

# SMALL GROUP TOURS & CRUISES



# *Taking you on inspirational journeys to wonderful places, creating lasting memories...*

With a wealth of knowledge and experience between us, and an ethos of integrity and professionalism, we are proud of our multi-award-winning service and delighted that our many repeat travellers are enjoying it too. Our passion is to create inspirational journeys, touring lands less visited, or adding an extra dimension to well-known destinations; and we put our customers at the heart of everything we do.

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# THE JULES VERNE DIFFERENCE

That sense of adventure to discover the world is at the heart of Jules Verne. Established in 1978, our innovative small group escorted tours offer authentic travel with a twist for people who love to see the world. Packed with special touches and little extras, our expert guides will show you the true character of each destination and take you beyond the norm, whether your chosen destination is closer to home or far-flung. Fully ABTA and ATOL bonded and winner of many travel awards, our expert staff organise every detail so you can book in complete confidence.

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- Inspiring tours to all seven continents
- Small groups and privately guided tours
- Knowledgeable local guides
- Expertly planned and organised



# WHY BOOK WITH ?

# **PRICE GUARANTEE**

Our 100% Price Guarantee means your holiday price is fixed when you book and you won't ever pay more, even if our costs increase afterwards.

# HONEST PRICING

We take care to offer simple, honest pricing where everything is clearly explained with no hidden extras. Make sure to call us for our latest prices

#### **GUARANTEED DEPARTURES**

Departures on many tours in this brochure are guaranteed having already reached our small minimum group size, so you can book with confidence that your tour will operate. Please check with our sales staff.

# FEEFO

Your opinion is important to us! We constantly review and evaluate our arrangements and act upon the feedback you send us. Our Feefo Platinum Trusted Service Award demonstrates our commitment to getting things right.

Platinum	****
<b>Trusted Sei</b>	rvice Award
For consistently delivering excellence	2022 feefoee

### WE HAVE THE EXPERIENCE

We have over 40 years' experience of creating extraordinary adventures, pioneering voyages and inspirational journeys worldwide. We invest in our Personal Travel Experts who have genuine first-hand knowledge of our tours and destinations, and who are there to offer you guidance.

# WE ARE RECOGNISED

We are proud to have been voted 'Best Specialist Tour Operator' by readers of the Times and Sunday Times, and 'Best Cultural Tour Operator' by Silver Travel Advisor.

# FULLY PROTECTED

All Jules Verne tours and cruises are ATOL, ABTA and IATA bonded, which guarantees 100% financial protection.

# HOW TO BOOK

Please call us on 020 3131 9187, complete our online booking form from the tour page of your choice, at vjv.com or send an e-mail to sales@vjv.co.uk. One of our Personal Travel Experts will be pleased to assist you in booking your holiday. You can also book at any Kuoni store which can be found at locations throughout the UK including some branches of John Lewis.



# JULES VERNE KEY FEATURES

# JULES VERNE SIGHTSEEING

This most important of Key Features indicates that sightseeing is tailored just for our group, taking into account your preferences and our experience over many years and not combining with other visitors. Sightseeing is undertaken by expert local guides and escorts who we consider to be the best source of information. A few programmes such as cruises will show 'Excursions Included', indicating that sightseeing may be shared with non-Jules Verne guests.

# **SMALL GROUPS**

Enjoy the benefits of small group travel; with like-minded people coming together, making amazing memories, and sharing experiences. Our small group sizes dictate a lesser number of guests travel together, creating a more personal experience, good group dynamics and less impact on the local environment, whilst offering opportunities to enjoy genuine experiences and encounters, expertly led by local guides. Our average small groups operate with 12-18 travellers, safaris and wildlife tours with less, whereas on cruising and rail journeys, we would form part of a larger group.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

To enhance the experience of Jules Verne travellers, we arrange exclusive and memorable special events, illuminating the country and peoples you are visiting. Attend a special ceremony, performance, meal or drinks party at characteristic and spectacular locations; learn about cooking and the local way of life; discover less-visited corners or special locations not normally open to the public.

# JULES VERNE REPRESENTATIVE

At Jules Verne we have been pioneers in working with local expert guides for more than 40 years. Who better to connect with than someone born and raised in the area with a passion for their region and an understanding of the culture. On occasion we will additionally send a Jules Verne Representative on tour, they will be responsible for your well-being and will ensure that the tour runs to plan.

# **SUSTAINABILITY**

Sustainability is a key indicator in all actions we undertake at Jules Verne. Through responsible tourism, we aim to sustainably balance the benefits of tourism with protecting natural and cultural assets, safeguarding local traditions and ways of life, and deliver visitor satisfaction.

# NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

We offer a range of destinations and dates where there is genuinely No Single Supplement (limited availability, so early booking is recommended – check vjv.com for available departure dates). Additionally, we try to minimise the single supplement charged by hotels, cruise and rail companies.

# **SOLO GROUPS**

Following requests from single travellers, we have introduced on selected tours, departures with No Single Supplement where the group is comprised only of single travellers, following the same itinerary and accompanied by a Jules Verne Representative. We are negotiating with our hotels to increase the number of solo groups. Please check tour price panels for Solo Group departures.

# HOTELS

We offer hotels which enhance the experience of the destination. Look out for: Historic/Heritage hotels, former noble residences or classic hotels of note and for central hotels which allow the evening to be also an experience whether for a stroll or to visit a local restaurant, café or bar.

We indicate the local hotel ratings and check hotels for health & safety. Hotel ratings vary worldwide and some standards may not reflect those in the UK.



# JULES VERNE FLEXIBILITY

# **TOUR ONLY**

Most tours show price reductions if you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, arriving and departing independently. Join the group at the first hotel and leave at the last (arrival and departure transfers are not included but may be booked as indicated).

# PRIVATELY GUIDED

Enjoy a more personal experience with family or friends, visiting all the programmed sights with your own private vehicle and driver/guide, allowing better access and more flexibility than larger groups/vehicles.

Choose a published departure or request an alternative date (same weekday start is recommended due to possible issues with pricing, opening times and flow of itinerary). Supplements are per person based on two but reduced 'pro rata' for groups of 3 or more (details on request).

For special rates for 8 or more guests travelling together, please see Private Groups.



# **PRIVATE GROUPS**

If you prefer the company of your choice, we normally offer a private departure on an existing tour or a tailored arrangement. We offer a discount of 3% for groups of 8 or more passengers, rising to 5% for groups of 15 or more travelling together on one of our tours.

Our experience, expertise and excellent rates are advantageous for study groups, societies, incentive groups and closed groups of friends.

Groups Contact: 020 3131 9187 or groups@vjv.co.uk

# **EXTENSION OPTIONS**

Whilst our tours follow a fixed itinerary, you can personalise your visit by adding our pre-or post-tour extensions. Where dates and logistics allow, combine two tours or extensions (extra nights/flights may be required).

# **EXTRA NIGHTS**

Extra nights at the first and final hotels of tours and extensions (or on a stopover) are normally available to allow you extra time before or after the tour to relax or explore. See tour pages for details.



# **MEALS**

We believe in creating opportunities to sample local cuisine rather than the more standardised hotel fare. Breakfast is, of course included, plus on occasion lunch or dinner for a special event or for convenience (shown in the itinerary as B, L, D).

# **CHOICE OF FLIGHTS**

Where practical, we offer scheduled flights from multiple airports or with 'low cost' airlines. Brochure prices are based on specific routes but other flight options may be available – let us know if you prefer an alternative routing or timing and we will endeavour to match your request (extra nights or transfers may be required). Connecting flights via London or other cities are available on many long haul tours.

We also offer 'Business Class' upgrades with benefits such as more leg room, a wider seat, separate check-in, 'fast track' route and airport lounges. Some airlines offer a 'Premium Economy' (e.g. British Airways World Traveller Plus) offering more space and comfort.

# ICE & LIGHTS

Travel from Reykjavik to Iceland's glacial lagoon, largest icecap, volcano area, geysers and frozen waterfalls, staying in remote locations for the best chance to view the Northern Lights

### **OVERVIEW**

Reykjavik (1 night) Hnappavellir (2 nights) Selfoss Area (2 nights) Reykjavik (1 night)

# **KEY FEATURES**

Natural Wonders Jules Verne Sightseeing UNESCO Heritage Site: Thingvellir Local Expert Guide

6 nights from

£1865



# **SPECIAL EVENT**

**Geothermal Taste** 

Enjoy a tasting of rye bread, buried in the geothermal ground for 24 hours, plus boiled eggs, herring and a glass of Geysir schnapps.

# **INTRODUCTION**

The eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull volcano in 2010 awakened great interest in Iceland's incredible natural forces. Images of the Northern Lights above the erupting volcano were a reminder that Iceland is one of the best places to view this amazing natural phenomena above its dramatic landscapes and is enhanced by ecologically friendly environment and lack of atmospheric pollution – especially when staying outside the capital, Reykjavik. The 'Northern Lights' are created by solar particles attracted to the Pole colliding with the Earth's atmosphere, so the further north, the greater the chance of viewing them.

The glacial lagoon of Jökulsárlón with icebergs gleaming white, cobalt blue or jade green (fans of James Bond will remember it from 'Die Another Day'), lies in Vatnajökull National Park, which includes the island's largest icecap (8% of Iceland and the largest outside polar regions). Pushed into the lagoon by the glacier tongue, icebergs travel on Iceland's shortest river, and then wash up on the black beach.

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Reykjavik. Transfer to 3-star Hotel Klettur for overnight.

DAY 2 Explore South Iceland at the Lava centre, Reynisfjara Black Volcanic Beach and Systrafoss Waterfall. Two nights at the 4-star Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon in Hnappavellir. Travel to Skaftafell or Jökulsárlón in the search for Northern Lights. (B, D)

DAY 3 Visit Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon and the incredible 'iceberg beach'. Explore Skaftafell and hike to Svartifoss Waterfall (1½ hrs, weather permitting). (B, D)

DAY 4 Follow the south Icelandic coast to Seljalandsfoss and Skógafoss waterfalls. Visit Skógar Folk Museum and Dverghamrar 'Dwarf Cliffs'. Two nights at the 3-star Fosshotel Hekla near Selfoss, with the opportunity to observe the Northern Lights (conditions permitting). (B, D)

DAY 5 Golden Circle tour to Gullfoss, Iceland's mightiest waterfall, the hot spring area dominated by Geysir and Thingvellir National Park. Geothermal tasting. Visit Friðheimar geothermal greenhouse and horse stables. (B, D)





DAY 6 Visit Stokkseyri, a small village renowned for its beautiful shoreline and birdlife. Continue via Eyrarbakki and Húsið museum to Reykjavik for a tour of the city. Overnight at 3-star Hotel Klettur. Optional visit to the Blue Lagoon (£125). (B)

#### DAY 7 Return flight. (B)

**Notes:** Success in viewing of the Northern Lights is not guaranteed. Some walking on snow-covered terrain is involved and visits are subject to local conditions and weather. On occasion the evening drive on Day 2 may operate on an alternative day.

#### ACCOMMODATION

All hotels on this tour have a restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and rooms with hairdryer.

Hotel Klettur, Reykjavik: A modern 3-star hotel with 166 rooms, close to Laugavegur street and Hallgrímskirkja chuch.

**Fosshotel Glacier Lagoon, Hnappavellir:** A newly built 4-star hotel with 104 rooms between Skaftafell and Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon.

**Fosshotel Hekla, Selfoss:** A comfortable 3-star hotel with 46 rooms, with views of Mount Hekla, in a remote location close to Selfoss.







# JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

#### 7 nights from £2045

Alternatively, touring the north of Iceland, from small towns and colourful villages to spectacular landscapes of mountains and waterfalls, fjords and lava fields, lakes and craters; and including a whale-watching cruise and time in the capital, Reykjavik; all Icelandic life is here.

**JV Special Event** 



Kirkjufellsfoss Waterfall

# DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room Icelandair from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Thursdays

Jan 26	£1865	Mar 9	£1875
Feb 16	£1895		

#### Supplements per person

Single supplement – £315 easyJet from Gatwick – nil easyJet from Manchester – nil Icelandair Saga Class – On request

#### Extra Nights – Reykjavik

**Hotel Klettur** (per night) – £75 Single supplement – £45

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, Fly Bus transfers, 6 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival or departure transfer by Fly Bus £40

# PÉNICHE ALSACIENNE

Follow the 'Great Canal Journey' of Timothy West and Prunella Scales on the Marne-Rhine Canal travelling past fairy-tale castles, through wonderful forests, mountains and valleys

# 6 nights from £2425





# INTRODUCTION

**Return Flight (Day 7)** 

**OVERVIEW** 

Basel / Strasbourg (Day 1)

Strasbourg / Waltenheim (Day 2)

Lutzelbourg / Arzviller Plane (Day 5)

Waltenheim / Saverne (Day 3)

Saverne / Lutzelbourg (Day 4)

Sarrebourg / Lagarde (Day 6)

The 'Great Canal Journey' TV programme of Prunella Scales and Timothy West revealed a fascinating journey through beautiful scenery of the Marne-Rhine Canal. This inspired us to offer a barge cruise through the scenic heart of Alsace from Strasbourg to Lagarde. Cruise for up to six hours per day through small villages, traversing 40 locks with the opportunity to walk or cycle between some locks. A unique highlight will be the Péniche traversing the Arzviller inclined plane which in 1969 replaced 17 locks and functions according to the Archimedes principle!

The historic town of Strasbourg, capital of Alsace is criss-crossed by canals of the III river and the impressive Gothic cathedral was once described by Goethe as 'a most sublime wide-arching tree of God' - the portals, rose window and astronomical clock repay detailed study.

The Alsace 'Route du Vin' is a good preview to the cruise which will also showcase the fine food and wine of the region at Riquewihr, a well-preserved village of medieval and renaissance houses, surrounded by vineyards.

# **ITINERARY**

**KEY FEATURES** 

**Exclusive Small Ship Cruise** 

**UNESCO Site: Strasbourg** 

**Excursions & Drinks Included** 

**Jules Verne Representative** 

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Basel. Transfer to Strasbourg, calling in at Riquewihr on the Alsace wine road and embark your vessel for a six-night cruise. Welcome cocktail and enjoy a small boat cruise around Strasbourg by night. (D)

DAY 2 A walking tour of historic Strasbourg. Afternoon cruising towards Waltenheim. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Cruise to Saverne passing the charming villages of Hochfelden and Schwindratzheim. Afternoon visit to the Château du Haut Barr often called 'the Eye of Alsace' for panoramic views over the Alsatian plains. Dinner at a local restaurant with the opportunity to enjoy 'tarte flambée', a local speciality. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Sightseeing of Saverne including the Grand Rue, Katz House, the Notre Dame Church with its 12th-century steeple and the 14th-century Récollets Monastery. Continue to Lutzelbourg through the Vosges Mountains. Afternoon excursion to its castle (approx. 30 min steep walk uphill), perched over 980 feet above sea level in the Zorn Valley. (B, L, D)



DAY 5 Cruise towards the Arzviller inclined plane to experience this unique feat of engineering, passing through the Arzviller and Niderviller tunnels. Visit the local crystal workshop, specializing in crystal blowing and cutting. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Cruise towards Lagarde passing though Réchicourt lock, one of the largest in France before continuing through the lakes. Afternoon visit to Sarrebourg located at the foot of the Vosges mountains and the Alsace region. Take the Chagall trail and view his dramatic stained glass windows. Arrive at the quiet, charming village of Lagarde. Gala dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Disembark and transfer to Basel for the return flight. (B)

# PÉNICHE MADELEINE

Surprisingly spacious barge owned by the innovative French cruise company, CroisiEurope. Elegant dining room, lounge bar, Jacuzzi and Sun Deck, WiFi (free/limited). 10 air-conditioned Lower Deck cabins (118 sq. ft.) with picture window, private facilities, hairdryer, safe and satellite TV.

# MARNE-RHINE CANAL

Conceived as a vital transport link, the Marne-Rhine Canal is carried by bridges above rural roads, rises and falls in deep locks, cuts a route through the Niderviller and Arzviller tunnels and ascends the inclined plain in an ingenious feat of engineering. It is now the gentle landscape and easy tempo of its journey which draw visitors, interspersed with historic towns, grand châteaux and picture-perfect villages. The moving panorama sweeps from vineyards and hop fields to timelessly bucolic scenes.

**Complimentary Cabin Selection** 









Lutzelbourg Castle © Office Du Tourisme de Saverne Et Sa Region

# PÉNICHE PROVENÇALE

#### 6 nights from £2685

Alternatively, take a cruise on the exclusive MS Péniche Anne-Marie in Provence. This 'no fly' tour takes the Eurostar to Avignon, and cruises from Roman ruins in Arles to revelations on the Canal du Rhône à Sète, in medieval Aigues-Mortes, the Camargue wilderness, and Étang de Thau sea-lake.

**3 UNESCO Heritage Sites** 



# DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin Lower Deck cabin British Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Tuesdays

May 30	£2445	Sep 19	£2445
Jul 11	£2425		

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £995 British Airways Club Europe – On request

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, transfers, 6-night cruise, full board and drinks on cruise vessel, excursions, Jules Verne representative, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival and departure transfers with group included

#### Notes

Cabins are available from 5pm on arrival and until 9am on departure (before/after this, luggage storage on board and access to the public lounge). The programme may be altered due to navigational factors with locks, water levels or congestion at certain sites.

# **ROYAL BARGE ON** THE DOURO

Cruise deep into the mountain landscapes of Portugal to discover wine estates, sun-drenched vineyards, idyllic villages, barogue castles and hilltop medieval ruins

# **OVERVIEW**

Porto (Day 1) Entre-os-Rios (Day 2) Pinhão (Day 3) Barca D'Alva (Days 4 - 5) Régua (Day 6) Porto (Day 7) **Return Flight (Day 8)** 

# INTRODUCTION

A 2,000-year legacy of winemaking awaits you throughout Portugal's lush Douro River Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Douro Valley is a region of stunning natural beauty, a serene landscape of hillsides lining the winding riverbanks. Sail deep into the mountain landscapes of Portuguese wine country to find estates and sun-drenched vineyards, many of which are centuries old, that cascade down to the riverside. Discover baroque castles, hilltop medieval ruins, white-washed quintas and the idyllic, bucolic villages that retain a medieval simplicity. The fertile valley is home to estates that produce the region's 'rich gold', award-winning wines and port. The Douro River has played an important part in Britain's history, as the source of port from the vineyards lining the upper river valley. The fortified wine was originally brought down the 60 miles to Porto in flat-bottomed wooden craft, braving the dangerous rapids enroute, but there are now a series of dams and locks that have tamed the river allowing its navigation for 120 miles into Spain. Enjoy this unique cruise that contrasts with the Douro's other much larger passenger ships.

# **KEY FEATURES**

**Culture & Riverscapes Exclusive Historic Small Ship Complimentary Cabin Selection Jules Verne Sightseeing 2 UNESCO Heritage Sites Jules Verne Representative** 

7 nights from

£2995

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Porto. Baroque churches, bell towers and beaux-art buildings seem to sit on each other's shoulders on Porto's riverbank hills, straddling the Douro. Embark on the MS Spirit of Chartwell for seven nights. (D)

DAY 2 City tour of Porto including a visit to a port wine cellar. Cruise upstream crossing the Crestuma-Lever Dam and flood gate enroute to Entre-os-Rios. Traditional Portuguese show on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Cruise to Régua via Carrapatelo Dam. Visit the 18th-century Mateus Manor House, a beautiful small palace with impressive gardens. Overnight in Pinhão. Dinner at a local Quinta. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Morning cruising, passing the Valeira Dam. Visit the hilltop medieval village Castelo Rodrigo, with its gilded Barogue church and curiously ornamented public fountain. Overnight in Barca d'Alva. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Optional visit to Salamanca by road (£50) with free time to explore Plaza Mayor, enjoy a guided tour of Salamanca's medieval old city and the 16th-century Gothic 'new cathedral'. Alternatively, relax on board





# SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Quinta Dinner & Tastings**

Enjoy port tastings and a traditional Portuguese dinner at the Quinta da Avessada, an ancient site producing Douro wines in the vineyard village of Favaios.



Quinta da Avessada

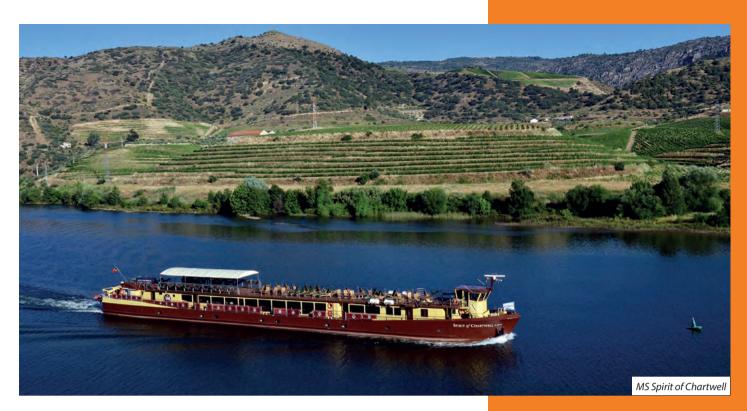
or explore the riverside village. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Sail towards Régua, passing the Pocinho, Valeira and Régua Dam. Visit a hillside Quinta for a port wine tasting. Special Portuguese dinner onboard. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit picturesque Lamego, with the 18th-century pilgrimage site of our Lady of the Remedies, reached via an impressive staircase of blue and white tiles. Sail to Porto for overnight. Farewell dinner. (B, L, D) DAY 8 Return flight or extend your stay. (B)

# **MS SPIRIT OF CHARTWELL**

The Spirit of Chartwell was restored for and used by Her Majesty The Queen for her Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Now owned by Douro Azul, this royal river barge is the flagship vessel on the Douro, offering a spacious and sumptuous design with a fabulous interior. Enjoy fine furnishings and classic elegance in a comfortable and stately ambience, inspired by the Orient Express. Professional and attentive crew members provide unequalled service during this calm passage along the Douro River. The vessel has 15 air-conditioned cabins with private facilities, a restaurant, piano bar, observation deck, shop and WiFi (free/limited). The ship normally sails in daylight hours only.



# **PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION -**THE CRADLE OF PORTUGAL

Stay pre-cruise at the 4-star Hotel do Parque perched high on a hilltop overlooking Braga and surrounded by gardens, with access into the town by road and funicular. Visits include medieval Guimarães, Braga & Viana do Castelo ad Ponte de Lima. Breakfast daily.

3 nights – £385 Single supplement - £115

# **POST-CRUISE EXTENSION -**POUSADAS OF PORTUGAL

Extend post-cruise and stay in charming historic Pousadas in a former monastery and palaces; all in magnificent settings in Condeixa-a-Nova & Queluz. Includes 6 UNESCO sites with visits to Coimbra, Fátima, Batalha, Tomar, Nazaré, Alcobaça, Óbidos, Lisbon and Sintra. Breakfast daily.

5 nights – £945 Single supplement – £275





# POUSADAS OF PORTUGAL

#### 7 nights from £1345

Alternatively, stay in and discover Portugal's monasteries and palaces in Guimarães, Condeixa-a-Nova and Palmela. Visiting Porto, Coimbra, Lisbon, Sintra, Guimarães, Braga, Setúbal and Sesimbra. Includes a Special Event 17th-century manor house & Baroque styled garden visit with afternoon tea. Plus the opportunity to extend your stay in the popular resort of coastal Estoril.

7 UNESCO Sites • No Single Supplement



Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães

# DEPARTURES & PRICES per person in a twin Main Deck cabin

TAP Air Portugal from Gatwick

#### 2023 – Fridays

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May 12	£2995	Jun 16, 23	£3295
May 19	£3295	Sep 15	£3095
Jun 9	£3095	Sep 22	£3195

#### **Supplements per person**

**REDUCED SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) May 12, Jun & Sep – £795 Single supplement - £1895 Royal Suite – £495 Drinks Package – £80 TAP Air Portugal Business Class – On request easyJet from Gatwick or Manchester - nil Ryanair from Stansted - nil

#### **Extra Nights – Porto**

The Lodge Hotel (per night) – £125 (May £95) Single supplement – £125 (May £95) Arrival or departure transfer - £20

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, port charges, transfers, 7-night cruise, full board on cruise vessel, complimentary tea/coffee on board, drinks at dinner, excursions, Jules Verne Representative, local expert guides. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival or departure transfer £20

#### Notes

The programme may be altered due to navigational factors with locks, water levels or congestion at certain sites

Drinks Package Includes: House Brands – House wine (red, white, rose); Open sparkling wine; Beer/Draft beer; cocktails (alcoholic and non-alcoholic); All long drinks; All non-alcoholic drinks; All coffee specialties (non-alcoholic); Hot chocolate & tea.

# GRAND HOTEL ON LAKE COMO

Stay at the stunningly beautiful centre of Italy's most exclusive lake with included cruises to its villas – relax or explore by boat, bus and train

# **OVERVIEW**

Lake Como (7 nights)

# **KEY FEATURES**

Most Popular Classic Resort Historical Hotel Jules Verne Favourite Hotel No Single Supplement Solo Group Departures (see page 6) Local Expert Guides

7 nights from

E1225

# INTRODUCTION

Lake Como remains the most elegant of the Italian lakes. Its golden age came in the 19th century when its romantic scenery and equitable climate attracted the likes of Queen Victoria, Flaubert, Tennyson and Liszt, but centuries earlier it was favoured by Julius Caesar and both Pliny's were born here.

Lake Como takes its dreamlike atmosphere from flower-filled gardens reflected in the water, secluded villas, little lakeside towns with steep narrow streets, all set against the dramatic backdrop of the southern Alps. Cruising the lake itself is a rewarding experience allowing fine views and different perspectives, a photographer's paradise!

Shaped in the form of an inverted 'Y', the northern end and the Lecco arm reveal dramatic peaks. Charming towns and villas set against a backdrop both less rugged and more genteel populate the Como arm.

Lake cruises are included to two of the most famous 18th-century villas: elegant Villa Carlotta, with beautiful sculptures and abundant gardens; stunningly located Villa del Balbianello, once a home of the Visconti family and the Italian mountaineer Guido Monzino, and now the setting for celebrity weddings and films such as 'Star Wars' and 'Casino Royale'.

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly to Milan and transfer to the Grand Hotel Menaggio for seven nights.

DAY 2 Afternoon private boat along Lake Como to Villa del Balbianello, for a tour. (B)

DAY 3 An optional full-day excursion to Switzerland's most elegant resort, St. Moritz, with a short train journey one-way on the Bernina Express through high mountain scenery to Diavolezza Bernina (£68). (B)

DAY 4 At leisure or full-day optional tour to Lombardy's capital, Milan. Visit Castello Sforzesco; a Renaissance Palace and view the dramatic Gothic cathedral, La Scala opera house and the Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele (£59 bookable from May-Sep). (B)

DAY 5 Afternoon private lake cruise. Visit Villa Carlotta and its gardens. Enjoy a drink on the Grand Hotel Cadenabbia terrace with stunning views of the lake. (B)

DAY 6 At leisure. Perhaps travel on a ferry and spend the day exploring many picturesque towns situated at the shoreline



SWITZERLAND



# SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Cruises on Lake Como**

Enjoy an afternoon cruise on the lake by private launch, sailing past Varenna, Bellagio and Lenno to visit Villa Carlotta and gardens. Enjoy a drink at the historic Grand Hotel Cadenabbia overlooking the lake. A further cruise to Villa del Balbianello for a guided tour.



Villa Carlotta

of Lake Como such as Bellagio and Varenna. (B)

DAY 7 Optional full-day tour to Lake Orta, the town of Stresa and a boat to Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore (£68) or join an optional full-day tour discovering Como Town and continuing by bus to one of the finest cities in Switzerland, Lugano, including a cruise on Lake Lugano (£60 bookable from May-Sep). (B)

DAY 8 Return flight from Milan. (B)

**Notes:** Excursions on Days 2, 6 & 7 include walking on some uneven surfaces. Optional tours are not exclusive for JV groups and subject to minimum numbers.

An accommodation tax is payable locally, currently €2 per person per night (maximum 10 nights).

# **GRAND HOTEL MENAGGIO**

A 4-star historic hotel, looking directly over the blue waters of Lake Como, a few steps from Menaggio main square and boat station. Restaurant, pool, bar, boutique and WiFi (free). 94 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

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# EXTENSION – LAKE COMO

Extend your stay and relax at the Grand Hotel Menaggio.

7 nights – £645 (Apr/Oct £595) Single supplement – £315 (Apr £215; Oct £185) 3 nights – £395 (Apr/Oct £325) Single supplement – £135 (Apr/Oct £95) Lake View supplement – 3 nights – £115 (Apr/Oct £85); 7 nights – £275 (Apr/Oct £195)



# AMALFI, POMPEII & SORRENTO

#### 7 nights from £1095

Alternatively, enjoy a week in Sorrento on the beautiful Neapolitan coastline with included excursions by mini-bus and on foot to Sorrento, Positano, Amalfi and Pompeii. With a choice of hotels and locally bookable excursions including Herculaneum and the Roman Villas, Ravello and the island of Capri.

Classic Resort • 2 UNESCO Heritage Sites



# **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room ITA Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Apr 8	£1295	Sep 2, 9	£1345
May 6, 20	£1325	Sep 16, 23	£1325
Jun 3	£1325	Oct 7*	£1245
Jun 10, 17, 24	£1345	Oct 14*	£1225
Jul 1	£1325		
Aug 26	£1325		

#### 2023 - Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Apr 15*	£1225	Oct 21*	£1225
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#### Supplements per person

\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability) Single supplement – £315 (Apr £215; Oct £185) Lake View – £275 (Apr/Oct £195 Lake View single – £410 (May-Sep £590; Oct £380) Lake View and balcony £295 easyJet from Gatwick – £125

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, services of local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £290 Arrival or departure transfer £105

# TREASURES OF SICILY

Our top Italy tour, a comprehensive journey, exploring Sicily's cultural heritage and ancient sites, visiting Syracuse, Piazza Armerina, Selinunte, Marsala, Monreale, Cefalù and Mount Etna

# **OVERVIEW**

Catania (2 nights) Agrigento (1 night) Palermo (2 nights) Castelmola (2 nights)

# **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing Central Hotels 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guide Throughout Solo Group Departure (see page 6)

7 nights

from

£1575

# INTRODUCTION

Nowhere of comparative size can compare with the historic treasure house that is Sicily. Not only did Greeks and Romans occupy it but they, together with the Normans, Phoenicians and Saracens, bequeathed splendid examples of their civilisations still visible today.

Syracuse was once ranked amongst Greek cities only after Athens in importance. Here Archimedes enjoyed his 'Eureka' moment and invented his scientific innovations. Picturesque Ortigia peninsula is the historic centre with a fine Baroque cathedral (once the Temple of Minerva!). In Agrigento, the 'Valley of the Temples' dramatically reveals the ancient city. Villa Casale is a Roman villa of the late Imperial period with wonderful mosaics and coastal Selinunte was once a major city of Magna Graecia. Palermo reveals Phoenician, Roman, Arabic and Norman influences, alongside the Gothic of Monreale Cathedral with its Byzantine frescoes. Picturesque Taormina, with narrow atmospheric streets and a fine Greco-Roman theatre, is spectacularly sited overlooking the coastline and Mount Etna, the largest active volcano in Europe.

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly to Catania. Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Principe in Catania centrally located and surrounded by a good selection of restaurants.

DAY 2 Short walking tour of Catania and its central square. Travel to ancient Syracuse with its Greek theatre and Roman amphitheatre. Walk through the historic centre on Ortigia peninsula and visit the Baroque cathedral with original columns from the Greek temple in the walls. (B)

DAY 3 Travel inland to Piazza Armerina to visit the Roman Villa del Casale, a UNESCO site revealing one of the richest and largest collections of Roman mosaics in the world. Continue to Agrigento to explore the 'Valley of the Temples', a UNESCO site with a collection of ancient Greek temples. Overnight at the 4-star Colleverde Park Hotel (Hotel Dioscuri Oct 3). (B)

DAY 4 Follow the coast to Selinunte's Greek temples overlooking the sea. Continue to Marsala town, for a wine tasting. Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Politeama, centrally located in Palermo to allow you to sample Sicily's cuisine. (B)





# SPECIAL EVENT

Palazzo Visit

In Palermo a visit to a Palazzo. A unique insight into a historic building and beautifully decorated home.



Palazzo Alliata di Villafranca

DAY 5 Visit the church of La Martorana, a great example of multiplicity of styles, the cathedral with the tombs of emperors and royal figures and the Palatine Chapel in the Norman Palace. Palazzo visit. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Monreale and its Gothic cathedral with Byzantine mosaics and its cloister. Travel to Cefalù, a medieval town with a Norman cathedral. Continue towards Castelmola for two nights at the 4-star Hotel Villa Sonia. (B)

DAY 7 Visit Mount Etna, up to 1,900 metres by bus (extra charge for cable car and 4-wheel drive towards summit-2,920 metres). Visit Taormina and the Greco-Roman theatre. Free time to explore the town and its gardens. Sicilian aperitif with appetisers. (B)

DAY 8 Transfer to Catania. Return flight. (B) **Notes:** This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot and some uneven surfaces/inclines.

An accommodation tax is payable locally and is currently between  $\in 2 - \in 3$  per person per night.





# **EXTRA NIGHTS**

Add extra nights pre-tour or post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently.

Hotel Principe, Catania (per night) – £75 Single supplement – £50 Arrival transfer – £35 Villa Sonia, Castelmola (per night) £100 Balcony room – £120 Single supplement – £50 Departure transfer – £65



Cathedral of Santa Agatha, Catania

# TREASURES & SECRETS OF SICILY

#### 14 nights from £2875

Alternatively, join the 'Grand Tour of Sicily. This comprehensive tour explores the capital Palermo, the ancient sites of Syracuse, Agrigento, Segesta and Selinunte, the Aeolian Isles, Marsala, whilst travelling 'in the footsteps of Inspector Montalbano'.

9 UNESCO Heritage Sites



### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room BA from Heathrow/easyJet from Gatwick (Mar/Nov)

#### 2023 – Tuesdays

Mar 21	£1575	Jun 6	£1695
Apr 11	£1645	Sep 5	£1695
Apr 25	£1595	Sep 19	£1675
May 9	£1645	Oct 3	£1595
May 16	£1645		

#### 2023 – Tuesday (Solo Group)

Nov 7\* £1575

#### Supplements per person

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £325 Balcony upgrade at Villa Sonia (2 nights) – £65

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, entrance fees, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, itinerary as described, services of local guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £250 Arrival transfer £35 Departure transfer £65

# THE COAST OF **EXPLORERS** & **EMPERORS**

A private Jules Verne small ship exploring the wonderful Dalmatian Islands and stunning coastal scenery, visiting the magnificent sites of the Croatian coast

### **OVERVIEW**

Split (Day 1) Korčula (2) Mljet (3) **Dubrovnik** (4) Pelješac Peninsula (5) Hvar (6), Pučišća / Split (7) **Return Flight (8)** 

# INTRODUCTION

We invite you to take a delightful seven-night cruise aboard the elegant and exclusive Motor Vessel Admiral to discover historic towns that were once centres of the Greco-Roman, Byzantine and Renaissance worlds.

The great city of Split reveals an abundance of Roman architecture within the monumental palace complex of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, possibly one of the greatest remaining Roman structures.

Discover Brač, famous for stone masonry, and historic Korčula, reputedly the birthplace of legendary explorer Marco Polo. Enjoy the forested idyll of Mljet, the lavender-scented island of Hvar and the rural Pelješac Peninsula.

The cruise would not be complete without time to discover the extraordinary medieval walled city of Dubrovnik, acclaimed by George Bernard Shaw as 'paradise on earth' and Byron as the 'Pearl of the Adriatic.' Stroll along the Stradun or, for the more energetic there is time to walk the famous 1,940m long walls.

# **KEY FEATURES**

**Culture & Natural Wonders Exclusive Small Ship Sailing Complimentary Cabin Selection 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Jules Verne Representative Guaranteed Departures (see page 5)** 

7 nights from

£1825

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Split. Transfer to the MV Admiral. Overnight in Split. (D)

DAY 2 Sail to Korčula island, enjoy a walking tour of the old town followed by a wine tasting. Dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Korčula. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Sail south to the Island of Mljet. Stroll along the famous salt lakes in the Mljet National Park and enjoy a boat ride to St. Mary Isle for the ancient Benedictine monastery. Sail to Dubrovnik for an evening cruise around the old city walls. Overnight in Dubrovnik, (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Take a cable car for incredible views of the ancient city walls and the Elaphiti Islands. On a walking tour explore the splendours of the old town. Overnight in Dubrovnik. (B, D)

DAY 5 Cruise towards Pelješac Peninsula and marvel at its craggy mountains, sweeping vallevs, idvilic coves and fine wines. Taste the wine of the renowned Grgic winery and enjoy our Croatian Heritage Evening. Overnight on Pelješac Peninsula. (B, L, D)



# CROATIA Trogir Adriatic Sea Pučišća •Brač Hvar Korčula Pelješa Dubrovnik Mljet

# **SPECIAL EVENT**

#### **Croatian Heritage Evening**

Wine tasting at Grgic Vina, a renowned winery established by legendary Napa Valley winemaker, Miljenko "Mike" Grgic.

On the Pelješac Peninsula enjoy our Heritage Evening in a typical village with a dinner of rustic Croatian fare.



DAY 6 Cruise towards Hvar, walking tour of the old town with a stop at the Benedictine convent. Overnight in Hvar. (B, L)

DAY 7 Sail to the Island of Brač and cruise around Zlatni Rat (the Golden Cape). Sail to Pučišća and visit the famous stone masonry school. Walking tour of Split including the magnificent Diocletian Palace. Captain's farewell dinner. Overnight in Split. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Disembark. Transfer to Trogir for a short stop for independent exploration before transferring to Split for return flight. (B)

#### **MV ADMIRAL**

The 141 ft. MV Admiral, built in 2015, is a Croatian registered vessel. Sun Deck, hot tub, restaurant, bar and WiFi (free). 20 air-conditioned cabins with private facilities, hairdryer, safe and TV. Eight twin/double cabins (172 sq. ft.) on the Lower Deck with two portholes. Five twin/double cabins Cat. A (150-172 sq. ft.) with one window, five twin/double cabins Cat. B (150-172 sq. ft.) with two windows and one single cabin (107 sq. ft.) with one window on the Main Deck. One double cabin (139 sq. ft.) with one window on the Upper Deck.





# POST-CRUISE EXTENSION – SPLIT DECISION

Extend your stay in Split, an exuberant city with the right balance between tradition and modernity. Stay at the stylish 4-star Hotel Jupiter with 38 air-conditioned rooms, inside the UNESCO-protected Diocletian Palace. Breakfast daily.

2 nights – £295 (Sep £385; Oct £265) Single supplement – £155 (Sep £245; Oct £115)

# COASTS, LAKES AND CAPITALS

#### 7 nights from £1495

Alternatively, crossing Croatia and Slovenia, from convivial Zagreb to elegant Ljubljana, this is a tour of capital cities, coastal towns, and natural wonders; where a Roman theatre, medieval churches and modern resorts share the bill with magnificent lakes and mythical caves. Stay in centrally located hotels.

**UNESCO Site: Plitvice Lakes** 



Plitvice Lakes

#### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double Lower Deck cabin Croatia Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

May 13	£1845	Sep 9	£2175
Jun 17	£2125	Oct 7	£1825

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £100 Twin/Double for sole use – £795 (Jun £835; Sep £945; Oct £725) Main Deck Cat. A – £195 Main Deck Cat. B – £295 Upper Deck – £345 Croatia Airlines Business Class – On request easyJet from Gatwick – £50 easyJet from Manchester – £50

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, transfers, 7-night cruise, breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 6 dinners, excursions, Jules Verne Representative, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival or departure transfer £30

#### Notes

At some moorings you may need to walk through vessels anchored alongside to go ashore. Most excursions are on foot including some with uneven surfaces and inclines.

# CLASSICAL TOUR OF ALBANIA

Exploring Albania's classic sites and undiscovered heritage including the hillside 'Museum City' of Gjirokastra, Ottoman architecture in Berat, Roman Apollonia and modern Tirana

### **OVERVIEW**

Kruja (1 night) Berat (2 nights) Saranda (2 nights) Gjirokastra (1 night) Tirana (2 nights)

### **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement Solo Group Departure (see page 6) Local Expert Guide Throughout

8 nights

from

£1045

# INTRODUCTION

Although Albania forms part of the Balkan Peninsula, the attraction is its remoteness and isolation from the rest of the region. The language is tantalising, sounds and words that seem familiar and which indeed reflect Albania's past influences: Greek, Latin, Turkic, Slav, but retaining its own notes, which date back to its distant Illyrian origins.

While the coastal areas are attractively familiar, the mountains of Albania reveal Ottoman fortresses, prehistoric dwellings, ancient citadels, the sites of battles both ancient and recent, monasteries, mosques, tombs cut into the rock side, finds from the Illyrian period, theatres from the ancient world and fascinating Apollonia.

After its unsettled political situation in the past the infrastructure of tourism has improved, but thankfully, the country remains unspoilt, offering an array of treasures to explore.

One thing we promise is that you can be sure to see and visit captivating castles, mountain scenery and some of the best Ottoman architecture examples you'll find anywhere on Earth.



Skanderbeg Square, Tirana

### **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly to Tirana. Transfer to Kruja, a previous capital during the resistance against the Turks under the national hero Skanderbeg, for overnight at the 3-star Hotel Panorama.

DAY 2 Visit the Skanderbeg Museum inside Kruja castle and the Ethnographic museum. Travel to Durrës to visit the amphitheatre and archaeological museum. Continue to Berat, a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to some of the best examples of Ottoman architecture outside Turkey, for two nights at the 3-star Hotel Mangalemi. (B, D)

DAY 3 Explore Berat Castle and the Onufri Museum. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Apollonia, a city which flourished in Roman times. Travel to Vlora, visit the Independence Museum, continue along the breathtaking Albanian Riviera, over the Llogara Pass, and stop at Ali Pasha's Fort. Spend two nights at the 4-star Hotel Brilant or similar in Saranda. (B)

DAY 5 Visit Butrint, a UNESCO site situated amongst dense vegetation. Continue to Lekuresi castle for a spectacular view of the bay of Saranda and the island of Corfu. (B)

DAY 6 Drive to the hillside 'Museum City' of Gjirokastra. Visit the castle and Ethnographic Museum. Lunch at a village home in Dhoksat. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Argjiro. (B, L)

DAY 7 Drive via the ancient site of Bylis to Tirana and stay two nights at the 4-star Hotel Opera or 4-star Hotel Theatro. Enjoy a dinner at an organic farm. (B, D)

DAY 8 Visit the World Headquarters of Bektashi liberal sect of Islam. Ascend Dajti Mountain (1,613 metres) by cable car for a spectacular view of Tirana. Return to Tirana to visit Bunk'Art, a unique anti-nuclear bunker built into a hill. (B)



# SPECIAL EVENT

Lunch at a Local Home

Visit an Albanian family in Dhoksat village and learn about their life and history followed by a home cooked lunch.



DAY 9 Walking tour of Bllok area, followed by visits to National History Museum and Komiteti Communist Museum Bar. Return flight. (B)

**Notes:** This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines. Most of the travelling is along a well-established road network but some minor roads may be in poor repair. The order of sightseeing might change depending on flight schedule.

### ACCOMMODATION

All hotels on this tour have a restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer and satellite TV.

**Hotel Panorama:** A traditional 3-star hotel with 75 rooms in the centre of Kruja.

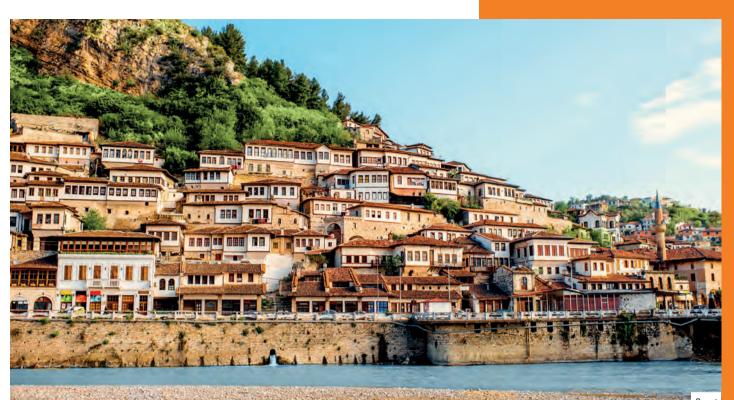
**Hotel Mangalemi:** A 3-star hotel with 15 rooms, built on the ruins of Turkish mansions in the historic Mangalem quarter.

**Hotel Brilant:** A modern 4-star hotel with 33 rooms close to Saranda's main boulevard.

**Hotel Argjiro:** A 4-star hotel in traditional style with 30 rooms close to the castle.

**Hotel Opera:** An elegant 4-star hotel with 52 rooms close to Skanderbeg Square.

**Hotel Theatro:** A 4-star boutique hotel with 24 rooms close to the National Museum.



Berat 17月1日日間、19月



# **EXTENSION – DURRËS**

Spend three nights at the seaside town of Durrës along the Albanian coast, 30 minutes from Tirana. Stay at the 4-star Royal G Hotel and Spa, a modern hotel with 110 air-conditioned rooms, close to the sea with beach access. Restaurant, bar, pools and WiFi (free). Breakfast daily.

3 nights - £180 (May 22 £195; Jun/Sep £220) Single supplement – £100 Extension available (May - Oct)

# CYPRUS, NORTH TO SOUTH

#### 7 nights from £1395

Alternatively, a full itinerary exploring the ancient island of Aphrodite's scenic splendour and cultural heritage, presenting both sides of the history and heritage of this divided island including both parts of Nicosia, Europe's only divided capital. Including 2 UNESCO sites.

No Single Supplement • Solo Departure





#### **DEPARTURES & PRICES** per person in a twin/double room

British Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 - Mondays

Mar 20*	£1045	Sep 11	£1145
Apr 17	£1165	Sep 25	£1125
May 8	£1115	Oct 16	£1115
May 22	£1125	Oct 30*	£1075
Jun 12	£1145		

#### 2023 – Monday (Solo Group)

Nov 6\* £1075

#### Supplements per person

\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability) Single supplement - £175 (May-Oct 16 £185) British Airways Club Europe – On request Privately Guided – £825 (see page 7)

#### Extra Nights – Kruja / Tirana

Hotel Panorama, Kruja (per night) – £35 Single supplement – £25 Hotel Opera, Tirana (per night) – £40 Single supplement – £30 Departure transfer – £20

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £225 Arrival transfer £25 Departure transfer with group included

# ANCIENT GREECE OF THE OLYMPICS

A small ship sailing around the Peloponnese and through the Corinth Canal with a guest lecturer exploring the ancient sites at Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Epidaurus and Mycenae

# **OVERVIEW**

Athens (Days 1 & 2) Epidaurus (Day 3), Nafplion (Day 4) Mycenae (Day 5) Mani Peninsula (Day 6) Pylos (Day 7), Olympia (Day 8) Delphi & the Corinth Canal (Day 9) Return Flight (Day 10)

# **INTRODUCTION**

A fantastic opportunity to experience the sites of Ancient Greece, starting at Athens, the cradle of Western Civilisation with an abundance of ancient monuments and the magnificent Acropolis, visible from almost every part of the city. Then cruise from Athens' port on an exciting voyage of discovery of the wonders of Antiquity around the coast of the Peloponnese.

Accompanied on the cruise by an experienced lecturer, explore the ancient theatre of Epidaurus, the Tomb of Agamemnon and the Mycenae burial complex, as well as Ancient Olympia and the famous Oracle of Delphi. The cruise through the Corinth Canal is a real highlight.

During this quieter season, explore the ancient sites without the heat and the crowds in areas rich in heritage. This small ship cruise allows guests ample time in each port to discover local life, culinary traditions and culture with access to secluded bays and remote areas as well as the better known ports of call. Of course time is allowed to relax on board and sample fine, locally flavoured cuisine.

# **KEY FEATURES**

Cruise and Cultural Tour Small Ship Sailing 5 UNESCO Heritage Sites Excursions Included On Board Lecturer Historic Vessel

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly to Athens for two nights at the 4-star Amalia Hotel Athens.

9 nights

from

£3095

DAY 2 Visit the Acropolis, viewing the Parthenon, Erectheum, theatre of Herod Atticus and the new Acropolis Museum. (B)

DAY 3 Morning free, perhaps visit the National Archaeological Museum. Transfer to the MS Galileo for seven nights. Cruise to Epidaurus. (B, D)

DAY 4 Visit ancient Epidaurus (Palaia), reputedly the birthplace of Apollo's son Asclepius, famed for its amphitheatre. Sail to Nafplion, a treasure of Venetian charm and Ottoman seductiveness. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Walking tour through the narrow network of streets of Nafplion. Travel to Mycenae, which Homer called 'rich in gold,' visit the Lion's Gate, palace, Agamemnon Tomb and museum. Sail to Monemvassia and on to Gythion. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit the Mani Peninsula, a region of underground lakes and rivers. Explore Cape Tenaro, the Diros caves with its spectacular stalactites and stalagmites and Areopolis. Overnight sailing to Pylos. (B, L, D)



#### MS Galileo



# SPECIAL EVENTS

**On Board Lecturer** 

Eugenia Alexiou was born in Athens. She studied Archaeology and Art History in the National University of Athens and holds a Master on Byzantine Art. Her real 'passion' is Prehistoric Aegean civilization since she participated in excavations on Santorini.

DAY 7 Visit Pylos, a large bay on the west coast. Occupied since the Bronze Age, the site is dominated by Nestor's palace, the best preserved existing Mycenaean palace from the Bronze Age. Visit the superb archaeological museum in Hora. Overnight sailing to Katakolon. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Travel to Olympia. Revered as the birthplace of the Olympic games, the greatest Pan-Hellenic sanctuary for the worship of Zeus. Visit the ancient stadium, temples of Zeus and Hera and museum of History of the Olympic Games. Sail for Itea in the Gulf of Corinth. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Visit of Delphi, the premier site for the worship of the god Apollo and its museum. Cross the Corinth Canal and sail to Marina Zea, Athens, for overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Return flight. (B) **Note:** Excursions are on foot and partly over uneven ground with some inclines.

# **MS GALILEO**

Operated by Variety Cruises, the classic 157 ft., 3-masted motor sailing yacht, MS Galileo, was launched in 1992, rebuilt in 2007 and refurbished in 2020. The MS Galileo is motor driven and the sails are used only occasionally. The vessel has a spacious and comfortable lounge and bar, an elegant single seating dining room, outdoor bar and a sun deck with sunbeds, deckchairs and shaded areas. All 24 outside cabins are air-conditioned with private facilities, portholes, safe, hairdryer, TV and mini-fridge. WiFi (chargeable/limited).









### **CLASSICAL TOUR OF GREECE**

#### 8 nights from £2235

Alternatively, discover the cities, temples, museums, theatres and 'marbles' of ancient Greece from Athens to Delphi and Olympia, the rock monasteries of Meteora, the picturesque Nafplion and the dramatic Peloponnese scenery.

**4 UNESCO Sites** 



#### DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin room/Category C cabin British Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 5	£3095	Oct 25	£3295
Apr 12	£3195		

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £845 Cat. B cabin (twin/double) – £405 (Nov/Mar £355) Cat. B (double for sole use) – £1395 (Nov/Mar £1090) Cat. A cabin (twin/double) – £995 (Nov/Mar £695) Cat. A (double for sole use) – £2190 (Nov/Mar £1590) British Airways Club Europe – On request

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, 2 nights' hotel and 7-night cruise, transfers, breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 7 dinners, cruise director, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £210 Arrival or departure transfer £45

# GRAND TOUR OF TURKEY

Explore Turkey's Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Hittite, Trojan and Seljuk heritage from Ottoman capitals to the natural wonders of Pamukkale and Cappadocia

# **OVERVIEW**

Istanbul (2 nights) Canakkale (1), Izmir (1) Kusadasi (2) Pamukkale (1), Konya (1) Cappadocia (2) Ankara (1) Bursa (1), Istanbul (2)

# **INTRODUCTION**

The land that bridges Europe and Asia has seen travellers in many forms absorbing the imprint of Trojans, Hittites, Greeks and Persians – later followed by Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans and more recently French and British.

The nomadic origins of the Turkic peoples lie in Central Asia, from where the Seljuk tribe moved westward, establishing capitals at Iznik (Nicaea) and Konya. Osman established the Ottoman dynasty whose territories reached at its zenith from Egypt and Persia to the Balkans and the gates of Vienna. At Bursa, the first capital of empire (1326) its great architectural style developed under Suleyman. Mehmet II swept away the Byzantine Empire in 1453, capturing Constantinople, renamed as Istanbul where Byzantine monuments include St. Sophia, founded by Emperor Justinian in the 6th-century, the city walls and Basilica Cistern. Travel from the Black, Aegean and Mediterranean seas through mountains to the Anatolian Plateau, the ruins of Troy, classical cities of Ephesus, Pergamon and Aphrodisias, the travertine terraces of Pamukkale and the chimneys of Cappadocia.



Topkapi Palace, Istanbul

# KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement Solo Group Departures Early Booking Offer: For all bookings made by 31st December 2022, deduct £100 per person

14 nights

from

£2295

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Istanbul. Stay two nights at the 4-star Eresin Hotels Taxim & Premier. (D)

DAY 2 Visit the Dolmabahçe Palace and Yedikule, the castle of seven towers. Cruise along the Bosphorus, passing palaces, mosques and waterside villas. Drink at the Pera Palas. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Gallipoli (4 hrs) and sites of the ANZAC landings. By boat across the Dardanelles. Overnight at the 4-star Kolin Hotel, Canakkale. (B, D)

DAY 4 Visit the ruins of legendary Troy and the Pergamon acropolis. Continue to Izmir for overnight at the 5-star Mövenpick Izmir. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit Ephesus, its 'Terrace Houses' and museum and Basilica of St. John. Two nights at the 5-star Korumar Hotel De Luxe, Kusadasi. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Degirmen Organic Farm and Olive Oil Museum. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit the temple of Aphrodisias and continue to Pamukkale to visit the ancient Roman city, Roman Hierapolis and calcified waterfalls. Overnight at the 4-star Colossae Thermal Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 8 Travel to the Seljuk capital of Konya (6 hrs). Visit the museums of Mevlana, ('Whirling Dervish' sect) and Karatay. Overnight at 4-star Hotel Bera. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Visit Alâeddin Mosque in Konya, then travel to Cappadocia (3 hrs), visiting the Seljuk Caravanserai in Sultan Han. Stay two nights at the 'special-category' Hotel Yusuf Yigitoglu Konagi, built into the rock. (B, D)

DAY 10 Visit the Valley of Göreme with its early Christian church paintings, underground city of Kaymakli and castle of Uçhisar. Optional Whirling Dervish ceremony



# SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Rooftop Dinner & Pera Palas**

Enjoy a welcome drink at the famous 'Orient-Express' bar of the historic Pera Palas Hotel and a rooftop dinner with panoramic views.



at an ancient caravanserai (£27). (B, D)

DAY 11 Travel to the Hittite capital Hattusha to view the rock temple, citadel and city walls. Continue to Ankara for overnight at the 4-star Radisson Blu Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 12 Visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and Mausoleum and Museum of Atatürk. Continue to Gordion to view the tomb of King Midas. Overnight in Bursa at the 4-star Gonluferah City Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 13 At Bursa visit the Green Mosque, Tomb of Sultan Murat II, the Great Mosque, Muradiye Mosque, Ottoman tombs and silk bazaar. By road and ferry across the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul for two nights at the 5-star Hotel Crowne Plaza Old City. (B)

DAY 14 Visit the Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, St. Sophia, the Basilica Cistern, Topkapi Palace including the Harem and the Grand Bazaar. Rooftop dinner. (B, D)

#### DAY 15 Return flight. (B)

**Note:** Some visits are on foot with some uneven surfaces and inclines.





# EXTRA NIGHTS – ISTANBUL

Discover more of fascinating Istanbul and add extra nights pre or post-tour to relax, reflect or explore independently.

**Eresin Hotels Taxim & Premier** (per night) – £65 Single supplement – £52

Hotel Crowne Plaza Old City (per night) – £65 Single supplement – £50 Arrival or departure transfer – £35

# **HIGHLIGHTS OF TURKEY**

#### 7 nights from £1345

Alternatively, join an exceptional value journey of discovery with expert local guides from Istanbul to Ephesus through ancient, Ottoman and Byzantine Turkey. Includes Gallipoli, Troy, Cannakale, Pergamon, Kusadasi and Bursa. Five UNESCO World Heritage Sites and four dinners included with the option to extend your stay in Istanbul.

No Single Supp. • Early Booking Offer





#### DEPARTURES & PRICES per person in a twin/double room

Turkish Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Apr 1*	£2445	Sep 23	£2395
Apr 29	£2345	Sep 30	£2395
May 13	£2345	Oct 7	£2395
Jun 3	£2345	Oct 14	£2325
Sep 9	£2445	Oct 21*	£2295
Sep 16	£2395	Oct 28*	£2295

#### 2023 - Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Mar 18* £2295 Nov 4* £229	Mar 18*	£2295	Nov 4*	£2295
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#### **Supplements per person**

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £475 Turkish Airlines Business Class – On request Turkish Airlines from Manchester, Birmingham or Edinburgh – £75

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 14 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 12 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival or departure transfer £35

# **BALTIC CAPITALS**

Exploring the distinctive heritage and architectural styles of the capitals and royal residences of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland

# 8 nights from £1495



# SPECIAL EVENT

#### **Riga Black Balsam**

Visit the Riga Black Magic Bar with its 18th century apothecary interior. In the basement Abraham Kunze developed, 250 years ago, Riga Black Balsam according to his secret recipe. Enjoy a cocktail based on the liqueur with a slice of cake!

# INTRODUCTION

**OVERVIEW** 

Riga (3 nights)

Vilnius (2 nights)

Tallinn (2 nights)

Helsinki (1 night)

The capitals of the three Baltic States are a complimentary trio of architectural beauty. The once isolated city of Vilnius boasts Europe's largest Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with beautiful Gothic, Neo-classical and famous Baroque architecture. The city was once known as the 'Jerusalem of the North', the Lithuanian Jewish population grew to 100,000 before WWII, but tragically over 90% were murdered during the Holocaust.

The handsome and vibrant city of Riga is the largest of the Baltic capitals and aspires to the title 'Paris of the Baltics'. In the Old Town, its architectural mix of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque has survived, although most interesting perhaps is that Riga has the highest percentage of Art Nouveau buildings in Europe.

Tallinn's old town developed little after the 15th century and still retains its medieval beauty, yet mixed with a distinct character, its winding cobblestone streets are lined with beautiful Gothic architecture. Helsinki is a cutting-edge urban space, home to Neo-classical architecture which is explored in the cathedral area.



Vilnius Old Town, Lithuania

# KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guides Historic Hotel

### **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Vilnius via Helsinki. Spend two nights at the 4-star Hotel Vilnia.

DAY 2 Morning tour of Vilnius includes a visit to the National Museum – Palace of the Great Dukes of Lithuania and the courtyards of Vilnius University, one of the oldest universities in Central Europe, founded in the 16th century. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Trakai to visit the Island Castle, built in several phases in the 14th century. Cross the Latvian border and continue to Riga (4 hrs). Spend three nights at the 4-star Wellton Riverside Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 4 Morning tour of Riga visiting the History of KGB Operations in Latvia and the Dome Cathedral, followed by a short organ concert at the cathedral. Visit the Riga Black Magic Bar for a cocktail. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to Rundale Palace, designed by Rastrelli and set amongst formal French-style gardens. Visit the Baroque Palace built for the Dukes of Courland and admire the manicured garden. (B, L)

DAY 6 Cross into Estonia, continue to Tallinn (4 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Palace Hotel. Walking tour of Tallinn's Old Town includes the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on Toompea hill, the most opulent Orthodox Church in Tallinn, and the Town Hall, the oldest in Northern Europe and the only one preserved in Gothic style. (B, L)

DAY 7 Visit to nearby Baroque Kadriorg Palace, built for Catherine I of Russia by Peter the Great and Peter the Great's house, a humble 17th-century cottage. Afternoon walking tour of Telliskivi, a complex of former warehouses turned into a creative city, ending the tour with a tasting of Vana Tallinn. (B)



DAY 8 Travel by ferry (2 hrs) to Helsinki for overnight at the 4-star Hotel Lilla Roberts. (B)

DAY 9 Walking tour viewing Senate Square, railway station, Esplanade and the South Harbour area with City Hall and Presidential Palace. Visit to the city library Oodi. Return flight. (B)

**Note:** The tour involves carrying luggage on and off a ferry.

# ACCOMMODATION

All hotels on this tour have a restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

**Hotel Vilnia:** A charming 4-star hotel in a 19th-century building with 79 rooms, opposite the Bernardine Garden and in Vilnius's Old Town.

**Wellton Riverside Hotel:** A modern 4-star hotel with 222 rooms, close to the House of the Blackheads in Riga's Old Town.

**Palace Hotel:** An elegant 4-star hotel with 79 rooms, dating back to 1937, located next to Freedom Square and Tallinn's Old Town.

**Hotel Lilla Roberts:** A 4-star hotel with 130 rooms in Helsinki's old police station.









Helsinki Cathedral, Finland

# THE BALKANS REVEALED

#### 10 nights from £1645

Alternatively, covering three countries' capitals and a kaleidoscope of colours and cultures, this bountiful tour of the Balkans crosses borders and beautiful landscapes, to reveal the ancient sites, artistic treasures, and medieval monuments of Bulgaria, Serbia, and Romania.

**3 UNESCO Heritage Sites** 



# **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Finnair from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Fridays

May 19	£1525	Aug 4	£1585
Jun 2	£1535	Aug 18	£1585
Jun 23	£1565	Sep 8	£1525
Jul 7	£1555	Sep 22	£1495

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £435

#### Extra Nights – Vilnius / Helsinki

Hotel Vilnia, Vilnius (per night) – £65 Single supplement – £45 Hotel Lilla Roberts, Helsinki (per night) – £115 (Jun 2; Aug; Sep 8 £135) Single supplement – £95 (Jun 2; Aug; Sep 8 £105)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival transfer £25 Departure transfer £75

# THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE & ASIA

Explore the ancient cultural heritage, the capitals, the glorious countryside and the spectacular scenery of Georgia and Armenia





# OVERVIEW

Tbilisi (2 nights) Kazbegi (1 night) Tbilisi (2 nights) Tsaghkadzor (2 nights) Yerevan (3 nights)

# **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guides Central Hotels

# **INTRODUCTION**

At the crossroads between Europe and Asia sits the mountainous Caucasus region, flanked by the Black and Caspian seas. In the southern part, known as Transcaucasia, lie two neighbouring countries that only regained their independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Armenia is home to verdant valleys and rugged mountain peaks, a green capital city and a heavenly collection of medieval monasteries and rock-carved churches.

In Georgia colour and character in country towns contrasts modern edifices in the vibrant capital; scenic landscapes are dotted with hilltop towers, rural churches and ancient cave cities; all enhanced by a rich culture of hospitality. The country has an abundance of superb wines with over 8.000 years of wine culture, and was labelled the vineyard of the Soviet Union.

Owing to their strategic location both countries have suffered many invasions, including Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Persian, Ottoman and Russian. There is a colourful history to explore.



# ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Warsaw and transfer to the old town for some free time followed by a walking tour before return to airport for flight to Tbilisi. Transfer to 4-star Mercure Tbilisi Old Town for two nights.

DAY 2 Afternoon walk around Tbilisi's old town, visit Metekhi Church, Sioni Cathedral, the Soviet Occupation Museum and Simon Janashia Museum of Georgia. (B)

DAY 3 Visit Jvari Monastery and Svetitskhoveli Cathedral in Mtskheta. Travel to Kazbegi to view the striking Mount Kazbek, drive by 4WD up a mountain trail to visit Gergeti Trinity Church. Enjoy a khinkali making demonstration and tasting. Overnight at the 4-star Rooms Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 4 Visit the cave town of Uplistsikhe and Stalin's Museum in Gori. Return to Tbilisi for two nights. (B)

DAY 5 Visit Bodbe Monastery. Lunch at a local village home and learn how churchkhela is made. Proceed to Sighnaghi for a walking tour and wine tasting. (B, L)

DAY 6 Cross the border to Armenia and visit the monastery of Haghpat. Visit to a local house of the Molokan community, enjoy a cup of tea and some homemade sweets. Continue to Diljian for a walk through the old town. Spend two nights at the 4-star Tsaghkadzor Marriott Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Travel to Lake Sevan, the largest body of water in the Caucasus. Enjoy a cruise on the lake. Explore Sevanavank monastic complex. Return to Tsaghkadzor and a ride up on the chair lift of Mount Teghenis for a stunning view of the forested mountains and Lake Sevan. (B, D)

DAY 8 Visit Noraduz cemetery with its 900 khachkars. Drive over Selim Pass to view one of the best preserved caravanserais on the Silk Road. Continue to Noravank and



#### **Geghard Monastery & Wine Tasting**

Enjoy a performance of Armenian choral music in the cave mausoleum at Geghard Monastery.

Taste a range of Georgian wines at a winery in Sighnaghi.



Geghard Monastery

then Khor-Virap, one of the holiest sites in Armenia. Spend three nights at the 4-star Tufenkian Historic Hotel in Yerevan. (B)

DAY 9 Visit Geghard Monastery and the temple of Garni. Lavash demonstration. Tour of Yerevan including the History Museum of Armenia and an ancient manuscript repository. (B, L)

DAY 10 Travel to Echmiatsin to visit its cathedral. Later, visit the Genocide Museum and Memorial. Armenian Brandy tasting. (B) DAY 11 Return flight via Warsaw. (B)

# ACCOMMODATION

All hotels on this tour have a restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and rooms with satellite TV.

**Mercure Tbilisi Old Town:** A modern 4-star hotel in the centre of Tbilisi with102 air-conditioned rooms.

**Rooms Hotel:** A 4-star hotel with 120 rooms at the base of Kazbek Mountain.

**Tsaghkadzor Marriott Hotel:** A 4-star hotel with 100 air-conditioned rooms located at the base of the Tsaghkunyats Mountains.

**Tufenkian Historic Hotel:** A 4-star boutique hotel with 84 air-conditioned rooms located in the very heart of Yerevan.



# PRE-TOUR EXTENSION – AZERBAIJAN

Complete your Caucasus tour with a visit to the Land of Fire. Spend five nights in Baku with a city tour and a visit to Absheron Peninsula and to Gobustan to view the rock paintings. Travel via Muganly Pass to Sheki for overnight and Khan's Palace. Cross into Georgia for the Nekresi Monastery. Breakfast daily and one Azeri dinner.

6 nights – £965; Single supplement – £355

 Baku



# **DISCOVER BULGARIA**

#### 8 nights from £1455

Alternatively, explore Bulgaria's beautiful landscapes, monasteries, monuments, and museums, marking thousands of years of historic heritage. From the Rila Mountains to river valleys and Black Sea shores, this beguiling tour visits stately cities, intriguing towns, and tiny villages. Travel on the narrow gauge 'Rhodope Railway'. Church Psalms at Arbanassi.

5 UNESCO Heritage Sites



# DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room LOT Polish Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Thursdays

May 4	£1995	Sep 7	£2025
May 18	£1995	Sep 14	£2025
Jun 1	£2025	Sep 28	£1985
Jul 13	£1995	Oct 5	£1975
Aug 10	£1995	Oct 19	£1975

#### Supplements per person

Single supplement – £565 LOT Polish Airlines Business Class – On request Privately Guided – £1145 (see page 7)

#### Extra Nights – Tbilisi / Yerevan

Mercure Old Town, Tbilisi (per night) – £85 Single supplement – £65 Tufenkian Historic Hotel, Yerevan (per night) – £75 Single supplement – £55

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 3 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £400 Arrival transfer £30 Departure transfer £15

#### Note

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including several sites with steps.

# GRAND TOUR OF MOROCCO

From the coast to the Atlas Mountains, from the desert to the Imperial cities, from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean coast, staying in Riads, historic and coastal hotels

### **OVERVIEW**

Marrakech (3 nights) Rabat (2) Tangier (1), Fez (3) Erfoud (1) Boumalne Dades (1) Taroudant (1) Essaouira (2)

# INTRODUCTION

Morocco as a country is 'grand' in many ways. Measuring some 2,000 kilometres from tip to toe, it dominates North West Africa's coastline. Travelling north to south, fertile soils give way to the sands of the Sahara. West to east, cultivated coastal plains contrast with fascinating imperial cities and atmospheric medinas. Explore the historical sites and natural wonders that reveal its cultural diversity, from Berber and Arabised areas to former French, Spanish and Portuguese cities.

Morocco dynasties moved their capital according to personal inclination or trade routes, encompassing in turn Marrakech, Fez, Meknes and Rabat. The remarkably sited city of Fez is wedged in a valley, its houses climbing up the slope on either side – its medina is little changed since medieval times and surrounded by original gates and fortifications. The ancient walled city of Marrakech reveals gardens, souks and palaces. Meknes is the capital of Moulay Ismail, a 17th-century Sultan.

This tour features a careful and varied selection of riads, heritage accommodations of character and coastal hotels.



#### Basilica, Volubilis

**KEY FEATURES** 

Cultural Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing Historic Hotels / Riads Most Meals Included 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

#### **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Marrakech, for three nights at an Angsana Riad, located within the medina.

14 nights

from

£2645

DAY 2 Full-day tour to Bahia Palace, Badia Palace, Saadian Tombs, Dar Si Said Palace Museum of jewellery, costume, chests and doors and the souks. Riad dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Visit Majorelle Gardens and the YSL Museum. Lunch at La Mamounia. (B, L)

DAY 4 Travel to Casablanca (3 hrs) for a tour and visit Hassan II Mosque. Two nights at the Sofitel Rabat. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 A tour of Imperial Rabat. (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel to Tangier (3 hrs). Visit the medina, port, Kasbah and Palace Museum. Overnight at the Mövenpick Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Drive into the Rif Mountains to Tetouan. Visit the 'blue town' of Chefchaouen. Travel to Fez (4 hrs) for three nights at the Marriott Hotel or Palais Omayad. (B, D)

DAY 8 Visit Roman Volubilis, the hill town, Moulay Idriss and imperial Meknes. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Tour the ramparts of Fez. Explore the medina, the largest in the world and the Attarine Medersa. Riad lunch. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Travel across the Middle Atlas to Erfoud on the edge of the Sahara (6 hrs) for overnight at Hotel Xaluca. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Early morning optional excursion to the Merzouga Dunes. Travel to Tinerhir (3 hrs) to visit the Todra Gorges. Overnight at the Hotel Xaluca in Boumalne Dades. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Travel along the 'Valley of a Thousand Kasbahs' to Ouarzazate. Visit the kasbahs of Tifoultoute, Taourirt & Ait Ben Haddou. Travel to Taroudant (4 hrs). Overnight at the Riad Dar Zitoune. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit Taroudant. Optional carriage ride (bookable locally). Travel to Essaouira (4 hrs) for two nights at Atlas Essaouira. (B, D)



### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### La Mamounia & Riad Experience

Enjoy lunch at the exclusive, historic La Mamounia Hotel, a Marrakech landmark, stay at a small, intimate historic riad of the Angsana Riad Collection in Marrakech medina, enjoy a Moroccan meal at a riad in Fez and Marrakech.



La Mamounia Hotel, Marrakech

DAY 14 A morning tour of the fortifications, medina and market. Afternoon free. (B, D)

DAY 15 Return flight from Marrakech. (B) *Note:* Exploring the medina can be hectic and includes a couple of hours walking.

### ACCOMMODATION

All hotels/riads have restaurant(s), bar, pool (except Angsana), WiFi (free) and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV (except Angsana).

**Angsana Riads:** A selection of small, intimate historic riads, within the medina.

**Sofitel Rabat:** An international 5-star hotel located in the centre of Rabat.

**Mövenpick Hotel:** A Moroccan 5-star hotel overlooking the Malabata Bay in Tangier.

Marriott: A modern 5-star hotel in Fez.

**Hotel Xaluca:** A Moroccan 4-star hotel at the entrance of the Sahara desert in Erfoud.

**Hotel Xaluca Dades Valley:** A Moroccan 4-star hotel with views of the Dades Valley.

**Riad Dar Zitoune:** A 4-star riad hotel at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, in Taroudant.

Atlas Essaouira: A Moroccan 5-star hotel on the beachfront.







# GRAND TOUR OF TUNISIA

#### 10 nights from £1445

Alternatively, visit 'Roman Africa' on a comprehensive journey around the scenic North, medinas, the Sahara and the coast of Tunisia. Includes visits to the capital Tunis, ancient Carthage, the holy city of Kairouan, splendid Dougga, coastal Hammamet, the amphitheatre of El Djem and a Special Event Tunisian history lecture at the Ribat of Sousse.

7 UNESCO Sites • No Single Supplement





# **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room British Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Sundays

Feb 5	£2795	Sep 3	£2695
Mar 5	£2845	Sep 10	£2695
Apr 23	£2745	Oct 1	£2745
May 7	£2745	Oct 15	£2745
Jun 11	£2645	Nov 19	£2795
Aug 20	£2645	Dec 3	£2795

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £795 (May-Sep 3 £745) British Airways Club Europe – On request

#### Extra Nights - Marrakech / Essaouira

Angsana Riad (per night) – £75 Single supplement – £75 Atlas Essaouira (per night) – £55 Single supplement – £35

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 14 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 12 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £200 Arrival transfer £15 Departure transfer £60

# **DISCOVER JORDAN**

A full and rewarding itinerary encompassing history and hospitality, souks and citadels, desert dunes in sunset hues, the salt-dense Dead Sea and the pink rock walls of Petra





# SPECIAL EVENTS

**Perspectives of Petra** 

Two guided visits and two full days to explore Petra. Visit to Little Petra Siq. A dinner at a camp on the outskirts of Petra with traditional baking and cooking. Drink at the Nabataean Cave Bar and optional Petra by Candlelight.



#### DAY 10 Return flight via Amman. (B)

**Notes:** This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines. Petra visit involves much of the day on foot. For safety reasons 4x4 drives would have to be done whilst sitting inside the vehicle.

# Departs during Ramadan, so sites are quieter.

### ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have a restaurant(s), bar, pool and gym. Air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

**Mövenpick Dead Sea:** A 5-star resort on the north-eastern shore in 'village' style with beach-front and Dead Sea bathing. WiFi (free) and rooms with balcony.

**Marriott Amman:** A modern, central 5-star hotel close to the Citadel and Roman Amphitheatre. WiFi (chargeable).

**Mövenpick Petra:** In a perfect location at the entrance to the site, a 5-star hotel with oriental architecture and intricate interior design and authentic antiques. WiFi (free).

**Mövenpick Aqaba:** A 5-star resort of classic style in central Aqaba hotel on the Red Sea. Private beach, heated pool and WiFi (free).

#### **OVERVIEW**

Dead Sea (2 nights) Amman (2 nights) Petra (3 nights) Aqaba (2 nights)

# **KEY FEATURES**

**ITINERARY** 

Dead Sea.

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites 5-Star & Historic Hotels No Single Supplement (see page 6) Solo Group Departures (see page 6)

DAY 1 Fly London Heathrow to Amman.

DAY 2 Morning free to float on the

Dead Sea. Visit Mount Nebo and

restaurant in Madaba. (B, L)

Amman Hotel. (B)

Bar. (B)

Aqaba. (B, D)

cruise. (B)

(bookable locally). (B)

Madaba's St. George's Church and

Two nights at the 5-star Mövenpick Resort

archaeological park. Lunch at a traditional

DAY 3 Morning free to float on the Dead

Sea. Visit Bethany and continue to Amman

for two nights at the central 5-star Marriott

DAY 4 Visit Jerash and the Desert Castles.

Optional dinner at a Jordanian restaurant

DAY 5 City tour of Amman, visiting the

Citadel, the Jordan Museum and Kerak

DAY 6 Morning guided visit of Petra

(4 hrs of walking) and afternoon free to

Castle. Continue to Petra for three nights at

entrance to the site. Dinner at a camp. (B, D)

explore (perhaps climb up to the Monastery,

el-Deir). Enjoy a drink at the Nabataean Cave

DAY 7 Return to Petra for a morning walk up

to the High Place of Sacrifice. Afternoon at

Sig and Treasury (bookable locally). (B)

DAY 8 Visit Little Petra. Afternoon visit to

Wadi Rum including a 4x4 drive viewing

the 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom', sunset view

DAY 9 Optional excursion on

and dinner at a Bedouin Camp. Continue to

Agaba for two nights at the 5-star Mövenpick

'Yellow Submarine' (£30), a semi-submersible

viewing the Red Sea marine splendours and

coral reserve. Farewell drink on a sunset

leisure. Optional Petra by Candlelight at the

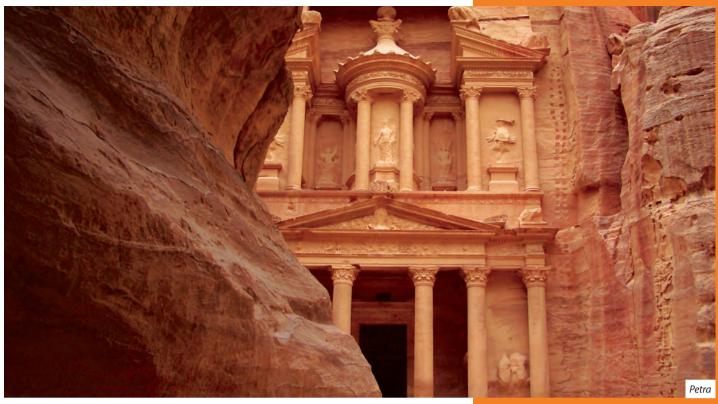
the 5-star Mövenpick Petra, located at the

# INTRODUCTION

"Match me such a marvel, save in Eastern clime; a rose-red city, half as old as Time." John William Burgon famously described Petra, founded 2,000 years ago by the Nabataeans and re-discovered by Burckhardt over 200 years ago. Our 'Perspectives of Petra' maximises your enjoyment of this astonishing site.

Jordan is a journey through religious and ancient history: from Mount Nebo, burial site of Moses, from where he viewed the 'Promised Land' to Bethany, baptism site of Jesus on the River Jordan; from Madaba's mosaic map of ancient Palestine to Jerash, best preserved Roman city of the Decapolis and known as 'Pompeii of the East'; from the evocative Desert Castles of the Umayyad caliphs, used as a refuge by T.E. Lawrence to the Crusader castle of Kerak on the King's Highway. Jordan's natural beauty is all around, best displayed on the Dead Sea, under the Red Sea, in the green north and at dramatic Wadi Rum, used for the filming of 'Lawrence of Arabia' and most recently 'Aladdin'.







# EXTENSION – AQABA

Extend for three nights or longer at the Mövenpick Aqaba. Jordan's Red Sea coastline offers sandy beaches, coral reef, seafront cafés and restaurants. 3 nights – £315 (Nov-Feb £235) Single supplement – £215 (Nov-Feb £165)

Extra Nights – Mövenpick Aqaba (per night) – £65 (Apr/May/Sep/Oct £90) Single supplement – £40 (Apr/May/Sep/Oct £65)



#### FROM JERUSALEM TO PETRA

#### 12 nights from £3695

Alternatively, enjoy a journey through the Holy Land from evocative Israel to intriguing Jordan, combining religious history, cultural heritage and natural beauty. Stay in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, Petra and on the Red and Dead seas. Shabbat and Bedouin camp dinners.

**5 UNESCO Sites • Special Events** 



# DEPARTURES & PRICES per person in a twin/double room

Royal Jordanian from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 17*	£2295	Aug 29	£2545
Feb 14, 21	£2495	Sep 5, 12	£2595
Mar 7, 21	£2545	Oct 3, 17	£2645
Apr 4	£2595	Oct 24, 31	£2645
Apr 11, 18	£2645	Nov 7, 14	£2695
May 2, 16, 23	£2695	Dec 5*	£2395

#### 2023 - Tuesday (Solo Group)

Jan 24 £2295

#### **Supplements per person**

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £695

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, visa is included and issued on arrival for British passport holders arriving with the group, transfers, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £400; Arrival transfer £60 Departure transfer £40

# **PYRAMIDS & THE NILE**

Combining the Pyramids and a Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan viewing the great temples and tombs of ancient Egypt



# **OVERVIEW**

Cairo (Days 1 & 2) Luxor (Day 3) Luxor / Esna (Day 4) Esna / Kom Ombo / Aswan (Day 5) Aswan (Day 6) Cairo (Days 7 & 8) **Return Flight (Day 9)** 

# INTRODUCTION

Almost everyone who visits the Pyramids wishes they had the time or opportunity to sail on the Nile. Conversely, those who choose a Nile cruise wish they just had time to view the Pyramids. We are therefore delighted to offer the combination of these two highlights. The pyramids at Giza and Saqqara are the tombs of the pharaohs, located either side of the Old Kingdom capital of Memphis. Cairo's Egyptian Museum is the world's greatest repository of ancient Egyptian treasures including those from Tutankhamun's tomb. The most famous temples and tombs of the Nile lie between Luxor and Aswan.

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Cairo for two nights at the 5-star Crowne Plaza West Cairo Arkan Hotel.

DAY 2 Visit the Pyramids and Sphinx, then Memphis and Saggara. Optional Sound & Light at the Pyramids (£35). (B, L)

DAY 3 Flv to Luxor. Transfer to the 4-star Mövenpick MS Hamees for a four-night cruise. Visit Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple. (B, L, D)

# **KEY FEATURES**

**Cultural Tour & Cruise Jules Verne Sightseeing** Egyptian Tour Manager / Egyptologist **4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement** 

DAY 4 Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut and Colossi of Memnon. Visit a selection of tombs in the Valley of the Kings. Perhaps view the tomb of Seti 1 or Tutankhamun (subject to viewing restrictions, at extra charge). Sail to Esna. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 A short walk through Esna to its temple dedicated to Khnum. Sail to the riverside temple at Kom Ombo for sunset, Cruise to Aswan, (B. J. D)

DAY 6 Visit the High Dam with views of Lake Nasser and by boat to Philae temple and visit the Nubian Museum. Afternoon felucca or private boat to Kitchener Island Botanical Gardens. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Fly to Cairo for two nights at the central 5-star The Nile Ritz-Carlton. (B)

DAY 8 Visit the Egyptian Museum, Citadel, bazaars of Khan el-Khalili, Mohammed Ali Mosque including lunch. (B, L)

DAY 9 Return flight to Heathrow. (B)

# **MÖVENPICK MS HAMEES**

Refurbished in 2018, this deluxe vessel has spacious public rooms, and a restaurant with a combination of waiter and buffet service. Lounge, bar, gift shop, a large panoramic sundeck with plunge pool and WiFi







Felucca, Aswan

(free/limited). 70 air-conditioned outside cabins (233 sq. ft.) with private facilities, hairdryer, safe and mini-fridge. All cabins have picture windows except the Lower Deck and the two Main Deck single cabins (161 sq. ft.), which have portholes.

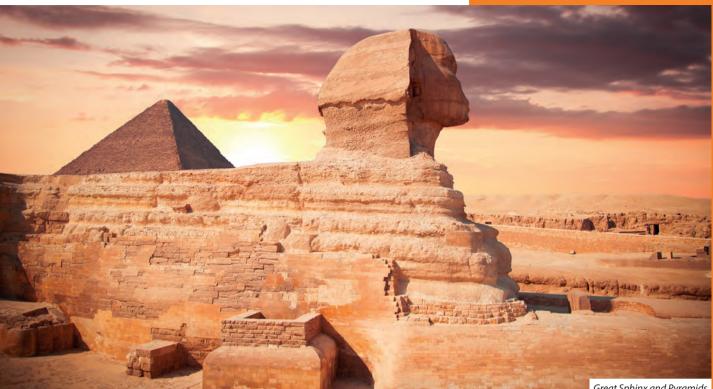
# ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

#### Crowne Plaza West Cairo Arkan Hotel: A

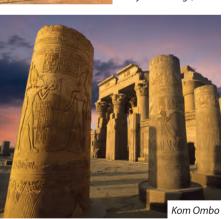
new, 5-star resort hotel in the heart of Sheikh Zayed with 178 rooms and a selection of restaurants, bar, pool, sauna, gym and WiFi (free).

The Nile Ritz-Carlton: The first luxury hotel in Egypt, conveniently located in the downtown area and overlooking the Nile River. 331 rooms, a selection of restaurants, bars, pool, gym, spa and WiFi (free).









# THE 600-MILE NILE

#### 12 nights from £4595

Alternatively, discover the 'full Nile cruise' from Aswan and Nubia to Thebes, Denderah, Abydos, Amarna, Cairo and the Pyramids, aboard the 5-star Mövenpick MS Darakum. Explore the major ancient sites of Egypt in the company of an Egyptologist, ideal for the first-time or returning visitor to Egypt.

No Single Supplement • 4 UNESCO Sites



Great Sphinx and Pyramids

#### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Lower Deck cabin EgyptAir from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Jan 14	£2745	Apr 15	£2895
Feb 18	£2795	Oct 14*	£2845
Mar 11	£2945	Nov 18*	£2845

#### Supplements per person

\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability) Lower Deck double cabin for sole use – £645 Main Deck – £50 Main Deck double cabin for sole use – £695 Upper Deck – £95 Upper Deck double cabin for sole use – £745 EgyptAir Business Class – On request

#### Extra Nights – Cairo

**Crowne Plaza West Cairo Arkan Hotel** (per night) Standard (twin/double) - £75 Standard (single) - £135 Arrival or departure transfer - £15

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 4 nights' hotel accommodation, 4 night-cruise, breakfast daily, 2 lunches in Cairo, full board on cruise, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Tour Only (see page 7) Save £550 Arrival or departure transfer £15

# THE ORIGINAL NILE BY ROYAL STEAMER

An exclusive Jules Verne sailing on the classic Nile route from Cairo and the Pyramids to ancient Thebes and Aswan on board the restored deluxe paddle steamer SS Misr

# 14 nights from £5995



Cairo (Days 1 & 2), Beni Suef (3), Minya (4), Beni Hassan / Amarna (5), Tuna el-Gebel / Amarna (6), Asyut (7), Sohag (8), Abydos / Naga Hammadi (9), Qena / Denderah / Luxor (10), Luxor (11), Luxor / Edfu (12), Edfu / Kom Ombo / Aswan (13), Aswan (14), Return Flight (15)

# **INTRODUCTION**

A 'Royal Invitation' to join an exclusive Jules Verne group of travellers on a unique journey in the most atmospheric and luxurious conveyance for the long Nile cruise, following in the footsteps of the 19th-century British excursionists who travelled by steamer to Thebes.

The Nile flows the whole length of Egypt linking its civilisations and peoples, a green line through the desert providing water and livelihood. The ancient capital moved between Upper (Thebes) and Lower Egypt (Memphis), sometimes split and sometimes united, except when Akhenaten and Nefertiti moved the capital to Amarna between the two kingdoms.

This cruise offers a rare opportunity to observe an old way of life little changed and ancient sites largely unvisited.

# **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Cairo. Transfer to the SS Misr for a 14-night cruise. (D) DAY 2 Visit the Great Pyramids and Sphinx. Lunch at the Mena House with views of



Kom Ombo

# KEY FEATURES

Culture & Riverscapes New Exclusive Small Ship Sailing Jules Verne Sightseeing 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Egyptian Tour Manager / Egyptologist Onboard Lectures

the Pyramids. Visit the new Grand Museum (subject to government approval) or Egyptian Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Enjoy a relaxing day on the river as we sail from Cairo towards Beni Suef. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit Maydom Pyramid and the brick built mastabas nearby. Sail to Minya. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 View the Beni Hassan; the Tombs of Baqet, Khety, Amenenmhet and Khnumhotep. Return to the vessel for lunch and sail to Tel El Amarna. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit the catacombs at Tuna el-Gebel and Ashmunin, from a major city of Roman Egypt, and an early Christian centre from the third century. In the afternoon explore Tel El Amarna, visiting the Tombs of Meryre, Pentu, Paneshesy and the Royal Tomb of Akhenaten, the Great Palace of King Akhenaten and the small and great temples of Aten. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 A day at leisure cruising the Nile to Asyut. Sit back and relax as you watch the riverbanks unfold before you, viewing enroute the monastery of Prince Tawadros. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 A talk on board on Egyptian culture and later, view pharaonic antiquities at the newly opened Sohag Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Sail to El Balyana. At Abydos, visit the New Kingdom Temple of Seti I. Pass two locks and the railway bridge at Naga Hammadi. Overnight in Naga Hammadi. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Sail to Qena. Visit the Temple of Hathor at Denderah. Sail to Luxor. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, Valley of the Kings, (option to visit the tomb of Tutankhamun or Seti I – subject to viewing restrictions, at extra charge) and the Colossi of Memnon. Afternoon visit to the Luxor Museum. Special Event: 'Luxor Temple by Night and Cocktail reception at the Old



# SPECIAL EVENTS

Luxor Temple by Night, Winter Palace Cocktail and Afternoon Tea at the Old Cataract

A private cocktail reception at the Victorian Lounge in the Old Winter Palace. Visit the illuminated Luxor Temple. Tea at the historic Old Cataract Hotel.



Winter Palace'.

DAY 12 Morning visit Karnak and Temple on the East Bank. Evening cruise to Edfu. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit Edfu temple, then sail to Kom Ombo to visit the riverside temple. Continue to Aswan for overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 View the High Dam and Philae Temple. Visit the Nubian Museum, then enjoy afternoon tea at the Old Cataract Hotel with fine Nile views. (B, L, D)

DAY 15 Return flight to London via Cairo. (B)

# SS MISR

Converted for King Farouk, Misr means 'the Kingdom of Egypt' with public rooms and cabins exquisitely decorated in colours and styles linked to the history of the vessel and Egypt. A 5-star deluxe propeller steam vessel with 63 crew and a high level of service. Lower Sun Deck with wicker chairs or upper Sun Deck with sunbeds and plunge pool. WiFi (free/limited). 24 air-conditioned outside cabins with private facilities, balcony, hairdryer, mini-bar and TV.

**Notes:** Temple, tomb and pyramid visits are on foot with steps and uneven surfaces.

The programme may be altered due to navigational factors, water levels or congestion at certain sites.





## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION – CAIRO

Why not travel out a little earlier and spend two nights at the Luxury The Nile Ritz Carlton, set on the banks of the Nile, with breakfast included. Discover Memphis, Saqqara and Dahshur on an included tour, accompanied by an Egyptologist. Free time to explore Cairo independently.

2 nights – £450 Single supplement – £405



## A ROYAL STEAMER RESTORED

#### 7 nights from £3395

Alternatively, enjoy the same SS Misr experience on the classic Nile cruise between Thebes and Nubia. Explore the famous tombs of the Valley of the Kings, the riverside temple of Kom Ombo, Kitchener Island Botanical Gardens and Luxor, all from the comfort of the 'most luxurious steamship on the Nile'.

No Single Supplement • 2 UNESCO Sites



## **DEPARTURE & PRICES**

per person in a Main Deck cabin EgyptAir from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturday

Apr 8 £5995

#### **Supplements per person**

Main Deck single cabin – £795 Main Deck (double for sole use) – £1695 Upper Deck – £395 Upper Deck (double for sole use) – £1995 Suite (Upper Deck) – £895 EgyptAir Business Class – On request

#### Extra Nights - Cairo / Aswan

**Crowne Plaza West Cairo Arkan Hotel** (per night) Standard (twin/double) – £75 Standard (single) – £135 Arrival or departure transfer – £15

**Sofitel Old Cataract** (per night) Standard Premium Nile Wing (twin beds) – £135 Standard Premium Nile Wing (single) – £240 Luxury Nile Wing (king bed) – £165 Luxury Nile Wing (single) – £290 Arrival or departure transfer – £15

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 14 night-cruise, full board and drinks on cruise vessel, itinerary as described, excursions, Egyptian tour manager and Egyptologist, local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £550 Arrival or departure transfer £15

# A KENYAN SAFARI

The most famous wildlife spectacle in the world, a classic safari to the savannah grasslands, highlands and glittering lakes of East Africa

## 9 nights from £3545



## OVERVIEW

Nairobi (1 night) Aberdare NP (2 nights) Lake Elementaita (1 night) Masai Mara (3 nights) Lake Naivasha (1 night) Flight (1 night)

## KEY FEATURES

Wildlife Experience Jules Verne Sightseeing UNESCO Site: Great Rift Valley Local Expert Guides Solo Group Departures (see page 6)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Kenya reveals a massive concentration of large animals – predators and prey alike are easily observed. Home to thousands of animals, the Masai Mara game drives are a real highlight, this improved itinerary gives more opportunity to witness nature spectacles by staying there longer.

Renowned for the annual Great Migration (normally Aug-Sep), to and from neighbouring Serengeti, of zebra, gazelles and a million wildebeest, 'the Mara' is a Big Five reserve and a big cat haunt.

The savanna grasslands of East Africa offer the most famous wildlife spectacle in the world. Along with the incredible sights of thousands of game animals is a virtually unrivalled variety of birdlife. Lakes Naivasha and Nakuru also reveal great variety of birds and animals.

Huge skies dome over lakes and deserts, forests and savannah, palm grove shores and the Great Rift Valley, one of the natural wonders of the world.

The habitats of abundant wildlife, the ancestral home of Maasai tribes and successful conservation are revealed.



## ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly direct from Heathrow to Nairobi. Overnight at the Tamarind Tree hotel.

DAY 2 Travel to Aberdare National Park (3 hrs) for lunch at The Ark lodge. Enjoy some time at leisure by the lodge's waterhole. Game drive en-route to Aberdare Country Club for two nights. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Half-day game drive at Solio Ranch, founded in 1970 as a privately owned wildlife conservancy dedicated to conservation especially of the rhino. Afternoon at leisure. Evening bush dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Travel through the Great Rift Valley into Lake Nakuru National Park (3 ½ hrs), stopping to view Thomson's Falls en route. Afternoon game drive. Overnight at the Sunbird Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Travel to the Masai Mara Game Reserve (7 hrs) for three nights at the Fig Tree Camp. Late afternoon sundowner nature walk in the conservation area. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Optional early morning balloon ride (£370, pre-bookable). Full-day game drive in the Masai Mara. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Full-day game drive in the Masai Mara. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Depart for Lake Naivasha (5 hrs) for overnight at the Lake Naivasha Sawela Lodge. Visit Elsamere and the 'Born Free' museum at the home of the Adamson family with 'High Tea'. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Morning boat ride. Farewell dinner at the Carnivore Restaurant. Transfer to the return flight. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Arrive London.

**Note:** Some travel is on unmade, bumpy roads. 4x4 land cruisers with open-top option exclusive to Jules Verne for a maximum of 6 guests. Two groups of up to 6 may operate.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Lunch at the Ark Lodge & Bush dinner

Lunch at the quirky and iconic Ark Lodge, set in the heart of Aberdare NP with time to observe the wildlife at the waterhole. Enjoy a more personal experience with nature as wilderness becomes your dining room with a bush dinner at Aberdare Country Club.



## ACCOMMODATION

All hotels/lodges have a restaurant, rooms with private facilities and WiFi (free).

**Tamarind Tree Hotel:** This modern and centrally located hotel offers easy access to all parts of the city. 160 air-conditioned rooms with satellite TV, tea/coffee making facilities and hairdryer.

**Aberdare Country Club:** Nestled on a slope of Mweiga Hill in the Aberdare Highlands, part of the Rift Valley. Bar, 22 air-conditioned rooms with tea/coffee making facilities.

**Sunbird Lodge:** An eco-friendly lodge in the Great Rift Valley with breathtaking views over Lake Elementaita. Bar and pool. 16 rooms with hairdryer and safe.

**Fig Tree Camp:** Modern tent style accommodation located inside the Masai Mara, on the banks of the Talek River, which snakes its way around the camp. Bar, pool and 72 tented rooms with hairdryer and safe.

Lake Naivasha Sawela Lodge: Surrounded by beautiful yellow and green acacia trees on Lake Naivasha. Bar and pool. 42 air-conditioned rooms with satellite TV, safe, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.





## EXTENSION – MOMBASA

Kenya's tropical coastline boasts 300 miles of white sand beaches by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. Fly to Mombasa for a four-night beach stay at the Leopard Beach Resort & Spa on Diani Beach, set within a tropical garden and with panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Half board included.

4 nights – £475 **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** – May-Jun (limited availability) Single supplement – £95 (Jan-Mar £125)



### WILD MASAI MARA

#### 5 nights from £3015

Alternatively, Immerse yourself in the wild at this classic African safari experience at the luxurious and iconic Governors' Camp, the original riverside location best for both scenery and safari where landmark TV such as 'Dynasties' & 'Big Cat Tales' were filmed.

No Single Supp. • Solo Group Departure



## **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room British Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Jan 21	£3545	Jul 8	£4295
Feb 4, 18	£3595	Aug 5, 12, 19	£4345
Mar 4	£3595	Sep 2	£4395
May 20	£3595	Sep 16	£3995
Jun 24	£3845	Nov 4, 18	£3695

#### 2023 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

May 13*	£3595	Sep 30*	£3795
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#### **Supplements per person**

\* **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £425 Privately Guided – £595 (see page 7)

#### Extra Nights – Nairobi/Lake Naivasha

**Tamarind Tree Hotel – Nairobi** (per night) – £95 Single supplement – £60 **Sawela Lodge – Lake Naivasha** (per night) – £155 Single supplement – £60 Departure transfer – £130

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, park entry fees, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 8 lunches & 8 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £600; Arrival transfer £35 Departure transfer with group included

# **GENTLE GIANTS**

An unforgettable wildlife experience with the gentle giants that are the gorillas of Bwindi seeing the very best of Uganda, the 'Pearl of Africa'

11 nights from £5995



## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night), Entebbe (1) Murchison Falls National Park (2) Kibale National Park (2) Queen Elizabeth National Park (2) Bwindi National Park (2) Flight (1)

## **KEY FEATURES**

Wildlife & Natural Wonders Cruising the Nile at Murchison Falls Chimpanzee Trekking in Kibale Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi UNESCO Site: Bwindi Forest

## **INTRODUCTION**

Coming face to face with a majestic mountain gorilla in its natural habitat is an unparalleled, magical wildlife experience. Of the estimated 900 mountain gorillas in existence, half live in troops in the UNESCO protected Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mghinga National Park and can be observed and tracked by a select number of visitors. It is on the mountainous slopes and jungles of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park that we will spend time searching out these majestic apes, where we hope to make contact with the great loping silverback gorillas.

But Uganda is not just about Gorillas. Described by Winston Churchill as the 'Pearl of Africa', it straddles the equator and is where the jungles of West Africa meet the savannahs of East Africa, leading to an incredible diversity of landscapes and wildlife.

Uganda's national parks offer game drives, walking safaris, boat rides and chimpanzee trekking in Kibale National Park, a forest with one of the highest diversity and density of primates in Africa. Enjoy the wildlife and birdlife of Queen Elizabeth National Park which boasts one of the highest bio



diversity ratings of any game park, from open savannah to rainforest, dense Papyrus Swamps and Crater Lakes to the vastness of Lake Edward. Marvel at the tree climbing lions of Ishasha, magnificent Lake Victoria and the mighty Murchison Falls.

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly to Entebbe via Addis Ababa.

DAY 2 Explore a local fishing village en-route to Best Western Entebbe for overnight. (D)

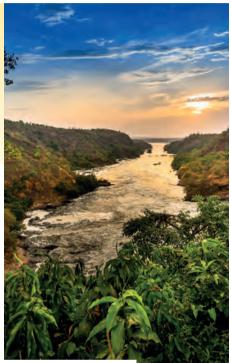
DAY 3 Drive via Kampala to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. Walking safari and introduction to the Southern White Rhinos. Travel through rural scenery to the legendary Murchison Falls National Park (6 hrs). Two nights at Paraa Safari Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Game drive across savannah, Borassus Palm Forest and grassland to Lake Albert in search of lions, leopard, hyena, buffalo and elephant. Boat ride along the Nile with an opportunity to hike up the falls. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Travel to the dynamic and friendly town of Fort Portal and to Kibale National Park (8 hrs) visiting a tea plantation, where we will meet the pickers and learn how tea is grown and harvested. Two nights at Papaya Lake Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Kibale National Park is home to the largest number of the endangered chimpanzees in Uganda, as well as the threatened red colobus monkey and the rare L'Hoest's monkey. Forest trek (2–3 hrs), later enjoy a fascinating walk through the swamps of Bigodi. Relax at the lodge or join a community walk to a village. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Drive to Queen Elizabeth National Park (3 hrs) for two nights at Mweya Safari Lodge. Visit Kasenda Crater Lakes and the Rwenzori Sculpture Foundation, launched by Ugandan craftsmen who trained at Pangolin Editions foundry in England. Game drive and lecture by a local conservationist. (B, L, D)



Murchison Falls National Park

DAY 8 Enjoy morning and evening game drives in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Afternoon boat trip on the Kazinga Channel. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Depart for Bwindi Impenetrable Forest (4 hrs) for two nights at the Silverback Lodge with a game drive en route in Ishasha sector Wilderness where the tree climbing lions may be found. The mountain forest of Bwindi is home to the endangered mountain gorilla, chimpanzees and spectacular birdlife with 23 of the 24 Albertine Rift endemic bird species. Evening lecture from a Primatologist. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Early start for gorilla trekking, one of the most exciting wildlife experiences on earth (2–6 hrs), led by an experienced and informative ranger. Community visit. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Morning at leisure. Transfer to Kihihi Airstrip for the light aircraft flight to Entebbe. Free time before the overnight flight to London via Addis Ababa. (B, L)

#### DAY 12 Arrive London.

**Notes:** On occasion lunch will be a boxed lunch. Trekking on Day 10 may be between 2 and 6 hours, and may be over uneven ground with inclines. A reasonable level of mobility and fitness is required.





## EXTENSION – LAKE VICTORIA

'Nalubaale' Lake Victoria, named by the explorer John Hanning Speke is Africa's largest, and the largest tropical lake in the world. Enjoy two nights at the 4-star Lake Victoria Serena Golf Resort & Spa with breakfast daily. Situated on the shores of Lake Victoria. Restaurants, pools, sundeck, rose garden, gym, spa and WiFi (free).

2 nights – £315 Single supplement – £215



## GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### 23 nights from £4695

Alternatively, discover this land of contrasts, of colonial and African history, discover the rich wildlife and enjoy unspoilt scenery. Travel from the Kruger to the Cape via Battlefields, Winelands, the Garden Route and Cape Town.

3 UNESCO Sites • Local Expert Guides



## **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Ethiopian Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Feb 11	£5995	Sep 16	£6195

#### Supplements per person

Single supplement – £845 Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – On request Qatar Airways from Heathrow – nil Privately Guided – £1055 (see page 7 )

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 9 lunches, 9 dinners, transportation in 4x4 Land Cruiser, entrance fees, chimpanzee trekking permit, gorilla trekking permit, local guides, porterage, itinerary as described, services of expert local guides and representative. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

## Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £750 Arrival or departure transfer £20

UGANDA

# VICTORIA FALLS TO THE OKAVANGO

Discover Botswana's unique wildlife environment with a stay at the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel and at a special boutique camp in the Okavango Delta 11 nights from **£4995** 



## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night) Victoria Falls (2 nights) Chobe National Park (3 nights) Okavango Delta (3 nights) Victoria Falls (1 night) Flight (1 night)

## **KEY FEATURES**

Wildlife & Natural Wonders Jules Verne Sightseeing 5-Star Historic Hotel No Single Supplement Solo Group Departure (see page 6)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Botswana is a dry land-locked country roughly the size of France in central southern Africa sharing common borders with South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia. Its wildlife is of the very best in Africa and found in significant numbers in the Okavango Delta where large herds of buffalo and elephant as well as hippo, big cats, antelope, hyenas, hunting dogs and other game can be seen in abundance. It is also a paradise for ornithologists.

These safaris and the Victoria Falls are rewarding experiences throughout the year. The dry season, between May and October, is the preferred time for safaris when animals are drawn to the permanent water and especially to the Chobe River. January to May offer the best flow of water through the Falls (although some photographers prefer a later date with less spray!) and a green season when many animals have their young and the lush landscape is beautifully decorated with wild flowers.

The rhino that have been reintroduced into the Greater Okavango region move freely and sometimes follow the Gomoti River, where the Dinare concession is located.



## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow via Addis Ababa to Victoria Falls.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 5-star Victoria Falls Hotel for a two-night stay.

DAY 3 Morning guided walk of the Falls. Sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. Optional helicopter flight over the Falls (12 mins, £150). (B)

DAY 4 Transfer to Kasane for three nights at Chobe Bush or Chobe Safari Lodge located on the border of Chobe National Park and within 150m of the Chobe River. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Early morning game drive in Chobe National Park. Afternoon boat cruise on the Chobe River. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Early morning game drive and afternoon boat cruise. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Fly from Kasane to the Okavango. Game drive en route to the Okavango Delta for three nights at Mma Dinare lodge inside Dinare private concession adjoining Moremi National Park. Afternoon game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Early morning game viewing by mokoro (traditional canoe) on the channels of the Okavango Delta (game drive if water levels too low). Afternoon game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Morning game drive or optional helicopter flight over the Delta and mokoro on the channels of the Okavango (£385). Afternoon game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Fly to Kasane and transfer to Victoria Falls for an overnight stay. (B)

DAY 11 Return flight via Addis Ababa. (B)

DAY 12 Arrive at London Heathrow.

**Notes:** Some travel is on unmade, bumpy roads and sometimes necessary to 'climb' into the safari vehicle. A luggage allowance of 20 kg per person in soft or small bags is applicable for internal flights.



## ACCOMMODATION

Each hotel/lodge has a restaurant, bar, pool.

Victoria Falls Hotel: One of the world's great hotels, known as 'The Grand Old Lady of the Falls' and a member of the exclusive 'Leading Hotels of the World'. WiFi (free) and 161 air-conditioned rooms.

**Chobe Bush Lodge:** Situated directly on the border of Chobe National Park and within 150m of the Chobe River, adjoining and sharing facilities with Chobe Safari Lodge. WiFi (free) and 42 air-conditioned rooms.

**Chobe Safari Lodge:** Chobe Safari Lodge is situated in Kasane on the banks of the Chobe River, adjoining and sharing facilities with Chobe Bush Lodge. WiFi (free) and 76 air-conditioned rooms.

**Mma Dinare:** Adjacent to Moremi Game reserve on south eastern side of the Delta, overlooking the Gomoti River Channel offering a classic safari experience within its own private wildlife area. 9 stylish tents, overlooking the river floodplains.





## **EXTENSION - HWANGE**

Stay in Hwange National Park at the Wilderness Davison's Camp or Little Makalolo Camp overlooking a waterhole. Includes game drives, meals and drinks. The largest and most prolific game reserve in Zimbabwe, Hwange is a few hours drive from Victoria Falls. It boasts a variety of landscapes and wildlife such as lion, elephant, giraffe, wildebeest and numerous bird species.

2 nights – £975; Single supplement – £195

## INDIAN OCEAN TO VICTORIA FALLS BY SHONGOLOLO

#### 16 nights from £7695

Alternatively, enjoy a great rail journey through South Africa, Eswatini, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, with 11 nights on the train, safaris, excursions and a stay at the iconic Victoria Falls Hotel included. Botswana extension option.

Full Board on Train • 4 UNESCO Sites





## **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Ethiopian Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 - Mondays

Jan 16*	£5045	Jul 10*	£5895
Mar 13*	£4995	Aug 7*	£6195
Apr 10*	£5595	Sep 4*	£6595
May 1*	£5645	Sep 18*	£6595
Jun 12*	£5645	Oct 2*	£6645
Jun 19*	£5595	Nov 13*	£6645

#### 2023 - Monday (Solo Group)

£5345

Feb 13\*

#### **Supplements per person**

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – On request British Airways from Heathrow – £500 Privately Guided – £1495 (see page 7)

#### **Extra Nights – Victoria Falls**

**Victoria Falls Hotel** (per night) –  $\pounds$ 245 Single supplement –  $\pounds$ 195 Departure transfer –  $\pounds$ 20

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 6 dinners, park fees, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £700 Arrival or departure transfer £20

## GRAND TOUR OF NAMIBIA

A comprehensive tour travelling from the deserts and dunes of the Kalahari & Namib through Fish River Canyon to Damaraland, Etosha National Park and the Atlantic Coast

## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night) Windhoek (1), Kalahari Area (1) Fish River Canyon (2) Sossusvlei Area (2), Swakopmund (2) Damaraland (2) Etosha National Park (3) Otjiwarongo (2), Flight (1)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Elephants and lions patrol Etosha but tour this beautiful land and you'll discover so much more – magnificent sand dunes, raw scrub desert, surprising German architecture and the thrillingly named Skeleton Coast.

This incredible country will reveal the stunning sand dunes of Sossusvlei. The Namib is the world's oldest and possibly most beautiful desert, its fascination derives from its seas of multi-toned wind-sculpted dunes and the exoticism of the plants and animals that have adapted to life there. Much of Namibia is covered by the Kalahari, a fossil desert with golden grass and small red dunes. Fish River Canyon, up to 17 miles wide, is surpassed in size only by the Grand Canyon.

Swakopmund lies between the dramatic Atlantic coastline and desert dunes, with elaborate Germanic architecture. Discover Damaraland, famous for its desert adapted elephant and rhino, as well as the rock paintings of Twyfelfontein. Wildlife is impressive and we could all quite easily lose ourselves for hours in the presence of the animals of Etosha National Park, one of Southern Africa's finest game reserves, established in 1907 and dominated by a massive mineral pan.

Stay at characteristic accommodations and an Etosha rest camp with floodlit waterhole.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow via Addis Ababa to Windhoek.

DAY 2 Overnight at the 5-star Hilton. Tour of Windhoek. Enjoy a special dinner with wine tasting at the castle Hotel Heinitzburg, built in 1914 and overlooking Windhoek. (D)

DAY 3 Travel towards the Kalahari (5 hrs) via Rehoboth. Overnight at the 3-star Bagatelle

### **KEY FEATURES**

Wildlife & Natural Wonders Jules Verne Sightseeing 2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guide Throughout

17 nights

from

£4845

Kalahari Game Ranch, lying in the midst of the red dunes of the Kalahari. Nature drive. (B, D)

DAY 4 Continue to Fish River Canyon via Quiver Tree forest (6 hrs). Optional sundowner drive. Two nights at a Gondwana Collection Lodge, inside Gondwana Canyon Park, 20km from Fish River Canyon. (B, D)

DAY 5 Visit Fish River Canyon viewpoint. Optional nature drive or walk. (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel to Sossusvlei area (8 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Desert Quiver Camp. (B, D)

DAY 7 Drive to Namib National Park, visit 'Dune 45', 'Dead Vlei' and Sesriem Canyon. Desert Braai (barbecue). (B, D)

DAY 8 Travel to Swakopmund through the Gaub and Kuiseb canyons (6 hrs). Two nights at the landmark 4-star Swakopmund Hotel, originally the old station building. (B)

DAY 9 Optional morning cruise at Walvis Bay (£45, pre-booking essential). Optional Skeleton Coast flight. (B)

DAY 10 Travel to Twyfelfontein (7 hrs). Visit rock art site and Damara Living Museum. Two nights at the 3-star Twyfelfontein Lodge, located in the ancient Huab Valley. (B, D)

DAY 11 Morning open vehicle game drive in search of desert elephant and rhino. Optional afternoon game drive. (B, D)

DAY 12 Drive to Etosha via the Petrified Forest with game viewing en route (8 hrs). Overnight at Okaukuejo camp inside Etosha National Park famed for its floodlit waterhole. Braai dinner. (B, D)

DAY 13 Open-vehicle game drive. Two nights at the 4-star Etosha King Nehale, set on the Andoni plains, one kilometre from Etosha National Park. (B)

DAY 14 Full-day open-vehicle game drive in



## SPECIAL EVENT

A Castle in Africa

A special dinner with wine tasting at the fine restaurant of castle Hotel Heinitzburg, built in 1914 by Count von Schwerin with excellent views over Windhoek town.



DAY 15 Travel to Okonjima (6 hrs) and visit AfriCat Foundation Day Care Centre. Two nights at Otjiwa Safari Lodge. (B, D)

DAY 16 Morning game drive. (B, D)

DAY 17 Travel to Windhoek for the return flight. (B)

DAY 18 Arrive London.

**Notes:** Some travel is on unmade, bumpy roads and it is sometimes necessary to 'climb' into a safari vehicle.

Open vehicle game viewing is included as indicated. 'En route' game viewing is in the touring vehicle. Optional excursions/activities are bookable locally (except Walvis Bay cruise)

## **TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION**

The group is led by a driver/guide and while distances are long, road conditions are a little bumpy and dusty but generally good. Open vehicle game viewing is included as indicated. 'En route' game viewing is in the touring vehicle. On occasion, alternative hotels/lodges of the same standard maybe substituted. Hotels/lodges have restaurant, bar, pool and rooms with private facilities and fans or air-conditioning.









## SERENGETI & THE SECRET MIGRATION

#### 10 nights from £5495

Alternatively, explore Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire and Lakes Manyara & Victoria. Witness the Serengeti Migration on game drives and from elevated balconies of unique bush rovers. 4x4 land cruisers with guaranteed window seat.

**Exclusive Arrangement** 



## **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Ethiopian Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Thursdays

Jan 19	£4845	Sep 7	£5045
Apr 13	£5045	Sep 21	£5045
Jun 15	£4845	Oct 5	£4995
Jul 20	£5145	Oct 19	£4995
Aug 10	£5145	Nov 2	£4895

#### Supplements per person

Single supplement – £495 (Jan-Apr £395) Lufthansa from Heathrow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow – On request Privately Guided – £1995 (see page 7)

#### **Extra Nights – Windhoek**

**Hilton Windhoek** (per night) – £95 Single supplement – £85

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 15 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 11 dinners, itinerary as described, services of driver/guide and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £800 Arrival transfer £39 Departure transfer with group included

## THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Experience Uzbekistan's Silk Road cities, from metropolitan Tashkent to Old Khiva's towers and cupolas, across the Kyzylkum Desert to beautiful Bukhara, and into exotic Samarkand

## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night) Tashkent (1 night) Khiva (2 nights) Bukhara (3 nights) Samarkand (3 nights) Tashkent (1 night)

## KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement Solo Group Departures (see page 6) Local Expert Guides

11 nights

from

E2395

## INTRODUCTION

With a diverse history and positioned at the centre of the ancient Silk Route, Uzbekistan is a melting pot of culture, flavours and architecture. From ornate madrasahs, towering fortresses and impressive mosques, the magnificence of this country is mesmerising.

Beyond Tashkent's bustling centre, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Khiva has 54 historical and architectural monuments within its city wall, while the holy city of Bukhara houses the majestic Poi Kalon Complex with its two grand and impressive mosque and madrasah entrances facing each other.

Samarkand, Tamerlane's capital, was one of the great medieval trading centres and whose gift, and that of his grandson Ulug Beg, is to be found in the magnificent buildings. From impressive Registan Square, surrounded on three sides by buildings whose pillars, arches and domes explore perfection in colour, and shape, to breathtaking Shah-i-Zinda with its intricate blue, and turquoise tiled tombs.



Itchan Kala, Khiva

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow to Tashkent.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Hampton by Hilton in Tashkent for overnight. Afternoon city tour. Optional ballet, opera or theatre performance at the Navoi Theatre (£18). (B, D)

DAY 3 Fly to Urgench and transfer to Khiva for two nights at the 3-star Asia Khiva Hotel or similar. Walking tour of Khiva. (B, D)

DAY 4 Time at leisure to explore Khiva, or take an optional ancient fortresses tour (bookable locally approx. \$50). (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel to Bukhara (8 ½ hrs including lunch stop) for three nights at the 3-star Devon Begi Hotel or similar. (B, L)

DAY 6 Walking tour of Lyabi-Khauz Square with its madrasahs, tea houses and Maghoki Arrar Mosque, continue through the Trading Domes to Poi Kalyan Square & the Mir-i-Arab madrasah. In the afternoon, a short drive to Ismail Samani Mausoleum and stroll to Prophet Job's well and the Ark Fortress: the old Citadel of Bukhara. (B, D)

DAY 7 Morning visit to Emir's Palace and Char Minar. Free afternoon in Bukhara. (B, D)

DAY 8 Travel to Samarkand (5 hrs) for three nights at the 3-star Asia-Samarkand or Grand Samarkand Superior. Visit the medieval central square, Registan and Bibi-Khanym Mosque. (B, D)

DAY 9 Visit Ulug Beg's Observatory, the Shah-i-Zinda and Gur Emir mausoleum (Tamerlane's tomb). Special Event. (B, D)

DAY 10 Visit a 'Khujum' silk carpet factory and a 'Meros' mulberry tree paper-making workshop. (B, D)



## SPECIAL EVENT

**Dinner in a Local Home** 

Learn to cook the traditional Uzbek dish 'Pilov' in a local home in Samarkand. Meet with the family who live here to learn about daily life.



DAY 11 Morning free or an optional tour to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane (bookable locally approx. \$50). Travel to Tashkent on the high-speed Afrosiyob train. Overnight in Tashkent. (B, D)

DAY 12 Return flight to Tashkent. (B)

## **TRAVEL IN UZBEKISTAN**

Hotels in Uzbekistan are simple and unpretentious but well-located with a restaurant, bar and air-conditioned rooms with private facilities and satellite TV. From time to time, there may be water and electricity shortages and alternative hotels may be used. WiFi (free) is available at hotels, but can be intermittent. Food is based on fresh local produce and is nutritious but can be repetitive. Travel between cities by road, involves some long journeys with limited opportunities for comfort breaks. The order of sightseeing tours may vary in accordance with local conditions.

**Notes:** Lyabi-Khauz Square (Day 6) & Shah-i-Zinda (Day 9) monuments involve many steps.





## **EXTENSION** -**FERGHANA VALLEY**

Travel by road to this scenic valley famous for widespread Central Asian silk production. Two nights at the 3-star Terra Nova Hotel in Ferghana and one night in Tashkent with breakfast and dinner daily. Includes the Russian Arms Assembly Hall, a silk weavers workshop in Margilan and the Palace of Khudayar Khan in Kokand.

3 nights – £625; Single supplement – £90



## **PEAKS & PETROGLYPHS**

#### 10 nights from £2345

Alternatively, journey in Central Asia and discover the mountains, lakes, nomadic peoples, caravan cities, and ancient trading routes of Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan. Includes Almaty, Bishkek, Chon-Kemin, Lake Issyk-Kul, Karakol, and a Special Kyrgyz Folk Concert.

Local Expert Guides • UNESCO Site



## lssyk-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan

**DEPARTURES & PRICES** per person in a twin/double room

Uzbekistan Airways from Heathrow

#### 2023 - Fridays

and the second			
Apr 7*	£2445	Aug 11	£2495
Apr 21	£2395	Sep 8	£2495
May 12	£2545	Sep 22	£2545
May 19	£2495	Oct 6	£2545
Jun 9*	£2445	Oct 20*	£2445

#### 2023 – Fridays (Solo Groups)

Mar 24*	£2495	Nov 3*	£2445
Jun 30*	£2395		

#### **Supplements per person**

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £425

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, half board, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

UZBEKISTAN

# THE TAJ TOUR

India's Golden Triangle, plus holy Amritsar, Himalayan Shimla and old Bombay. Featuring India's prestigious 'Taj' hotels throughout, with dinners included

## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night) Amritsar (2) Chandigarh (1) Shimla Area (2) Delhi (2), Agra (1) Jaipur (3) Mumbai (1)

## **INTRODUCTION**

For the British traveller, 'Take me to the Taj' may seem a self-evident request but in India these words might lead you to a Taj hotel (even a 'google search' for 'Taj' brings up first 'Taj Hotels', one of India's premier hotel groups). It thus seems apposite to utilise the fine hotels of the Taj group at a special tariff with dinners in the hotels.

Of course the iconic 'Taj Mahal' is the real highlight of this great journey from the Sikhs' Golden Temple and the hill station of Shimla via Delhi, Agra and Jaipur to Old Bombay. Explore India's religious, colonial, Mughal and Maharajas' heritage whilst staying in some comfort.

A recently added feature is stays at two of the Taj group's latest hotels which add an amazing modern twist to the Taj story. Move from Amritsar's best hotel to the wonderfully sited Himalayan retreat at Theog, close to Shimla. Then experience the legendary Taj hospitality in their classic Delhi hotel, their palaces in Jaipur and finally their original hotel in old Bombay, as featured in the BBC 2 series 'Hotel India' focused on life at India's oldest and most famous hotel.



Taj Theog

## KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement 12 Dinners Included Local Expert Guide

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Amritsar via Delhi.

13 nights

from

£2895

DAY 2 Two nights at Amritsar's best hotel, the new 5-star Taj Swarna. Optional Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple (£14, bookable locally). (D)

DAY 3 Visit the Golden Temple, volunteers kitchen and Jallianwala Bagh. Early evening Wagah Border 'Change of the Guard' ceremony. (B, D)

DAY 4 Drive to Chandigarh (5 hrs) for overnight at the 5-star Taj Chandigarh. Free time for shopping or to relax in this unusual Indian 'new' town. Visit the Rose Garden (subject to blooming time). (B, D)

DAY 5 Visit Le Corbusier's Capitol Complex. Drive towards colonial Shimla (6 hrs). Enjoy two nights at the 5-star Hotel Taj Theog dramatically sited in the Himalayas above Shimla (1 ½ hrs drive from Shimla). (B, D)

DAY 6 Tour of Shimla includes the Vice Regal Lodge, church, Gaiety Theatre and Mall. Afternoon free in Shimla. (B, D)

DAY 7 Take the 'Toy Train' from Shimla to Kalka (6 hrs) and board the Shatabdi Express train to Delhi (5 hrs) with light dinner onboard. Two nights at the 5-star Taj Mahal Hotel, one of the most distinguished addresses in Delhi. (B, D)

DAY 8 A tour of Delhi including Jama Mosque, Raj Ghat, Gandhi Smriti, Humayun's tomb, Railway Museum, India Gate, passing the Red Fort, parliament and Viceroy's House. (B, D)

DAY 9 Gatimaan Express train to Agra. Visit the historic Agra Fort. Overnight at the 5-star Taj Hotel & Convention Centre. Visit the Taj Mahal at sunset. Enjoy a cocktail at the INFINI Skylounge and bar with view of the Taj Mahal. (B, D)



## SPECIAL EVENT

Maharaja's Residence

Dine in the Rajput Room at Rambagh Palace, the former residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur, now a hotel, and enjoy a cocktail in the famous Polo Bar.



Rambagh Palace

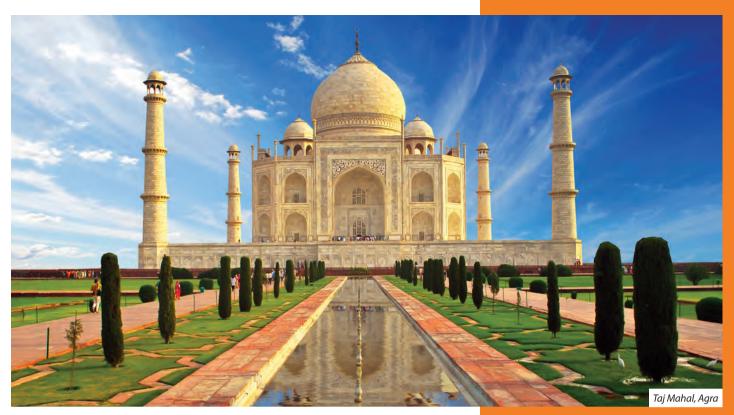
DAY 10 Visit the 'Baby Taj' and Mughal garden with views to the Taj Mahal. Travel to Jaipur, visiting Fatehpur Sikri en route (5 hrs). Three nights at the heritage Jai Mahal Palace, now a Taj heritage hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Visit the City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory. Optional Sound and Light show at Amber Fort (£17, bookable locally). (B, D)

DAY 12 Optional morning balloon ride in the Jaipur area (£180, bookable locally). Visit Amber Fort, Birla Temple, Albert Hall Museum & view the 'Palace of the Winds'. Cocktail in the Polo Bar and dinner at Rambagh Palace. (B, D)

DAY 13 Fly to Mumbai. City tour including Marine Drive, Gateway of India, Victoria Terminus, laundries of Dhobi Ghat and the Prince of Wales Museum. Overnight at the 5-star Taj Mahal Palace (sea view room in the Tower Wing overlooking the Gateway of India). (B, D)

DAY 14 Afternoon flight to London. (B)





## EXTENSION – SOUTH GOA

### 5 nights from £995

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of India and relax on the Arabian Sea staying at the 5-star Taj Exotica Resort located on the southwest coast of Goa with breakfast daily.

Alternatively, add extra nights pre-tour or post-tour to explore independently.

Please see vjv.com for more details about our great range of extensions.

## SECRET HIMALAYAN INDIA

#### 20 nights from £3245

Alternatively, head off-the-beaten-track by small vehicle on a unique itinerary deep into the mighty Himalaya. Explore the snow topped peaks of the Kullu Valley, as well as the hill stations of Mussoorie and Shimla. You'll also discover India's religious heritage including a number of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist holy sites.

3 UNESCO Sites • Cultural & Countryside





## DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 24	£3345	Oct 10	£3295
Feb 7	£3345	Nov 7	£3195
Sep 19*	£2895		

#### **Supplements per person**

\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability) Double for sole use – £995 (Apr-Sep £695) London-Amritsar/Mumbai-London Virgin Atlantic Premium – On request Virgin Atlantic Upper Class – On request Privately Guided – £695 (see page 7)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 12 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 12 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £500 Arrival or departure transfer £24

INDIA

## SPLENDOURS OF SOUTHERN INDIA

Majestic temples, friendly villages, verdant hills and the Keralan backwaters, plus historic Cochin and Madras



## OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night) Mahabalipuram (2) Pondicherry (1) Tanjore (1), Madurai (2) Periyar (2), Kumarakom (1) Houseboat (1) Cochin (2)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Southern India's history, varied culture, green landscapes and beautiful coastline make any visit a rich and diverse experience.

Start in eastern Chennai, formerly Madras, where the British East India Company started trading and travel across the region of Tamil Nadu, viewing its majestic temples, through hills and tea plantations to the lush Kerala region with its inland waterways and charming Fort Cochin.

The tour is enhanced by the inclusion of some 'CGH Earth' hotels, which are harmonious to the local environment with high standards – for example at the Spice Village, Periyar, the fine '50-mile' restaurant only uses ingredients from within 50 miles and the colonial style bar reflects its hill station history, whilst 'Coconut Lagoon' is only accessible by boat and the 'Eighth Bastion' lies within the Fort Cochin area.

Other hotels include the Svatma, a member of the prestigious Relais Chateaux group of hotels and the colonial Taj Gateway, set in 62 acres of gardens, with superb views of the city of Madurai.



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai 🚪

### **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders Jules Verne Sightseeing 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement 4 Lunches and 6 Dinners Local Expert Guide

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport via Dubai to Chennai (formerly Madras).

DAY 2 On arrival a tour of Chennai visiting the Government Museum, Fort St. George, St. Mary's Church and Marina Beach. Lunch at the excellent Hotel Taj Connemara then continue to Mahabalipuram for two nights at the 5-star Radisson Resort Temple Bay. (L)

DAY 3 Visit Shore Temple, a World Heritage monument, Arjuna's Penance, Five Rathas and Krishna Mandapam. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Pondicherry (3 hrs) for overnight at the 4-star 'CGH Earth' Palais de Mahe, a boutique hotel in the French Quarter. Visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram, museum and the Sacred Heart Basilica. (B)

DAY 5 Continue south through the Kaveri to the temple of Gangaikondacholapuram (3 hrs). Travel to Tanjore (3 hrs) for overnight at the boutique hotel Svatma. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Brihadeeshwara Temple. Continue to Trichy (Tiruchirappalli), mentioned by Ptolemy in the 2nd century BC. Visit the temple complex of Srirangam and view the Rock Fort. Travel to Madurai (3 hrs).Two nights at the 4-star Taj Gateway Hotel in Madurai. (B, D)

DAY 7 Enjoy a rickshaw ride to Meenakshi Temple. Visit Thirumalai Nayak Palace and Gandhi Memorial. (B)

DAY 8 Drive up into the Western Ghats to Periyar (5 hrs). Visit a spice plantation. Two nights at the 4-star 'CGH Earth' Spice Village. Kalaraipayattu performance, a local martial art. (B, D)

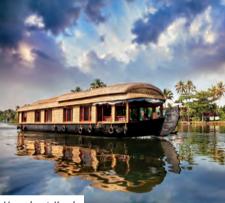
DAY 9 Morning boat ride in Periyar National Park. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

## Canoeing the Backwaters, Indian Dance & Cooking

A canoe ride through the canals of the Keralan backwaters. A cooking demonstration and dinner at the home of a local family, and lunch at a plantation house. A Kathakali classical dance performance.



Houseboat, Kerala

DAY 10 Visit a rubber plantation with lunch at a plantation house. Travel to Kumarakom (4 hrs) on Lake Vembanad. Overnight at the 4-star 'CGH Earth' Coconut Lagoon. (B, L)

DAY 11 Board a Keralan houseboat for an overnight backwaters cruise. Canoe through the smaller canals. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Disembark and drive to Cochin for two nights at the 4-star boutique 'CGH Earth' Hotel Eighth Bastion in Fort Cochin. A walking tour of Fort Cochin includes the Synagogue, Palace, St. Francis Church and the Chinese fishing nets. Cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family. (B, D)

DAY 13 Visit the backwaters fishing village of Kumbalanghi. Afternoon at leisure. Evening Kathakali classical performance. (B, L)

#### DAY 14 Return flight via Dubai. (B)

**Notes:** Itinerary includes some walking over uneven ground. Temple visits include some barefoot walking.





## EXTENSION – MARARI BEACH

#### 3 nights from £445

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of India and relax at the 4-star 'CGH Earth' Marari Beach Resort in Mararikulam with days at leisure, breakfast daily. Half board optional.

Alternatively, add extra nights pre-tour to draw breath after the flight or post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently.

Please see vjv.com for more details about our great range of extensions.

## ALONG THE BANKS OF THE HOOGLY

#### 10/11 nights from £2495/£2895

Alternatively, enjoy a unique and exclusive cruise along the River Hoogly between Calcutta and English Bazaar. Floating through rural India you'll discover monuments from the East India Company, the Mughals and one of India's most romantic places – Murshidabad.

Full Board on Cruise • Excursions Incl.



## **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Emirates from Heathrow or Gatwick

#### 2023 – Sundays

Jan 15	£2695	Oct 15*	£2995
Mar 5	£2695	Nov 5	£2895
Mar 19	£2795		

#### **Supplements per person**

\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability) Double for sole use – £595 (Apr £545) Emirates from Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow – nil Emirates Business Class – On request Privately Guided – £695 (see page 7)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 12 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 6 dinners, itinerary as described, services of local guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £600 Arrival or Departure transfer £24



## CLASSICAL TOUR OF VIETNAM

From capitals ancient and modern to Hoi An town, the Mekong, rural mountain landscapes and an overnight cruise in Ha Long Bay





## OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night) Ho Chi Minh City (3) Hue (2), Hoi An (2) Hanoi (2) Ha Long Bay (1) Ninh Binh (2) Flight (1)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Vietnam is not only historic and scenically beautiful, but also thought provoking and moving. In central Vietnam, the palace and tombs of the former capital, Hue, are reminiscent of the Forbidden City and Terracotta Army in China, whilst Ha Long Bay more than equals the scenic beauty of Guilin. Hoi An old town and the Mekong waterways are a pleasing contrast to the modernity of Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

In Hanoi, traditional Chinese influences and French colonial architecture combine with numerous temples and the narrow streets of the Old Quarter whose traders have specialised in local silk, jewellery and handicrafts for centuries.

Ha Long Bay, meaning the 'Bay of the Descending Dragon', is home to 2,000 limestone islands and islets, each topped with jungle vegetation and rising spectacularly from the ocean. Although only two islands are permanently inhabited, many are hollow with enormous caves and grottoes and some support floating villages of fisherman. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1994, Ha Long's ethereal beauty has survived the ravages of history.



HOİ

## KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites 4 Lunches and 4 Dinners Local Expert Guides

The Cu Chi tunnels and Presidential Palace with helicopter and exhibition present a snapshot of the 'American War', as they call the 'Vietnam War', and the Ho Chi Minh memorial is reminiscent of Mao or Lenin.

The water puppet show and a village dinner provide contrasting but rewarding experiences.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow via Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Novotel Saigon Centre (early check-in) for three nights. Visit the Reunification Palace and History Museum and see Notre Dame Cathedral, Opera House and General Post Office.

DAY 3 Visit the underground tunnel network of Cu Chi. Dinner cruise on the Saigon River. (B, D)

DAY 4 A scenic drive through the Mekong Delta to Vinh Trang Pagoda and My Tho for a cruise on the Mekong River. (B, L)

DAY 5 Fly to Hue for two nights at the 4-star Senna Hue Hotel. Visit the impressive Imperial Citadel. (B)

DAY 6 Visit the tombs of the Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. Cruise on the Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda. Take a scenic drive to an ancient village and enjoy a leisurely walk in the countryside. Village dinner with a local family. (B, D)

DAY 7 Cross the Hai Van Pass to Danang to visit the Cham Museum. At Hoi An, a walking tour visits merchants' houses and the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge. Two nights at the 4-star Allegro Hoi An Hotel. (B)

DAY 8 Visit the My Son ruins of the Champa Kingdom. Thu Bon River cruise visiting Kim Bong and Thanh Ha villages. (B)

DAY 9 Fly to Hanoi and transfer to 5-star Hotel du Parc Hanoi for two nights. (B)

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Cruising in Vietnam**

Enjoy a medley of cruises on the Saigon River (dinner), Mekong River, Thu Bon River, Perfume River, Tam Coc in Ninh Binh and at Ha Long Bay (overnight).



DAY 10 Visit Ho Chi Minh's home and Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda, Ethnological Museum, Temple of Literature, History Museum, Hoan Kiem Lake and old quarter. Water puppet show. (B)

DAY 11 Drive to Ha Long Bay (3 hrs). Overnight Ha Long Bay cruise with seafood lunch. Visit a variety of islands and caves. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Further cruising with brunch, then transfer to Ninh Binh (3 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Esmeralda Hotel. (B)

DAY 13 Visit the Tam Coc Caves by sampan row boat, an area known as the 'Ha Long Bay on land', Bich Dong Pagoda and the ancient capital of Hoa Lu with temples from the Dinh and Le dynasties. (B, L)

DAY 14 Visit to Duong Lam ancient village and lunch with a local family and visit the Mong Phu temple. Continue to Hanoi for dinner and freshen up before late evening flight to Heathrow. (B, L, D)

DAY 15 Arrive early morning.







## HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

### 9 nights from £1745

Alternatively, consider a shorter Highlights tour discovering Vietnam's premier cities of Hanoi in the north and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in the south together with Asia's famous temple site of Angkor at Siem Reap with time to explore and enjoy the food.

**Exceptional Value** 



Bayon Temple, Siem Reap

## DEPARTURES & PRICES per person in a twin/double room

per person in a twin/double room Vietnam Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Thursdays

Jan 26	£2895	Oct 12	£2895
Feb 16	£2795	Nov 16	£2825
Mar 9	£2785		

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £835 London-Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi-London Vietnam Airlines Deluxe Economy – On request Vietnam Airlines Business Class – On request Privately Guided – £645 (see page 7)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 12 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 4 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £400 Transfers to/from airport with group included

#### Note

Some visits are on foot including uneven surfaces and inclines.

# **DISCOVER JAPAN**

Japan is a truly timeless country, very traditional yet vibrantly modern – explore ancient Kyoto, travel in a small group by Bullet Train and admire the cherry blossoms or autumn leaves

## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night) Osaka (1 night) Kyoto (3 nights) Hiroshima (1 night) Hakone (1 night) Tokyo (3 nights)

## **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites High-Speed Train Included Local Expert Guide Throughout

10 nights

from

£4495

## INTRODUCTION

The roots of the history and culture of Japan can be found in the Kansai region which includes the ancient capital of Kyoto and its third largest city, Osaka, which has prospered as a capital of commerce for centuries. Tranquil shrines and magnificent Buddhist temples stand with understated architectural elegance surrounded by exquisite gardens developed over centuries and unchanged to this day.

The city of Hiroshima was deemed uninhabitable after the devastation caused by the atomic bomb in 1945 but great efforts were taken to restore its historical heritage.

In Kyoto, the 15th-century Zen dry garden of Ryoan-ji is one of the best known in Japan and the Gion district showcases the Japan of old with its historic stone-fenced merchants' houses and tradition of geisha/maiko entertainment. Advancing rapidly into the 21st century, we visit the high-tech city of Tokyo. However, beyond the roar of traffic, the glitter of neon and smart stores, pockets of Japanese serenity may still be found.

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly overnight via Tokyo to Osaka.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Righa Royal Hotel for an overnight stay in Osaka. Visit Floating Garden Observatory.

DAY 3 Visit the castle and stroll in Dotonbori Shopping Street. Okonomiyaki lunch. Travel to Kyoto and visit the Gion district. Spend three nights at the 3-star Righa Gran Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 4 Full-day sightseeing of Kyoto. Visit Kinkaku-ji Pavilion, Ryoan-ji temple and Arashiyama Park, famous for its bamboo groves and stunning scenery, especially during the cherry blossom and autumn periods. (B)

DAY 5 Further exploration of Kyoto using local transport, visits to Kiyomizu-dera Temple and a stroll on Ninenzaka street. Experience a Zen meditation and learn how to make Japanese tea. (B)

DAY 6 Travel by Bullet Train to Hiroshima for overnight at the 3-star Hotel Granvia. Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park including the Atomic Bomb Dome and the museum. (B)





## SPECIAL EVENT

**Sushi Making** A taisho will demonstrate how to create different pieces of sushi. Enjoy preparing your own sushi lunch.



DAY 7 Take a ferry to Miyajima Island to view Itsukushima Shrine. Travel by Bullet Train to Odawara via Osaka. Transfer to Hakone, near Mount Fuji, for overnight at the Japanese style Yunohana Prince Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 8 Take a cable car ride over Owakudani Valley, a Lake Ashinoko cruise and visit Hakone Onshi Park. Transfer to Tokyo for three nights at the 4-star Royal Park Hotel. (B)

DAY 9 Full-day tour of Tokyo using local transport – includes the Tokyo National Museum, Asakusa Nakamise Shopping Street and Ginza district. Enjoy a sushi making experience. (B, L)

DAY 10 Further exploration of Tokyo using local transport, visit Imperial Palace for a photo stop, Meiji Shrine and Shinjuku Observatory. (B, D)

DAY 11 Return flight from Tokyo arriving the same day. (B)

**Notes:** This is a full itinerary with visits on foot including public transport and carrying luggage on and off trains. On Day 6, main luggage is transported to Hakone so an overnight bag is needed for the Hiroshima stay.

Please note that room sizes in Japan are generally smaller than in Europe and double beds are not available at all hotels.





## SPECIAL DEPARTURES – SPRING & AUTUMN COLOURS

March 2023 – Spring October & November 2023 – Autumn

Japanese cherry blossom are about appreciating the present so we have selected departures coinciding with spring flowering of cherry trees (sakura) or be surrounded by scarlet maple and golden ginkgo trees and enjoy the brilliant colours of autumn foliage (koyo).



## JAPAN'S EARTHLY TREASURES

#### 12 nights from £4185

Alternatively, a journey across Japan exploring her finest gardens and true cultural treasures, all immersed in a way of life unchanged for generations. Travel by highspeed train and overland during the cherry blossom or autumn leaves season and stay at a Ryokan.

**5 UNESCO Heritage Sites** 



### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin room Japan Airlines from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Fridays

Mar 24	£4795	Oct 27	£4495
Mar 31	£5125	Nov 3	£4495

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £665 (Mar 785) Twin for single use – £875 (Mar £945) Japan Airlines Business Class – On request

#### Extra Nights – Osaka / Tokyo

**Righa Royal Hotel, Osaka** (per night) – £185 Single supplement – £85 **Royal Park Hotel, Tokyo** (per night) – £145 Single supplement – £110

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are un-available at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £700 Arrival transfer (Osaka Airport) £150 Arrival transfer (Kansai Airport) £190 Departure transfer by shuttle bus (Haneda Airport) £50 Departure transfer by shuttle bus (Narita Airport) £70

# HEMINGWAY'S CUBA

A comprehensive tour of Western Cuba's most important cities and landscapes, discovering it's rich colonial history and natural beauty



## OVERVIEW

Havana (3 nights) Viñales Valley (2 nights) Havana (2 nights) Trinidad (2 nights) Santa Clara (2 nights) Varadero (3 nights) Flight (1 night)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The beautiful island of Cuba is still redolent with imagery of the 1940s and 50s, whether it be Hemingway's old haunts, museums to the exploits of the revolutionaries, the Tropicana Night Club which still somehow echoes to the sound of Nat King Cole, the hotels run by 'Long Legs Diamond' and the events of the Bay of Pigs.

However, Cuba is not just about tourist clichés since there is much to see not only in UNESCO World Heritage site Havana, with its baroque cathedral, many forts and Old Town, but also the provincial cities and towns. Port city Cienfuegos, known as the 'Pearl of the South' was built around a stunning bay and its pastel-coloured buildings are a striking example of Spanish colonial architecture; UNESCO World Heritage site Trinidad is sometimes referred to as a living museum, with its preserved squares and San Juan de los Remedios, officially recognised as the oldest city in Cuba, is home to beautifully restored colonial mansions surrounding the main square.



Santa Clara

### KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites No Single Supplement Solo Group Departure (see page 6)

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from London indirect via Madrid to Havana. Three nights at the 4-star Havana Riviera by Iberostar. (D)

DAY 2 Old and modern Havana city tour. (B, D)

DAY 3 Visit the local botanical gardens, enjoy a Cuban cocktail and dance lesson, then visit Hemingway's House where Hemingway wrote 'The Old Man and the Sea'. (B, D)

DAY 4 Visit the rural community of Las Terrazas. Continue to Viñales Valley in Pinar del Rio for two nights at the 3-star La Ermita or Los Jazmines. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit Viñales Valley, Indian's Cave and Veguero House, a drying house for tobacco. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Pinar del Rio, cigar and rum factories and Soroa botanical gardens. Return to Havana. Two nights at the 5-star Iberostar Parque Central Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Day at leisure. Evening Hemingway's haunt, Special Event at El Floridita. (B, D)

DAY 8 Travel to Cienfuegos (4 hrs). Tour includes Palacio de Valle and boat trip. Two nights at the 5-star Iberostar Grand Hotel Trinidad. (B, D)

DAY 9 Trinidad tour. Visit the city museum and La Canchanchara Bar. Visit a former sugar plantation at Manaca Iznaga. (B, D)

DAY 10 Morning at leisure. Travel to Sancti Spiritus for a panoramic tour. Continue to Santa Clara for two nights at the 3-star El Central Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 11 Santa Clara tour of Ernesto Guevara Square, museum and mausoleum. Visit San Juan de los Remedios. Optional visit to the Sugar Factory Museum including a steam train ride. (B, D)



## SPECIAL EVENT

Hemingway's Haunt

Visit the bar frequented by Ernest Hemingway in Havana, El Floridita, and enjoy a cocktail.



DAY 12 Visit the Armoured Train. Travel to Varadero visiting Matanzas en route. Three nights at the 4-star Iberostar Tainos Hotel in Varadero on an all-inclusive basis. (B, L, D)

DAYS 13 & 14 At leisure. (B, L, D)

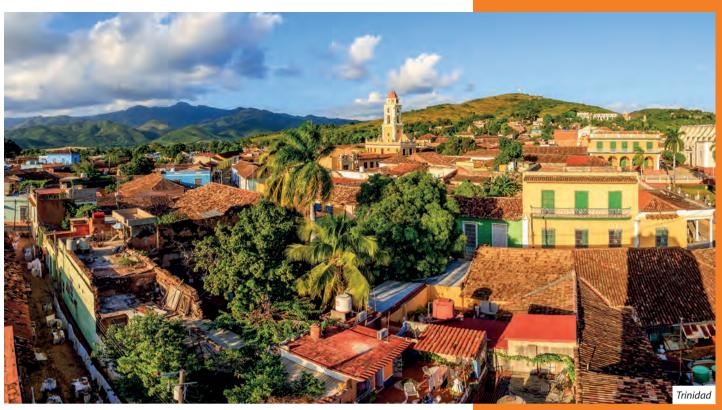
DAY 15 Return flight. (B)

DAY 16 Arrive London.

**Note:** On occasion, the cigar and rum factory (Day 6) and steam train ride (Day 11) may be replaced with an alternative visit due to closure at short notice.

## ACCOMMODATION

Tourism is still under state control and on occasion hotels of a similar standard to those listed may be used (advance notification not always possible). Half board is included in some hotels and in local restaurants where food can be quite basic, consisting of rice, beans, pork, chicken and fish, although international cuisine is available in Varadero and Havana. In Viñales and Santa Clara hotel options are limited, so we have selected the most suitable hotels, a basic 2 and 3-star standard.





## EXTRA NIGHTS – VARADERO

Enjoy Cuba's most popular Caribbean resort, on a long slender strip of sand overlooking the ocean at the 4-star Iberostar Tainos Hotel on an all-inclusive basis. Located on a beautiful beach and surrounded by tropical gardens. Restaurants, bars, pool and 272 air-conditioned rooms.

(per night) – £55 (Jan-Mar £75) Single supplement – £20 (Jan-Mar £30) Departure transfer £70



## **BEST OF CUBA**

## 8 nights from £2195

Alternatively, enjoy a shorter tour of Cuba revealing Cuba's colonial history and natural beauty whilst staying in some of the best accommodation in Iberostar hotels in the bustling centre of Havana, colonial Trinidad and the popular beach resort of Cayo Santa Maria. Enjoy a cocktail at El Floridita.

No Single Supplement • Solo Group



### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room Iberia from Heathrow Jan-Mar Air Europa from Gatwick Apr-Oct

#### 2023 – Sundays

Jan 15	£2995	Mar 5	£3245
Jan 29	£2995	Nov 5	£2895
Feb 19	£3245		

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Apr 22	£2845	Oct 14*	£2745
Sep 9*	£2695		

#### 2023 – Saturday (Solo Group)

May 6\* £2695

#### **Supplements per person**

**\*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability) Single supplement – £395 (Apr-Nov £345)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 14 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 14 dinners, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

## CENTRAL AMERICA'S GARDEN OF EDEN

Using specialist naturalist guides and charming small-scale accommodation in the heart of Costa Rica, be amazed by the variety of birdlife and animals including sloths, monkeys and reptiles

## **OVERVIEW**

San José (2 nights) Tortuguero (2 nights) Sarapiquí (2 nights) Arenal (1 night) Monteverde (2 nights) Carara Area (1 night) Flight (1 night)

## **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Wildlife Experience Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing Eco-Friendly Accommodation Local Expert Guide Throughout

11 nights

from

£2845

## **INTRODUCTION**

Costa Rica is a kaleidoscope of vivid natural colour and offers over 2,000 species of orchid, more than 850 species of birds, thousands of species of butterflies and a scenic diversity comprising volcanoes, rainforests, cloud forests, plantations, farmlands and Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Imaginings with regard to what the Garden of Eden might have been like generally describe a tropical abundance of brightly coloured fruits and flowers set against a lush and varied backdrop of vigorously thriving greenery.

Populating this paradise, the most noticeable presence would probably be a chorusing panoply of colourful birds feeding on the fruits and flowers. The friendliest of primates, monkeys, would play in the forest canopy and a closer inspection of the undergrowth would reveal a lively, surprising and delightful diversity of flora and fauna. Little in mankind's garden of recreation would be of menace (apart from the snake) and reciprocally mankind would nourish and protect it.



## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly from Gatwick direct to San José. Transfer to the Park Inn Hotel for two nights.

DAY 2 Visit the National Theatre and the Gold and Jade museums. Afternoon at leisure for independent exploration. (B)

DAY 3 Drive to the Atlantic Coast via the Braulio Carrillo National Park. By boat to the Evergreen Lodge in Tortuguero for two nights. Afternoon boat tour exploring the Amazonesque channels surrounding the Tortuguero Lagoon. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Take a walk through the tropical forest of Tortuguero. Afternoon visit to the Turtle Museum and later enjoy a Tortuguero cruise. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Transfer by boat to Caño Blanco or La Pavona and continue by road, to La Quinta de Sarapiqui for a two-night stay. Enjoy a cookery class. Evening talk by your naturalist guide. (B, L)

DAY 6 A morning walk through the intriguing La Selva Nature Reserve with a naturalist guide. The reserve is home to nearly half of the 850 species of birds in Costa Rica as well as monkeys, peccaries, agoutis and coatis. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

DAY 7 Drive to Arenal Volcano to bathe in the hot springs at Ecotermales La Fortuna. Overnight at Volcano Lodge or similar. (B, D)

DAY 8 Traverse the scenic Tilarán Mountains to the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve (3 hrs). A high elevation cloud forest offers miles of trails and excellent opportunities for bird watching, including the Silver-throated Tanager and Collared Redstart. Afternoon tour of walkways and bridges built high in the cloud forest canopy. Spend two nights at Poco a Poco Hotel. (B)



## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Caribbean Cocktail & Cookery Class** 

Enjoy a Caribbean cocktail at the Evergreen Lodge in Tortuguero, with complimentary snacks, and a cookery class at La Quinta de Sarapiqui.



DAY 9 A guided walk explores the trails of the reserve. Time at leisure prior to a night walk in the grounds of the lower altitude of the Bosque Eterno de Los Niños. (B)

DAY 10 Travel to the Carara area for overnight at the Macaw Lodge or similar. (B) DAY 11 Travel to San José. Return flight to London. (B)

DAY 12 Arrive London in the morning. *Note:* This is a full itinerary involving walking on some uneven surfaces.

## ACCOMMODATION

The hotels and lodges are 'eco-friendly'. Whilst precise definition will vary from property to property, it generally implies a scenic setting, environmentally sensitive architecture and operation, an active involvement in schemes to protect and regenerate Costa Rica's indigenous fauna and a desire on the part of an establishment's management to facilitate in some way its guests' enjoyment and appreciation of Costa Rica's superb natural world heritage.





## EXTENSION – MANUEL ANTONIO

Stay four nights with breakfast at either the 4-star Hotel Parador in sea view rooms or at the 4-star Hotel Si Como No with side sea view (some dates in 2023) in Manuel Antonio National Park, combining idyllic white beaches with wildlife.

4 nights – £965 Single supplement – £745



## **GRAND TOUR OF COSTA RICA**

#### 19 nights from £4645

Alternatively, enjoy a comprehensive journey discovering diverse landscapes and exotic wildlife from the Caribbean lowlands and central highlands to the Pacific Coast and less-visited south. The tour includes a two-night beach stay in the middle to break up the journey and the opportunity to extend your stay in Manuel Antonio at the end of the tour.

**Eco-friendly Accommodation** 



## DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room British Airways from Gatwick

#### 2023 – Saturdays

Jan 14	£2895	Feb 25	£2845
Jan 28	£2845	Mar 4	£2845
Feb 4	£3125	Nov 4	£2875
Feb 18	£2865	Nov 18	£2875

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £435 British Airways World Traveller Plus – On request British Airways Club World – On request Privately Guided – £995 (see page 7)

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and UK departure taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation in 3 or 4-star hotels and lodges, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, itinerary as described, services of a naturalist guide and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

## Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £850 Arrival transfer £25 Departure transfer with group included

## MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA & AZTECS

Follow in the footsteps of the Aztecs, Zapotecs and Maya on an inspiring adventure through Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras from Mexico City to the Yucatan Peninsula

## **OVERVIEW**

Flight (1 night), Mexico City (1) Puebla (1), Oaxaca (2), Tehuantepec (1) San Cristóbal de Las Casas (2) Panajachel (2), Antigua (2), Copán (1) Puerto Barrios (1), El Remate / Flores (2) Palenque (1), Campeche (1) Chichén Itzá (1), Cancún (1), Flight (1)

## INTRODUCTION

The Aztec and Maya civilisations dominated ancient Mesoamerica over many centuries. Discover their rich heritage extended throughout Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is one of the richest archaeological zones in ancient Mesoamerica and home to some of the best preserved Maya monuments.

In neighbouring Guatemala, the only country in Central America where the indigenous Indian population still outnumbers the Ladinos, the awe-inspiring city of Tikal stood for over 1,000 years before being consumed by jungle in the 9th century AD. In Honduras, the sixty stone steps of the Hieroglyphic stairway contain the longest Maya text in existence.

## **ITINERARY**

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Mexico City.

DAY 2 Arrive and transfer to the 3-star Hotel Royal Reforma for overnight. Afternoon tour including the Coyoacán colonial quarter, Frida Kahlo Museum and Xochimilco Floating Gardens. (B)



Mexico City

## **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Countryside Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 12 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guides

21 nights

from

£3795

DAY 3 City tour includes the Anthropology Museum. Visit Teotihuacán Pyramids. Continue to Puebla for overnight at the 3-star Colonial Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Puebla city tour. Travel to Oaxaca (4 hrs) and visit the botanical cactus gardens en route. Spend two nights at the 3-star Oaxaca Real Hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Visit Monte Alban and Oaxaca. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Mitla and a Mezcal distillery. Continue to Tehuantepec for overnight at the 3-star Hotel Calli. (B)

DAY 7 Drive to the Sumidero Canyon (5 hrs) and take a boat trip through the giant gorge. Continue to San Cristóbal de las Casas for two nights at the 3-star Casa Vieja Hotel. (B)

DAY 8 City tour of San Cristóbal de las Casas and visit the local Maya communities. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to the border, then Panajachel (8 hrs) for two nights at the 3-star Regis Hotel or Jardines del Lago Hotel. (B)

DAY 10 Boat excursion on Lake Atitlán visiting a village of the living Maya. (B)

DAY 11 Visit Chichicastenango with its colourful market and the Church of Santo Tomás. Jules Verne Special Event. Drive through the highlands to Antigua for two nights at the 3-star Hotel Las Farolas. (B)

DAY 12 City tour of Antigua. (B)

DAY 13 Depart for Honduras and visit the ancient city of Copán (5 ½ hrs). Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Marina Copán. (B)

DAY 14 Return to Guatemala. Pass through Motagua Valley to the site of Quiriguá (3 hrs). Travel to Puerto Barrios for overnight at the 3-star Amatique Bay Resort Hotel. (B)

DAY 15 By boat from Puerto Barrios through the jungle with its exotic birds and colourful fauna, passing the 'canyon' to Livingston, Río Dulce and the San Felipe fort. By road from Río Dulce to the 3-star Camino Real Tikal or



## SPECIAL EVENT

#### Shaman Ceremony

Experience a unique Mayan ceremony in the outskirts of Chichicastenango in Guatemala. A priest or spiritual Mayan guide request good harvests, protection, health and money in return for offerings brought such as candles, chocolate, honey and tobacco.



Casona del Lago (3½ hrs) for two nights. (B)

DAY 16 Visit the ruins of Tikal and the Sylvanus G. Morley Museum, of ceramic and jade displays. (B)

DAY 17 Travel to Bethel (4 hrs) and cross the border by boat via the Usumacinta River and arrive at Corozal in Mexico. Take another short boat ride to the site of Yaxchilán. Transfer to the 3-star Hotel Nututun in Palenque for overnight. (B, L)

DAY 18 Visit the archaeological site of Palenque. Continue to the city of Campeche (6 hrs) for a city tour and overnight at the 3-star Plaza Colonial. (B)

DAY 19 Travel to Uxmal and visit the archaeological site. Lunch at a typical Maya home. Visit Mérida for a walking tour of the 'White City'. Travel to Chichén Itzá. Overnight at the 3-star Villas Arqueológicas Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 20 Visit Chichén Itzá and Tulum. Continue to Cancún for overnight at the 3-star Hotel Beach Scape. (B)

DAY 21 Return overnight flight to Heathrow via Mexico City. (B)

DAY 22 Arrive London Heathrow.





## **EXTENSION – CANCÚN**

Enjoy four nights of relaxation on the beach at the 3-star Hotel Beach Scape Villas at Kin Há, Cancún. A 3-star hotel with 85 air-conditioned rooms set in verdant gardens with beach access to one of Cancún's most pristine beaches. Restaurant, bar, gym and pool. Breakfast daily.

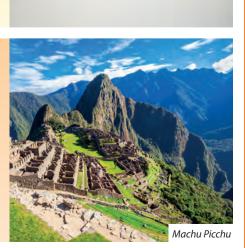
4 nights – £345 (Nov £275) Single supplement – £325 (Nov £255)

## LOST WORLD OF THE INCAS

#### 11 nights from £3395

Alternatively, explore Peru's outstanding monuments from Lima to Cuzco's cobblestone streets to the Sacred Valley with many Inca Sites including Machu Picchu, through the Andes to Lake Titicaca. Learn about Andean culture at Maras village. Special Festival Departure.

3 UNESCO Sites • Solo Group Departure



## DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room AeroMexico from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Mondays

Jan 16	£4245	Mar 6	£3995
Feb 13	£3995	Nov 6	£3795

**Supplements per person** 

Single supplement – £845

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and UK departure taxes, transfers, 19 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £650 Arrival transfer £45 Departure transfer £25

#### **Notes**

Due to the distance covered there are extended periods of travel by road, mostly along a well-established road network (some minor roads may be in poor repair).

On occasion border procedures can result in a delay with border taxes of approx. £35-£40 payable locally. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

This is a full itinerary with temple visits on foot with steps and uneven surfaces. A level of agility is needed to embark small boats.

An accommodation tax is payable locally in Cancún, currently \$2 per room per night. A local tourist tax for the state of Quintana Roo of approx. \$11 is payable locally.

## GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA

Experience South America's incredible diversity from Machu Picchu via dramatic La Paz, elegant Buenos Aires, undiscovered Montevideo, the Iguassu Falls to Christ the Redeemer in Rio

## **OVERVIEW**

Lima (1 night), Sacred Valley (2) Cuzco (2), Puno (1) La Paz (2), Buenos Aires (2) Montevideo (2), Buenos Aires (1) Iguassu (2) Rio de Janeiro (2) Flight (1)

## **INTRODUCTION**

On what we call 'a trip of a lifetime', this tour reveals the cultural and scenic diversity of South America focusing on the highlights of this exciting continent and experiencing it first hand. South America's diversity goes from Andean peaks, Amazonian rainforest, ancient ruins, deserts, majestic waterfalls and white-sand beaches, to name a few, setting the stage for incredible adventures. But the continent's wide variety of wonders goes beyond its geographical location.

During this inspiring adventure, fly into the Andes, take in the splendour of the Sacred Valley, have time to acclimatise to the altitude and travel by train to majestic Machu Picchu. From La Paz, fly to sophisticated Buenos Aires, cross the Río de la Plata River to Colonia with its Barrio Histórico, onto vibrant Montevideo, visiting the stupendous Iguassu Falls en route to the beautiful Cidade Maravilhosa, Rio de Janeiro.

## ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Lima via Madrid and transfer to the 4-star Innside Lima Miraflores Hotel for overnight.

DAY 2 Tour of Lima includes the impressive buildings of the Plaza de Armas, the 17th-century Convent of San Francisco and the hacienda-housed Larco Museum. Pisco Sour tasting. Fly to Cuzco (3,400m) and transfer to the Sacred Valley (2,400m) for two nights at the 4-star Taypikala Sacred Valley. (B)

DAY 3 Visit Pisac Indian Market, hilltop fortress at Ollantaytambo and a local family home. (B, L)

DAY 4 Travel to Machu Picchu (2,500m) by train and bus (2 hrs). Spend the afternoon touring the site before travelling to Cuzco by road and rail (4 hrs). Spend two nights at the 4-star Costa del Sol Ramada. (B)

## **KEY FEATURES**

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour Jules Verne Sightseeing 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites Local Expert Guides Central Hotels

18 nights

from

£5995

DAY 5 Tour of Cuzco visits the centre of the Inca Empire and the cathedral, the colonial buildings and the nearby Inca ruins of Sacsayhuaman, Tambo Machay, Kenko and Puca Pucara, the ruin of a small fort. (B)

DAY 6 Drive over the Andes, reaching 4,300 metres above sea level. Visit the town of Andahuaylillas and the ruins of Racchi before reaching Puno on Lake Titicaca. Overnight at the 3-star Sonesta Posadas del Inca in Puno on Lake Titicaca (3,812m). (B, L)

DAY 7 Travel to Copacabana (3 hrs) and take a catamaran cruise over the lake to the Island of the Sun, home to the Sun God. Visit the Pilcocaina temple and participate in an Aymara ceremony. Transfer to La Paz (4,000m) for a two-night stay at the 4-star Atix Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 8 Explore the colonial heritage of the city, founded in 1548 and visit the Indian Market. Travel to the dramatic landscape of Moon Valley. Special visit to an artist's workshop. Cable car ride over La Paz on the highest cable car in the world. (B)

DAY 9 Fly from La Paz to Buenos Aires via Santa Cruz. Stay two nights at the 5-star Sofitel Recoleta. (B)

DAY 10 Tour of Buenos Aires taking in the principal sights of the city centre and the outlying districts of San Telmo, La Boca, Recoleta and Palermo. (B, L)

DAY 11 Cross the Rio de la Plata by hydrofoil to Colonia del Sacramento. Tour the historical centre including 'Calle de los Suspiros' of Uruguay's oldest city. Continue to Montevideo (3 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Hotel Dazzler. Dinner at Primuseum. (B, D)

DAY 12 Tour of Montevideo including the Old Town with the Mercado del Puerto, Constitution Square and Solis Theatre. Mate Tasting. (B)



## SPECIAL EVENT

#### **Dinner & Tango Show**

Enjoy a typical Uruguayan dinner and witness a tango show at the intimate Primuseum in Montevideo.



DAY 13 Enjoy a wine tasting at a winery close to Montevideo. Travel by hydrofoil across the Rio de la Plata to Buenos Aires for overnight at the 5-star Sofitel Recoleta. (B)

DAY 14 Fly to Iguassu, the largest waterfall system in the world. Stay two nights at the 4-star Mercure Iguazu. (B)

DAY 15 Visit the superior and inferior circuit of the Falls and the Devils Throat on the Argentinian side. (B)

DAY 16 Explore the Brazilian side of Iguassu Falls. Fly to Rio de Janeiro. Transfer to the 4-star Hilton Copacabana Rio de Janeiro for a two-night stay. (B)

DAY 17 Visit to the 38m high statue of Christ the Redeemer on the summit of the Corcovado Mountain followed by a tour along Copacabana including a Caipirinha cocktail. Afternoon excursion to the summit of Sugar Loaf Mountain by cable car. (B)

DAY 18 Return overnight flight. (B)

DAY 19 Arrive in the morning at Heathrow.



## EXTENSION – BÚZIOS

Búzios was a simple fishing village until the early 60's, when it was 'discovered' by Brigitte Bardot. Today it is a fashionable resort with charming cobbled streets, a picturesque beachfront promenade and beautiful beaches. Stay three nights at the 4-star Porto Bay Búzios Boutique Hotel, a charming hillside boutique hotel, close to the centre and the beach. Breakfast daily.

3 nights – £645 Single supplement – £215

## EXTENSION – AMAZON

For the jungle experience stay two nights at the charming and community owned Posada Amazonas (full board) chosen for its location on the banks of the Tambopata River and within the Infierno Community reserve. Includes an oxbox lake visit, a canopy tower walk and ethno-botanical walk.

3 nights – £925; Single supplement – £345 Extensions to the Nazca Lines and Arequipa & Colca Canyon are also available.

## PATAGONIA TO CAPE HORN

#### 17 nights from £9045

Alternatively, explore Patagonia's majestic glaciers and mountains, from vibrant Buenos Aires and Los Glaciares National Park to sophisticated Santiago and Valparaiso. Experience a cruise on an Australis expedition vessel from Ushuaia, through the Beagle Channel stopping at Cape Horn, Garibaldi Glacier, Magdalena Island to Punta Arenas.

2 UNESCO Heritage Sites







Torres del Paine National Park

### **DEPARTURES & PRICES**

per person in a twin/double room British Airways/Iberia from Heathrow

#### 2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 12	£5995	Oct 4	£6025
Aug 9	£6125	Nov 15	£5995
Sep 13	£6045		

#### **Supplements per person**

Single supplement – £1245 British Airways/Iberia World Traveller Plus – On request British Airways/Iberia Club World – On request Privately Guided – £1795 (see page 7)

#### Extra Nights - Lima / Rio de Janeiro

Innside Lima (per night) – £65 Single supplement – £60 Hilton Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro (per night) – £145 Single supplement – £125

#### **Price Includes**

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 17 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 1 dinner, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

#### Tour Only (see page 7)

Save £650 Arrival transfer £55 Departure transfer £95

#### Notes

This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines. Day 6 includes a long transfer with sightseeing en route.

Accommodation tax to be paid in Buenos Aires locally, currently 1.5 USD per person/per night (can be paid in USD or Pesos).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Before making a booking, it is essential that you read these terms and conditions. They set out the commercial relationship between us, form the basis of your contract with Jules Verne Ltd and set out both your and our respective rights and obligations.

In addition to the booking conditions set out below, you must also ensure that you have read the Important Holiday Information.

By asking us to accept your booking request, you agree that you have both read and understood the full terms and conditions and that you agree to them.

#### Marketing

We try to ensure that the information on our website and in our promotional material is accurate. However, resort and supplier information can change and errors can regrettably occur. We reserve the right to amend and/or give notice of any changes at the time of booking and recommend that you undertake a level of independent research or speak to one of our trained sales advisors should you wish to clarify any information. Your Package Holiday

These booking conditions apply to all package holiday bookings made with Jules Verne Ltd. We are registered in England and Wale's under company number 1661988. Our registered office address is: 96 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BE.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us in the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract", "package", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" means all persons named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date) or any of them, as the context requires and "lead name" means the named member of the travelling party that, being 18 years old or over and possessing legal capacity to do so, makes payment at the point of booking. 'We", "us" and "our" means Jules Verne Ltd.

#### Before vou book

#### 1. Choosing your Holiday

It is very important that you choose the right holiday arrangements for you. Our staff are always happy to advise and give you their professional opinion; however, it is essential that you also conduct your own independent research to ensure you are happy with the arrangements being made.

Please visit the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office website at https://www.gov.uk/ foreign-travel-advice and visit www.gov.uk/travelaware for essential travel advice and tips. The websites offer a wealth of country-specific information but the advice can change, so please ensure that you check regularly for updates.

#### 2. Tours and Excursions - General Health Requirements

Many of our tours and excursions may not be suitable if you have a disability or have reduced an able-bodied carer to assist you throughout the trip. Please note that some of the featured itineraries may involve early starts and long days, with substantial travel between featured sites and destinations. As vehicle and road standards may not be comparable to that of the UK, please keep this in mind when considering any personal health concerns, as well as your general comfort.

#### 3. Experiences

Experiences which form part of your package: We are pleased to be able to offer various 'experiences' and activities, which you can pre-book in the UK and pay for as part of your holiday package. By booking with us you confirm that you and your party are in good health and have no medical history that would make it dangerous for you or others to participate. You must observe safety instructions at all times, take reasonable care and provide any necessary certification that may be required. We will only accept responsibility for these experiences and activities in accordance with these booking conditions. Please note that they may be subject to minimum numbers and could be cancelled at short notice.

Experiences which do not form part of your package: We are able to offer general assistance and reserve certain activities for you on your behalf, for which you will pay locally. In these circumstances, we only act as a booking agent for the local operator of the excursion or activity concerned. Your contract for that activity will therefore be with them and it does not from part of your contracted holiday arrangements with us. The contract will be subject to the local operator's terms and conditions, which will be governed by the local law and jurisdiction which applies and may limit their liability to you. Jules Verne Ltd accepts no liability for any breach of contract or negligent act or omission of any such excursion/activity provider

#### 4. Special Requests

Where a special request e.g. room location, twin or double-bedded room, flight seat requests and/or dietary requirements etc. is an important factor in your choice of holiday, you must advise us before you book. Whilst we are happy to pass on any such requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be accommodated and the provision of any special request does not constitute a term of your contract with us. Where we pass on dietary requests to airlines, we recommend that you reconfirm with them directly once your tickets have been issued. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier, or the inclusion of the special request on any documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability.

#### 5. If you have a Disability or Medical Condition which may Affect your Holiday

If you have any medical condition, disability, or special requirements related to these, which may affect your holiday (including the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking. We can then assist you in considering the suitability of the holiday and the services that we are able to provide. You must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any significant change in the condition, disability or special requirements occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may reasonably affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. Failure to do so may limit your rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 and how we are able to assist you.

Jules Verne Ltd complies fully with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2006 concerning the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air and is delighted to offer assistance to disabled persons or persons with reduced mobility provided that we are given full information about your specific requirements at the time of booking. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee the provision of assistive aids such as high-loaders for embarking/ dis-embarking the aircraft.

#### 6. 'From Prices'

A 'from' price is indicative of the lowest price available for your itinerary but this may vary on your date of travel. Please call our Sales team or visit our website for further information about services and prices.

#### 7. Services Outside of your Contract with us

We will not be liable to you for any independent arrangements made to complement the holiday services being provided by Jules Verne Ltd. Your contract(s) will be directly with the third-party supplier(s) providing those arrangements. Where we agree to provide flights or

transfer services to or from any such third-party product or destination, our doing so offers no endorsement of the product or destination and our liability will remain limited only to ensuring that the contracted elements of your holiday package with Jules Verne Ltd are provided as promised.

#### Booking & Paying for your Holiday

#### 8. Confirming your Holiday

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Jules Verne Ltd will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, Jules Verne Ltd has protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent. More information on key rights can be found by visiting vjv.com/your-package-holiday. 9. Your Commitment to us

## When you or your Travel Agent wish to confirm a booking you must pay a deposit of between £250 to £450 per person and on some of our arrangements a higher deposit may apply. Full balance is required at the time of booking in some instances and if you make a holiday booking

within 61 days of your departure date then you must pay the full cost of the holiday at the booking stage. All money paid by you to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday will be held by the agent on our behalf until paid to us.

When you make a booking, the lead name confirms that you understand and have accepted these booking conditions and our Important Holiday Information which forms our booking conditions. Once your booking is confirmed, you will be given a reference number.

#### 10. Out of Date Range Services

Where you make your booking enquiry well in advance of departure, it may not be possible at that time to book the flights, accommodation and/or other services you have requested as they are not then available. Scheduled airlines, for example, will generally not have loaded their seats to sell until approximately 10 months before departure. Should this apply, we will inform you at the time of booking and calculate the price in anticipation that the service(s) will be available in keeping with the specially negotiated fares that apply.

Where you ask us to make a booking, we will confirm any such services subject to availability, issue an invoice recording the arrangements reserved for you and take a deposit. A contract between us will then come into existence on the basis that the price payable will be that applicable when the supplier releases its service(s) for sale. When services become available to book, we will tell you the updated price and other relevant details, such as transport timings, as these may be different to those advised at the time of booking. We will give you 7 days to tell us whether you wish to continue with the booking.

If the out of date range services cannot subsequently be booked as requested or you are not prepared to pay the applicable price, you may cancel them and receive a refund of the amount you have paid in respect of these services. Cancellation or non-availability of these services does not, however, entitle you to cancel any other confirmed element of your booking without paying the applicable cancellation charges for these. If you wish to continue with the booking, we will issue a revised invoice. In the event that services do not become available, you will receive a full refund of your deposit. We will have no other liability and will not be responsible for refunding the cost of any services booked in conjunction with the flights.

#### 11. Travel Information & Documents

After booking you will receive a confirmation invoice with important information relevant to your holiday, inclusive of the total payment due. You must check the details carefully and notify us immediately if you believe that any of the details are incorrect. Please also check your flight timings carefully each time you receive new documentation from us, as the scheduling may have changed since the last time we contacted you.

Approximately 21 days prior to departure you will receive your final itinerary. Please check all information, including your flight times, carefully to ensure you are prepared for your trip. 12. Paying for your Holiday

Full payment must be received not less than 61 days before departure. On some arrangements, your balance will be due sooner than 61 days before departure and you will be informed at the time of booking if this is the case. If we, or your travel agent, have not received full payment as detailed above, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you and you will forfeit your deposit or any higher sum that we are entitled to retain – see section 22 - Cancelling your Holiday by way of cancellation charges. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation charges shown in section 22 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

#### 13. Holiday Insurance

This is a vital part of any holiday so please ensure you take out comprehensive travel insurance as soon as your booking has been confirmed. We strongly recommend that this includes, but is not limited to, appropriate cover against the cost of termination of the holiday contract and the cost of any medical/other assistance, including repatriation, you might require whilst overseas. We are not insurance providers and cannot offer advice on insurance products. It is essential that you discuss both your itinerary and your specific needs with your chosen policy provider to ensure you are suitably protected. Please read your policy details carefully, ensure that you are familiar with the scale of your cover and take the relevant documentation with you on your holiday





#### 14. Health & Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions, screening and self-isolation requirements in good time before departure. You should take health advice about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures such as malaria tablets are taken in time to be effective for the duration of the holiday.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time to successfully book appointments for screenings or tests that may be required. It is your responsibility to find out about any entry restrictions, screening or quarantine requirements for destinations that you are visiting (including those you are transiting through) that might affect you. Please ensure you include any domestic requirements that may be in place for when you return home. Be aware that there may sometimes be enhanced screening/monitoring at entry and exit ports. In some instances, borders may close or you may be required to self-isolate for a set period, even if you do not have any symptoms of illness.

Sources of information include your GP surgery, the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac.org., the Department of Health free leaflet 'Health advice for travellers' (available on request Tel. 0207 210 4850), or your specialist travel clinic.

The Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office also provides useful information on health and entry requirements. Please visit gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice by country. Contact the UK embassy for the destination(s) you intend to visit and/or transit through if you require further information.

It is essential that you check health and entry requirement information regularly. Failure to take the appropriate action could result in denied boarding by the airline or denied entry, as countries become stricter with respect of their entry requirements.

#### 15. Passports

Every traveller requires a valid passport to travel. If your passport is endorsed in any way, please check with the relevant embassy. British passport holders should ensure a valid tenyear passport is held. We recommend that all passports are valid for a minimum of 6 months after your scheduled return to the UK as many countries require passport expiry dates to fall a considerable time beyond the dates of travel. If you are planning to travel to an EU country, your passport must be issued less then 10 years before the date you enter the country (check the 'date of issue') and at least 3 months after the date you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date'). You should ensure that your passport is stamped when you enter or exit the Schengen area as a visitor.

It can take at least six weeks to get an adult passport. Requirements may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. Please visit gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice by country. If you are travelling on a non-British passport, you must check your requirements with the appropriate embassy, high commission or consulate. It is your responsibility to ensure you hold passports that are valid for your trip. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry all required documentation.

#### 16. Visas & Entry Requirements

Visa and entry information can change at very short notice. If you are a British passport holder, please check www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice regularly for the latest information. If you are travelling on a non-British passport, you must check any visa requirements with the appropriate embassy, high commission or consulate. Please refer to our website for information on our recommended supplier of visa processing services.

It is your responsibility to ensure you are in possession of all necessary travel documents before departure. Any costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to fallure on your part to carry all required documentation.

If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents (see also section 15 – Passports) results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty or expenses being imposed on or incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

#### 17. Our Commitment to you

We will arrange to provide you with the various services which form part of the holiday you book with us. Before your booking is confirmed and a contract comes into existence, we reserve the right to increase or decrease, and correct errors in advertised prices and to change any of the information. Changes will be made known to you at the time of booking. The prices we advertise are based on specially negotiated rates and fares

A booking is not accepted until we issue an invoice. The date shown on the invoice is the date of booking. Please check the details on the invoice when you get it and if any details appear to be incorrect or incomplete, contact us or your Travel Agent immediately as it may not be possible to make changes later. We cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it out (5 days for tickets). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time-limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for the package holidays booked and for your repatriation in the event of our insolvency. We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, 45-59 Kingsway London WC2B 6TE (ATOL no. 11234). When you buy an ATOL protected air inclusive holiday or flight from us you will receive a confirmation invoice from us (or via our authorised agent) confirming your arrangements and your protection under our ATOL. In the unlikely event of our insolvency the CAA will ensure that you are not left stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. Please note: Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. We are a member of ABTA (ABTA no. V1661). When you buy a package holiday that isn't covered under ATOL, protection is provided by way of a bond held by ABTA. You can contact ABTA – The Travel Association at: 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ, consumerprotection@abta.co.uk, 0203 758 8779, www.abta.co.uk for a copy of the guide to ABTA's scheme of Financial Protection. If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme. **18. Jules Verne's Price Guarantee** 

All prices quoted on our website are calculated using dynamic rates of exchange as set by Jules Verne Ltd. Many services are typically paid in the currency of your holiday destination and pricing will fluctuate accordingly. Website guide prices can go up or down and we will give you the up to date price before you make booking, including the cost of any peak season supplements, fuel surcharges, upgrades or additional facilities which you have requested\*. Once you have accepted this price and a booking has been made, the price is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any surcharges.

\*See section 10 - Out of Date Range Services

#### 19. Price does not Include

Unless otherwise stated, your booking does not include visa fees, overseas airport taxes, overseas porterage, any government taxes or compulsory charges to be paid locally, (these will be communicated within your documentation, where such fees are known to us); taxes, levies or other compulsory charges that require payment by you, directly. Where possible, we will advise you of any local charges that may be due. Optional excursions or activities booked during your holiday are payable by you. Any sundry costs incurred by you in preparation for your holiday, including but not limited to insurance, vaccinations, screening and medical certifications are at your own cost.

## If you want to Change or Cancel your Holiday

20. Changes or Additions to your Holiday

If you want to make changes to your holiday arrangements after the invoice has been issued, we will do our best to assist but it may not be possible. Changes will be subject to an administration charge of £50 per booking and payment of any further costs incurred as a result of the change. Costs are likely to increase, the closer to the departure date the changes are made. If we agree that you may change your booking to a holiday of lower value and then you cancel that holiday, we reserve the right to levy cancellation charges on the value of the original booking. Scheduled airlines normally regard name changes as a cancellation and rebooking, so any alteration may incur a 100% cancellation charge in respect of the air fare. Any changes to destination or routing may incur the loss of the original deposit collected. Date and name changes are permitted, subject to availability and the relevant charges imposed as per the airline's own policies (details available on request). Any changes made may also result in additional charges in raisped.

Please note that save for the transfer of a booking (see below) or the addition of any offers made by Jules Verne Ltd which were not requested at the time of booking, it will not be possible to make changes within 30 days of your scheduled departure date.

#### 21. Transferring Bookings

You can transfer your booking to another person, who satisfies all the conditions that apply to this booking, by giving us notice at least 7 days before departure. Both you and the new traveller are jointly liable for paying all costs we incur in making the transfer. Additionally, an administration charge will be made of £50 per person for requests made more than 61 days before departure, and £100 per person within 61 days. For flight inclusive bookings, you must pay the charges levied by the airline concerned. As most airlines do not permit name changes after tickets have been issued for any reason, these charges are likely to be the full cost of the flight. If you request to change all names on a booking, this will be considered as a cancellation and new booking and full cancellation charges will apply.

#### 22. Cancelling your Holiday

If you or anyone on your holiday booking decides to cancel the holiday, the lead name or their travel agent must notify us of the decision as soon as possible. A cancellation invoice will be sent within 7 days. If you do not receive this, please contact us immediately in order to prevent an increase in charges. Since we incur costs in cancelling your travel arrangements, the following scale of charges will be payable. Amendment charges are not refundable in the event of cancellation. References to the deposit include all sums paid or payable at the time of booking.

Period prior to departure, notice of cancellation is received by us or your travel agent Cancellation charge per person cancelling

Prior to 61 days:(in some cases sooner than 61 days – you will be informed at time of booking if this is the case) = loss of deposit

60 – 42 days = 50% of total holiday cost, 41 – 33 days = 60% of total holiday cost

32 - 15 days = 90% of total holiday cost, 14 days or less = 100% of total holiday cost

Please be aware that in some instances, airline ticketing deadlines may result in higher cancellation charges being applied to your booking. Similarly, hotels may charge a higher cancellation fee and you may therefore be charged a higher amount than detailed above. Amendment and cancellation charges for bookings containing cruising elements will be applied in line with the cruise provider's own booking conditions. These could be up to 100% of the total holiday cost and may vary between cruise providers.

If you have taken advantage of an airline offer and paid a higher deposit, the cancellation charge payable by you will be the higher of this deposit or the appropriate cancellation charge detailed above.

You may cancel your booking without paying cancellation charges if the performance of your package, or the carriage of passengers to your destination, is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. In such circumstances, we will arrange for your booking to be terminated and for you to receive a full refund. We will observe advice provided by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Jules Verne flexible booking policy arrangements may differ from the term set out above. For further information please visit https://www.vjv.com/flexible-booking-policy/or speak to your Personal Travel Expert.

It is important to enquire for full details of cancellation terms at the time of booking and cancellation. You must ensure that you have appropriate travel insurance in place for your needs. We would strongly recommend that this includes, but not be limited to, cover against loss of deposit and cancellation fees.

#### 23. Website/Brochure Accuracy

We rigorously check all holiday information to ensure it is correct to the best of our knowledge before being published. Product descriptions and facilities may change before and after you book as our marketing material is prepared well in advance. Please check the up to date position at the time of booking as service providers may wish to maintain or improve their facilities. Flight times, carriers and routes are given for guidance only as there may be changes and details will be shown on your final itinerary and e-tickets. Tour, excursion, cruise or safari itineraries may change as a result of local conditions. Circumstances such as these, or weather conditions, time of year, events occurring in the destination or other situations beyond our control etc., may cause some of the amenities we have described to be unavailable or different from those advertised. When we are told of any significant or long-term changes we will always endeavour to advise you prior to your departure.

#### 24. Pricing Errors

Whilst we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the pricing information provided, regrettably errors may occasionally occur. We will endeavour to notify you at the time of booking of pricing errors (if we are then aware of the mistake), within 7 days of the time of booking or as soon as reasonably possible. If a booking is already in place, you will have the choice to continue with the chosen tinerary at the corrected price or amend to a different holiday. We reserve the right to cancel the booking if you do not wish to accept the price that applies to your holiday or any quoted alternatives.

#### 25. Flight Changes

Flight timings, routings and days of operation shown on our website, in our brochures and/ or detailed within your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and may be subject to change. They are set by airlines and are determined by various factors. Any changes to such arrangements are outside of our control. Airlines occasionally change the type of aircraft used on a particular flight without advance warning. We will advise you of any significant changes and any minor timing changes will be shown on your travel documentation, which you should check carefully when received. Any change in the identity of the airline, flight timings and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges, except where specified in these conditions.

#### 26. If we Change or Cancel your Holiday Before your Departure

We plan arrangements a long time in advance of your holiday using independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. On occasions changes do have to be made, and we reserve the right to make these. Most of these changes are minor. However, occasionally, changes are significant.

Examples of a significant change include: a change of accommodation to that of a lower category and/or price for the whole or a major part of your time away, a change of flight time of more than 12 hours, a change of UK departure airport (except between London airports), or a significant change of resort area. We do our best to avoid cancelling holidays but we must reserve the right to do so and will only cancel your confirmed booking after you have made full payment where we are forced to do so as a result of 'force majeure' as defined below (see section 28 – Changes Due To Circumstances Beyond Our Control) or lack of minimum numbers. Please note, some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If the minimum number has not been received, we are entitled to cancel it. We will notify you or your travel agent of cancellation for this reason no later than 61 days prior to departure.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of the following options:-

(a) accepting the changed arrangements (with any refunds that may be due to you for changes to a lower category of service); or

(b) selecting an alternative holiday from us, of a similar standard to that originally booked if available. If this holiday is cheaper than the original, we will refund the price difference. You will be liable to us for any additional costs payable for the new arrangements; or

(c) cancelling the booking or accepting our cancellation of the booking, in which case you will receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us, within 14 days.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel we will, where appropriate, pay you compensation as set out in the table below. Compensation entitlements will vary depending on the circumstances and when the significant change or cancellation is notified to you subject to the following exceptions: Compensation will not be payable and no liability beyond offering the above mentioned choices can be accepted where

(i) we are forced to make a change or cancel as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which we could not have avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken or (ii) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your holiday has not been reached (see above). No compensation will be payable and the above options will not be available if we cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time) or where a change is a minor one. A change of flight time of less than 12 hours, airline (except where otherwise stated), type of aircraft (if advised) or destination airport will all be treated as minor changes.

Period before departure within which a significant change or cancellation is notified to you or your travel agent. Compensation

More than 60 days = NIL, 60 – 42 days = £20, 41 – 28 days = £30, 27 – 15 days = £40, 14 – 0 days = £50

#### 27. Changes due to Circumstances Beyond our Control

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by, or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of, "force majeure". In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances beyond our control which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not have avoided, even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such events may include but are not limited to, whether actual or threatened: war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions; epidemics, pandemics or other outbreaks of illness, fire and any other situations which are outside our control.

#### 28. Minimum Numbers

Our tours are subject to a minimum number of participants for their operation. We will advise you at least 61 days before departure if minimum numbers have not been reached and as a direct result your tour has to be cancelled.

You will then have the choice of booking an alternative holiday with us, changing your departure date at the appropriate additional cost, or having a refund of monies paid. No compensation will be payable and we are unable to offer refunds of any associated costs i.e. visas etc.

#### On Holiday

29. Flight Delays

In your flight is delayed we will arrange for the following to be provided, whenever practical, and subject to the airport being able to cater for this:- over 4 hours, an appropriate meal, for delays of at least 8 hours extending beyond midnight, overnight accommodation will be provided wherever possible. However, this will depend on such factors as the expected length of delay, local availability of accommodation, immigration rulings etc. Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, no refunds are given by hotels for unused accommodation, as rooms are held for delayed arrivals, not re-let.

#### 30. Our Commitment to you for your Holiday Arrangements

(a) We promise to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as part of our contract with you are delivered with reasonable skill and care. Subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. You must inform us without undue delay of any failure or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. It is your responsibility to show that reasonable care and skill has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us and we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).

(b) We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any of the following: -

 the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or
 the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your holiday and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or

 - unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, which means a situation beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. See 'force majeure' as defined in section 28 – Changes Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control.

(c) For claims which do not involve personal injury, illness or death, the most we will have to pay if we are liable to you is three times the price the person affected paid for their holiday (not including insurance premiums and amendment charges). We will only have to pay this maximum amount if everything has gone wrong and you have received no benefit from your holiday. Where enjoyment of only some days has been affected, we will refund reasonable related expenses and pay a daily sum of compensation up to £50 per day per person affected. (d) Further to (b) above, our liability will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to:

i) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services which make up your package. These terms are incorporated into this booking; and

ii) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of and conditions under which compensation can be claimed for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage. We are to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of the extent of or the conditions under which compensation is to be paid under these or any other applicable conventions.

In the event that any claim is made directly with us, our liability to pay compensation and/ or the amount of compensation will be limited in accordance with these conventions, where applicable.

(e) Under EU law you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from the airlines. However, reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. If your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the CAA www.caa.co.uk.

(f) Please note, we cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion you purchase in resort. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable care and skill as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.

(g) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract – and the laws and regulations of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred – will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and regulations of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holiday maker to refuse to take the arrangements in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in 5.11(a). We do not make any representation or comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care. (h) Our suppliers (such as airlines, accommodation or transport providers) have their own booking conditions or conditions of carriage, and these conditions are binding between





you and the supplier. Some of these conditions may limit or remove the relevant transport provider's or other supplier's liability to you. You can get copies of such conditions from our offices, or the offices of the relevant supplier.

(i) If we make any payment to you or any member of your party for death, personal injury or lillness, you must agree to transfer to us or our insurers any rights you may have to take direct action against the person or organisation responsible for causing the death, personal injury or illness and you must co-operate fully with us in seeking recovery of any payment that we make. (i) Operational decisions may be taken by air carriers and airports resulting in delays, diversions, overbookings, downgrades or rescheduling. Jules Verne Ltd has no control over such decisions and is therefore unable to accept responsibility for them. Where, as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances we are obliged to change or end your holiday after departure, but before the end of your holiday, we will not pay compensation or reimburse you for expenses incurred. You should have adequate travel insurance for your holiday and claim via your insurance company for any loss or damage to luggage and/or personal possessions.

If it is impossible to ensure your return as scheduled due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, we will bear the cost of necessary accommodation, if possible of equivalent category, for a maximum of three nights. The limit doesn't apply to persons with reduced mobility and any person accompanying them, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors, or persons in need of specific medical assistance, provided that you notified us of these needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday.

(k) Whilst you are away on holiday you may be offered the opportunity to buy optional excursions and activities. These are provided by independent local companies, which are neither owned nor controlled by Jules Verne Ltd, and for whom Jules Verne Ltd acts only as an agent (if we make a booking for you). If you decide to buy an excursion or activity, your contract will be made with the local company which provides it and it will not form part of your contracted holiday arrangements with us. See 1.39 – Services Outside of your Contract with Jules Verne Ltd. The contract will be subject to the excursion/activity provider's terms and conditions, some of which may exclude or limit its liability to you and will be governed by local law and jurisdiction. Jules Verne Ltd accepts no liability for any breach of contract or act or omission of any excursion/activity provider. Some excursions/activities may contain an element of risk or require a good level of physical fitness, and, if in doubt, you should make direct enquiries with the local provider, before deciding to buy and check that you are covered by your travel insurance policy.

#### 31. If we Curtail your Holiday after Departure

Very rarely, we may be forced by "force majeure" (see section 28 - Changes due to Circumstances Beyond our Control) to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely unlikely but if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain any refunds from our suppliers), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result. Please ensure you have adequate travel insurance in place to cover any such eventuality.

#### 32. Curtailment

If you cut short your holiday and return home early in circumstances where i) you have no reasonable cause for complaint about the standard of accommodation and/or the holiday services provided, or ii) any lack of conformity could reasonably have been remedied via the provision of alternative arrangements or an appropriate price reduction, your decision to curtail will be deemed elective and we will not offer you any refund for the unused elements of your holiday that were not completed, or assist with any associated costs that you may incur while returning home. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for curtailment and we suggest that any claim is made directly with them.

#### 33. Behaviour

If in our reasonable opinion or in the opinion of any other person in authority, your behaviour is causing or is likely to cause danger, upset or damage to property or is persistently affecting the enjoyment of others, we reserve the right to terminate your holiday. Should this happen no refund or compensation will be paid to you or any member of your travelling party and we will have no further responsibility for your holiday arrangements, including return travel. 34. If you have a Complaint while you are on Holiday

You must bring any complaint to the attention of our local representative or agent and the hotel immediately and they will do their best to rectify the situation. If matters remair unresolved, your concerns must be brought to the attention of the Jules Verne Ltd Duty Officer, without undue delay (see section 35 – Emergency Duty Officer). It is unreasonable to delay or take no action whilst on holiday, but then to complain upon your return and this may affect our ability to investigate and take remedial action and it may impact on the way your complaint is dealt with.

#### 35. Emergency Duty Officer

Jules Verne Ltd offers 24-hour assistance for emergency situations and to help resolve any general issues while you are on holiday. Many destinations have local representation and they should be contacted in the first instance, should you have a problem.

#### On Return from your Holiday 36. Surveys

As a valued customer, we may periodically send you email surveys to complete, so we can track your satisfaction throughout the course of your booking journey. We would like to know about your experience with Jules Verne Ltd before, during and after you travel and whether there are any elements of our service that you feel we could look to improve along the way.

#### 37. If you had a Problem

If a problem remains unresolved during your holiday, you should make a complaint in writing to Jules Verne Ltd within 28 days of the completion of the holiday. Please direct your correspondence to our Customer Experience team at customerexperience@vjv.co.uk quoting your booking number and a daytime telephone number. We will acknowledge your correspondence as soon as possible and aim to reply to you within 28 days, as set out within ABTA's Code of Conduct.

We are a member of ABTA, membership number V1661. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. You may wish to refer any unresolved matters relating to this contract to ABTA's scheme for the resolution of disputes, which is approved by the Chartered Trading Standards Institute. You must have previously filed you complaint with ABTA in order to qualify for their ADR services. (See section 39 for further advice on Law & Jurisdiction.) For more information on the Code and ABTA's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services please visit www.abta.com. **General Information** 

### 38. Health, Safety & Security Abroad

We take the safety and security of our clients extremely seriously. If the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advises that people should not visit a particular destination and we reasonably believe this is going to affect your holiday arrangements, we will act on this and we reserve the right to cancel your holiday.

However, we are sure you appreciate from press and television coverage that the political, economic and social conditions in many of the countries we feature in this brochure are not as stable as we are used to in the United Kingdom. Sadly, crimes against both people and their property are a fact of life the world over, and when in a foreign country it is very important to be extra vigilant and avoid drawing attention to yourself by wearing expensive jewellery, carrying expensive camera equipment etc. Travellers have the same responsibility for their health, personal safety and that of their possessions as they do at home. We sell holidays to many parts of the world, some of which do not conform to British health and safety standards. We request that all hotels comply with the local regulations applicable in their country for health and safety but we cannot guarantee that these meet British standards and therefore urge that you undertake reasonable precautions to protect your family and yourself whilst on holiday. To make the most of your trip abroad, check out the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office website at https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. Packed with essential travel advice and tips, this website offers a wealth of country-specific information that only the FCDO can provide

#### 39. Law & Jurisdiction

We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description (hereinafter referred to as "claim") which arises between us (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with under the ABTA arbitration scheme (if the scheme is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see 6.3) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and claim governed by the law of Scotland/ Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

#### 40. Data Protection Policy

In order to process your booking, send you a brochure or respond to an enguiry, we need to collect personal data from you. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs ("sensitive personal data"). All references in this privacy policy to personal data include sensitive personal data unless otherwise stated. The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us

We may disclose personal data to companies within the DER Touristik Group for business purposes and to companies who act as data processors on our behalf. In making your booking, you consent to personal data being passed on to the relevant suppliers and other third parties. We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data

By making a booking with us, you agree to allow your insurers, their agents and medical staff to disclose relevant information to us in circumstances where we may need to act in your interests or in the interests of everyone in any group with whom you are travelling.

For information on how we collect, process and manage your data in line with the General Data Protection Regulation please refer to vjv.com/legal/#Privacy-Policy.

You are generally entitled to ask us what details of yours are being held or processed, for what purpose and to whom they may be or have been disclosed. Please identify any such enquiry as a Subject Access Request and direct your enquiry to a member of our Customer Experience team, who will respond to you within one month. In certain circumstances we are entitled to refuse your request. If you believe that any of your personal data which we are processing is incorrect, please contact us immediately so it may be updated.



## THE JULES VERNE DIFFERENCE

That sense of adventure to discover the world is at the heart of Jules Verne. Established in 1978, our innovative small group escorted tours offer authentic travel with a twist for people who love to see the world. Packed with special touches and little extras, our expert guides will show you the true character of each destination and take you beyond the norm, whether your chosen destination is closer to home or far-flung. Fully ABTA and ATOL bonded and winner of many travel awards, our expert staff organise every detail so you can book in complete confidence.

## **PRICE GUARANTEE & EARLY BOOKING**

Our 100% Price Guarantee means your holiday price is fixed when you book and you won't ever pay more, even if our costs increase afterwards, we therefore recommend booking early so that you are covered by our included price guarantee.



Looking for inspiration or want to find out more about us? Read customer experiences and reviews on our website and see how easy and enjoyable it is to navigate the world!

## vjv.com

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96 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BE Sales & Information: Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm

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