than just observe. Your travel experience is transformed.

**"Our tour leader was exceptionally sensitive to the individual needs of tour members. His knowledge of musical performance greatly enhanced our enjoyment of this tour and we appreciated all the extra experiences on tour."**

*Music in Scandinavia, 2016.*



## YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Academy Travel was founded in 2004. The directors and many of our tour leaders each have over 20 years' experience in creating, managing and leading group cultural tours. To ensure quality we have our own office in Rome, Italy, and a network of trusted suppliers around the world.

**"The tour met my expectations, which were high as I am aware of the reputation of Academy Travel. The tour leader was excellent."**

*Finland and Iceland, 2016.*

# MASTERPIECES OF FLORENCE AND ROME

January 4-18, 2017

\$7,350 pp, twin share  
\$1,740 single supplement



## Experience

- Art, architecture and culture, far beyond what most tourists see
- Florence beyond the Renaissance, from local festivals to contemporary architecture
- The legacy of ancient Rome on Italy's later history and culture, from the Renaissance to the 20th century
- Little-visited sites, hidden in the centre of the cities
- The excellent regional food and wine traditions of central Italy
- The benefits of low-season travel, with fewer visitors and mild weather

## Overview

Explore two of Italy's premier art cities in depth with historian Dr Kathleen Olive. This 15-day residential-style tour offers time to appreciate fully the history and culture of Florence and Rome. See world-class galleries and museums, private villas, palaces and gardens, visit difficult-to-access sites like the Sistine Chapel for a private viewing, and enjoy the best of city touring, regional cuisine and the ease and comfort of superior, centrally located hotels.

## Your tour leader



**Dr Kathleen Olive** has a PhD in Italian Studies from the University of Sydney and is well-known as a lecturer on the art, history and culture of Europe. Kathleen speaks fluent Italian and

has an outstanding knowledge of Italy's cultural heritage.

## Getting there

There are a number of options available for flying to Bologna and out of Rome. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

## Fitness requirement ★



## Highlights

> Exclusive visits to difficult-to-access sites

### In Florence

- > Private visit to explore the secret passageways of the Palazzo Vecchio
- > Villa Gamberaia in Settignano to admire the impressive garden
- > Before opening-hours visit to the Accademia, with Michelangelo's *David*

### In Rome

- > View the collection of Palazzo Colonna
- > Apartment of artist Giorgio de Chirico, with around 50 of the master's superb paintings
- > Private viewing of the Sistine Chapel – see this masterpiece free from crowds



## Itinerary

**Days 1–7:** Survey Florence's history at the Medici, Davanzati and Martelli family palaces. Examine masterpieces in the Uffizi and spend a morning with Michelangelo's *David*. Admire the garden at Villa Gamberaia, and sample a storied Tuscan wine at a stunning contemporary vineyard.

**Days 8–15:** Travel to Rome via medieval Siena. Examine Rome's ancient history at major sites such as the Colosseum, and Renaissance icons at the Palazzo Doria-Pamphilj and Villa d'Este. Contemplate Caravaggio and Bernini at the Borghese Gallery and take an exclusive tour of the Sistine Chapel.



# PUGLIA TO POMPEII

## CLASSICAL SOUTHERN ITALY

\$7,970 pp, twin share  
\$1,750 single supplement

March 16 – April 1, 2017

### Explore

- The history and classical archaeology of southern Italy on display at Paestum, Pompeii and Herculaneum
- Thousands of years of history ranging from the Greek colonists and the Romans in the classical age to the Arabs, Normans, Germans, Aragonese, Spanish, Bourbon and French
- The rich diversity of landscapes, from rugged mountain ranges to stunning Mediterranean scenery
- The excellent regional food and wine traditions of southern Italy



### Overview

This 17-day tour will appeal to those looking to take 'the road less travelled' through the regions of Puglia and Basilicata, and on to the famous archaeological sites of the Bay of Naples. We explore sites ranging from the cave dwellings of Matera to ancient Greek colonies, fine Norman castles and cathedrals and the striking scenery of the Salentine peninsula. Along the way we enjoy the fine food and hospitality that is traditional in southern Italy, a region still delightfully free of mass tourism. An optional four-day extension to Capri and Amalfi is also available.

### Highlights

- > The 'Southern Baroque' architecture of Lecce
- > Unique 'sassi' cave dwellings in Matera, one of Italy's most remote cities
- > The medieval castles and cathedrals of Puglia, built by Norman and German rulers
- > The battlefield of Cannae, where Hannibal defeated the Romans in 216 BC
- > Hidden artistic and architectural gems of Naples seen by relatively few tourists
- > Paestum, Pompeii and Herculaneum – Europe's premier archaeological sites
- > Capodimonte, one of Italy's finest art galleries
- > Italy's most important archaeological museum in Naples

### Your tour leaders



**Dr Jeni Ryde** is a former Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University.



**Dr Estelle Lazer** is an archaeologist with an international reputation for her years of work onsite at Pompeii. Estelle will be with the group in Pompeii and Naples.

### Getting there

Emirates flies to Rome daily from most Australian cities. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

**Day 1:** Arrive in Lecce.

**Days 2–3:** Enjoy three nights in Lecce, visiting Otranto and Brindisi.

**Days 4–5:** Tour Taranto and the 'sassi' of Matera.

**Days 6–9:** Spend four nights in Trani, seeing Roman and medieval sites and sections of the Appian Way.

**Days 10–12:** Travel via Melfi to Vietri sul Mare and spend a full day at the Greek temples of Paestum.

**Days 13–16:** Enjoy five nights in Naples, exploring Pompeii, Herculaneum, Capodimonte and the National Archaeological Museum.

**Day 17:** Transfer to Rome airport for flights home, or continue on the optional four-day extension to Capri and Amalfi.



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

# BOLOGNA TO MILAN

## ART CITIES OF NORTHERN ITALY

April 26 – May 12, 2017

\$8,750 pp, twin share  
\$1,950 single supplement



### Admire

- Art and architecture, from Byzantine Ravenna to medieval Bologna and elegant Milan
- The Renaissance courts of northern Italy: Urbino, Mantua and Parma
- Italian genius and design, from Piero della Francesca and Leonardo to Lamborghini and the makers of modern Italy
- Modernism: from the colourful dynamism of the Futurists to the meditative beauty of Giorgio Morandi
- The landscape and culinary delights of Italy's leading gastronomic region

### Overview

Emilia Romagna and Milan are home to extraordinary art and architecture, including World Heritage-listed mosaics in Ravenna and Leonardo's *Last Supper*. Many of these masterpieces are also in beautiful locations offering panoramic views over the Italian countryside, such as Urbino and the foothills of Parma, a little off the regular routes taken by most travellers. This new 17-day tour takes you through the art and history of this delightful region, which is also home to some of Italy's finest cuisine.

### Your tour leader



**Dr Kathleen Olive** has a PhD in Italian Studies from the University of Sydney and is well-known as a lecturer on the art, history and culture of Europe. Kathleen speaks fluent Italian and

has an outstanding knowledge of Italy's cultural heritage.

### Getting there

There are a number of options available for flying to Bologna and out of Milan. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

### Fitness requirement ★★



### Highlights

- > Private visit of Leonardo's *Last Supper*
- > Milan's hidden gems, including Bramante's San Satiro, the Villa Necchi Campiglio and the Casa Boschi di Stefano
- > Bologna, a delightful medieval city little touched by mass tourism
- > The World Heritage-listed mosaics of Ravenna
- > Renaissance masterpieces in out of the way places: Piero della Francesca in Urbino and Parmigianino in Fontanellato
- > Parma: private collections in modern villas and medieval hamlets in the Apennine foothills



Connect this tour with *Sicily and the Aeolian Islands* on page 9

### Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** Explore medieval Bologna, including Santa Maria della Vita, visit Giorgio Morandi's house museum and the Museum of Modern Art, day trip to Ravenna.

**Days 5–7:** Travel to Urbino via Dozza, tour Renaissance Urbino. Day trip to San Marino.

**Days 8–11:** Visit the Lamborghini Museum, explore the art and history of Parma and Mantua, visit private collections around Parma.

**Days 12–17:** Visit medieval hamlets, explore Milan – including a private visit to Leonardo's *Last Supper* – tour the Brera and sample the art and culture of modern Milan.





# SICILY & THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

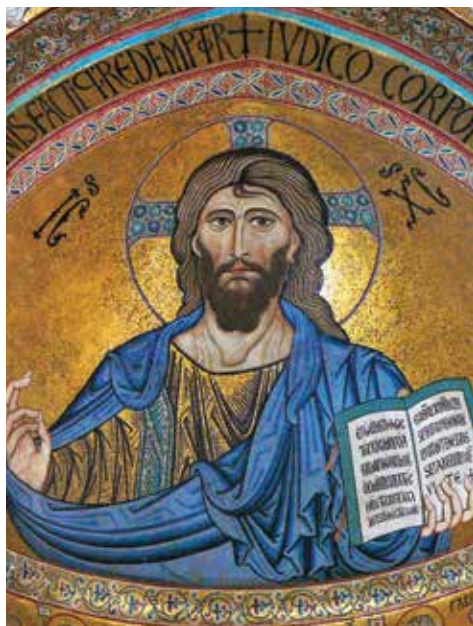
## JEWELS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

May 19 – June 4, 2017  
October 13-29, 2017

\$8,420 pp, twin share  
\$1,500 single supplement

### Discover

- The thriving colonies of the ancient Greek world – wealthy, cultured centres of literature and art
- Ancient Phoenician, Carthaginian and Roman societies, and their struggle to control the Mediterranean
- The lasting legacy of medieval Arab and Norman rule, expressed in the mosaics and architecture of Palermo
- The distinctive period of 'Sicilian Baroque' architecture
- Dramatic countryside, including active volcanoes
- The natural beauty and traditional lifestyle of the Aeolian Islands



### Overview

This 17-day tour around Sicily has been designed to give the first-time visitor an overview of the island's diverse and fascinating history, art and traditions. Explore prehistoric, Greek and Roman sites across the island. Enjoy the dramatic scenery of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, with their volcanoes and steep coastlines. Visit medieval Norman cathedrals with fine Byzantine mosaics. Sample some of Sicily's excellent wines and Arab-influenced cuisine. An optional five-day extension to Malta is also available.

### Highlights

- > A private boat trip of the Aeolian Islands from Lipari to Stromboli and Panarea
- > Outstanding archaeological museums in Siracusa, Agrigento and Lipari
- > The Sicilian Baroque architecture of Noto and Ragusa
- > The 4th-century mosaics in the Roman villa at Piazza Armerina
- > The UNESCO World Heritage mosaics of Monreale and the Palatine Chapel in Palermo, undertaken by Byzantine masters for their Norman rulers
- > An excursion to the summit of Mt Etna

### Your tour leaders



**Dr Jeni Ryde** (May tour) is a former Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University. Her PhD focused on the Renaissance, heritage tourism and museology.



**Dr Estelle Lazer** (October tour) is an archaeologist of international acclaim. She has led numerous trips to southern Italy for Academy Travel.

### Getting there

Emirates offers regular flights to Rome. Contact us for competitive quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

Connect this tour with *Islands of the Mediterranean* on page 16



### Itinerary

**Optional pre-tour five-day extension to Malta.**

**Days 1–4:** Arrive Siracusa and tour the archaeological sites and baroque architecture.

**Days 5–6:** Travel to the Greek temples at Agrigento via the Roman villa at Piazza Armerina.

**Days 7–10:** Sightseeing in the capital of Palermo, including the cathedral at Monreale. Visit the tiny island of Mozia.

**Days 11–13:** Continue on to Cefalù and take a private boat trip from Lipari to Stromboli and Panarea.

**Days 14–17:** In Taormina, visit the fine Greco-Roman theatre and enjoy superb views of Mount Etna.



# THE VENICE BIENNALE

## MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART IN VENICE & BEYOND

June 7-15, 2017

\$5,730 pp, twin share  
\$1,600 single supplement



### Experience

- The remarkable world of contemporary art by leading artists from around the globe
- The less well-known sites of Venice and its surrounds: quiet islands, hidden gems and Roman ruins
- Stunning new modern art spaces, showcasing Italian and international art
- The backstreets of Venice, home to parallel exhibitions and performances
- The renowned architecture of Venice, including the Arsenale, only open to the public during the Biennale

### Overview

During the Biennale, many of the fine Renaissance palaces of Venice, usually closed to the public, open as centres of modern and contemporary art. We explore the 2017 Biennale over nine days from our quiet hotel in the heart of the city, interspersing these visits with trips to Venice's modern and contemporary galleries and some of the less well-known historic sites and galleries in the region, such as the Roman city of Aquileia and MART, a stunning new art gallery at Rovereto.

### Your tour leader



**Dr Nick Gordon** has a University Medal and a PhD in History from the University of Sydney, lectures on European art, and has led many popular tours to Europe for

Academy Travel. He is also a practising painter and brings this passion to the visual arts in general.

### Getting there

Emirates offers the best connections to Rome and Venice. Contact us for competitive quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Highlights

- > Well-paced visits to the Biennale's exhibitions, located in historic buildings
- > Modern art at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and Ca' Pesaro in Venice
- > Day trips to two of northern Italy's best new modern art galleries, in the alpine town of Rovereto
- > World Heritage-listed Roman ruins and mosaics at Aquileia, one of the greatest cities of the Roman Empire
- > The tranquil lagoon islands of San Lazzaro degli Armeni and Torcello, where we enjoy a meal at Locanda Cipriani
- > The best of today's international art in one place, including Tracey Moffatt's solo exhibition in the new Australia Pavilion



Connect this tour with *Art along the Rhine* on page 21



### Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Settle in to our hotel in central Venice, explore the national pavilions in the Biennale's Giardini and Arsenale sites.

**Days 4–6:** Visit Rovereto, an alpine town with excellent new galleries, and the Roman ruins at Aquileia. See hidden gems of Renaissance art in Venice and the Biennale's parallel exhibitions.

**Days 7–9:** Continue with the Biennale and visit Venice's modern and contemporary galleries. The tour ends with an evening meal on the peaceful island of Torcello.



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CARAVAGGIO

## MILAN TO NAPLES

\$8,760 pp, twin share  
\$1,950 single supplement

September 13-29, 2017

### Discover

- A broad survey of Caravaggio's Italian masterpieces
- The colourful life and criminal exploits of Caravaggio, Italian art's most celebrated rogue
- The virtuosity of other Italian artists, including the Mannerists in Parma and Florence, and Bernini and Raphael in Rome
- Art and architecture, from little-visited Gothic Naples to Renaissance Florence and elegant Milan
- Stunning landscapes and culinary delights of Italy's leading gastronomic regions



### Overview

Explore the work of exceptional artist Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio. His chiaroscuro technique, accentuating the dramatic contrasts between light and shade, control of the oil medium, and infusion of emotional intensity and the theatre of everyday life ensure that his works continue to captivate art lovers. This tour surveys the majority of Caravaggio's works in Italy, from his early days as a painter of *natura morta* (still life), to his mature works in Rome and Naples' chapels.

### Highlights

- > Private visit of Leonardo's *Last Supper* and Palazzo Colonna, a grand and privately owned Roman family residence
- > Tour Lake Iseo, the rising star of Italy's Lake District
- > Hidden gem museums, including the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana in Milan and the Galleria Borghese in Rome
- > Regional masterpieces in difficult-to-access places, from Correggio and Parmigianino in Parma to Pontormo's *Visitation* outside Florence
- > The virtuosity of Caravaggio's work in situ, in Naples and Rome

### Your tour leader



**Dr Kathleen Olive** has more than 15 years' experience leading tours to Italy. She has a PhD in Italian Studies, regularly presents popular courses at Sydney University's Centre for

Continuing Education and at the WEA, Sydney, and speaks fluent Italian.

### Getting there

Emirates have flights into Milan and out of Rome at times that coincide with the tour. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** Arrive Milan, see Leonardo's *Last Supper* and tour the Brera. Visit the town of Caravaggio, the artist's birthplace, and tour Lake Iseo.

**Days 5–8:** Travel to Florence via elegant Parma, admire masterpieces in the Uffizi and spend a day in the Tuscan countryside.

**Days 9–12:** In Rome, where Caravaggio established his reputation and notoriety, explore the contexts in which he worked and his indelible influence on Western art.

**Days 13–17:** The tour ends in vibrant Naples, where the artist was received with acclaim. See his final works in churches, chapels and galleries.



Connect this tour with **Rome to Turin** on page 13

# MALTA & SICILY ABOARD SEA CLOUD II

October 1-17, 2017

\$POA pp, twin share  
\$POA single supplement



## Explore

- The 5,000 year old prehistoric civilizations on Malta
- The exploits of the Knights of St John on Malta
- The flowering of ancient Greek civilization on Sicily, in cities such as Siracusa and Agrigento
- The centuries of sophisticated Arab civilization on Sicily from AD 800-1,000
- The multi-ethnic kingdom of the Norman rulers of Sicily
- The active volcanoes and stunning landscapes of Etna and the Aeolian Islands

## Overview

We are pleased to offer for the third time this 17-day tour, featuring a seven-day cruise on the luxury 50-cabin sailing yacht *Sea Cloud II*. Explore prehistoric, Greek and Roman sites in Malta and Sicily. Enjoy the dramatic scenery of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands, with their volcanoes and steep coastlines. Visit medieval Norman cathedrals with fine Byzantine mosaics. Enjoy Sicily's excellent wines and Arab-influenced cuisine.

## The Sea Cloud II

The *Sea Cloud II* is a luxurious 3-masted Barque, traditionally crafted in teak, but with modern features. White cloth sails and understated elegance create a unique environment that is at once nostalgic and luxurious. Although most of the journey takes place under motor, on some days the crew climb the rigging to set the square sails and jibs and you experience the thrill of ocean yachting.

## Getting there

Emirates offer flights direct to Malta and home from Rome. It is also possible to travel via many major European cities to Malta. Please contact us for options and prices.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

## Highlights

- > The Neolithic temples of Tarxien and Ggantija on Malta
- > The city-fortress of Valletta, constructed by the knights in the 16th century
- > Caravaggio's paintings in Malta and Sicily
- > Afternoons under sail on *Sea Cloud II*, with outstanding service, fine food and wine
- > Sailing around the volcanoes of Stromboli and Vulcano, viewing active eruptions
- > Outstanding archaeological museums in Siracusa and Agrigento
- > The UNESCO World Heritage mosaics of Monreale and the Palatine Chapel in Palermo
- > Opera or concert at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo (if available)



Connect this tour with **Venice: City, Republic & Empire** on page 14



## Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrive Malta and settle in.  
**Days 2–5:** Travelling around Malta, including Valletta, Mdina and the island of Gozo.  
**Days 5–11:** Six-night cruise on *Sea Cloud II*, disembarking in Siracusa. Ports-of-call include Trapani, Palermo, Lipari and Taormina, plus a full day at sea.  
**Days 11–12:** Explore the archaeological sites and baroque architecture of Siracusa.  
**Days 13–14:** Travel to the Greek temples at Agrigento via the Roman villa at Piazza Armerina.  
**Days 15–16:** Travel to Palermo for further sightseeing in the capital.  
**Day 17:** Depart Palermo.



# ROME TO TURIN

## ITALY'S WESTERN SHORES

\$8,750 pp, twin share  
\$1,950 single supplement

October 2-18, 2017

### Discover

- The ancient civilisation of the Etruscans, rulers of central Italy in the centuries before Roman dominance
- The island of Elba, controlled by the Medici princes and the short-lived home of the exiled Napoleon
- The medieval maritime republics of Pisa and Genoa, with their distinctly oriental art and architecture derived from trade and cultural exchange
- The colourful coastal scenery of the Riviera di Levante and the Cinque Terre
- The Savoy rulers of Turin, patrons of art, architecture and music



Connect this tour with *In the Footsteps of Caravaggio* on page 11



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

### Overview

Explore the history and natural beauty of Italy's western shores on this 17-day tour, beginning in Lazio, near Rome, and moving up along the Tyrrhenian coast, through to Turin. Visits to leading archaeological sites, galleries and museums are combined with boat and land excursions through the fine scenery. Food and wine play a central role in Italian culture, and we have included several memorable meals, accompanied by regional wines.

### Highlights

- > Visit some of the most important and best-preserved Etruscan sites in Italy
- > A day trip by private boat to the Cinque Terre and time in the Ligurian fishing village of Camogli
- > Stay on the island of Elba, enjoying its fine coastline and Napoleonic sites
- > Visit the elegant medieval Tuscan town of Lucca
- > Explore one of Carrara's internationally renowned marble quarries
- > Pisa beyond the Leaning Tower, including superb medieval art galleries and Renaissance sites
- > The remarkable private art collection at the Pinacoteca Agnelli, located within the Fiat automotive complex

### Your tour leader



**Dr Kathleen Olive** has more than 15 years' experience leading tours to Italy. She has a PhD in Italian Studies, regularly presents popular courses at Sydney University's Centre for

Continuing Education and at the WEA, Sydney, and speaks fluent Italian.

### Getting there

Emirates fly into Rome and out of Milan daily. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Arrive in Lazio and visit Ostia Antica and the Etruscan sites of Tarquinia and Cerveteri. Tour the towns around Lake Bracciano.

**Days 4–5:** On Elba, tour the island, dotted with villages, ports and Napoleonic villas.

**Days 6–9:** Examine Pisa's glorious maritime past. Day trips to Lucca and Carrara.

**Days 10–12:** The seaside town of Camogli is the ideal location to explore the Italian Riviera. Day trips to Genoa and the Cinque Terre.

**Days 13–17:** Travel to Turin to sample the best of European art at the astounding Pinacoteca Agnelli.



# VENICE CITY, REPUBLIC & EMPIRE

October 23 – November 6, 2017

\$7,120 pp, twin share  
\$1,760 single supplement



## Explore

- The history of Venice and its key role in the Mediterranean during the Crusades and the Renaissance
- The unique art and architecture of Venice, visiting centuries-old sites and world-class museums
- The all-important and all-encompassing relationship between Venice and the sea
- Venice's outstanding musical tradition in both opera and baroque music
- The excellent food and wine of the Veneto region
- The Renaissance architecture of Andrea Palladio

## Overview

Unpack your bags for 15 days and discover the city that ruled the Mediterranean for 1,000 years. Enjoy accommodation in a carefully selected four-star hotel in central Venice, just a few minutes from St Mark's Square. Travel on day excursions to Ravenna, Padua and the villas of the Veneto. Dine in some of Venice's best restaurants and explore the remote islands of the lagoon. The late autumn travel period means fewer crowds and cruise ships.

## Your tour leader



**Dr Nick Gordon** has a University Medal and a PhD in History from the University of Sydney, lectures on European art, and has led many popular tours to Europe for

Academy Travel. He is also a practising painter and brings this passion to the visual arts in general.

## Getting there

Emirates has daily flights from most Australian cities to Venice, stopping at Dubai. Please contact us for quotes.

## Fitness requirement ★



## Highlights

- > Welcome lunch at the legendary Locanda Cipriani on the island of Torcello
- > Day trip to view the 5th and 6th-century Byzantine mosaics of Ravenna
- > An opera at Venice's glittering La Fenice theatre
- > The art of Carpaccio, Bellini, Titian, Veronese, Tiepolo and others in palaces, confraternities and churches
- > Day trip to Padua to view Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel and the ancient university
- > The private art collections of the Ca' d'Oro and the Punta della Dogana
- > Day trip to Vicenza and the beautiful Renaissance country villas of Andrea Palladio



Connect this tour with **Malta & Sicily** aboard *Sea Cloud II* on page 12

## Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrive Venice and settle in.  
**Days 2–3:** Orientate yourself with a trip around the lagoon and visits to key state history museums.  
**Day 4:** Day trip to Ravenna.  
**Days 5–7:** Explore medieval and early Renaissance Venice – the world of the merchants and Crusades.  
**Day 8:** Day trip to Padua.  
**Days 9–12:** Investigate Renaissance art and architecture in Venice.  
**Day 13:** Day trip to Vicenza and Palladio's villas.  
**Day 14–15:** Explore baroque and modern art.



# GRAND TOUR OF SPAIN

## GRANADA, CORDOBA, SEVILLA, MADRID & BARCELONA

\$8,660 pp, twin share  
\$2,250 single supplement

April 20 – May 7, 2017

### Experience

- The Moorish kingdoms of Andalucía in Spain's south
- The history of Spain in the 16th century, the most powerful empire on earth
- The art of Renaissance and Baroque Spain, including Velázquez, El Greco and Goya
- The excellent regional food and wine traditions of Spain
- The distinctive culture and *modernista* art and architecture of Catalonia in Spain's north, from Gaudí to Picasso



### Overview

Take a comprehensive tour of Spain, designed to give the first-time visitor an overview of the country's diverse and always fascinating history, art and traditions. Begin with the medieval Moorish worlds of Granada, Cordoba and Sevilla, then explore royal Madrid and the exuberant city of Barcelona. Visit major art galleries, palaces and religious sites. Enjoy exceptional dining in carefully selected restaurants, designed to showcase Spain's outstanding culinary traditions.

### Highlights

- > The 13th-century Alhambra in Granada, a complex of palaces and water gardens
- > The renowned Mesquita (mosque) of Cordoba, a blend of Visigothic and Islamic art
- > Visiting the mighty cathedral and wandering the lanes of Sevilla, the city of Carmen and Don Juan
- > The art collections of the Prado and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums in Madrid
- > Philip II's monastery-palace of El Escorial, the epitome of Spanish imperial power
- > The extraordinary Alcázar of Segovia
- > Antoni Gaudí's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, together with other works

### Your tour leader



**Dr Jeni Ryde** is a former Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University. Her PhD focused on the Renaissance, heritage tourism and museology. She has travelled

extensively through Spain.

### Getting there

We recommend Emirates flights into Madrid or Barcelona, with connecting flights to Granada with Vueling or Iberia. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

Connect this tour with *Catalonia in depth* on page 17

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

- Days 1–3:** Visit Moorish sites in Granada and explore Spain's Roman heritage.
- Days 4–6:** Travel to Cordoba via small towns in Andalucía. Explore the Mosque and other remarkable sites.
- Days 7–9:** Three nights in Sevilla exploring museums, architecture and simply relaxing.
- Days 10–13:** High-speed train to Madrid, where we visit galleries and palaces, take a trip to El Escorial and have a full free day.
- Days 14–17:** Travel to Barcelona, centre of Catalan art and culture.



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

# ISLANDS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

## CORSICA, SARDINIA AND MALTA

April 29 – May 15, 2017

\$8,450 pp, twin share  
\$1,980 single supplement



### Discover

- Three Mediterranean islands whose diverse landscapes, cultures and history belie their proximity
- Fascinating evidence of past settlements dating back millennia
- World Heritage-listed sites and museums and spectacular coastal and mountain scenery
- Vibrant contemporary cultures which have remained defiantly independent, despite centuries of invasion and occupation
- A culinary heritage which blends history and tradition with the best of local produce

### Overview

An exploration of three Mediterranean islands which, despite centuries of invasion, plunder and settlement, retain a proud independent spirit. In their beautiful setting we discover the diverse histories of each island, from their ancient sites through to their rich contemporary cultures. Extended stays on each island combine site and museum visits with time for independent sightseeing.

### Your tour leader



**Dr Estelle Lazer** is an archaeologist with an international reputation for her years of work onsite at Pompeii. She has expert knowledge of classical art, archaeology and mythology.

When not leading tours, Estelle researches and teaches at the University of Sydney and other institutions. She has led numerous tours for Academy Travel since 2005.

### Getting there

For this tour we recommend Emirates who fly into Nice and direct from Malta. Contact us for competitive quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★★

### Highlights

- > The megalithic site at Filitosa and the natural beauty of Corsica's Scandola Nature Reserve
- > Bonifacio, perched on the precipitous limestone cliffs of southern Corsica
- > The distinctive *nuraghe*, the conical stone towers for which Sardinia is famous
- > The Castello district in Cagliari, Sardinia's capital, dating back to the 13th century
- > Valletta, with its massive bastion walls built by the Knights of St John, and two late works by Caravaggio
- > Malta's exceptional archaic sites, including the Neolithic temple complex at Tarxien, the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and Ggantija Temples on Gozo



Connect this tour with *Sicily and the Aeolian Islands* on page 9



### Itinerary

**Days 1–5:** On Corsica travel from Ajaccio, the birthplace of Napoleon, to the harbour-side citadel of Bonifacio. Visit the megalithic site at Filitosa and take a boat trip to the Scandola Nature Reserve.

**Days 6–11:** Ferry across to Sardinia, see the Costa Smeralda on the way to Alghero. Travel to Cagliari via Nora, Tharros and Anghelu Ruju. Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Su Nuraxi at Barumini.

**Days 12–17:** On Malta discover Valletta visiting the Neolithic sites, the medieval walled town of Mdina and the island of Gozo.





# CATALONIA IN DEPTH

\$6,820 pp, twin share  
\$1,850 single supplement

May 7-19, 2017

## Get to know

- Greek and Roman culture in Catalonia and its legacy
- The best-preserved Romanesque art and architecture in Europe
- Catalonia's long relationship with France and French Catalonia
- The history of the Jews and their expulsion from Spain
- The distinctive modern art and architecture of Barcelona
- The celebrated cuisine of Catalonia: the region of Spain with the most Michelin-starred restaurants



Connect this tour with *Grand Tour of Spain* on page 15



## Overview

Catalonia is a region with a distinct language, culture and identity. Its history is equally unique, stretching back beyond the Roman period, to its rise in the Middle Ages as Europe's largest Empire, Aragon, and its modern quest for independence. This new 13-day tour begins in Barcelona, with its exuberant architecture and street life, before exploring the charming coastline of the Costa Brava, the rugged interior and the majestic Pyrenees.

## Highlights

- > Modernist architecture in the backstreets of Barcelona, beyond the busy sites
- > Empúries and Tarragona, Greek and Roman sites along the Catalan coast
- > Montserrat and Sant Pere de Rodes, the spectacular mountain-top monasteries
- > The bizarre world of Dalí: his theatre-museum at Figueres and his house in the fishing village of Portlligat
- > A day in the clear mountain air of the Spanish Pyrenees
- > Dinner in one of Catalonia's Michelin-starred restaurants and a cava (sparkling wine) degustation
- > Three nights in Cadaqués, one of the Costa Brava's most beautiful coastal villages

## Your tour leader



**Michael Neuman** was for a number of years Professor of Sustainable Urbanism in the Faculty of the Built Environment, UNSW. He has published a book and many articles about Spain, and lived for five years in Barcelona and Madrid. Michael speaks Catalan and fluent Spanish.

## Getting there

Emirates offers regular flights to Barcelona from most Australian cities. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

Fitness requirement ★★

## Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Architecture and Modernism in Barcelona. Day trip to the monastery of Montserrat.

**Days 4–5:** Travel to Tarragona, via Sitges, for its Roman remains. Day trip to the monastery at Poblet.

**Days 6–8:** Explore the scenery and air of the Pyrenees, and the Jewish heritage of Besalú and Girona.

**Days 9–13:** Greco-Roman Empúries and Dalí at Figueres and Portlligat. The hilltop monastery of Sant Pere de Rodes, lunch in the French Catalan town of Colliure, and Cadaqués, the jewel of the Costa Brava. Return to Barcelona via the gardens at Blanes.



# WARSAW TO BERLIN FROM THE PRUSSIAN WORLD TO MODERNITY

May 8-25, 2017

\$9,795 pp, twin share  
\$1,790 single supplement



## Explore

- The world of the Saxon kings, warriors, lawmakers and art patrons
- The beautifully preserved palaces of Poland and Germany, including baroque Nieborow and neoclassical Sanssouci and Lazienski palaces
- The art and architecture of this region, from medieval cityscapes to stunning contemporary architecture and some of Europe's best collections of Old Masters
- The turbulent and sometimes tragic history of central-northern Europe and its resurgence after the Berlin Wall

## Overview

This 18-day tour explores five important cities of central-northern Europe, which have enjoyed new vitality since the fall of the Berlin Wall: Warsaw, Krakow, Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin. The attractions of major centres are complemented by country estates, centres of religious pilgrimage. In Germany, historic buildings such as Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam, the Reichstag and Dresden's Frauenkirche vie for attention with stunning contemporary architecture. The region also boasts exceptional galleries and museums, and we enjoy its wonderful musical traditions with performances in Dresden and Berlin.

## Your tour leader



**Thomas Abbott** was born in the US but has lived in Germany since 1988. He holds a degree in art history and has led many cultural tours throughout Germany, specialising in the architecture of Berlin, the art of 18th-century Germany and the Bauhaus.

## Getting there

Emirates have flights into Warsaw with return flights from Berlin via connections in Germany. Contact us for competitive quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

## Highlights

- > Four nights in Warsaw, Poland's bustling capital, with excursions to nearby estates, such as Nieborow and Lazienski palaces
- > Three nights in medieval Krakow, Poland's most beautiful city
- > Three nights in Dresden, brimming with fine art, architecture and music
- > Leipzig, a city whose impressive musical heritage is complemented by its re-emergence as a vibrant university and art city
- > Five nights in Berlin, staying in centrally-located accommodation near Museum Island, visiting major galleries, historical sites, and palaces



## Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** Arrive Warsaw, tour the Royal Route to the Royal Castle. Visit the Nieborow and Lazienski palaces, and Chopin's birthplace.

**Days 5–7:** Travel to Krakow, explore the medieval city and its Jewish Quarter, day trip to the extraordinary Weiliczka salt mine.

**Days 8–12:** Travel to Dresden, stopping to visit Wroclaw. Tour the 18th-century New Town, visit the Albertinum, Zwinger and Pillnitz palaces. Explore Leipzig, including the Bach church, house and museum.

**Days 13–18:** Explore historic Berlin, and enjoy its world-class galleries and museums. Day trip to Potsdam and Sanssouci Palace.



# SCANDINAVIA AND ICELAND

## NATURE AND DESIGN

May 31 – June 16, 2017

August 19 – September 4, 2017

\$11,370 pp, twin share  
\$2,460 single supplement

### Discover

- Finland's remarkable golden age of art, architecture and music from the 1880s to the 1930s, with a deep reverence for nature expressed through Romanticism and the Art Nouveau
- Scandinavian modern architecture and design – Alvar Aalto, Eliel Saarinen, Jørn Utzon, Marimekko and others
- Denmark's royal traditions, from Hamlet's castle at Helsingør (Elsinore) to Frederick and Mary
- The fjords of Norway, and Bergen
- Iceland's unique blend of Celtic, Viking and Nordic culture, shaped by its remarkable volcanic landscape



### Overview

Academy Travel's popular 17-day tour has been carefully planned to showcase the best that Finland, Denmark, Norway and Iceland have to offer the cultural traveller. These northern lands have strong and distinctive cultural traditions, from the Vikings of the Middle Ages to the emergence of Art Nouveau and cutting-edge mid-century modern design in the 1950s and 60s, a tradition that continues to this day. Equally impressive is the natural beauty of the region, with its forests, lakes, pristine coastlines, fjords and wild volcanic landscapes. An optional five-day extension to Greenland is also available.

### Highlights

- > Four days in Helsinki exploring its striking 19th to 21st-century architecture
- > Historical and modern art in Helsinki, Copenhagen, Bergen and Reykjavik
- > Jørn Utzon in Copenhagen
- > Helsingør castle, the setting of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*
- > Two days to relax in Bergen, Norway's cultural capital
- > The unique atmosphere of Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital city
- > Two days in a beautiful boutique hotel on the Snaefells Peninsula, where Jules Verne set his *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*

### Your tour leaders



**Dr Matthew Laing** (June tour) has been leading art and architecture-focused tours for Academy Travel since 2013.



**Dr Nick Gordon** (August tour) lectures on European art, and has led many popular tours to Europe for Academy Travel.

### Getting there

Finnair has reliable and keenly priced code-share services between Australia and Scandinavia. Please contact us for quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★★



### Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** See Helsinki, with walking tours of art, architecture and design, some fine dining and a trip to the lakes to visit artists' and musicians' villas.

**Days 4–8:** Fly to Copenhagen and explore royal palaces, stunning modern architecture and some fine art galleries.

**Days 8–10:** Fly to Bergen, on Norway's west coast, for a relaxing visit to the fjords.

**Days 11–16:** Fly to Reykjavik in Iceland and explore geysers, volcanoes and the rugged, isolated coastline. Two days on the Snaefells Peninsula.

**Days 17–20:** Optional Greenland extension.



# YORKSHIRE TO THE LAKE DISTRICT

## GARDENS OF A PASSIONATE MIND

June 14-30, 2017

\$9,450 pp, twin share  
\$2,150 single supplement



### Enjoy

- 50 Shades of Green: England in early summer from the Pennines to the North Yorkshire moors, from the wild coast of Northumberland to the majestic beauty of the Lake District
- Garden history: from 18th-century landscapes to modern day gardens
- From past greats – Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown and Gertrude Jekyll to modern greats – Arabella Lennox-Boyd and Piet Oudolf
- Gardens of Lakeland poets, authors and artists – William Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter and John Ruskin

### Overview

‘Gardens of a Passionate Mind’ is about the passionate men and women who, over the last three hundred years, have created or enjoyed some of the best-known and best-loved gardens in the north of England and North Wales. This new 16-day tour travels through some of the most dramatically beautiful countryside in England as summer gardens burst into full bloom. Explore one of the smallest gardens in England (Gertrude Jekyll’s on Lindisfarne) and some of the largest (Castle Howard and Chatsworth).

### Your tour leader



**Michael Turner** is a garden historian. The former Senior Curator of the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney, he now lives in Sussex. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in

London and a member of the English Historic Gardens Society.

### Getting there

Singapore and Emirates have flights into and out of Manchester which coincide with the tour. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Highlights

- > The magnificent landscape of the English Lake District, which has inspired writers, artists and gardeners for over 200 years
- > Exclusive, behind-the-scenes tours of two of the most spectacular houses and gardens in England: Castle Howard and Chatsworth House
- > The Holy Island of Lindisfarne with its tiny but celebrated Gertrude Jekyll garden
- > Modern greats: Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd at Gresgarth Hall and Piet Oudolf at Scampston Walled Garden
- > The Alnwick Garden at Alnwick Castle, the largest, most controversial and most expensive garden created in England since WWII



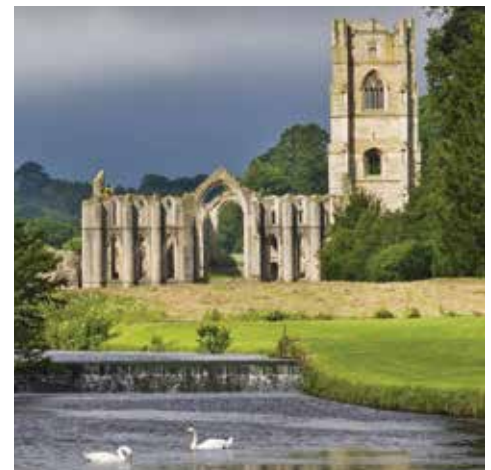
### Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** Bodnant, Little Moreton Hall and Biddulph Grange, with a special trip to Lyme Park and the Art Garden at the Whitworth Art Gallery. Nights in Chester.

**Days 5–7:** Chatsworth House, Castle Howard, Fountains Abbey, Studley Royal Water Garden, and Scampston Walled Garden. Nights in York.

**Days 8–10:** Alnwick Castle and across the sea to Gertrude Jekyll’s tiny garden on Lindisfarne. Nights in Doxford Hall.

**Days 11–16:** Hadrian’s Wall and on to the dramatic Lake District. Rydal Mount, Sharrow Bay, Acorn Bank, Dalemain House, Brantwood, Hill Top, Gresgarth and Levens Hall. Nights in Windermere.



# ART ALONG THE RHINE WITH ART BASEL

\$9,180 pp, twin share  
\$2,590 single supplement

June 16 – July 2, 2017

## Discover

- The wonders of Art Basel, one of Europe's leading contemporary art fairs
- Spectacular medieval architecture, from Charlemagne's Palatine Chapel to the cathedrals of Strasbourg and Cologne
- The beautiful scenery of the Rhine region, including Alsace, the Black Forest, and the UNESCO-protected Middle Rhine
- Old Masters and modern masterpieces in some of Europe's leading galleries and private collections
- The diverse cuisines and wines of Alsace, the Black Forest and the Rhineland-Palatinate



## Overview

Art Basel is one of the world's premier art events. About 300 leading commercial galleries gather to showcase their best contemporary artists and their recently acquired 20th-century masterpieces. This new 17-day tour takes you to Art Basel and then follows the Rhine downstream, enjoying the regional cuisines, medieval heritage, diverse landscapes, and centuries of art that have accumulated in this region.

## Highlights

- > Three days exploring Art Basel
- > Travel by boat down the most beautiful section of the Rhine, including Lorelai Rock
- > Private collections in Europe's Art Valley, including the galleries of Beyeler, Wurth, and Frieder Burda
- > Excellent regional cuisine, including lunch at a 3 Michelin-starred restaurant
- > Architectural gems from the Middle Ages to the present, including Aachen's Palatine Chapel, Speyer Cathedral, Lorsch Abbey, and galleries by Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano and Herzog and de Meuron

## Your tour leader



**Dr Nick Gordon** has a University Medal and a PhD in History from the University of Sydney, lectures on European art, and has led many popular tours to Europe for

Academy Travel. He is also a practising painter and brings this passion to the visual arts in general.

## Getting there

Emirates offer daily flights into Zurich and out of Düsseldorf. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

Connect this tour with *Venice Biennale* on page 10



## Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Explore Art Basel, conveniently located opposite our hotel, and the wonderful art of Basel, including the recently renovated Kunstmuseum and the Fondation Beyeler.

**Days 4–9:** Tour Alsace, the Black Forest and private collections in Europe's Art Valley from Strasbourg.

**Days 10–12:** Explore the art, history and wine of the Palatinate from our base in Heidelberg; visit Frankfurt's outstanding galleries.

**Days 13–16:** Boat down the Middle Rhine, tour Cologne, Aachen and Düsseldorf.

**Day 17:** Departure.



# ST PETERSBURG AND MOSCOW

September 29 – October 15, 2017

\$10,190 pp, twin share  
\$1,995 single supplement



## Get to know

- A rich and tumultuous history stretching back hundreds of years
- Vast repositories of art and culture in Russia's incredible array of museums and galleries
- Sumptuous palaces built for the tsars and designed by architects to rival the best in Western Europe
- The resilience of a people who have survived catastrophic wars and revolution
- Ancient wooden towns of the Golden Ring around Moscow

## Overview

Delve into Russian culture, history and art on this comprehensive 17-day tour. Spend seven nights in St Petersburg exploring the city's famous landmarks, art museums, churches and palaces, with a day trip to Catherine the Great's palaces. Immerse yourself in Moscow's Red Square, visit the Kremlin's cathedrals and Armoury Collection and the Tretyakov Gallery. Spend three nights in Suzdal, with visits to the Golden Ring towns of Sergiev Posad and Vladimir.

## Your tour leader



**Dr Matthew Dal Santo** is a historian with Honours degrees from both Sydney and Cambridge universities. He was a Fellow in History at Trinity College, where he received his PhD, and speaks numerous languages, including some Russian.

## Getting there

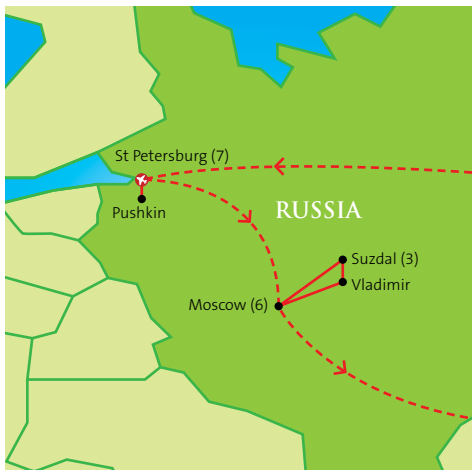
Emirates offer flights from Australian cities via Dubai to St Petersburg and home from Moscow. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

## Highlights

- > Seven nights in St Petersburg visiting the Hermitage and the Russian Museum
- > Full-day excursion to the magnificent palaces of Catherine the Great
- > Red Square and the treasures of the State Armoury in Moscow
- > Masterpieces of Russian art at the Tretyakov Gallery
- > Sergiev Posad, home of the Russian Orthodox Church
- > Three nights in Suzdal exploring the wooden architecture and churches of the Golden Ring



## Fitness requirement ★★



## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Arrive in St Petersburg.

**Days 2–8:** Over six days explore the city's extraordinary landmarks, galleries, churches, palaces and museums, including a day trip to Catherine's palaces at Pushkin.

**Day 9:** Travel in luxury by fast train to Moscow.

**Days 10–14:** Over four days discover Red Square, the Kremlin, the Tretyakov Gallery and Moscow's museums.

**Days 15–17:** Stay three nights in the charming Golden Ring town of Suzdal, with visits to Sergiev Posad and Vladimir.



# BERLIN & BEYOND

## BERLIN, LEIPZIG & DRESDEN

\$7,250 pp, twin share  
\$1,750 single supplement

October 9-22, 2017

### Experience

- A dynamic city that dominated 20th-century history and is one of the great cultural capitals of Europe
- Museums of art and antiquities of the highest importance
- An internationally-acclaimed centre of contemporary art, design and architecture
- A famous musical heritage, with outstanding ensembles such as the Berlin Philharmonic and three major opera houses
- The fascinating history of nearby Potsdam, Dresden and Leipzig



### Overview

This two-week residential-style tour allows you to take an in-depth look at Berlin, and also the nearby cities of Potsdam, Dresden and Leipzig. Daily walking tours, background talks and guided visits trace the history and development of Berlin from its earliest days through the glory days of the Prussian and German Empires, to the darker days of the early 20th century and its renaissance since 1989.

### Highlights

- > Visits to Berlin's major galleries, including the Pergamon Museum, the Egyptian Museum and the Gemäldegalerie
- > Walks through the historic neighbourhoods of both east and west Berlin
- > A full day in Potsdam, visiting Frederick the Great's Sanssouci and the many other architectural gems of this beautiful town
- > A trip through the scenic countryside near Dresden, including Pillnitz Palace, and the charming old town of Renaissance Leipzig
- > Farewell meal atop the Reichstag with views across Berlin

### Your tour leader



**Thomas Abbott** was born in the US but has lived in Germany since 1988. He holds a degree in art history and has led many cultural tours throughout Germany, specialising in the architecture of Berlin, the art of 18th-century Germany and the Bauhaus.

### Getting there

Ethihad Airways fly in and out of Berlin daily. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

Fitness requirement ★★



### Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Explore medieval Berlin in the Nikolaiviertel, cruise the Spree River to the elegantly restored Charlottenburg Palace and tour the world-class Gemäldegalerie.

**Day 4:** Excursion to Potsdam to examine the extensive complex of palaces, gardens and pavilions.

**Days 5–6:** Two days on Museum Island, including the antiquities of the Pergamon Museum.

**Days 7–10:** Spend two days each in Leipzig and Dresden.

**Days 11–14:** Modern Berlin at the Bauhaus Archive, New National Gallery, and the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Contemporary Art.



# NORTHERN SPAIN & PORTUGAL

## BILBAO TO LISBON

October 6-25, 2017

\$8,630 pp, twin share  
\$1,950 single supplement



### Discover

- An architectural tradition that extends from Visigothic, Gothic and Romanesque cathedrals to striking contemporary structures
- Medieval pilgrimage along the Camino to Santiago de Compostela
- The celebrated regional food of Spain's north, the fine wines of the Rioja and Rias Baixas regions and the port wine of Porto
- A varied landscape of turquoise coastlines, lush river valleys and rugged interiors
- The legacy of explorers in the many layers of history and art in Lisbon

### Overview

This journey takes us through the fascinating regions of Northern Spain via Porto to Lisbon, centre of the Portuguese Age of Discovery. We marvel at the architecture of Bilbao and sample world-class wine in Rioja, then explore Spain's medieval history in Castilla and León and the Asturias regions, including the charming city of Oviedo. In lush Galicia we witness the devotion of medieval pilgrims on the Camino Francés and the spectacular cathedral at Santiago de Compostela. We then travel to Lisbon via Porto and the Duoro Valley, where we explore a city of outstanding art collections, spectacular monuments and vibrant neighbourhoods.

### Your tour leader



**Dr Jeni Ryde** is a former Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University. Her PhD focused on the Renaissance, heritage tourism and museology. She has travelled extensively through Portugal and Spain.

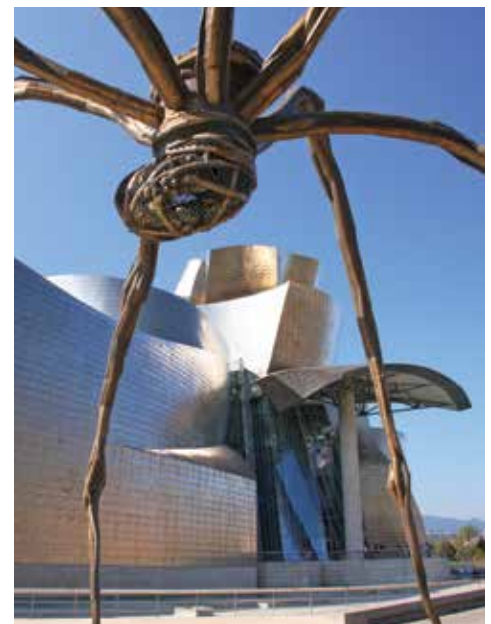
### Getting there

Emirates flies to Barcelona, and home from Lisbon. A connecting flight is necessary from Barcelona to Bilbao with Vueling Airlines. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★★

### Highlights

- > Frank Gehry's extraordinary design at the Guggenheim in Bilbao
- > Wine-tasting at the avant-garde Bodega Ysios winery in the Rioja
- > The exquisite Romanesque and Gothic churches, cathedrals and monasteries in and around Burgos, León and Oviedo
- > A mountain walk and lunch in the clear air of the majestic Picos de Europa in Asturias
- > Fine tapas in San Sebastián, and Spain's most renowned seafood restaurant in Galicia
- > An exceptional range of museums and galleries in Lisbon
- > A full day in Sintra exploring exquisite palaces decorated with tiles



Connect this tour with **Barcelona and Madrid** on page 25



### Itinerary

- Days 1-3:** In Bilbao, visit the Guggenheim, the fine arts museum and San Sebastián.
- Days 4-6:** Explore the Rioja wine region, including Burgos cathedral, Romanesque monasteries and Visigothic churches.
- Days 7-8:** Follow the Pilgrims' Way to León and enjoy a stay at an iconic *parador*.
- Days 9-10:** Visit the Romanesque churches in Oviedo, take a market tour and taste some of the local cider.
- Days 11-13:** Visit Santiago de Compostela, and enjoy seafood and wine in Rías Baixas.
- Days 14-19:** Travel to Portugal and enjoy a night in Porto followed by five nights in vibrant Lisbon.





# BARCELONA & MADRID

\$4,975 pp, twin share  
\$1,250 single supplement

October 25 – November 2, 2017

## Explore

- The winding streets of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter (Barri Gòtic)
- The distinctive *modernista* architecture of the Catalan capital, from cathedrals and palaces to parks and hospitals
- The art of Romanesque, Renaissance and Baroque Spain, including Velázquez, El Greco and Goya
- Imperial Spain and its legacy in the architecture and wealth of its two major cities
- Cities of three religions: a historical co-existence of Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures



## Overview

Spain's two largest cities are as diverse as they are rich in culture and history. In Barcelona we find a city that looks to the North of Europe for its cultural influences. Here Spain's own version of Art Nouveau, Modernism, took root and innovative artists like Picasso and Miró flourished. A short train ride away Imperial Madrid offers austere royal residences and some of the finest traditional art collections in Europe. Neighbouring Toledo and Segovia showcase Roman remains, a fairytale Alcázar palace and a superb Gothic cathedral.

## Highlights

- > The Romanesque frescoes at the National Museum of Catalan Art in Barcelona (MNAC)
- > The modernist architecture of Gaudí's Sagrada Família and Domenèch i Montaner's Hospital de San Pau and the Palau de la Música
- > Montserrat monastery towering above Barcelona and a sparkling wine cava tasting and degustation lunch
- > The art collections of the Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza and the Reina Sofía museums
- > Philip II's monastery-palace of El Escorial, the epitome of Spanish imperial power
- > A day trip to cliff-top Toledo and an insight into its Visigothic, Arabic and Jewish roots

## Your tour leader



**Dr Jeni Ryde** is a former Senior Lecturer at Western Sydney University. Her PhD focused on the Renaissance, heritage tourism and museology. She has travelled extensively through Portugal and Spain.

## Getting there

Emirates have flights into Barcelona and out of Madrid. Please contact us for competitive quotes. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★

Connect this tour with **Northern Spain and Portugal** on page 24

## Itinerary

**Days 1–5:** Barcelona – city tour, MNAC museum (National Museum of Catalan Art) and the Miró Foundation. Modernist sites of Sagrada Família, the Hospital de San Pau and the Palau de la Música. Day trip to the monastery of Montserrat with sparkling wine cava tasting and farewell lunch.

**Days 5–9:** Madrid – guided tours of the Prado and Reina Sofía galleries and an extended visit to the Thyssen-Bornemisza, a day trip to the El Escorial monastery with a traditional suckling pig lunch in Segovia and a full day in Toledo.



# NEW YORK MUSIC, THEATRE & ART

January 10-18, 2017

\$6,950 pp, twin share  
\$1,600 single supplement



## Experience

- The peak of the performing arts season in New York, with world-famous actors, singers and dancers in the best works of the season
- A carefully balanced program mixing opera and classical music with jazz and a contemporary stage drama
- The charm of smaller galleries and museums, free from tourist crowds
- An introduction to New York from an expert in US history and culture
- Time to relax and undertake individual sightseeing on a long-stay tour

## Overview

Yes, it's cold outside, but the shows are hot! Spend nine days in the Big Apple, attending the very best in opera, orchestral music, jazz and drama, while visiting some of the world's top art and history museums, and learning about the city's dynamic history. Highlights include performances at the Metropolitan Opera and the Lincoln Center, new-season's stage plays and a jazz evening. Accommodation is in a four-star hotel on the neighbourly Upper West Side, perfect for theatre and concert goers, and within walking distance of the Lincoln Center. It is well connected for travel around the city and has a great range of small restaurants, cafes and unique shops.

## Your tour leader



**Dr Matthew Laing** is a research fellow at Monash University. He holds a PhD in US political studies from ANU. He has served as a congressional intern in Washington, lectured

widely and travelled the length and breadth of the USA.

## Getting there

Qantas and United have daily services to New York. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Welcome drinks and canapés in the hotel.

**Day 2:** Midtown walking tour.

**Day 3:** The Cloisters and the Met.

**Day 4:** Chelsea's Whitney Museum, walk the High Line.

**Day 5:** Private tour of the MoMA. New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center.

**Day 6:** Free morning and evening group dinner.

**Day 7:** The Frick Collection and Neue Galerie. Evening jazz in Chelsea.

**Day 8:** The Tenement Museum. *Roméo et Juliette* at the Met, with a farewell dinner.

**Day 9:** Rockefeller Center observatory. Option to continue on L.A. extension.

## Performance highlights

- > Gounod's sparkling opera *Roméo et Juliette*, with an all-star cast, at the Metropolitan Opera
- > Broadway adaptation of the 1942 film classic, *Holiday Inn: The new Irving Berlin Musical*
- > Nathan Lane and John Goodman starring in Scott Rudin's production of *The Front Page*
- > Derek Hough dancing up a storm in Harvey Weinstein's production of *Singin' in the rain*
- > The New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center
- > Janet McTier & Liev Schreiber in the sultry classic *Les Liason Dangereuses*
- > An evening of jazz at Wynton Marsalis' Jazz at Lincoln Center

## Touring highlights

- > Leading small museums including The Cloisters, The Neue Museum, The Tenement Museum and The Frick Collection
- > The recently re-opened Whitney Museum of American Art in Chelsea
- > A private viewing of the Museum of Modern Art

**Fitness requirement** ★

## Los Angeles extension

January 18-21, 2017

\$2,785 pp, twin share, including one-way airfare

\$475 single supplement

Break the journey home with three nights discovering the unexpected cultural side L.A. has to offer. Explore cutting-edge art galleries and museums, discover exuberant modern architecture and experience a live performance by the LA Philharmonic.

Tour led by **Dr Matthew Laing**



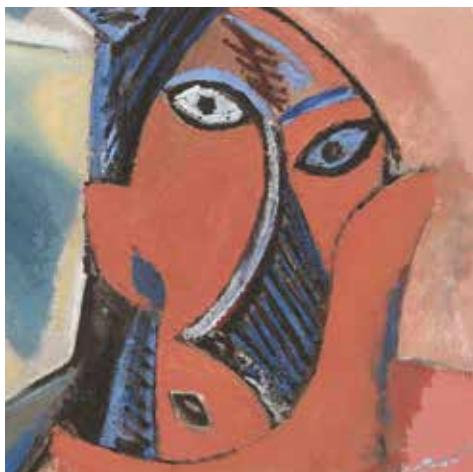
# NEW YORK MUSIC, THEATRE, ART & FOOD

\$9,950 pp, twin share  
\$2,930 single supplement

March 29 – April 10, 2017

## Enjoy

- Eight outstanding performances: opera, orchestral concerts, plays and a Broadway musical
- New York's marvellous architectural heritage, with a focus on art deco, modern and contemporary
- A breathtaking array of visual arts, ranging from the European Old Masters to 20th-century classics and the cutting-edge contemporary scene
- A survey of New York's food scene, from historic venues to Michelin three-star establishments
- New York's excellent small museums



## Overview

This tour sees us spending two weeks in the Big Apple, attending the very best in opera, symphony concerts and drama while visiting some of the world's top art and history museums and dining in a selection of the city's best restaurants. Accommodation is in spacious premier-plus rooms at the Warwick Hotel on 54th Street in midtown Manhattan. The location is perfect for theatre and concert goers, within walking distance of major performance venues, art galleries and some of the city's architectural icons.

## Highlights

### Performances

- > Verdi's *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera
- > Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, starring Russian diva Anna Netrebko
- > The New York Philharmonic Orchestra at the Lincoln Center
- > The San Francisco Symphony orchestra at Carnegie Hall
- > The Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev, at Carnegie Hall
- > A new season Broadway musical, selected from the 2016-17 season
- > Two stage plays at Broadway theatres, selected from the 2016-17 season

### Fine Dining

- > Lunches at the Morgan Library and Guggenheim Museum dining rooms
- > Lunch at the Michelin two-star restaurant The Modern, inside MoMA
- > Degustation dinner at the Michelin three-star restaurant Eleven Madison Park

### Art, Architecture and History

- > A private out-of-hours viewing of the Museum of Modern Art with a museum lecturer
- > Charming small galleries, including the Frick Collection and the Neue Museum
- > Private guided tour of the refurbished Whitney Museum of American Art in Chelsea
- > Architectural walking tours of Midtown Art Deco, Brooklyn Heights and the High Line

### Your tour leader



**Robert Veel** has a thorough knowledge of New York, developed over 20 years of visiting, teaching and tour-leading. He holds a master's degree from the University of Sydney, where

he taught for many years before co-founding Academy Travel.

### Getting there

Qantas and United Airlines fly regularly to the East Coast. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

Fitness requirement ★

# FROM THE ALPS TO THE RHINE

## MUSIC IN BAVARIA, ALSACE AND SWITZERLAND

April 15 – May 1, 2017

\$9,750 pp, twin share  
\$1,800 single supplement



### Enjoy

- Nine performances at some of Europe's premiere venues
- A particular focus on opera, with eight performances spanning the 18th to the 20th centuries
- The stunning landscape and heritage of the Rhine River
- Fine food and wine in Alsace and Franconia
- Picturesque and historic towns of northern Bavaria and visits to castles and the scenic Bavarian Alps
- Background talks on all performances and post-performance discussion

### Overview

Continuing our tradition of performances of opera and orchestral music of the highest calibre, Academy Travel is proud to present this new 17-day program. The itinerary is built around nine performances at opera houses and concert halls in Germany, France and Switzerland. Familiar repertoire by Verdi, Wagner and Puccini is complemented by the opportunity to see fine works which are rarely performed in Australia, including operas by Massenet, Debussy and Stravinsky. As well as the operas, there is a concert by the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra featuring piano virtuoso Lang Lang.

### Performances

The tour itinerary is designed around nine performances, with eight operas and a concert by the Tonhalle Orchestra.

#### In Munich

- > Donizetti's rarely performed *Roberto Devereux* at the Bavarian State Opera
- > Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at the Bavarian State Opera

#### In Frankfurt

- > Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* at the Oper Frankfurt
- > Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the Oper Frankfurt
- > Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Oper Frankfurt

#### In Strasbourg

- > Cavalli's *La Calisto* at the Opéra National du Rhin

#### In Zurich

- > A concert by the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra with the renowned pianist Lang Lang
- > Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Zurich Opera House
- > Massenet's *Werther* at the Zurich Opera House, starring Juan Diego Florez

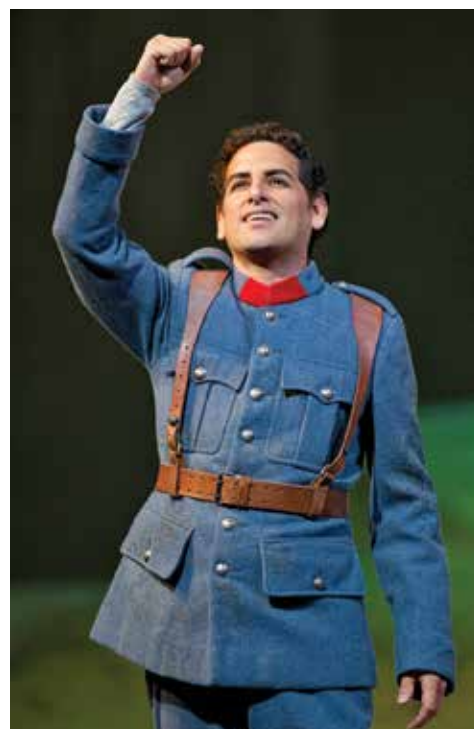
### Your tour leader



**Robert Gay** is one of Australia's leading music tour leaders and music educators. He has designed and led more than 80 performance-based tours. For 30 years he has presented music history courses at the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sydney.

### Getting there

Emirates fly into Munich and out of Zurich daily. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.



### Itinerary

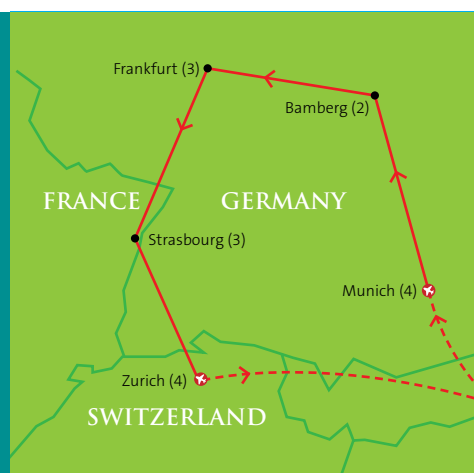
**Days 1–4:** The tour begins in Munich with performances at the opera, a day in the Alps and leading galleries.

**Days 5–6:** Travel along the 'Romantic Road' to the town of Bamberg. Visit Wagner's town of Bayreuth.

**Days 7–9:** Attend the opera in Frankfurt.

**Days 10–12:** Travel the 'wine road' through Alsace and enjoy performances and fine food in Strasbourg.

**Days 13–17:** The tour ends in Zurich with fine performances, including the Tonhalle Orchestra with renowned pianist Lang Lang.



Fitness requirement ★★

# MONTREAL TO NEW YORK

## FINE MUSIC & THE NEW ENGLAND SPRING

\$9,980 pp, twin share  
\$2,970 single supplement

April 28 – May 14, 2017

### Experience

- The art, history and music of French Canada in Montreal and Quebec City
- The countryside of Maine in the springtime, visiting artists' homes, Quaker villages and other characteristic sites
- The scenic coastlines of Maine and Connecticut
- The cultural heritage of Boston, including a fine musical scene
- The diversity of the musical scene in New York, from Broadway to the Met
- Leading private and public art museums



### Overview

This new itinerary brings together great musical performances with the rich history of French Canada, the scenery of New England and the Maine coastline, and the vibrant energy of New York. We have included nine performances ranging from a famous baroque ensemble to fine symphony orchestras, the Metropolitan Opera and a bit of Broadway. Expert musical commentary ensures you get the most from each performance. Sightseeing includes the historical precincts of Montreal, Quebec City and Boston with days in the idyllic countryside of New England and the coastal scenery of the Atlantic.

### Your tour leader



**Lindy Montgomery** is a graduate of both the University of Sydney and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, where she taught musicology for 13 years. Lindy possesses a fine soprano voice and has featured as a soloist with Pinchgut Opera and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra.

### Getting there

Air Canada and Qantas code share flights are available from Australian cities. Contact us for quotes and bookings.

### Performances

Nine performances are included, with full details available by October 2016.

#### Montreal

- > The Montreal Symphony with pianist Louis Lortie playing Vaughan Williams and Tchaikovsky
- > Quebec's own Cirque du Soleil

#### Quebec City

- > Les Violons du Roy, one of the world's leading baroque music ensembles, with counter-tenor Phillippe Jaroussky

#### Boston

- > Boston Symphony Orchestra with conductor Andris Nelsons and celebrated pianist Mitsuko Uchida, Mozart and Bruckner
- > Sunday concert at the delightful Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

#### New York

- > Verdi's dramatic opera *Rigoletto*, at the Metropolitan Opera
- > The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Berlioz, Beethoven and Elgar
- > The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall – a tribute to Carol King and James Taylor
- > A quality Broadway musical selected from the 2016-17 season

Connect this tour with **Frank Lloyd Wright: Chicago to New York** on page 39



### Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** Arrive Montreal, explore the city and attend two performances.

**Days 4–6:** Follow the St Lawrence River to Quebec, the most beautiful of French Canadian cities. Enjoy sightseeing and baroque music in a great setting.

**Days 7–8:** Travel to Plymouth in the heart of New Hampshire, visiting historic villages and artists' residences.

**Days 9–11:** Travel via the Maine coastline to Boston. Explore Boston's history, its fine art museums and enjoy two concerts.

**Days 12–17:** Travel to New York via New Haven, Connecticut. Explore art and architecture and attend four performances.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

# SOUTHERN ENGLAND MUSIC & JANE AUSTEN

May 23 – June 7, 2017

\$8,950 pp, twin share  
\$1,180 single supplement



## Get to know

- The life of Jane Austen, visiting key sites in Bath, Lyme Regis, Chawton and Winchester
- Fine musical performances in historic venues
- The beautiful English countryside in all its summer glory, from Somerset to Sussex
- The Bloomsbury Group in the countryside at Sissinghurst Castle, Charleston and Monk's House
- The background to the music and sites on tour

## Overview

Our new tour combines great musical performances with a celebration of the life of one of England's most acclaimed authors, Jane Austen. The tour coincides with the 200th anniversary of Austen's death, so we can expect special exhibitions and events at the many Austen-related sites we visit in Bath, Lyme Regis, Chawton and Winchester. We have planned for five diverse music performances, ranging from chamber and vocal recitals in historic venues at the Bath International Music Festival, to opera at the prestigious Glyndebourne festival.

## Your tour leaders



**Robert Gay** is one of Australia's leading music tour leaders and music educators. He has designed and led more than 80 performance-based tours.



**Penny Gay** is Professor Emerita in English Literature at the University of Sydney. Her books include *Jane Austen and the Theatre* and *As She Likes It: Shakespeare's Unruly Women*.

## Getting there

Emirates, Qantas, Singapore Air and Etihad Airways all fly to and from London daily. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

## Performance highlights

- > Three performances at the Bath International Music Festival
- > A performance by Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- > An opera at Glyndebourne

## Touring highlights

- > Explore Bath in the time of Jane Austen. See where she lived and the settings for *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*
- > Visit Jane Austen's House Museum in Chawton
- > The life of the Bloomsbury Group outside London, at Sissinghurst, Charleston and Monk's House

**Fitness requirement** ★★



## Itinerary

**Days 1–5:** Explore Jane Austen's life in Bath and attend the Bath International Music Festival.

**Days 6–7:** Travel to Poole for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Day trip to *Persuasion's* Lyme Regis.

**Days 8–11:** Tour sites in Winchester, including Jane's final resting place in the cathedral.

**Days 12–16:** Visit Jane Austen's House Museum in Chawton, en route to Lewes. Visit Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant's Charleston, and Monk's House, the country retreat of Leonard and Virginia Woolf. The tour ends with an opera at Glyndebourne.



# AMSTERDAM TO DRESDEN

## MUSIC IN NORTHERN EUROPE

\$9,775 pp, twin share  
\$1,850 single supplement

October 12-29, 2017

### Enjoy

- Orchestral music and opera of the highest quality in some of Europe's finest venues
- The rich choral tradition of North Germany and Flanders
- In-depth background to the music you will hear in live performance
- Visits to leading art museums such as the recently refurbished Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Mauritshuis in The Hague and the famous 'Green Vault' in Dresden



### Overview

This new tour visits both familiar and less familiar centres of music-making in northern Europe. From outstanding compositions of the Renaissance and Baroque periods to modern masterpieces, our itinerary is built around a carefully selected set of eight or nine performances. The music program is complemented by city walking tours, visits to composer museums and talks by our expert tour leader.

### Your tour leader



**Robert Gay** is one of Australia's leading music tour leaders and music educators. He has designed and led more than 80 performance-based tours. For 30 years he has presented music history courses at the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sydney.

### Getting there

Etiihad Airways flies into Amsterdam and home via Berlin. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Performances

Eight or nine performances will be included – details available from October 2016.

We hope to include the following:

- > A concert by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam
- > A performance by the Dutch National Opera – winner of the 2016 Opera Awards
- > A concert by the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra or Collegium Vocale, Ghent
- > A concert by the Gürzenich Orchestra in the Cologne Philharmonie and an opera at Cologne Opera
- > A cantata at St Thomas's Church and a concert by the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig
- > An opera and a concert by the Staatskapelle Dresden at the Semperoper



### Itinerary

- Day 1–4:** Attend performances, visit galleries and take a day trip to The Hague and Delft.
- Days 5–6:** Travel to Ghent via Antwerp, and spend an afternoon in picturesque Bruges.
- Day 7:** Travel to Cologne via the medieval city of Aachen, where Charlemagne held court.
- Days 8–9:** Explore Cologne, and visit Beethoven's birth house museum in Bonn.
- Days 10–11:** Drive to Weimar via Marburg's perfectly preserved medieval upper town. Explore Goethe's Weimar and visit Bach's Eisenach.
- Days 12–14:** Travel to Leipzig for more performances.
- Days 15–17:** Travel to nearby Dresden for more art and music.



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

# SRI LANKA

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY ISLAND

January 23 – February 8, 2017

\$7,475 pp, twin share  
\$1,990 single supplement

### Explore

- World Heritage-listed ancient sites dating to the 3rd century that formed the beginnings of Sri Lankan civilisation
- Colonial Portuguese, Dutch and British architecture in Galle and Colombo
- A cornucopia of Buddhist art and culture
- Sigiriya's beautiful frescoes and incredible mountain-top fortress ruins
- Tantalising spice gardens and lush tea plantations
- A nature-lover's paradise in Yala National Park

### Overview

Sri Lanka is truly the 'Blessed Island', full of unspoilt natural beauty, ancient sites, gardens, tea plantations and stunning beaches. The abundance of fine sculpture and painting is testament to the richness of this enduring nation. Encounter ancient Buddhist art and civilisation, wildlife on par with an African safari, and the old-world charm of Sri Lanka's colonial heritage. This tour is for those with an interest in history, religions and the culture of one of Asia's least known and long overlooked destinations.

### Your tour leader



**Judy Tenzing** has over 30 years' experience as an administrator and tour leader in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma. Judy has a degree in South Asian History and regularly presents courses at Sydney University's Centre for Continuing Education on the history and culture of this remarkable region.

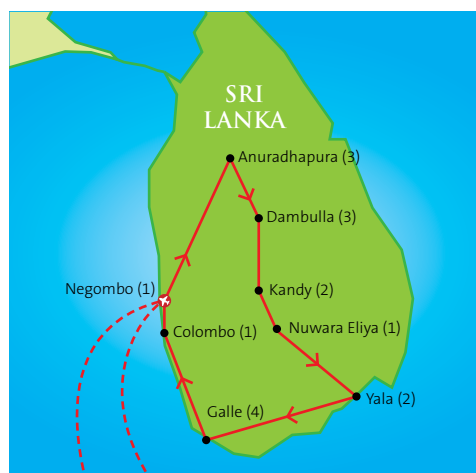
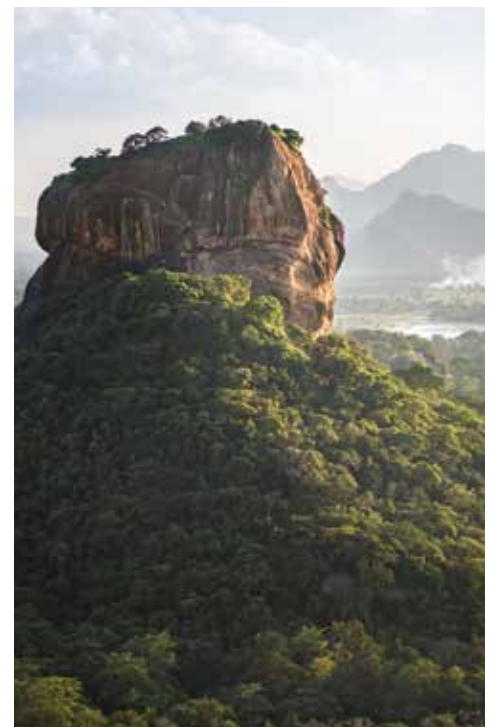
### Getting there

Singapore and Malaysian Airlines offer daily flights to Colombo. Contact us for quotes.

### Fitness requirement ★★

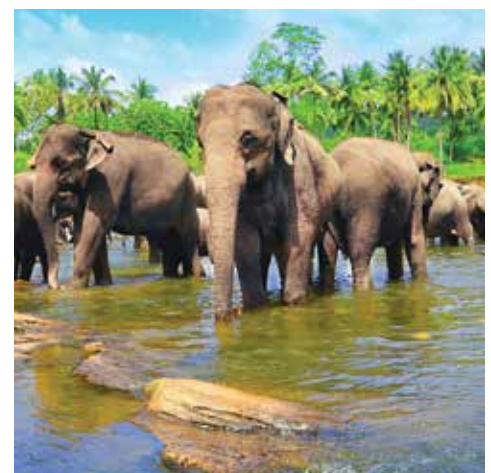
### Highlights

- > Three days exploring temples, dagobas and archaeological sites around Anuradhapura
- > Lion Rock at Sigiriya with its brilliant frescoes and landscaped royal gardens
- > The 150 Buddha images at Dambulla rock temple and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy
- > Full-day safari spotting leopards and elephants in Yala National Park
- > Three nights exploring British, Portuguese and Dutch influences in Galle
- > A walking tour through the colonial architecture of Colombo with a visit to the National Museum



### Itinerary

**Days 1–4:** Arrive in Negombo and explore archaeological sites of Anuradhapura and Mihintale.  
**Days 5–7:** See the Dambulla caves, climb Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa.  
**Days 8–9:** Visit the Temple of the Tooth and botanic gardens in Kandy.  
**Day 10:** Nuwara Eliya, the island's prime tea-growing area.  
**Days 11–12:** In Yala, including a full-day wildlife safari.  
**Days 13–15:** Wander through the walled streets, galleries and museums of Galle Fort.  
**Days 16–17:** Visit the National Museum in Colombo and tour the colonial architecture.





# TASMANIA HISTORY, ART AND LANDSCAPE

\$3,470 pp, twin share  
\$845 single supplement

February 4-11, 2017

## Discover

- Outstanding colonial heritage, with some of Australia's oldest private and public architecture
- The complex history of Tasmania, involving early indigenous contact and the full articulation of the convict system
- A vibrant visual arts scene, ranging from important 19th-century painters to remarkable contemporary art
- Pristine World Heritage-listed landscapes of forest, river and ocean
- Wonderful food and wine, now gaining global attention



## Overview

Tasmania has a distinctive history, culture and landscape which makes it quite different from Australia's other states and territories. This tour offers a unique itinerary which combines the island's well-known attractions with sites of particular interest to specialised travellers. Staying in both Launceston and Hobart, with day trips to surrounding areas, we visit historic homes and gardens and travel through stunning landscape. Art lovers are well treated, with an in-depth look at colonial artist John Glover and a visit to the renowned Museum of Old and New Art (MONA) on the Derwent River near Hobart.

## Your tour leader



**Robert Veel** led Academy Travel's inaugural tour to Tasmania for ADFAS and has over 20 years' experience designing and leading tours around the world.

## Getting there

Jetstar/Qantas offer direct flights to Launceston from Sydney and Melbourne and return flights from Hobart. These can be booked online.

## Highlights

- > Tasmania's World Heritage-listed colonial sites, including Woolmers Estate and Port Arthur
- > Tasmania's leading public art galleries in Launceston and Hobart
- > The Australian Wooden Boat Festival, in full swing at Hobart's docks
- > Touring the landscapes of the Tamar Valley and the Tasman Peninsula
- > A day trip to the Huon River Valley, visiting pristine rainforests, gardens and wineries
- > Fine regional wine and produce while dining at some of Tasmania's excellent restaurants and vineyards

**Fitness requirement** ★

## Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** The tour begins in Launceston, visiting historic homes and villages, exploring the farm of colonial artist John Glover and touring the Tamar Valley and the hills towards the Cradle Mountain region. We also visit wineries and two excellent restaurants.

**Day 4:** Travel down to Hobart via the historic town of Bicheno.

**Days 5–8:** In Hobart we continue our exploration of colonial artists, take day trips to the Huon Valley and the Tasman Peninsula and visit MONA.



# BHUTAN

March 24 – April 5, 2017

\$9,825 pp, twin share  
\$1,745 single supplement



## Experience

- The unique history and culture of Bhutan, a kingdom that only began opening its borders to foreigners in the 1970s
- The stunning peaks and serene forests of the Himalayas
- The distinctive heritage and traditions of the Bhutanese people, who carry on the music, dance and weaving of their ancestors
- The remarkable monasteries, fortresses, temples and villages of Bhutan
- The secluded Phobjikha Valley and its rare wildlife

## Overview

Little has changed over the centuries in the Kingdom of Bhutan, perched among the pristine forests and snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. Its rich historic and cultural traditions are memorably expressed in its architecture – mountain-top monasteries, Buddhist temples and traditional villages – as well as in its textiles and its hardy and proud people. This tour takes you from major towns, such as Paro and Thimphu, to remote valleys, such as Phobjikha, home to the rare black-necked crane, and offers you the best of this unique country.

## Your tour leader



**Judy Tenzing** has over 30 years' experience as an administrator and tour leader in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma. Judy has a degree in South Asian History and regularly presents courses at Sydney University's Centre for Continuing Education on the history and culture of this remarkable region.

## Getting there

There are a number of options available for flying to Bangkok, connecting on to Paro with Druk Air, Bhutan's national airline. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

## Highlights

- > Bhutan's remarkable architecture, such as the Tiger's Nest fortress-monastery in Paro
- > The towering peaks of the eastern Himalayas – many over 7,000m
- > The remote and splendid Phobjikha Valley in central Bhutan – winter home of the black-necked cranes
- > The rich traditions of this ancient land expressed in its textiles, music and fine arts
- > The remarkable people of Bhutan – archers, farmers and artists

Fitness requirement ★★★



## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Arrive in Bangkok

**Days 2–4:** Fly to Paro, enjoy Paro Dzong monastery and its museum of Bhutanese art and history. Visit Tiger's Nest and explore the temples of Paro.

**Days 5–6:** Explore the temples and museums of Thimphu, including the excellent Textile Museum.

**Days 7–9:** Into the Punakha Valley, visiting the fortress of Bhutan's first ruler and Wangdue. Enjoy the serenity of the remote Phobjikha Valley and its wildlife reserve.

**Days 10–13:** Travel to Punakha, visiting local markets and Chimi Lhakhang, a monastery with a colourful history. Return to Paro, and enjoy the magic of the valley.





\$9,975 pp, twin share  
\$1,995 single supplement

# WESTERN CHINA ON THE SILK ROAD

September 7-27, 2017

## Discover

- Thousands of years of history, art and culture passed on through the dynasties
- The ancient caravan routes along the Silk Road
- Grottoes and caves containing remarkable Buddhist sculptures and murals
- Museums filled with treasures dating from the Neolithic age to the modern era
- The contrast between Islamic culture in the western districts and Tibetan Buddhism in Gansu Province



## Overview

The exotic Silk Road within China is rich in historical and cultural highlights. From the might of imperial China in the east, epitomised by the Terracotta Warriors, past brilliantly decorated Buddhist monasteries such as the Mogao Grottoes, to the eastern markets at Turpan, Ürümqi and Kashgar – this tour will be both a journey through the changing face of China today, as well as an examination of its deep and awe-inspiring history and culture.

## Highlights

- > The Great Wall outside Beijing, a lasting monument to the achievements of China
- > The overwhelming sight of over 8000 Terracotta Warriors lined up in rows ready for battle
- > Remarkable Buddhist sculptures and over 1000 square metres of murals carved into the mountain face at the Maijishan Grottoes
- > The ubiquitous red sandstone of the Flaming Mountains Gorge in the Mutou Valley outside Turpan
- > A day immersed in the bustling Sunday markets at Kashgar

## Your tour leader



**Ben Churcher** has a wide range of experience as an educator, a traveller, a historian and an archaeologist. He holds an Honours degree in Ancient History and a Diploma of Education from the University of Sydney. Ben has led numerous tours along the Silk Route, and throughout the Middle East and North and East Africa.

## Getting there

Singapore Airlines offers daily flights into Beijing and out of Chengdu. Contact us for competitive quotes.

**Fitness requirement** ★★★

## Itinerary

**Days 1–3:** In Beijing explore the Forbidden City and visit the Great Wall.

**Days 4–6:** Fly to Xian for the Terracotta Warriors and other sites.

**Days 7–10:** Buddhist sculptures at Tianshui. Travel to Lanzhou. Visit the Bingling Grottoes and Islamic Linxia. Gansu Museum then Xiahe and the Labrang Lamasery.

**Days 11–13:** Fly to Dunhuang and visit the famous Buddhist Caves.

**Days 14–17:** Cross the Taklamakan Desert to Turpan. Explore Turpan and Ürümqi before flying to Kashgar.

**Days 18–21:** Explore remote Kashgar. Fly to Chengdu.



# UZBEKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN

## A JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA

September 8-24, 2017

\$7,890 pp, twin share  
\$945 single supplement

### Explore

- A region traversed by great figures in history, including Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great and Tamerlane
- Exceptional World Heritage-listed Central Asian architecture
- Ancient cultures and dynasties and their archaeological legacies of citadels and oasis cities
- Impressive museums and galleries cataloguing a vast history dating back thousands of years
- Arts and crafts of the Silk Route, from carpets to stunning mosaics
- The vibrant folk culture of the Central Asian people

### Overview

With their long and rich histories, outstanding architectural sites and exotic characters, the Central Asian countries of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have long attracted intrepid travellers from the West. On this 17-day tour we explore Islamic architecture, emirs' palaces, mosques and mausoleums, with visits to the Silk Road cities of Khiva, Ashgabat, Bukhara and Samarkand. We visit Sassanian citadels, Achaemenid cities and archaeological ruins left by Parthian kings, as well as Tamerlane's birthplace at Shahr-i-sabz and the desert oasis of Merv previously occupied by the Persians, Turks, Mongols and Uzbeks.

### Your tour leader



**Christopher Bradley** holds an Honours degree from the University of Liverpool and is a specialist in the history and art of the the Silk Road. He researched, wrote and photographed the Insight Guide to the Silk Road.

### Getting there

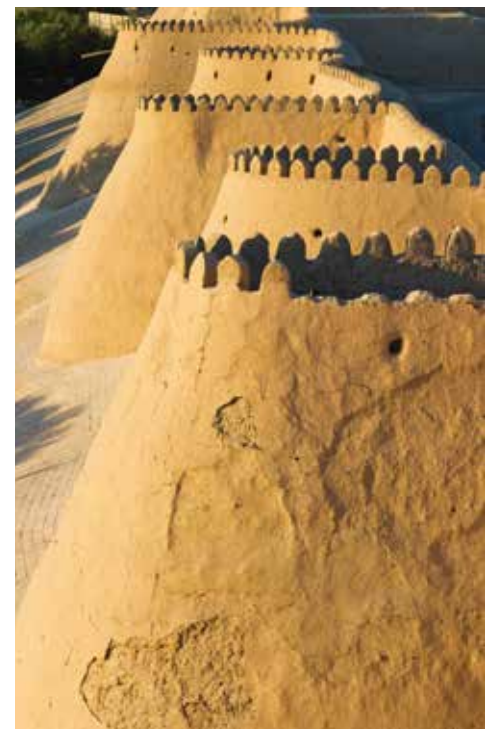
Korean and Asiana Airlines fly to Tashkent from Australia, with a stopover in Seoul. Contact us for competitive quotes.

### Fitness requirement ★★



### Highlights

- > The city walls of Khiva's old town and its mosques, minarets and madrassas
- > Fine Central Asian architecture and design at the World Heritage-listed site of Kunya Urgench
- > The ruins of ancient Parthian kings dating from the 3rd century BC at Nisa
- > Outstanding examples of Sassanid and Achaemenid cities at the oasis city of Merv
- > Samanid monuments associated with the last Persian dynasty to rule Central Asia in Bukhara
- > Archaeological sites at Shar-i-sabz and Tamerlane's Samarkand, the heart of the Silk Road



### Itinerary

- Days 1–3:** Tour Tashkent, and fly to Khiva to investigate the old town.
- Day 4:** Drive to Nukus and visit the Savitsky Collection.
- Days 5–6:** Cross into Turkmenistan and visit Kunya Urgench, then fly to Ashgabat and see the carpet museum and the ruins at Nisa.
- Days 7–8:** Fly to Mary and visit the oasis city at Merv.
- Days 9–12:** Return to Uzbekistan and Bukhara, exploring Samanid sites, mosques and palaces.
- Days 13–15:** Drive to Shahr-i-sabz and see Tamerlane's city of Samarkand.
- Days 16–17:** Return to Tashkent for flights home.



# JAPAN UNMASKED

## ART, HISTORY AND CULTURE

\$TBA pp, twin share  
\$TBA single supplement

November 3-18, 2017

### Get to know

- The contrast of a contemporary metropolis against the backdrop of Edo period Tokyo
- Serenity in some of Japan's finest landscaped gardens and shrines
- A bygone era at the well-preserved wooden teahouses of Kanazawa's entertainment district
- The floating world of the geisha in Kyoto's Gion district
- An abundance of art, history and culture dating back to the 6th century
- A unique cuisine using the freshest produce that perfectly reflects the seasons



### Overview

Uncover Japan's rich history, art and culture on our inaugural 16-day tour. Explore old and new world Tokyo. Visit one of Japan's best landscaped gardens in Kanazawa. Understand the devastation of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and the tranquillity of Miyajima. Spend seven nights in Kyoto exploring temples, shrines and museums and glimpse the geisha's floating world. Complemented by day trips to Nara and Arashiyama, this tour offers a comprehensive insight into the beauty and mystique of this wonderful land.

### Highlights

- > The hustle, bustle and bright lights of Tokyo, its galleries, museums and shrines
- > Kanazawa's famed Kenrokuen Garden, one of the best landscaped gardens in Japan
- > Speeding through the countryside on the shinkansen or bullet train
- > The moving display of human resilience at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial
- > Day trips to Nara, and the bamboo grove and garden at Arashiyama
- > Seven nights discovering Zen temples, stone and moss gardens and an incredible array of art and culture

### Your tour leader



**Dr Kathleen Olive** has led tours to Europe, Turkey and the USA, and is a popular teacher of art and architectural history at the University of Sydney and the WEA. She looks forward to adding Japan to her repertoire.

### Getting there

Qantas, Japan Airlines and ANA offer daily flights to Tokyo, with return connections through Tokyo from Osaka. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

**Days 1-4:** Arrive Tokyo and explore the gardens, temples, shrines, art galleries and museums.

**Days 5-6:** Bullet train to Kanazawa; visit the wooden tea houses, Kanazawa Castle and Kenrokuen garden.

**Days 7-8:** Travel to Hiroshima Peace Memorial, the Torii Gate and shrine on Miyajima.

**Day 9:** Bullet train to Kyoto; explore Kiyomizu Temple and the geisha district.

**Days 10-12:** Art, history and culture of Kyoto's temples, shrines, museums and galleries.

**Days 13-14:** Day trips to Arashiyama and Nara.

**Days 15-16:** Walk through Nishiki market and depart from Osaka.



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

# BURMA

December 29, 2017 – January 13, 2018

\$TBA pp, twin share  
\$TBA single supplement



## Experience

- A nation gradually emerging from years of military rule
- A rich cultural and artisanal tradition of silk weaving, world-class lacquerware and skilled puppeteers
- A wealth of Buddhist culture evidenced by the multitude of stupas and exquisite carved teak monasteries
- Colonial history and architecture from the era of the British Raj
- A remarkably friendly and easy-going nation made up of over 135 ethnic groups eager to share their history and culture

## Overview

From its ancient origins in settlement by Hindu Sakyas from India, through millennia of spiritual and political change, Burma has emerged with all that is quintessentially Burmese intact and as enchanting and enriching as it has always been. This tour takes you into the heart of old Burma – the sleepy town of Nyaungshwe on the edge of Lake Inle, the last royal capital of Mandalay, the vast Buddhist pagoda-studded plain of Bagan, and the splendour of the great pagodas of Yangon.

## Your tour leader



**Judy Tenzing** has over 30 years' experience as an administrator and tour leader in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Burma. Judy has a degree in South Asian History and regularly presents courses at Sydney University's Centre for Continuing Education on the history and culture of this remarkable region.

## Getting there

Singapore Airlines offer daily flights to Yangon. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

## Highlights

- > A magical sunset at the golden-domed Shwedagon Pagoda, the greatest in Burma
- > New Year's Eve on Lake Inle exploring the monasteries, pagodas, villages and floating gardens all built on stilts over the lake
- > The extraordinary complex of crumbling stupas at Insein in Shan state
- > Roaming through the National Botanic Gardens in Maymyo, with its stunning four-acre orchid garden
- > An overnight cruise down the famed Ayeyarwady River
- > The amazing pagoda-studded plains of Bagan, each structure unique in design and decoration



## Itinerary

**Days 1–2:** Explore Yangon's colonial architecture and the Shwedagon Pagoda.  
**Days 3–5:** Fly to Lake Inle and explore the communities living on stilted houses.  
**Days 6–7:** Wander amongst the Botanic Gardens and colonial architecture of Maymyo.  
**Days 8–10:** In Mandalay visit teak monasteries, pagodas and the Royal Palace.  
**Day 11:** Cruise the Ayeyarwady River to Bagan.  
**Days 12–14:** In Bagan surveying some of the hundreds of pagodas scattered over the plains.  
**Days 15–16:** Return to Yangon with farewell dinner at the renowned Strand Hotel.



# FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

## CHICAGO TO NEW YORK

\$10,640 pp, twin share  
\$2,710 single supplement

May 13-27, 2017

### Admire

- The course of American modern architecture in the 20th century, from Louis B. Sullivan and the 'Chicago School' to Frank Lloyd Wright and beyond
- Wright's transformation of the American home, using inspiration from the prairie landscape of the American Midwest and a Japanese-influenced aesthetic
- The story of private wealth and art patronage in the United States by Henry Clay Frick, Andrew Carnegie, Andrew W. Mellon and John D. Rockefeller
- The vibrant performing arts scene in Chicago and New York



Connect this tour with **Montreal to New York** on page 29

### Overview

Follow the Frank Lloyd Wright trail from Chicago to Buffalo, through to Pennsylvania and on to New York, discovering the wealth of art, architecture and history in some of America's most impressive cities. The tour begins in Chicago, then travels north to Wisconsin and Buffalo before heading to Pittsburgh and the nearby Allegheny mountains of Pennsylvania, before ending up in New York. The itinerary features private guided visits to homes and major galleries, fine dining and some great performances. Accommodation is in comfortable four-star hotels throughout.

### Highlights

- > Walking, coach and boat tours of Chicago's 20th-century architecture
- > The Art Institute of Chicago, renowned for its Impressionist works
- > Wright's home, Taliesin, and his Johnson Wax Factory in Wisconsin
- > A private interior visit to *Fallingwater*, arguably his most famous work
- > A private out-of-hours viewing of the Museum of Modern Art in New York
- > Dinner at the Central Park Boathouse
- > Steppenwolf Theatre performance in Chicago and an orchestral concert and a Broadway musical in New York

### Your tour leader



**Dr Matthew Laing** is a research fellow at Monash University. He holds a PhD in US political studies from ANU. He has served as a congressional intern in Washington, lectured widely and travelled the length and breadth of the USA.

### Getting there

Flights from Australian cities to the USA. Discounted fares are regularly offered, so please contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

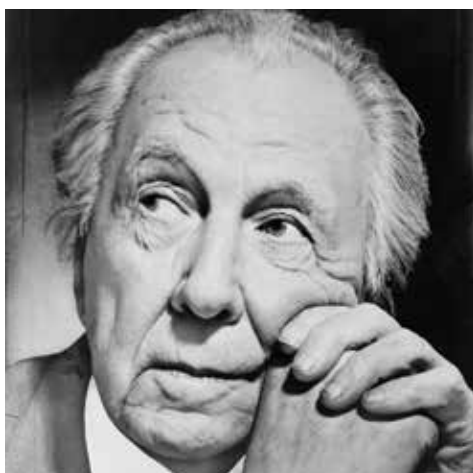
**Days 1–4:** Start in Chicago, with sights including Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago and a full day exploring Frank Lloyd Wright's houses.

**Days 5–6:** Travel by coach to Wisconsin to view Wright's Johnson Wax Building and Taliesin East.

**Days 7–8:** Fly to Buffalo to view Wright's Martin House and tour Niagara Falls.

**Days 9–10:** Fly to Pittsburgh to see *Fallingwater*, Wright's masterpiece.

**Days 11–16:** In New York enjoy architectural walking tours, Wright's Guggenheim Museum, the Philip Johnson Glass House and a Broadway musical.



# CHILE, ARGENTINA & PERU

September 25 – October 13, 2017

\$11,420 pp, twin share  
\$2,785 single supplement



## Discover

- Elegant squares and piazzas, a legacy of Spanish colonialism
- The tango, Argentina's dance of passion
- The legacy of the Spanish in the churches, monasteries and delightful town squares
- Historic Inca sites and culture around Cusco and Ollantaytambo
- The superb cuisine of these regions now making their mark on the world culinary stage
- The vibrant capitals of Santiago, Buenos Aires and Lima

## Overview

Our tantalising new 19-day tour showcases the history, culture and breathtaking scenery of South America. Admire the snow-capped peaks of the Andes, marvel at Iguazu Falls and enigmatic Machu Picchu. Explore colonial Cusco, bustling Lima and charismatic Santiago. Feel the beat of the tango in Buenos Aires; taste the emerging wines of Chile and try a mix of fine New World cuisine and classic dishes. En route we examine a fascinating array of sites associated with the Inca, colonial conquistadors and modern immigrants.

## Your tour leader



**Chris Carter** holds a first class Honours degree in archaeology from the Australian National University. He has worked as a professional archaeologist and has taught extensively in the field. He is currently involved with prehistoric sites in the Atacama region of northern Chile.

## Getting there

Qantas flies into and out of Santiago four times a week, coinciding with the tour dates on current schedules. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★★

## Highlights

- > Soaring snow-capped peaks of the Andes – the world's longest mountain range
- > See the mighty Iguazu Falls from both the Argentinean and Brazilian sides
- > The colonial heritage of the city centres and plazas of Santiago, Buenos Aires and Lima
- > Impressive Inca fortifications at Sacsayhuaman and the sun temple of Coricancha in Cusco
- > Admire the colonial town of Ollantaytambo built on Inca foundations
- > Marvel at the glorious mountain estate of Machu Picchu built at the height of the Inca Empire



## Itinerary

- Days 1–3:** Arrive and tour Santiago, Chilean wineries.
- Days 4–6:** Fly to Buenos Aires, experience tango and visit the Rio Paraná Delta.
- Days 7–8:** Fly to Puerto Iguazu and view the falls from both the Brazilian and Argentinean sides.
- Days 9–10:** Sightings in Lima.
- Days 11–12:** Fly to Cusco, visit Sacsayhuaman and Coricancha.
- Days 13–14:** Markets, churches and Inca ruins, culminating in Machu Picchu.
- Day 15:** Train to the Sacred Valley, sites in Ollantaytambo.
- Days 16–17:** Return to Cusco.
- Days 18–19:** Fly to Santiago and depart.





# SOUTH BY SOUTH WEST USA

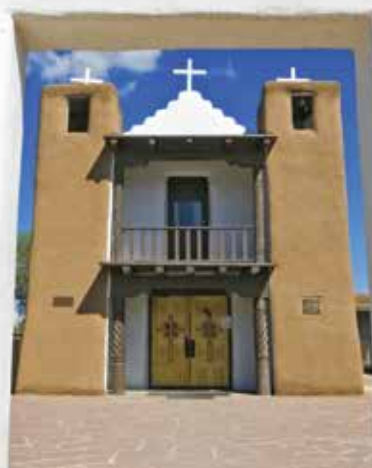
## CHARLESTON TO SANTA FE

\$10,620 pp, twin share  
\$3,610 single supplement

October 4-21, 2017

### Explore

- The distinctive regional cultures of the USA's South and South West, so different from the North
- The fine Georgian architecture of the South Carolina plantations
- The exuberant cultural life of New Orleans, an amalgam of Cajun and Creole cultures
- The story of the Pueblo Indians, who settled the South West more than a thousand years ago
- Desert scenery along the Rio Grande in New Mexico
- The art of Georgia O'Keeffe and other US artists who came to the South West



### Overview

This new 17-day itinerary explores the essence of America's South and South Western regions. Beginning in Charleston, South Carolina and ending in Santa Fe, New Mexico, we explore some of the earliest colonial settlements on the Atlantic seaboard, the strong Spanish and native American influences and of course the wonderful musical life of New Orleans, so profoundly influential over the centuries. There's also great food, superb art and fine scenery to be enjoyed.

### Highlights

- > The fine colonial architecture of Charleston, South Carolina
- > A day trip to Savannah, Georgia, the 'southern gothic' setting for *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*
- > Historic sites in New Orleans, the bayou of Cajun country and evenings of jazz in intimate venues
- > The Alamo fortress in San Antonio
- > A day on the Georgia O'Keeffe trail in New Mexico, visiting Taos, Ghost Ranch and the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe
- > Great art museums in San Antonio, Houston and Santa Fe

### Your tour leader



**Dr Matthew Laing** is a research fellow at Monash University. He holds a PhD in US political studies from ANU. He has served as a congressional intern in Washington, lectured widely and travelled the length and breadth of the USA.

### Getting there

We recommend Qantas flights to and from Dallas, with connecting flights within the US. Contact us for competitive quotes and bookings.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

### Itinerary

- Day 1:** Arrive Charleston, South Carolina.  
**Days 2–4:** Explore Charleston, with a day trip to Savannah in neighbouring Georgia.  
**Days 5–8:** Fly to New Orleans, Louisiana. Explore the city's history, art and music and take a day trip to Cajun country.  
**Days 9–11:** Fly to San Antonio, Texas. Drive to Houston to visit the Menil Collection and other leading sites.  
**Days 12–16:** Fly to Albuquerque and travel on to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Excursions to Georgia O'Keeffe sites and the beautiful high deserts.  
**Day 17:** Transfer to Albuquerque for onward flights.



# FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT LOS ANGELES TO NEW YORK

October 17 – November 5, 2017

\$12,810 pp, twin share  
\$4,940 single supplement



## Experience

- Masterpieces of architecture in the USA by Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Philip Johnson and Richard Neutra
- Stunning galleries and performance spaces by Frank Gehry, Richard Meier and Renzo Piano
- Extraordinary interiors at *Fallingwater*, Robie House, Darwin Martin House, Farnsworth House, Glass House, Hollyhock House, Taliesin and Taliesin West
- Amazing art collections, such as Chicago's Art Institute, LA's Getty Center and New York's MoMA

## Overview

On this new 20-day tour, follow the journey of Frank Lloyd Wright from his original Prairie House designs to the magnificent *Fallingwater* and the Guggenheim Museum, and explore the major works of the architects who shaped the face of 20th-century America, such as Richard Neutra, Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson. With stays in Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and New York, we also enjoy the wealth of art, culture and history in some of America's most famous cities.

## Your tour leader



**Stuart Barrie** has a passion for 20th-century American history and the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. He has led many tours to the USA. Stuart holds a Masters degree from the University of New South Wales and is a co-founder of Academy Travel.

## Getting there

For this tour we recommend flights with Qantas or United who have regular flights to Los Angeles. Well-priced flight options on both carriers will be available early in the New Year.

**Fitness requirement** ★★

## Highlights

- > Private visits to *Fallingwater* and MoMA; a cocktail reception at Robie House
- > Taliesin & Taliesin West – the summer and winter homes of Frank Lloyd Wright
- > Visits to recently reopened sites, including Hollyhock House and the Woolworth Building lobby
- > Performances by the LA Philharmonic at Disney Hall, the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, a Lincoln Center performance and a Broadway show
- > Chicago Art Institute, the Getty Center and the Andy Warhol Museum



## Itinerary

- Days 1–3:** Exploring the art and architecture of Los Angeles, staying at Santa Monica.
- Days 4–5:** Visiting Taliesin West, Wright's winter home in its stunning desert setting.
- Days 6–10:** Enjoy Frank Lloyd Wright buildings in and around Chicago.
- Days 11–12:** Spring Green Wisconsin and Taliesin – Wright's personal architecture laboratory
- Days 13–14:** Niagara Falls and Darwin Martin complex.
- Days 15–16:** Private visit of *Fallingwater* and Kentuck Knob, Warhol in Pittsburgh.
- Days 17–20:** Guggenheim, Philip Johnson's Glass House and a private tour of MoMA.



## ESSENTIAL IRAN

**April 5-19, 2017**

**\$9,475 pp, twin share**

**\$1,575 single supplement**



### Overview

Over 15 days we travel through the marvellous spring-time mountain and desert landscapes of Persia and visit some of the most remarkable monuments in the ancient and Islamic worlds. We explore awe-inspiring Achaemenid palaces and royal tombs, mysterious Zoroastrian fire temples, enchanting mud-brick cities on the desert fringes, and fabled Persian cities with their enchanting gardens, caravanserais, bazaars, and stunning cobalt-blue mosques. Perhaps more importantly, however, we encounter the unsurpassed friendliness and hospitality of the Iranian people which leave most travellers longing to return.

**Fitness requirement ★★**

### Highlights

- > The remarkable museums and Qajar palaces of Tehran
- > The gardens of Shiraz, where Persia's poets are celebrated
- > The great classical sites of Persepolis and Pasargadae
- > The desert city of Yazd, with its evocative Zoroastrian Towers of Silence
- > The UNESCO World Heritage city of Isfahan, centre of the 'renaissance' Safavid period

### Your tour leader



**Dr John Tidmarsh**

is the president of the University of Sydney's

Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, a former lecturer in the Department of Archaeology. He has led numerous tours to Iran.

### Itinerary

**Days 1-3:** Explore Tehran's extraordinary palaces and museums.

**Day 4:** Fly to Shiraz, visit the Bagh-I Eram garden and the tomb of Hafez.

**Days 5-7:** Investigate Persepolis, Firuzabad and Bishapur.

**Days 8-9:** Drive to Yazd via Pasargadae and explore the Zoroastrian Fire Temple.

**Days 10-13:** Relax with four nights in beautiful Isfahan.

**Days 14-15:** Return to Tehran via the merchant houses and water gardens of Kashan.



More details at [academytravel.com.au](http://academytravel.com.au)

## ANCIENT PERSIA & THE SILK ROAD

**October 7-25, 2017**

**\$10,690 pp, twin share**

**\$1,890 single supplement**



### Overview

Our 19-day tour begins in Tehran with an introduction to the fine arts and traditional culture of Iran. From here we travel to Zanjan, and Ectabana over the Zagros Mountains, and visit the Renaissance-era city of Isfahan. We view Iran's remaining Zoroastrian shrines, intricate mosques in Yazd and continue to Kerman and Shiraz, the city of poets. Here we see some of Iran's most exceptional historical monuments, such as the magnificent relief carvings of Persepolis and Pasargad before returning to 21st-century Tehran.

**Fitness requirement ★★**

### Highlights

- > The Crown Jewels Museum and Golestan Palace in Tehran
- > The imposing Mausoleum of Oljeitu and ancient Ectabana
- > Safavid Palaces, Islamic mosques and Isfahan
- > Zoroastrian and medieval sites in Yazd
- > Gardens, fortresses and royal tombs around Shiraz
- > Achaemenid Persepolis and Cyrus the Great's legacy at Pasargadae

### Your tour leader



**Christopher Bradley**

has an Honours degree in the history and art of the Middle

East. He regularly leads tours to Iran and lectures to ADFAS, NADFAS, universities and the Royal Geographical Society.



### Itinerary

**Days 1-3:** Visit Tehran's Qajar Palaces and museums.

**Days 4-5:** The Mausoleum of Oljeitu and Takht-e Solemain near Zanjan.

**Days 6-7:** Drive to Hamadan and survey ancient Ectabana.

**Days 8-10:** Explore Safavid palaces, Islamic mosques in Isfahan.

**Days 11-12:** Yazd's fire temples and towers of silence, Zoroastrianism

**Days 13-14:** Investigate remnants of the Sassanid Empire around Kerman.

**Days 15-17:** Persepolis & Pasargadae.

**Days 18-19:** Fly to Tehran & depart.

# ADFAS TRAVEL PROGRAM

March – December, 2017

## From Bruges to the Baltic Art in the Golden Age of the merchant towns

May 12-28, 2017. \$9,430 pp, twin share. Tour leader: Gerald Deslandes

The Low Countries have extraordinary artistic traditions which have withstood the test of time and evolved with some of the most significant upheavals in European history. On this tour, Gerald Deslandes takes you from Antwerp, to Bruges, Delft and Amsterdam, and on to Bremen and Hamburg to explore the art and architecture that flourished in these dynamic environments.

### Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies

Academy Travel also manages the travel program for the Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (ADFAS). With a 6000-strong membership from throughout urban and regional Australia, ADFAS offers a diverse program for likeminded travellers with expert UK and Australian-based tour leaders.

**adfas**  **travel**

### New Zealand Nature, culture & the arts

March 9-20, 2017

From \$6,960 pp, twin share

Tour leader: Robert Veel



### Great Gardens of Italy

September 3-19, 2017

From \$9,450 pp, twin share

Tour leader: Michael Turner



### Imperial China History & the Arts

Sep 25 – Oct 12, 2017

From \$8,750 pp, twin share

Tour Leader: David Rosier



### Berlin & Beyond Berlin, Leipzig & Dresden

October 9-22, 2017

From \$7,250 pp, twin share

Tour leader: Thomas Abbott



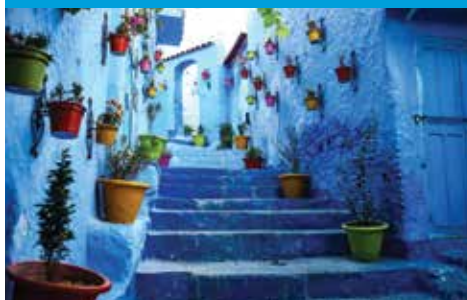
### Morocco & Southern Spain

October 9-25, 2017

From \$8,975 pp, twin share

Tour leader: Sue Rollin

(Connect this tour with *Barcelona & Madrid* on page 25)

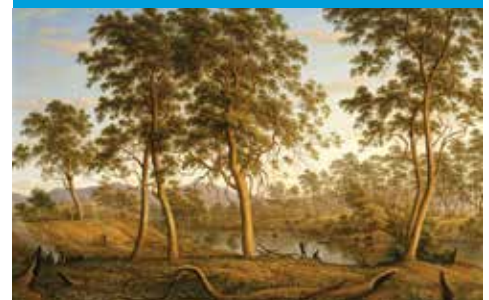


### Tasmania History, art & landscape

December 2-10, 2017

From \$3,370 pp, twin share

Tour leader: Dr Kathleen Olive



# UPCOMING TOUR PROGRAM

January – July, 2018

## Sneak Peak!

Our program for the first half of 2018 is now being finalised and includes an exciting range of new destinations, along with repeats of some of our more popular tours! Further information for each tour, including a detailed itinerary, will be released 9-12 months before departure dates. If you are interested in finding out more about a tour listed below, please contact us directly or register your interest on our website.



## Italy

### City of Rome

January, 2018

### Naples & Palermo

February, 2018

### Sicily and the Aeolian Islands

April, 2018

### Venice: City, Republic & Empire

March, 2018

### Florence & the Italian Renaissance

March, 2018

### Puglia to Pompeii

April, 2018

### Lakes & Villas of Northern Italy

May, 2018

### Islands of the Mediterranean:

#### Corsica, Sardinia & Malta

May, 2018

## Europe

### Bronze Age & Classical Greece

April, 2018

### Grand Tour of Spain

April, 2018

### Northern Spain & Portugal

May, 2018

### Vienna to Dubrovnik

May, 2018

### Sweden to St Petersburg

May, 2018

### Berlin, Leipzig & Dresden

May, 2018

### English Gardens

June, 2018

### Scandinavia & Iceland

June, 2018

### Prague to Vienna: art in central Europe

June, 2018

## Music & Theatre

### London: music & theatre

January, 2018

### Easter Music Festivals in Germany

April, 2018

### Music in Scandinavia

May, 2018

### Montreal to New York:

#### fine music in historic cities

May, 2018

### English Summer Opera Festivals

June, 2018

## Asia Pacific

### Tasmania

February, 2018

### Taiwan & South Korea

April, 2018

### Japan

May, 2018

### Flinders Ranges

May, 2018

## The Americas

### Cuba

March, 2018

### New York: music, theatre, art & food

March, 2018

### Frank Lloyd Wright: Chicago to New York

May, 2018

### Three Great Cities: Washington, Chicago, New York

May, 2018

## Africa & the Middle East

### Egypt & Petra

January, 2018

### Iran

April, 2018

### Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

May, 2018

### Morocco

May, 2018

# FITNESS REQUIREMENTS OF OUR TOURS

It is important both for you and for your fellow travellers that you are fit enough to be able to enjoy all the activities on an Academy Travel tour. We have assigned a star grading to each tour to give you an indication of the level of physical fitness required for participation. There are three levels of grading. Please see below for the participation criteria of each grading. You will also find a star grading listed on each tour page in the brochure.

Academy Travel's tours tend to feature extended walking tours and site visits, which require greater fitness than coach touring. We ask you to consider carefully your ability to meet the physical demands of the tour. If you have any questions about these gradings, or you are concerned about your ability to meet the requirements of the trip, we urge you to contact us for further information and to consult your medical practitioner for an realistic assessment of your travel fitness.



## Grade one

### Participation criteria for a Grade One tour

Grade One tours are appropriate for travellers in good health with good mobility. You should be able to participate comfortably in up to three hours of physical activity per day on most days, including walking at an easy pace, sometimes on uneven terrain, climbing stairs and standing in galleries.

#### You should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 2-3 kilometres at a moderate to slow pace
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- negotiate stairs and escalators
- get on and off a coach with steep stairs unassisted
- move your luggage a short distance if required

### A note for older travellers

If you are more than 80 years old, or have restricted mobility, you will find a number of our itineraries challenging. On a Grade Two tour it is unlikely that you will be able to undertake all activities and get the full value of the tour. Grade Three tours are unsuitable for travellers more than 80 years old, unless you are exceptionally fit. We kindly ask travellers more than 80 years old to contact Academy Travel before submitting a booking form, so that we can provide specific advice on the physical requirements of the tour in which you are interested.



## Grade two

### Participation criteria for a Grade Two tour

Grade Two tours are designed for people who lead active lives and can comfortably participate in up to five hours of physical activity per day on most days, including walking tours, challenging archaeological sites, climbing stairs, embarking and disembarking trains and/or boats, and a more demanding tour schedule with one night stops or several internal flights.

#### You should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 4-5 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- tolerate uncomfortable climatic conditions such as cold, humidity and heat
- walk up and down slopes
- negotiate steps and slopes on archaeological sites, which are often uneven and unstable
- get on and off a large coach with steep stairs, train or boat unassisted, possibly with luggage
- move your luggage a short distance if required



## Grade three

### Participation criteria for a Grade Three tour

Grade Three tours are our most physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to comfortably undertake in up to seven hours of physical activity per day, over several days. Activities may include travelling long distances, walking on difficult terrain, climbing stairs, embarking and disembarking trains and/or boats, exposure to high altitudes and long days of touring. These tours may include one night stops and early starts.

#### You should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- tolerate varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat
- enjoy a reasonable level of physical and respiratory fitness
- tolerate a diet that can be significantly different from a typical Australian diet, and where some dietary requirements cannot be met
- walk up and down slopes
- negotiate steps and slopes on archaeological sites or mountain paths, which are often uneven and unstable
- get on and off a large coach with steep steps, train or boat unassisted, possibly with luggage
- move your luggage a short distance if required

# THE NEXT STEPS

## ITINERARIES, BOOKINGS, AIRFARES



### We've tempted you with one of our tours, so what happens next?

#### Detailed itineraries

For each tour, we publish a 10–12 page itinerary providing day-by-day descriptions of the tour program and other important information. This is published 9–12 months before departure. Bookings are only accepted once the detailed itinerary is published.

#### Booking on a tour

Each person booking on a tour must complete and sign a booking form and send it to us together with a deposit of \$500. Booking forms are attached to all detailed itineraries and can also be downloaded from our website.

#### Travel consultant

Each of our tours has a dedicated, professional consultant who will manage all aspects of your booking from rooming and special requests to airfares, travel insurance and additional accommodation. Your consultant is your one-stop point of reference for all matters relating to your travel.

#### Welcome letter and updates

Once we have received your booking we will send you a letter confirming all details of your booking and any special requests. We will keep you updated on special tour-related events and other matters as they arise.

#### Pre-departure

About a month before your tour begins we'll send you a comprehensive package with your travel documents, tour notes and practical information. If you prefer you can arrange a meeting in our Sydney office to go through your documents in person with your travel consultant.

#### Beyond the tour: Other services

Outstanding small-group journeys are just one of the services Academy Travel offers.

We are a full-service travel agency and can also organise your international flights, additional travel before or after your tour, private airport transfers and travel insurance.

We organise group airfares for tours to difficult-to-reach destinations such as Russia, Iran and Uzbekistan.

For travel to Europe and the US we offer competitive individual fares in economy, business or first class.

Why begin your tour jet-lagged? We can arrange pre-tour accommodation so you can relax for a few extra nights in the first hotel before your tour begins.

### Meet our client services team

Our consultants are here to look after all matters relating to your travel. If you are interested in a tour or would like to book your place, get in touch with one of our consultants below on 02 9235 0023 or 1800 639 699 outside of Sydney.



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